



ICT
International Institute
for Counter-Terrorism
With the Support of Keren Daniel

ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group **PERIODIC REVIEW**

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

September 2016

Highlights

- Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda**, emphasizes that the United States is still considered to be a central enemy by the organization due to its conquest and plunder of Muslim lands, and its support for tyrant rulers in the Middle East who capitulate to the dictates of the US and others and, therefore, they must continue to fight and carry out additional terrorist attacks against the US and its allies, such as France. In his opinion, the move of the battle to their territory should serve as a guiding line of action. In addition, he called on US citizens of African origin to rise up against the American establishment due to the persecution that they experience.
- **Hibatullah Akhundzada**, the leader of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**, and **Zabihullah Mujahid**, the spokesperson for the Emirate, note that the Emirate is gaining power. For example, they state that the Emirate controls many regions of the country and that the Afghan government lost 5% of Afghan territory, especially rural areas, and that Emirate fighters had failed to stop the spread of IS supporters in the country. According to them, the removal of Americans from Afghanistan is the main goal of the Emirate.
- **Ustadh Usama Mahmood**, the spokesman for **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent**, accuses the Pakistani regime, army and intelligence forces of betraying Muslims living in Kashmir. According to him, the Pakistani regime frequently interferes with attempts by jihadists to liberate Kashmir from India's control, contributes to the increasing injustice in Kashmir, and perpetuates the problem of Muslims living there. According to him, Muslims in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan must wake up and act for the sake of their brothers in Kashmir. In addition, he accuses the Pakistani government of betraying its people by, among other things, collaborating with their enemies in the West. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Pakistani nation to act to change the current situation by force.
- **Abu Mohammad al-Julani**, the leader of **Jabhat Fateh al-Sham**, criticizes the Russia-US ceasefire agreement in Syria, and claims that it is designed to take down the rebel factions in Syria. According to him, Sunnis in Syria are facing an existential threat due to Shi'ite aggression. In light of this, al-Julani calls for the establishment of one body that will represent Sunnis in Syria and protect them, both militarily and politically.
- **Ahrar al-Sham**, a prominent Salafi-jihadist organization in Syria, published a fatwa regarding the

battle against the IS, in coordination with Turkey, which permits its fighters to act in coordination with Turkey in the fight against the IS, claiming that there is a need to control the Islamist faction in areas from which the IS retreated in order to prevent their fall into the hands of organizations such as the PKK and PYD.

- The **Hasam Movement**, an Egyptian jihadist organization, claims responsibility for a series of assassinations of Egyptian security figures in various parts of Egypt, including the attempted assassination of the former Mufti of Egypt, 'Ali Juma'a. According to him, the organization is working to purge the Egyptian arena of members of the Egyptian establishment, including judges, media figures and security forces, due to their involvement in the persecution and killing of Muslims.
- **Abu Bakr Shekau**, the leader of Jamaat Ahl al-Sunna lil-Dawa wal-Jihad, announces that he is in good health despite claims by the Nigerian army that he was wounded, and he threatens to attack Nigerian President Muhammad Bukhari as a result of his request for assistance from the UN to conduct negotiations for the release of the Nigerian schoolgirls who were kidnapped by the organization in 2014.
- **The Islamic State in Bangladesh Province** publishes a video regarding an attack that its fighters carried out at a restaurant teeming with western tourists in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, in July 2016. The attack itself was carried out in revenge for bombardments by coalition forces in Iraq. The mutual wrangling between **Al-Qaeda** and the **IS** continue with all the more force and increase against the backdrop of the killing of Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, the spokesperson for the IS. **Hani al-Sibai**, a prominent supporter of Al-Qaeda, for example, explains that joy over his death stems from the end that it puts to the injustices that he carried out against Muslims.
- **Abu Dhir Azzam**, a Salafi-jihadist mufti and former member of the Islamic Uzbekistan movement, explains that he was deceived into supporting the Islamic Caliphate established by the IS. According to him, the renewal of the Caliphate is the desire of every Muslim and, therefore, he was inclined to support it but eventually he realized that the Caliphate that was established is not the true Caliphate and acts against the principles of Islam.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** publishes a guidebook in the magazine, *INSPIRE*, titled, "Comment on arresting our Muslim sisters in France". In the guidebook, the organization emphasizes that Muslim women are strictly prohibited from taking part in armed actions against

non-Muslims out of fear of them being dishonored if captured by the enemy.

- The **IS launches** a new magazine called *Rumiyeh* in several languages, including English. Among the topics covered were: praise for Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, the spokesman for the organization; criticism against the Muslim Brotherhood for deviating from the path of Allah; a call on women to donate money to charity; a review of the organization's main military operations in various arenas in which it operates; an article criticizing clerics who denounce the IS, such as Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi; and legitimization for the killing of infidels.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published a speech by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of the organization, regarding a recording titled, “Those Who Refuse Exploitation/Injustice”. The main points raised in the speech were:
 - A. Justification for the 9/11 attacks using familiar allegations against the US for occupying and plundering Muslim lands, and for supporting for local rulers who bow to the dictates of the US.
 - B. The US continues to be considered the head of global heresy and, therefore, war against it must be sanctified.
 - C. A threat to carry out additional attacks of the same magnitude as the 9/11 attacks as long as the US continues its “criminal acts” against Muslim lands.
 - D. The mujahideen, and especially Al-Qaeda, continue to serve as a pioneering force in the war against the US and other enemies, such as France, and the local regimes cooperating with the US.
 - E. A call on the black residents of the US to revolt against the US government and convert to Islam. In addition, al-Zawahiri noted operational guidelines in accordance with the method set out by Osama bin Laden for the mujahideen and Muslims:
 - Concentration of efforts on attacking the US and its allies, *“The battle should be moved to their lands. The fall of the American idol would lead to the collapse of [the rest of] its supporters. This is a top priority today of the armed mujahid”*.
 - Unity among the ranks of the mujahideen through an oath of allegiance to the Islamic Emirate [likely a reference to the Taliban’s Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan) and the distribution of propaganda on this topic.
 - Support for the revolutions of the oppressed and a propaganda campaign that will lead them to impose shari’a as an example of government instead of the old regimes.

Finally, al-Zawahiri called on the Muslim Nation to unite against the “Crusader-secular-Shi’ite

alliance”, led by the US and the West, and emphasized the threat posed by the US.¹



The banner of al-Zawahiri's speech

- Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a prominent proponent of the Salafi-jihadist movement, referred to the Syrian factions fighting alongside the Turkish army in Aleppo Province in the framework of Operation “Al-Furat Shield” and declared them to be apostates. Al-Maqdisi qualified his statement and clarified that it did not apply to local residents, including Ahrar al-Sham.² In the same context, visitors to the jihadist Ana al-Muslim Web forum held a discussion on the topic of the treatment of Ahrar al-Sham by al-Maqdisi, Abu Qatada al-Filistini and senior Al-Qaeda leaders. One visitor complained that these sages speak out against the IS but avoid criticizing Ahrar al-Sham despite its battle under the banner of apostates. One visitor explained that these sages were only released from prison only in order to combat “Islamic State ideas”.³
- The Ifriqyya al-Muslima jihadist media institution published an essay titled, “A Discussion regarding the response of Abu Yahya al-Libi to Sheikh ‘Abd al-Qadir bin ‘Abd al-‘Aziz concerning the judgement for supporters of the tyrant [ruler]” by Ahmad ‘Abd al-Karim al-Jazairi, an anonymous writer. The author stated unequivocally that anyone who helps the forces or tyrant rulers, whether through speech or action, is considered a heretic. According to him, Abu Yahya al-Libi, a former senior leader of Al-Qaeda who was killed in 2012, made a

¹ <http://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51985>

³ <https://goo.gl/ztokle>

similar ruling but it was based on an incorrect source, which proves that the current essay is intended to highlight this issue and is based on reliable sources.⁴

- The Ashhad jihadist media institution published a video titled, “Rome will be conquered from Libya”. In the framework of the video, the history of modern Libya was reviewed, starting with jihad against the Italians, to the reigns of Idris al-Senussi and Muammar Gaddafi, the days of the Revolution and the transition to power of the General National Congress. The video shared praise for the IS for its entry into the Libyan arena and ended with a threat against the residents of Rome that the organization will leave Libya to occupy their country.⁵
- Al-Thabat jihadist media institution published a video regarding the entry of US forces to the town of Al-Ra’i in Aleppo Province, in which it accused Sahawat forces – who it presented as an ally of Al-Qaeda – of collaborating with them.⁶
- An author known as Ahlam al-Nasr published an article on Al-Sumud jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for the IS. In the framework of the article titled, “Religious War – Burning the Hijab as a Model”, the author claimed that the war between Islam and its enemies is a religious war in the full sense of the word, and that those who oppose the IS and the application of shari’a are losing anyway since they will be punished by the organization’s fighters in this world and by Allah in the next world.⁷
- The Maktabat al-Himma publishing house, which belongs to the IS, published a pamphlet titled, “Guiding the ones who walk in the righteous path as reflected by the Islamic law ”.⁸ In addition, the publishing house published a book for learning the Arabic alphabet (79 pp.).⁹

⁴ <https://justpaste.it/yesp>

⁵ https://ia601204.us.archive.org/7/items/LEBYA720/_____.mp4_YT-f22aotZHM2bilE.mp4

⁶ https://ia601206.us.archive.org/23/items/alw3d_alw3d_sa_360P/360P.mp4

⁷ https://archive.org/details/7ar9_Al_7ijab

⁸ Telegram

⁹ Telegram



The banner of the application for learning the Arabic alphabet published by the Islamic State

The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

- Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, an Egyptian Salafist exiled in London, posted tweets on Twitter calling on the Bayt al-Maqdis organization to nullify its oath of allegiance to the IS and swear allegiance to the leader of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, since he is an Egyptian and members of the organization are from Egypt while the leader of the Islamic State is Iraqi. He added that al-Zawahiri is more deserving of the Caliphate than al-Baghdadi.¹⁰ In addition, he published an audio clip in which he attacked the IS after a failed assassination attempt by members of the organization.¹¹
- The author, Husayn bin Mahmud, published a response to a lecture given by Abdullah al-Muhaysini in which he attacked the IS and claimed that its members are *Khawarij*. Bin Mahmud re-published the lecture and planted comments on it responding to each of al-Muhaysini's claims in order to refute them. Among other things, the author attempted to point out his mistake and claim that he erred in his understanding of the correct definition of the term *Khawarij*.¹²
- Abu Qatada al-Filastini, a prominent Salafi-jihadist sheikh in Jordan, published a statement on his Twitter account in which he claimed that the Islamic State is equivalent to the Americans and the tyrants. According to him, IS fighters should not be pitied for being forced to fight on several fronts or for the loss of its spokesman, al-Adnani, since it is an organization that pretends to be a

¹⁰ <https://goo.gl/A8ItCY>

¹¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIm6SEf6BXY>

¹² <http://khawarij-isis.cf/?i=1>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51735>

Muslim organization that boasts a Caliphate in order to cover up its crimes against Muslims and the rift among the ranks of the organization.¹³

- The Bushriyyat media group, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published a statement by the Mufti Abu Dhir Azzam, a former member of the Islamic movement of Uzbekistan movement titled, “Moreover, they created disputes”. According to Azzam, since the fall of the Islamic Caliphate, the hearts of Muslims are full with feelings of longing for its renewal according to the model of the Prophet Muhammad. According to him, jihad fighters are investing a great deal of effort in order to achieve this goal while the IS claims that it succeeded in establishing such a Caliphate. However, in reality the Caliphate was established entirely in contrast to the way of Prophet Muhammad. Abu Dhir Azzam explained that he previously supported the Caliphate established by the IS but that, over time, he realized that he was deceived and finally woke up to the truth. After he understood that the IS did not establish the true Caliphate (*khilafa*) but rather generates controversy (*khilafat*) – a kind of word play – among the Muslim ranks, he decided to correct his ways and renounce both the organization and the Caliphate that it established.¹⁴
- A video titled, “They Abandoned Your Country”, which attacked sages who criticize and condemn the IS, and was published in August 2016 and re-distributed with translation and dubbing in the Georgian language.¹⁵
- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum, Ana al-Muslim, held a discussion between them regarding the implications of using *takfir* and severe acts of violence by the IS. Among the visitors were those who claimed that this behavior made the IS hateful to Muslims while other claimed that the organization is actually gaining popularity in the Muslim world (more than Al-Qaeda), and that the “infidels” have always tried to tarnish the image of Islam even in the times of the Prophet Muhammad. Another visitor took an intermediate approach and claimed that even though the Islamic State is a legitimate Caliphate in his eyes, it is permissible to criticize some of their actions and decisions, such as its battle against Al-Nusra Front and its execution of spies especially in the city of al-Adha.¹⁶

¹³ Telegram

¹⁴ <https://justpaste.it/yrqo>

¹⁵ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁶ <https://goo.gl/HhYJL5>

- Two Salafi-jihadist proponents who support Al-Qaeda, Tareq Abd al-Halim and Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, held a lively debate on Twitter regarding the IS. In the framework of the tweets, al-Maqdisi accused al-Halim of dishonoring the women who migrate to the IS in his statements and al-Halim, in turn, referred to al-Maqdisi as a “bastard Islamic State supporter”.¹⁷

Responses to the Killing of Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, the Spokesman of the IS

- Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a prominent Salafi-jihadist proponent living in Jordan, referred to a visitor’s question of whether a Muslim is permitted to gloat if his enemies die at the hands of Crusaders. According to al-Maqdisi, the principle of *Wala al-Baraa*, loyalty to Muslims and renouncement of non-Muslims should be the goal of every Muslim. In other words, even if a Muslim is an oppressor, one should not express joy if he dies at the hands of the Crusaders because of the sanctity of this principle.¹⁸
- Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, an Egyptian Salafist exiled in London, expressed joy over the death of IS spokesman, Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, claiming that the injustices he had wreaked on Muslims had ended.¹⁹
- A Saudi Sheikh residing in Syria and identified with Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Abdullah al-Muhaysini, expressed his joy over the death of IS spokesman, Abu Mohammad al-Adnani. In a series of tweets that he posted, al-Muhayisini stated, “Thank God for the destruction of one of the Khawarij leaders of our day”.²⁰
- IS supporters continued to publish posts, articles and videos regarding the death of IS spokesman, Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, most of which included praises and eulogies in his memory in addition to encouragement for the organization’s fighters and supporters. For instance, Al-Sumali (“the Somali” media institution, which supports the IS, published a video in memory of al-Adnani²¹ and Al-Sumud media institution launched a disc containing a collection of unofficial publications, articles, placards and audio clips on the subject.²² Nevertheless, there were other voices – such

¹⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ <https://justpaste.it/xwtn>

¹⁹ <http://www.albawabhnews.com/2094379>

²⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51036>

²¹ <https://goo.gl/6V31IH>

²² <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

as a writer named Al-Jamuh al-Maqdisiyya, who emphasized that despite al-Adnani's tremendous contribution to jihad, the significance of his death to one person or another cannot be overstated and his death will significantly weaken the organization and its ideology. Al-Maqdisi even emphasized that many people were responsible for preparing al-Adnani's speeches and, therefore, they cannot be attributed solely to him.²³

It should be noted that other jihadist Web forums that are not fully affiliated with the IS, such as Ana al-Muslim, expressed great joy over the death of al-Adnani and accused his organization of killing other mujahideen, especially from Al-Qaeda.²⁴

- A discussion was held in various jihadist Web forums regarding al-Adnani's death and the link between his death and the issue of Mubahala (a session in which two sides invoke Allah's curse upon whomever is in the wrong). Several visitors claimed that al-Adnani's death is proof that the curse of God was placed on his head after he stated in a 2014 speech, "*O Allah, if this State is a State of Khawarij then break its back and kill its leaders*".²⁵

In response, Sheikh Turki al-Binali, who is known as a senior IS religious authority, stated that al-Adnani's death cannot be viewed as proof that his enemies overcame him in *Mubahala*. Al-Binali listed several reasons for this and explained that al-Adnani died a martyr's death and those who are killed as a result of *Mubahala* end their lives in a strange death or in a life without dignity.²⁶

- In response to al-Binali's statement, the Ifriqyya al-Muslimima jihadist media institution published a statement designed to ridicule al-Binali titled, "Turki al-Binali...did he adhere to shari'a...or did he adhere to shari'a...did he adhere to indecent ideas" by an anonymous writer named 'Abd al-Rahman al-Jazairi.²⁷

Strategy

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published a guidebook in the magazine, *INSPIRE*, titled, "Comment on arresting our Muslim sisters in France". In the guidebook, the organization

²³ <https://justpaste.it/xwkw>; <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴ <https://goo.gl/V3100H>

²⁵ <https://goo.gl/oBxYbZ>

²⁶ <https://soundcloud.com/sami-mas-45147958/turki>; <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

²⁷ https://justpaste.it/20_09_2016

emphasizes that Muslim women are strictly prohibited from taking part in armed actions against non-Muslims out of fear of them being dishonored if captured by the enemy.²⁸



The banner of the guidebook

- A jihadist calling himself Sawarem al-Haqq (Swords of Truth) published a series of guidelines on attacking hashtags that express opposition to the IS on Twitter.²⁹ In the framework of the post, the writer explained the method of operation, which includes:
 1. Open a new account.
 2. Locate popular hashtags to a particular country.
 3. Select a name and photo appropriate to the type of campaign.
 4. Choose the right time to publish tweets with a high number of followers.
 5. Track tweet activities associated with the hashtags in order to make certain that they are not used by other elements.
 6. If it is a global hashtag, select one that is not updated more than once every few minutes, otherwise the relevant tweet will be lost in a flood of tweets.
 7. Insert hidden characters into tweets in order to create several version of the same tweet that an ordinary user cannot distinguish between.

²⁸ Telegram

²⁹ <https://justpaste.it/xtf0>

8. It is recommended to establish groups of several supporters to carry out “tag attacks” together.
 9. Focus on disputes between the infidels and their supporters.
 10. Track the status of the tag by checking the direct tweets and verify that the relevant tweets appear at the end. The writer mentioned that on many accounts you cannot tweet more than 300 tweets every few hours and, therefore, it is recommended to activate another spare account.
- A member of the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum known as al-Maqdisi uploaded a post regarding the security and safety of Caliphate fighters against the backdrop of the killing of Abu Omar al-Shishani, Abu Mohammad al-Adnani and other fighters. The writer explained that, in his opinion, the only Achilles heel that led to their elimination was the communicator used by the emirs of the organization who he claimed was exposed to tracking by US Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS). Other visitors who participated in the discussion called on the IS to establish a committee of inquiry to examine each instance of elimination since last year, and they advised increasing security for the organization’s senior members and fighters when traveling by, among other things, using clothing to obscure the identity of the passenger and disconnecting the battery from communicators and mobile phones.³⁰
 - An article was published on the Da'wa al-Haqq jihadist news portal titled, “The IS and the Path to Liberating Palestine and Jerusalem”.³¹ The article (which was not associated with the writer) claimed the Islamic State’s widespread belief is actually capable of liberating Jerusalem since it is the only one that understands that, in order to achieve this goal, there is first an obligation to defeat “apostate armies” and overthrow the governments in Arab countries that serve as a shield for Jews. In the framework of the article, the writer drew similarities between the Crusader period and today, and he called on Muslims not to lose hope but rather to cast their trust in jihad, which led to the liberation of Jerusalem in those days under the command of Salah al Din al Ayubi and is expected to lead to its liberation in the future as well. According to the writer, jihad will be realized in several ways:

³⁰ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

³¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51816>

1. Train Palestinian mujahideen at home, educate them with a “pure Islamic education” and provide support with money and equipment.
2. Educate the nation for jihad and distance young people from “nonsense”.
3. Fight against “traitorous groups” that secretly conspire with the Jews against the Sunnis (Shi’ites, Alawites, Druze, etc.).
4. Continue to stoke the embers of jihad from generation to generation.
5. Avoid war based on nationalistic secular principles.
6. Fight against traitors who “sold out Al-Aqsa” and especially the secular camp that defends the border with the Jews.

It should be noted that, in response to the article, a Palestinian from East Jerusalem criticized the IS, called its members “impure” and claimed that a battle against Israel was not on its agenda. In response, IS supporters hurled curses at him and claimed that victory is being delayed because of people like him.

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- Many media institutions identified with the IS, including Al-Battar, published eulogies in memory of Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, the spokesman for the IS, and praised his contribution to the war of jihad against the enemies of the organization.³²



One of the banners in memory of Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, the spokesman for the IS

- Jaysh al-Fatah, an umbrella organization composed of several jihad factions, published a message of condolences over the death of Abu Omar Saraqeb, the General Commander and one of the founders of Jaysh al-Fatah who took part in the battle of Idlib and in removing the siege on Aleppo. The announcement added that attacks against military commanders of the Syrian

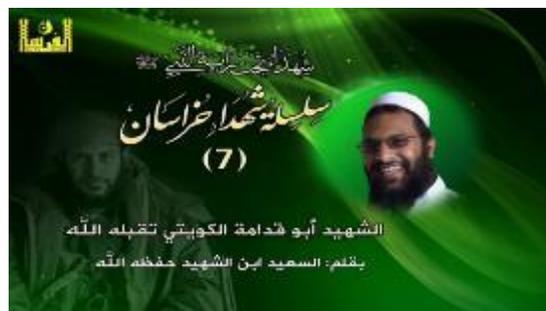
³² <https://justpaste.it/xylv>

revolution by the international coalition demonstrate a tendency in favor of the Alawite regime, which besieged its citizens in Aleppo and other places.³³ As a result of the announcement, jihad organizations such as Jabhat Fateh al-Sham,³⁴ Ahrar al-Sham, the Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham,³⁵ and Nour al-Din al-Zenki published condolences in his memory, called for unity among the ranks of the Sunni mujahideen and vowed that the organization would continue its battle to remove the siege from Aleppo.³⁶



A banner in memory of Abu Omar Saraqeb, the General Commander of Jaysh al-Fatah

- Al-Fursan jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, published a video in memory of the martyr, Abu Qudama al-Kuwaity. The video was the third part in a series of publications titled, “The Martyrs of Khorasan”.³⁷



The video banner

³³ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cr7boH9WYAAAtiaF.jpg>

³⁴ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cr6ioweWcAALukK.jpg>

³⁵ Telegram

³⁶ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cr7bOdzUIAADhUn.jpg>

³⁷ <https://justpaste.it/y3l0>

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published a video in memory of the martyr, Salih Badbaado, who carried out a suicide attack using a car bomb at a base of African Union peacekeeping forces. The video focused on the life story Badbaado, who used to work in law and joined the organization in 2010, and on his contribution to the war of jihad in Somalia.³⁸



Salih Badbaado

- Ibn Tamiyya jihadist media institution published a 30-minute video about the life and will of Muhammad Saber al-Misri, who was a member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Gaza, imprisoned by Hamas, and finally killed in the ranks of the IS in Syria. The video praised al-Misri's virtues, and spoke of his exposure to global jihad and of how he poured water on the hands of Abu al-Walid al-Maqdisi, who would later become Emir of Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad group in Gaza.³⁹



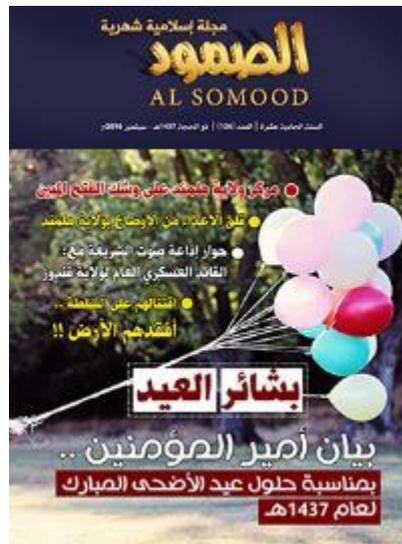
A video in memory of Muhammad Saber al-Misri, a prominent figure in the Gaza Salafi-jihadist movement

Magazines

³⁸ Telegram

³⁹ <https://ia601201.us.archive.org/11/items/qawafle/qaw.mp4>

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a new issue of its magazine, *Al-Somood*, which covers the arena of jihad in Afghanistan: issue no. 126 (44 pp.) for the month of September 2016.⁴⁰



The banner of *Al-Somood*

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published issues no. 21-24 of its magazine, *Al-Masra*. The magazine reviews major news regarding various arenas of jihad in which Al-Qaeda branches operate. It is worth noting an interview that was held with Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini, a prominent Salafi-jihadist proponent in Jordan, in issue no. 21. In the framework of the article, al-Filastini congratulated the mujahideen for releasing the siege on Aleppo, referred to the efforts to unite jihad factions in Syria, and offered an interpretation to Erdogan's suppression of the Turkish coup attempt. In addition, he addressed the issue of the IS and presented his opinion that the organization will be pushed to the sidelines if it does not disappear altogether.⁴¹
In issue no. 22, other interviews were held with Ibrahim al-Qusi Abu Khabib al-Sudani, a member of AQAP's Shura Council, and Zabihullah Mujahid, the official spokesman of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

⁴⁰ <https://justpaste.it/y954>

⁴¹ <https://goo.gl/re336Y>

In the interview held with *Al-Masra*, Zabihullah Mujahid noted previous announcements by US forces in Afghanistan stated that the Afghan government had lost 5% of Afghan territory, especially rural areas, in recent years. In this context, Zabihullah Mujahid added that the mujahideen's military strategy was to gradually move closer to city centers by purifying the peripheral areas in order to tighten the blockade around the enemy located in the city centers and close the supply routes to them. Zabihullah also claimed that the organization was implementing shari'a in the territories that were captured and judges the offenders in a shari'a court. Regarding the organization's internal disputes, Zabihullah noted that the disputes that took place during the reign of Mullah Akhtar Mansour had ended, and now everyone had taken an oath of allegiance to the new leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, including the family of Mullah Dadullah and Mullah Baz Mohammad. He added that there is currently no one outside the ranks of the organization other than Mullah Mohammad Rasul and Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi, and it is unknown whether they are alive or dead. Later in the interview, Zabihullah claimed that the Islamic Emirate was not interested in being involved in ethnic disputes and that it is focused on one main goal – the expulsion of American infidels. Regarding the IS, Zabihullah claimed that IS activity in Afghanistan is limited to certain areas in Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan and in the rest of the country they blocked them from spreading. He also called on youth that have been deceived by the IS to return to the arms of the organization in order to wage true jihad. Finally, Zabihullah added that the goal of the organization's delegations to other countries is to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis, and that the organization does not ask other countries for military assistance since it is not effective in solving the crisis.⁴²

⁴²https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2016/09/anscca3acc84r-al-sharicc84_ah-in-the-arabian-peninsula-e2809cal-masracc84-2322.pdf



The banners of the *Al-Masra* issues

- Issues no. 46-48 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State. The magazine's articles covered the organization's attacks in Syria, Iraq and Libya, terrorist attacks in Bangladesh, increased attacks against the Egyptian army in Sinai, a description of the characteristics of the "evil clergy" and references to various Islamic traditions regarding the treatment of infidels. Among other things, one article (issue no. 47, p. 13) dealt with the details of the captivity of the organization's captives and called on Muslim women to treat them justly and not abuse them.⁴³



The banners of *Al-Naba* issues

- The IS published the first issue of its magazine, *Rumiyeh*, in several languages, including English. Among the articles published in the English edition were: praise for Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, the spokesman for the organization; criticism against the Muslim Brotherhood for deviating off

⁴³ <https://archive.org/stream/firefree37/46Naba#page/n0/mode/2up>; <https://archive.org/details/firefree44>; <https://archive.org/details/zruu47>

the path of Allah; an interview with Amir of Central Office for Investigating Grievances; a eulogy in memory of Abu Mansur al-Muhajir, a former senior member of the organization, and a review of his life's work; a call on women to give charity; a review of the organization main military activities in the various arenas in which they operate; an article criticizing IS detractors such as Sheikh Abu Mohammad al-Maqdisi; granting legitimacy for killing infidels.⁴⁴

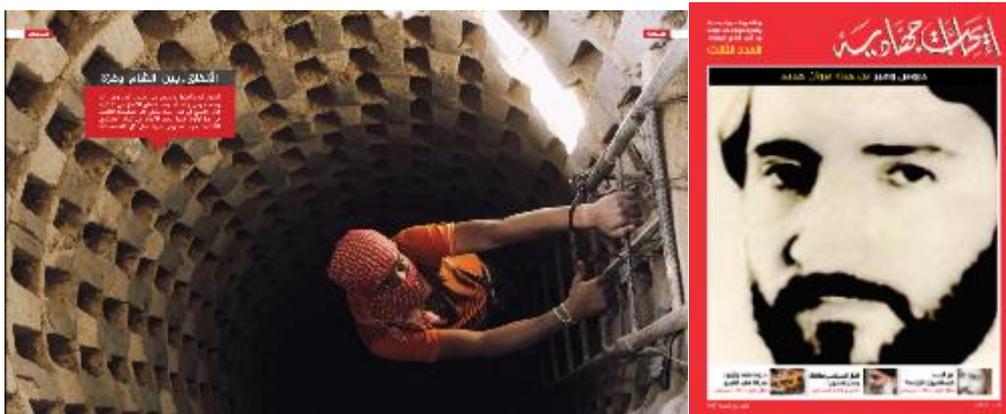


The banner of *Rumiyeh*

- Issue no. 3 of the magazine, *Ihyaat Jihadiyya*, was published by the “Jihad Preaching Center”, which is affiliated with Jabhat Fateh al-Sham. Among the topics covered in the issue: the importance of waging a battle against enemies of Islam in the field of communications; a statement by Sheikh Abdallah al-Muhaysani, a senior Salafi-jihadist proponent in Syria, regarding the positive and negative contributions of Islamists to the revolutions; an examination of the legacy left by Marwan Hadid, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood branch in Syria, who led a protest against the Alawite regime in the 1970’s and died in 1976 in unknown circumstances; an article in memory of the martyr, Abu al-Muthana al-Madani, a member of the center and a teacher of Quran studies; a teacher who taught Quran called to copy the Gazan model for digging tunnels to the scene of jihad in Syria; the life stories of fighters in Syria and how they joined the jihad war; a statement by Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini, a senior Salafi-jihadist proponent in

⁴⁴ Telegram

Jordan, about the need to reach a political solution in Syria; the importance of engaging jihad factions to the battle in Syria; an interview that was held with Sheikh Abu 'Abdallah al-Shami, a member of the Shura Council of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, before its disengagement from Al-Qaeda, about milestones in the development of Al-Nusra Front and its relations with various jihad organizations in the Syrian arena; a review of the structure of attack aircraft such as the Mirage aircraft; recommendations on how to avoid shootings and drone strikes; a review of the center's activities, and more.⁴⁵

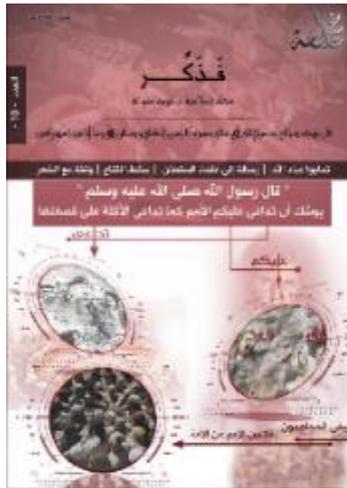


Advice to jihad fighters in Syria to adopt the tunnel system in their military battle; the banner page of *Ihyaat Jihadiyya*

- The Khayr al-Umma jihadist media group, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published issue no. 10 of the magazine, *Fadhkirhum*, on social networks.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Telegram

⁴⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=637308756437666>



The banner page of *Fadhakirhum*

- An issue was published by Al-Muhajirun group, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, of the magazine, *Al-Ghuraba*, which is published in the Swahili language and deals with women in East Africa; issue no. 5 (4 pp.) for the months of August-September 2016.⁴⁷



The banner page of *Al-Ghuraba* magazine

⁴⁷ <https://ia601508.us.archive.org/12/items/Al-ghurabaaToleo5>

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The first half of September opened with a double suicide attack that was carried out by members of the Taliban in Afghanistan in Kabul next to the Afghan Ministry of Defense, killing at least 35 people.⁴⁸ Later in the month, the organization carried out an attack next to a guesthouse of international relief organizations in Kabul.⁴⁹ Meanwhile, the Taliban continued to expand its control in various areas of Afghanistan. In the beginning of the month, members of the organization managed to capture another area in Paktika Province, which is located in eastern Afghanistan.⁵⁰ In addition, Taliban fighters managed to capture military bases close to Tarinkot, the capital of Uruzgan Province, located in southern Afghanistan.⁵¹

Meanwhile, a map was published this month describing the areas under the control of the Taliban in Afghanistan.⁵²

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the military assistance provided by the Indian government to the government in Kabul. The announcement stated that according to publications spread via the media, the Indian government will provide the government in Kabul with aircraft and other military equipment. The announcement added that this is not the first time that India is helping the government in Kabul, which is using the above-mentioned equipment against the Afghan people. The announcement also stated that the organization condemns the provision of aid by the Indian government to the government in Kabul and notes that such actions create distrust between the two countries and are

⁴⁸<https://goo.gl/l1Q4v0>; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/taliban-claims-responsibility-afghan-blasts-160905115339241.html>

⁴⁹<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/afghanistan-gun-battle-bombings-kabul-160906034756859.html>; <https://goo.gl/dPGns2>

⁵⁰ <https://goo.gl/MqwRdW>

⁵¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/taliban-push-provincial-capital-afghanistan-160908085613569.html>; <https://goo.gl/S7CEZc>

⁵² <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2016/08/afghanistan-controls-160823083528213.html>

liable to lead to the deterioration of relations between them. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on India to stop supporting the Afghan government with military aid.⁵³

- An announcement condemning Amnesty's unjustified ruling. The announcement stated that the "Islamic Emirate" attacked the Afghan government's secret intelligence center and the foreign occupiers in the city of Kabul, causing heavy losses to the enemy. The announcement then condemned Amnesty's decision to classify the attack as a war crime and added that the organization, CARE International, which is located on the intelligence center's street, was not the target of the attack. The organization further claimed that it published a warning prior to the attack to stay away from the army and intelligence centers of the foreign occupiers in order to avoid residents being hurt in the attacks. At the end of the announcement, the organization noted that these types of reports by Amnesty prove that it is not a human rights organization but rather an organization influenced by the intelligence agencies of western occupying countries.⁵⁴
- An announcement by the leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Hibatullah Akhundzada, in honor of the Eid al-Adha holiday. The announcement stated that during the first years of the American occupation of Afghanistan it was necessary to fight the enemy, but that now the organization is in control of many areas of the country and, therefore, it can reap the fruits of jihad and implement its goals, applying shari'a, establishing justice, maintaining stability and security, and protecting life, property and dignity. Later in the announcement, Akhundzada claimed that the mujahideen must focus on doing good for the people, avoiding pride and favoritism, and purifying the ranks of unscrupulous and greedy people. He also called on the mujahideen to focus on recruiting people from enemy ranks to the organization in addition to waging jihad. Akhundzada also claimed that the Islamic Emirate continues to make diplomatic efforts to resolve the Afghan issue alongside a military approach. At the end of the announcement, Akhundzada condemned the atrocities carried out against Muslims around the world, especially in

⁵³ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=3818>

⁵⁴ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=3988>

Syria, and he called on the world to make his voice heard in order to avoid these atrocities.⁵⁵

- An announcement on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the capture of Kabul by the Islamic Emirate from the Soviets. In the announcement, the organization claimed that the situation in Kabul today, which is under US occupation, and its puppet government are similar to the evil and corrupt situation that existed before the Islamic Emirate captured the city. At the end of the announcement, the organization expressed hope that it would soon return to hold control in Kabul and re-establish an Islamic government there.⁵⁶
- A video clip regarding the capture of Omna District, which is located in Paktika Province, in southeast Afghanistan.⁵⁷

The Taliban in Pakistan

- The Taliban in Pakistan published the following:
 - A video in Urdu titled, "Our Message through our Song", which portrayed the plight of the mujahideen captured by Pakistani forces and emphasized that "freeing prisoners from the infidels by killing is allowed". The first part of the video contained a message from Fatah Abu Muhammed in which he explained that there is no difference between colonial and Pakistani jails. He noted that some mujahideen have been imprisoned for fighting against NATO forces while others have been imprisoned for fighting to apply shari'a in Pakistan, referring to the "Lal Masjid sisters" who were imprisoned in 2007, and he made reference to. He speaks of the crying mothers and the tortured prisoners.

The second part is a message from Sheikh Khalid Hafki who is telling the audience that they are blessed to be here today and all divine signs point to a victory where they will enter the three main cities of Pakistan - Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. The main emphasis is on the injustices by the Pak Army.

The third part is an interview with an ex-prisoner Saeed Khan. His story briefly - He was a small shop owner in his village and his only concern was providing for his family and

⁵⁵ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=4131>

⁵⁶ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=4770>

⁵⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8sdKj4NwHhu0D4dzz2zJRg>

educating his children. He has no contact with the Taliban. He travelled to Dubai to try to make more money, but when he came back he was picked up by the army, imprisoned and repeatedly tortured. After this incident, he joined the Taliban to work for Allah's cause - jihad in Pakistan – despite having had no contact with the organization previously.⁵⁸



A clip from the video

- A video in Urdu titled, “Greetings in Honor of Eid al-Adha” by Akhtar Muhammad Khalil Mansur, the former leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The video opened with attacks by Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on enemy forces (the Pakistani army), and continued with a recruitment message from South Waziristan by Akhtar Muhammed Khalil Mansur of the TTP. In his message, Mansur called on all Muslims to unite, irrespective of nationality, to fight against the infidels. He congratulated the mujahideen on continuing on the path of jihad and emphasized the fact that the TTP has waged war to defend Islam on God’s land in order to spread His (God’s) law. He stressed that all Muslims must be united for this one mission and must not get caught up in differences that have been created in the Muslim Ummah by enemy forces as there is no difference between mujahideen. He stated that the mujahideen cannot be defeated and can only get stronger. He urged the Muslim community that has not joined the cause of jihad to take up arms, ignore enemy propaganda and have no fear of death. In addition, he narrated a saying of the Prophet Muhammad in which he predicted the end of times when the Muslim Ummah will be under attack. Mansur concluded by calling on Muslims,

⁵⁸ 1.9.16. <https://archive.org/details/BushraaLilAsraa>

especially those in South Waziristan, to rise up and wage jihad or face the consequences on the Day of Judgment.

- An announcement regarding the reasons for the failure of the talks between the Pakistani government and the Taliban in Pakistan. The announcement stated that the Pakistani government previously held peace talks with the Taliban in Pakistan in order to receive popular support for the operation that it planned with the US against the organization following the failure of the talks. The organization also added that while the Taliban had points for discussion during the peace talks, such as the demand that the Pakistani government sever its ties with the US and implement an Islamic system, the Pakistani government was not serious about its intentions and only sought to extend the ceasefire. The organization added that immediately following the collapse of the peace talks, the Pakistani government launched an operation together with the US against the organization, which led to a change in the organization's military strategy. Later in the announcement, the organization explained that since the start of the campaign against it, it fights against Pakistani forces using guerrilla warfare throughout Pakistan so losing territories under its control is of no significance to the organization. The organization also added that such warfare can continue for years and that they are not far from the day when an Islamic system will be implemented in the country.⁵⁹
- An announcement according to which a video clip, which was published by the organization calling for jihad to be waged in Kashmir against Indian security forces, was fake.⁶⁰



The announcement banner

⁵⁹ <https://justpaste.it/Nego-Pak-TTP>

⁶⁰ <https://goo.gl/wT1hly>

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula stated that it had nothing to do with the series of explosions that took place in recent months in Marib Province and that the modus operandi of the attack characterized the Houthis.⁶¹

The Islamic State

- The IS in Aden Abyan Province published photos documenting the assassination of a security officer using a gun silencer.⁶²



Documentation of the assassination of a Yemeni security officer by IS fighters in Aden Province

Iraq

During first half of September, the IS continued to carry out guerilla attacks against Iraqi security forces and Shi'ite targets. In this framework, IS fighters detonated a car bomb in the Karrada District in central Baghdad, killing nine civilians.⁶³ In addition, several days later, the organization carried out a double suicide attack using a suicide terrorist and a car bomb at a mall on Palestine Street in eastern Baghdad.⁶⁴ Meanwhile, attempts continued by the Iraqi government to extinguish the oil wells that IS fighters had set alight in the area of Al-Qayyarah in order to be able to flee the city under cover of

⁶¹ Telegram

⁶² <https://justpaste.it/yv32>

⁶³ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-suicide-bomber-detonates-car-in-shia-district-of-baghdad-death-toll-iraq-a7227766.html> (English).

⁶⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-blast-idUSKCN11F2S5> (English).

the smoke screen.⁶⁵ Meanwhile, 450 additional US troops arrived in Iraq in order to support the Iraqi army's operation to liberate Mosul from the IS.⁶⁶

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Iraq published a range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
 - A. Battles and Military Deployments:
 - Northern Baghdad Province: A video titled, “Hell of the Apostates”, which documented the mass execution of Iraqi army and Sahawat forces. The video documented, among other things, shooting a group of soldiers that had gathered in a pit, sniper fire of soldiers at army posts, and a raid on the houses of militia members and their executions.⁶⁷
 - Al-Furat Province: A video titled, “The Terrifying Thunderbolts”, which claimed that US forces lost over 35,000 soldiers and suffered over 167,000 attacks from 2003-2010. In the framework of the video, the organization's fighters in Al-Furat Province were praised, accompanied by photos from the attack (including suicide attacks by Tajik fighters) that were carried out against the Iraqi army and Sahawat forces.⁶⁸
 - Al-Furat Province: A video documenting the slaughter of sheep as sacrifices for the holiday alongside the execution of a PMF member in the province. The video showed fighters listening to a sermon praising the slaughter as a way to get close to God, watching the slaughter of the captive and the sheep, and then held a feast.⁶⁹

⁶⁵ <http://www.iraqinews.com/features/fire-three-more-oil-wells-gayyarah-doused/>

⁶⁶ <http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/09/08/about-450-more-us-troops-arrive-in-iraq-to-back-mosul-drive.html> (English).

⁶⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/53056>

⁶⁸ https://ia601206.us.archive.org/1/items/saegat_V/saegat_V.mp4

⁶⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/52485>



The slaughter of a person and an animal in honor of Eid al-Adha

- *Various provinces and Amaq news agency*: Videos and filmed reviews regarding various operational topics, such as: an announcement regarding the death of 50 PMF members and the destruction of six vehicles in the area of Al-Azim, a double suicide attack in Tuz Khurmatu, battles and the destruction of posts in the area of Al-Rutba, an attack by six assault warriors on an army base in Al-Sharqat, the destruction of army posts north of Ramadi, and the waging of battles against the Peshmerga in Al-Jazira Province.⁷⁰

B. Executions:

- *Nineveh Province*: A video titled, “And If You Return, We Will Return”, which documented the execution of 16 Iraqi civilians who were accused of spying for the Kurdish Peshmerga militias. The accused were beheaded or shot to death in the presence of, or with the participation of, children – some of whom were European-looking.⁷¹

⁷⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

⁷¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/52896>



Children participating in the execution of accused spies

C. Civilian Issues:

- Various provinces: Videos and filmed reviews regarding various civilian topics, such as the holiday atmosphere in Nineveh Province and the holding of shari'a courses for 220 butchers in Mosul in honor of Eid al-Adha.⁷²

D. Propaganda and PR:

- Al-Furat Province: A video titled, "From Darkness to Light", which told the story of a German Christian fighter who converted to Islam and ended up joining the ranks of the IS. In the framework of the video, the fighter – named Christian but referred to as Abu Issa al-Almani, from the city of Dortmund in Germany – said that he converted to Islam after undergoing a difficult surgery. The video showed him cutting off the hand of a thief and encouraging Muslims in Europe to carry out terrorist attacks.⁷³



A German fighter who converted to Islam encouraging the execution of attacks in Europe

⁷² <https://dawaalhq.com/>

⁷³ <https://goo.gl/f3IQQq>

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Syria

Jabhat Fateh al-Sham

- Jabhat Fateh al-Sham published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the ceasefire agreement that the US and Russia proposed to Syria. In the announcement, the organization thanked the Syrian revolution factions that rejected the above-mentioned agreement, according to which it is permissible to continue to attack Jabhat Fateh al-Sham in addition to attacks against the IS. The organization also referred to the agreement as a “new conspiracy” that is added to previous American and Russian conspiracies against the Syrian nation, and claimed that the agreement was designed to create a rift between the Syrian revolution factions and maintain the Alawite regime.⁷⁴
 - Propaganda videos about new recruits to the organization, interviews with Syrian residents who were displaced from their homes regarding crimes committed by Syrian and Russian forces in the area, and more.⁷⁵
 - An announcement regarding battles in the northern suburbs of Aleppo. In the announcement, the organization stated that it would not support Operation “Euphrates Shield”, led by Turkey, in Syria and prohibited its fighters from fighting in the northern suburbs of Aleppo under a regional force or under the international coalition, and even from coordinating their actions with them. In the announcement, the organization claimed that US involvement in the suburbs of Aleppo will only make the situation worse since its goal is to openly capture and attack the region. The organization also added that the US is helping the PKK at the expense of Sunni areas.⁷⁶
 - An announcement regarding the freeing of German journalist, Janina Findeisen. The announcement stated that the organization released the journalist who was kidnapped one year ago in Syria by a small armed group.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CsOY0tAW8AAGDOW.jpg>

⁷⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-si9C7loi4>

⁷⁶ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CtBk6nZWcAAx3SS.jpg>

⁷⁷ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Ctd2-nxWAAhMvb.jpg>

- An interview by the leader of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Abu Mohammad al-Julani, to Al-Jazeera in which he criticized the Russian-American ceasefire agreement in Syria. Al-Julani also claimed that the goal of Russia and the US, which are cooperating with the Assad regime, is to cause the factions in Syria to surrender. He added that Sunnis in Syria are in a state of doom and they must be protected from the Shi'ites. Al-Julani also emphasized unity among the ranks of the Syrian factions and called for the establishment of one body to represent Sunnis in Syria and protect them, both militarily and politically.⁷⁸



An interview with Abu Mohammad al-Julani

- A video clip regarding the obstacles facing the Ministry of Guidance and Dawah in areas that were liberated by the organization in Hama.⁷⁹
- A video clip in which he explained why the ceasefire proposed by the US and Russia is not good for the Syrian revolution.⁸⁰
- A video clip regarding the dawah conferences that are held by the Ministry of Guidance and Dawah in the suburbs of Idlib.⁸¹

Jaysh al-Fatah

- During the month of September, Jaysh al-Fatah continued to wage a campaign to recruit fighters to its ranks, which it called “Join Jaysh al-Fatah”. For example, it published a video about the

⁷⁸ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yASOax_bdo

⁷⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pGtebPI4g>

⁸⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSCA8ycuv84>

⁸¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yn6IiH3Ibc8>

graduation ceremony for a new cycle of fighters who joined the organization after receiving training at a military training camp.⁸² As a result of the campaign, the organizations Nur al-Din al-Zinki and Suqur al-Sham, among other, joined the organization.⁸³

Ahl al-'Ilm fi al-Sham (Association of Scholars in Sham)

- The Shura Council of Ahl al-'Ilm fi al-Sham (Association of Scholars in Sham) published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the need for unity among the ranks under a new leadership. In the announcement, the Shura Council welcomed the disengagement of Al-Nusra Front from Al-Qaeda and added that it sees the move as part of the desire to maintain unity among the ranks. Later in the announcement, the council made several recommendations on how to achieve unity among the mujahideen: agree that they are fighting against the Alawite regime and its supporters, establish a general leadership of Ahl al-Sunna in Syria, unite all of the Sunni factions, and avoid arresting those who leave the battle and jihad because they belong to one of the factions that were fighting each other and now want to join jihad under the banner of unity.⁸⁴
 - An announcement in which it called on the factions fighting in southern Syria, Huran, and in the Golan to help the mujahideen fighting in the suburbs of Quneitra and Daraa since the battle for Quneitra will help the mujahideen open the way to western Al-Ghouta. The announcement added that factions like Jaysh al-Yarmouk, Jaysh al-Islam, Ahrar al-Sham and Fatah al-Sham must cooperate in order to repel the Syrian regime.⁸⁵
 - A fatwa regarding the situation in the northern suburb of Aleppo in which it prohibited the Syrian factions from working in concert with US forces in Syria since they are occupation forces because they are considered enemies of the revolution and need the factions that are cooperating with the US to split up. Later in the announcement, the

⁸² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zISQqMiVZt0>

⁸³ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CtYcm3tWYAA0cCh.jpg>

⁸⁴ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CrRM7yZWgAA5bXl.jpg>

⁸⁵ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CtMw7D3WgAA-S5Y.jpg>

Association called on revolution factions to establish shari'a courts in areas that were captured and to quickly remove the siege on the northern suburb of Aleppo.⁸⁶

Ahrar al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
 - An announcement by the Deputy General Commander of Ahrar al-Sham, Abu Ammar Al-Umar, in honor of Eid al-Adha. In his announcement, al-Umar attacked the ceasefire agreement for Syria proposed by the US and Russia, and claimed that the Syrian revolution cannot be satisfied with half solutions or surrender to political agreements that miss its goals and compare the organizations of the revolution to murderers. Al-Umar also claimed that such recommendations by the international community only increase the suffering, encourage the continued cruelty of the Alawite regime, and distances the real political solution to which the Syrian nation strives. Al-Umar also referred to the fact that the agreement enables continued attacks against Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, and noted that the organization rejects any attack on one of the factions of the Syrian revolution. Al-Umar added that if the international community is serious about its fight against terrorism, it needs to stop the terrorism of the Alawite regime and the militias that support it.⁸⁷
 - An announcement regarding the ceasefire agreement that the US and Russia proposed to Syria. In the announcement, the organization claimed that the agreement threatens the future of the Syrian revolution and that it results in the loss of several strategic points in favor of the regime. The organization also noted that there are no real guarantees or clear punishments in the event that the Alawite regime violates the agreement. In addition, the announcement criticized the fact that the agreement did not include Jabhat Fateh al-Sham and claimed that it rejects any attack against this, or any other, organization that fights against the Alawite regime.⁸⁸

⁸⁶ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cs-SOJ5XEAE1agt.jpg>

⁸⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iHmidt8DPI>

⁸⁸ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CsLPX-RWgAAn96F.jpg>

- A fatwa regarding the battle against the IS in coordination with Turkey. In the announcement, the organization stated that it permits its fighters to act in concert with Turkey and to help it in its fight against the IS since it is necessary for an Islamic faction to rule in areas from which the IS retreated in order to prevent their fall into the hands of organizations such as the PKK and PYD. At the end of the announcement, the organization noted in a comment that the fatwa refers only to cooperation with the Turkish army and that it would publish another fatwa regarding US intervention in Syria when details on the matter become clear.⁸⁹
- A video regarding the release of prisoners from jail in honor of the Eid al-Adha holiday and in response to a request by Amnesty to release prisoners.⁹⁰

Ansar al-Din Front

- The Ansar al-Din Front published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the battle under the auspices of the international coalition. The announcement stated that the organization considers battle under the auspices of the Crusader alliance to be heresy and warns members of the organization against taking part in it.⁹¹
 - A video clip regarding the removal of the siege from Aleppo.⁹²

Fajr al-Sham

- The leader of Fajr al-Sham, Abu Abdullah al-Shami, published an announcement regarding the US-Russian decision to force a ceasefire agreement on Syria and apparent political agreement. In the announcement, al-Shami claimed that the US-Russian agreement seeks to destroy the Syrian revolution and maintain the Alawite regime, and he added that the agreement followed the green light that was given to Russia and Iran to replace the siege on Aleppo. Al-Shami also noted that the statement made by Michael Ratney, the US Special Envoy to Syria, are even more dangerous

⁸⁹ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CtESeonWEAthrI.jpg>

⁹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zElj1Xp5Ss>

⁹¹ https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cs5JRC_XEAAO6wN.jpg

⁹² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gNx0fPaPaE>

than the agreement because he wanted to separate the mujahideen from the Syrian revolution by continuing the fighting in one of the factions of Ahl al-Sunnah. At the end of the announcement, al-Shami called for the establishment of a comprehensive Sunni body whose goal is to repel the enemy and implement shari'a.⁹³

The Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham

- The Sawt al-Islam jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham, published several videos on topics such as the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad; greetings in honor of the Eid al-Adha holiday; focus on the persecution of the Muslim population by the Chinese regime in the Xinjiang region, known as the entrance for members of the Eastern Turkestan organization; and a call on Muslims to help fight against the Chinese persecution. In one of the videos, Sheikh 'Abd al-Razaq al-Mahdi, a prominent Salafi-jihadist sage in Syria, addressed members of the organization and praised them for their adherence to the fulfilment of jihad and for their determination in their fight against the enemies of Islam.⁹⁴



A clip from the video calling on Muslims in and out of Turkestan to revolt against the Chinese regime using violence until East Turkestan is returned to the lap of Islam

⁹³ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CsO6DrbWcAAgEhW.jpg>

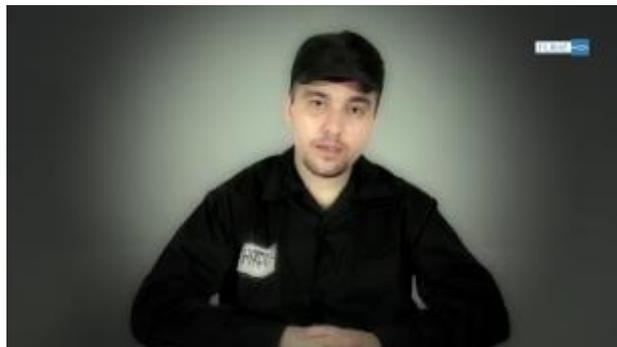
⁹⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

Al-Muhajirun

- Al-Muhajirun, a Salafi-jihadist faction in Syria, published two videos calling on various jihad factions in Syria to avoid a civil war and maintain unity among the ranks for the sake of a successful jihad battle against the enemies of Islam.⁹⁵

The Islamic State

- FURAT jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a video containing a “message from a Russian intelligence officer who was captured by the Islamic State to the Russian president and the Russian people”. In the video, the officer asks Russian President, Vladimir Putin, not to abandon him and to do whatever is necessary in order to free him.⁹⁶ In another video that was published by FURAT, a Russian speaking fighter was interviewed regarding the battle against the enemies of the organization. According to him, there are some advantages to the defeats in the field: a strengthened belief in Allah, the exposure of frauds and hypocrites who joined the organization during the period of the organization’s victories.⁹⁷



A Russian intelligence officer being held captive by the IS

- The Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS, published the following:
 - Several videos of Syrian and Turkish army soldiers attesting to the good treatment that they received after they were captured by the IS or surrendered to it.⁹⁸ In one video,

⁹⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgmtRRR0dvUkJSXVs66KElw>

⁹⁶ https://ia801206.us.archive.org/4/items/jhgfiyruyha_mail_Aser/aser.mp4

⁹⁷ <https://goo.gl/Ot7jle>; <https://ia801500.us.archive.org/34/items/FuratMedRu/MartyrdomOperations.mp4>

⁹⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51300>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51795>;

notable figures in Deir Ezzor Province declared that the IS forgives all members of factions who fought against it and recommends that they “repent”.⁹⁹

- A report stating that the “Ministry of Prisoners and Martyrs” released three prisoners who had been jailed by the Syrian regime in exchange for ransom payment.¹⁰⁰
- Several infographic posters on the topic of sums of money that were distributed by the Center for Charity for the Poor in Raqqah Province during the month of August – 346,588 dollars; suicide attacks (81 in total) that were carried out during the month of August in Deir Ezzor, Damascus, Aleppo, Al-Hasaka and Idlib in Syria, and Diyala, Baghdad, Nineveh, Karbala, Al-Samawa as well as Iraq and Libya. The infographics included details about types of attacks, such as the use of explosive vests, cars, etc., and targets that were attacked such as Syrian opposition forces, Kurdish units, and more.¹⁰¹



From left to right: amounts of charity distributed to the poor;
81 suicide attacks during the month of August in Iraq

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Syria published a wide range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:

A. Battles and Military Deployments:

<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51674>; <https://vid.me/rS8v>

⁹⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51479>

¹⁰⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51067>

¹⁰¹ https://web.telegram.org/#/im?p=c1086791726_11576708296860411845

- Al-Baraka Province: A video regarding the organization's attacks in the city of Hasaka. The video included a clip in which a group of fighters, including youth and children, vowed to fight until death for the sake of Islam as well as images from the attacks against Syrian army posts and three suicide attacks. Nevertheless, according to journalistic sources, they were images from previous battles waged in June.¹⁰²
- Various provinces and the Amaq news agency: Videos and filmed reviews on various operational topics, such as: shooting directed at PKK forces south of the town of Mare', ribat activities in the area of Al-Shandakhiyat in eastern Homs, an announcement regarding 23 people killed and injured in a terrorist attack in the neighbourhood of Al-Zahraa in Homs, activities by air defense units in Hamat Province, the destruction of two Turkish tanks, the downing of a Syrian army plane in Al-Khayr Province, two suicide attacks against the PKK in Aleppo Province and a raid on army strongholds in Homs Province.¹⁰³

B. Civilian Issues:

- Damascus and Raqqah Provinces: Videos were published regarding the Eid al-Adha atmosphere among IS fighters on the front, including prayers, sacrificial slaughter for the holiday, and shared circles of song and meals.¹⁰⁴



The holiday atmosphere among the mujahideen in Raqqah Province

¹⁰² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51794>

¹⁰³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

¹⁰⁴ https://archive.org/details/original_20160915_1759;
https://ia601202.us.archive.org/1/items/almogahden_720/almogahden_720.mp4

- Various provinces: Videos and filmed reviews about various civilian topics, such as: the conclusion of a Quran memorization course for youth in the town of Al-Mansura, west of Raqqah; a report of the distribution of zakat in the amount of half a million dollars to the needy in Aleppo; and activities by the firefighting and rescue unit in the city of Al-Tabaka.¹⁰⁵

C. Propaganda and PR:

- Al-Khayr Province: A video titled, “The Generation of the Caliphate” regarding the lives of children and youth in the province under the IS. The video showed clips from the daily lives of children alongside interviews that were held with them in which they declared their intention to take part in future battles and to carry out suicide attacks. The video emphasized the involvement of children and youth in the organization’s activities, including conducting prayers and distributing zakat.¹⁰⁶



The Generation of the Caliphate – children and youth in the ranks of the IS

- Aleppo Province: A video titled, “They Did Not Tremble Despite all that Befell Them” regarding the return of wounded fighters, and even those with various defects, to the battle. As is customary in the organization’s publications, the video opened with quotations from Muslim tradition about Muslim fighters from the olden days who were fighting for the sake of Islam despite having various physical defects (crippled, blind, etc.). The video showed former IS fighters who were injured in the framework of the

¹⁰⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

¹⁰⁶ https://archive.org/details/original_20160907_0102

battle, including a fighter known as Abu Aisha al-Hashemi who carried out a suicide attack despite half his body being paralyzed (hemiplegia). The video explained that wounded IS fighters were being transferred to the “Ministry of the Wounded”, which is responsible for caring for them and sending them back to the front after they recover (if that is not possible, then they are transferred to office posts in the framework of hisbah and dawah activities). The video ended with a message according to which physically and emotionally healthy Muslims have no excuse to avoid jihad and even those who suffer a handicap can contribute to jihad in their own way.¹⁰⁷



Integrating handicapped individuals into the ranks of IS fighters

- *Al-Khayr Province*: A video titled, “The Making of Illusion”, which documented the execution of several people accused of spying for the coalition. The men were accused of passing information and photos regarding IS sites and were slaughtered like sheep in a slaughterhouse in the province. According to the video, the head of this spy ring was a man living in Turkey who used to fight for Al-Nusra Front and the YPG, and moved to fight for the coalition forces.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁷ <https://ia601204.us.archive.org/11/items/asabahm/asabahm.mp4>

¹⁰⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

Khaled bin al-Walid Army

- The Khaled bin al-Walid Army, which was formed as a result of a merger between the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade, the Islamic Muthanna Movement and the Army of Jihad, and expressed its allegiance to the IS, published for the first time a video titled, “The Descendants of Khaled”. In the framework of the video, the organization criticized Al-Nusra Front for not enforcing shari’a in the areas under its control as well as the US-run operations room in Jordan that provides support to the “moderate Syrian opposition”, which included clips from the battle being waged by the organization and from the enforcement of shari’a (a filmed review regarding the distribution of zakat by the organization was published separately).¹⁰⁹

Other Jihadist Organizations

- On September 18, the launch of a new jihadist media institution named Fursan al-Sham was published. The media institution declared that it will be entrusted with reviewing events in Syria and news concerning jihad fighters in the battlefield. According to the new media institution, Twitter, Facebook and Telegram will serve as a platform for the distribution of its publications.¹¹⁰



The new jihadist media institution, “Fursan Al-Sham”

¹⁰⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/51330>; https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/1_small-21.jpg; https://ia801500.us.archive.org/14/items/kaled_20160903

¹¹⁰ <http://fursanshammedia.net/>

The Sinai Peninsula

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

- The IS in the Sinai Peninsula published a series of claims of responsibility for attacks against Egyptian security forces. For example, it claimed responsibility for the killing of three Egyptian soldiers. In addition, it published an apology by one of the Tarabin families as an expression of desire to reconcile with the organization.¹¹¹

The Gaza Strip

- Al-Nusra al-Maqdisiyya jihadist media institution, which supports the IS and focuses on the activities of Palestinian Salafi-jihadists, published the following:
 - A video eulogizing IS spokesman, Abu Mohammad al-Adnani. In the framework of the announcement, several masked militants expressed condolences to all of the organization's fighters in various arenas and reviewed al-Adnani's biography. The video ended with message of support for the organization's supporters around the world (especially encouragement for its proponents on the Internet to continue their activities), and a threat against both the West and Iran.¹¹²



Armed Palestinians eulogizing Abu Mohammad al-Adnani

¹¹¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹¹² https://archive.org/details/Sequen1_201609

- A series of photos of Palestinian Salafi-jihadists who joined the IS and were killed during their service in the organization.¹¹³



The banner's subtitles read: "The Martyrs of Palestine in the Land of the Caliphate: Migration and Jihad under Shari'a until the Entire Religion is for Allah"

Africa

The Maghreb

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which belongs to AQIM, published a speech on an audio clip titled, "To the Patient and Determined People" by Sheikh Abu 'Ubayda Yusuf al-'Inabi, the head of the organization's Council of Notables. In the beginning of the speech, al-'Inabi blessed Muslims in honor of Eid al-Adha. Then he praised jihad fighters in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and in the Sahara for their struggle against infidel forces. At the end, he emphasized that the prisoner issue was occupying the mind of the organization.¹¹⁴

¹¹³ https://web.telegram.org/#/im?p=c1068032038_11395772815025616087

¹¹⁴ https://justpaste.it/Youssef_2016

Libya

The Shura Council of Derna and its Environs

- Al-Sabil jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Shura Council of Derna and its Environs, published the following:
 - A eulogy and praise in memory of three members of the organization who were killed during a raid on Al-Abraq army base, which belongs to General Haftar's forces. According to the organization, the operation was carried out in the framework of the organization's efforts to defend Derna's civilian population due to crimes carried out by General Haftar's militias but during the raid a roadside bomb exploded, killing the three.¹¹⁵ In addition, the organization published a video containing statements by fighters before embarking on the raid. The three noted that the operation was designed to block the advancement of Haftar's forces into the city and expressed their desire to die a martyr's death.¹¹⁶



The three members of the organization who were killed during a raid on Haftar's Al-Abraq army base

The Islamic State

- The IS in Tripoli Province published the following:
 - A video regarding the organization's battles and operations in Sirte, which included clips from the battle in the city alongside a review of the institutions that the organization established in it (shari'a court, hisba, zakat department, dawah and mosques department, etc.). In addition, a fighter called Abu Ahmad al-Ramali al-Misrati appeared in the video

¹¹⁵ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CrX8CXcWIAAyHF0.jpg>

¹¹⁶ Telegram

and criticized the Libyan national unity government operating under the auspices of the US and against Khalifa Haftar, while calling on Muslims in Sirte to stand alongside the mujahideen.¹¹⁷

- An announcement regarding an attack against Libyan national unity government sites in the city of Sirte using a range of weapons.¹¹⁸
- The IS in Baraka Province published a filmed review regarding battles against Haftar's forces in western Benghazi.¹¹⁹

Algeria

- A group of mujahideen in Algeria sent a letter of appreciation to Abu Qatada al-Filistini for his support of jihad in Algeria, against the backdrop of an interview that was held with him by *Al-Masra* magazine (see 'Magazines'), which belongs to AQAP. The letter was signed by someone named Abd al-Rahman al-Jazairi from Al-Aurès region.¹²⁰

Tunisia

- The Ifriqiyya al-Muslima jihadist media institution published an opinion article by Abu al-Ashbal al-Maghribi condemning the Tunisian regime. According to the writer, the latter is acting with determination against Islam and shari'a, and is even cooperating with the enemies of Islam. In light of this, he called on commentators and religious figures to pen essays criticizing the Tunisian regime and on jihad fighters to increase their attacks against it.¹²¹

Egypt

Hasam Movement

- The Hasam Movement claimed responsibility for several assassinations of Egyptian security personnel in various areas of Egypt and an attempted assassination in August 2016 of the former

¹¹⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/50988>

¹¹⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/CsJc9MvWgAAHufA.jpg>

¹¹⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

¹²⁰ <https://s04.justpaste.it/files/justpaste/d344/a12976702/capture.pngb>

¹²¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

Egyptian mufti, 'Ali Juma'a, on October 6. The organization further emphasized that the goal of its activity is to purge the Egyptian arena of all traitors and those who spill the blood of Muslims in Egypt, including Egyptian security personnel.¹²²

The organization also claimed responsibility for the attempted assassination of Zakariyya 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Uthman, a member of the Egyptian Parliament by planting a car bomb that exploded in eastern Cairo. According to the organization, the assassination attempt demonstrates the organization's intention to assassinate any judge who sends Muslim prisoners to jail. In addition, it threatened to attack those who collaborate with the regime, including judges, media figures and security forces.¹²³



From left to right: the logo of the Hasam movement; a photo uploaded by the organization of the attempted assassination of an Egyptian member of Parliament

Mali

Ansar al-Din

- The Rimaah jihadist media institution, which belongs to Ansar al-Din, published the following:
 - A video documenting the weapons and ammunition that were looted by the Macina Brigade, Ansar al-Din's branch in southern Mali, after its members ambushed Mali's army forces on August 7, 2016 between the villages of Tenenko and Chari.¹²⁴
 - A video documenting a raid carried out by member of the organization on Mali's army between the cities of Gossi and Douro on September 19, 2016 and noting its

¹²² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/52255>

¹²³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/53688>

¹²⁴ Telegram

achievements, such as the death of several Malian soldiers, the acquisition of four Kalashnikov rifles, etc.¹²⁵

Burkina Faso

- The IS claimed responsibility for an attack against a Burkina Faso army base on the border with Chad.¹²⁶

Nigeria

Jama'at Ahl al-Sunnah Lil Dawa Wal Jihad

- Abu Bakr Shekau, the leader of Jama'at Ahl al-Sunnah Lil Dawa Wal Jihad, announced in a 40-minute long video that was distributed on September 25, 2016 on social networks in Arabic, Hausa, English and local dialects spoken in northeast Nigeria, that he is in good health despite claims by the Nigerian army that he was wounded on August 23, 2016. In addition, he threatened Nigerian President Muhammad Bukhari after the latter requested for assistance from the UN to conduct negotiations for the release of the Nigerian schoolgirls who were kidnapped by the organization in 2014. In this context, Shekau emphasized: "We are not going to return your daughters. If you want them back then give us back our sisters."¹²⁷

The Islamic State in East Africa

- The Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS, claimed responsibility for an attack against an African Union convoy in Borno.¹²⁸

Somalia

During the first half of September, clashes continued between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and security forces and the African Union force. In this framework, the organization attacked a convoy of Kenyan security forces operating in Somalia in the Lower Jubba region in southern Somalia.¹²⁹ In

¹²⁵ Telegram

¹²⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁷ Telegram

¹²⁸ <https://web.telegram.org/#/im?p=@AmaqAgency38>

¹²⁹ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201609120481.html>

addition, a group of Al-Shabab fighters attacked the Somali counterterrorism force in an operation that it carried out in the Lower Shebelle region. As a result of this, the US bombed the area from the air, killing four Al-Shabab fighters.¹³⁰ Meanwhile, leaders from various African countries arrived in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, for a regional conference that was held for the first time in the country in order to discuss regional issues. Among other things, they discussed how Somali security forces and the African Union force would wage additional attacks against Al-Shabab and capture additional areas that are currently under the organization's control.¹³¹ Meanwhile, in Kenya, three women attacked a police station in Mombasa, which is located in southeast Kenya.¹³² The IS later claimed responsibility for the incident.¹³³

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published the following:
 - A video clip showing a Ugandan soldier who has been held in an Al-Shabab jail for over one year as he begs the President of Uganda to work for his release. The Ugandan soldier added that he was captured during an Al-Shabab attack on an African Union base in the Lower Shebelle region in southern Somalia.¹³⁴
 - A video clip showing a Kenyan soldier who has been held in an Al-Shabab jail as he begs the President of Somalia to work for his release. The Kenyan soldier added that he was captured during an Al-Shabab attack on a base of Kenyan soldiers belonging to the African Union force operating in southwest Somalia, and that other Kenyan soldiers were captured in the same incident.¹³⁵

¹³⁰ <http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2016/09/08/US-military-strikes-against-Somalias-al-Shabaab-kills-four-militants> (English).

¹³¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/somalia-hosts-african-leaders-summit-decades-160913143815997.html> (English).

¹³² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/kenya-female-attackers-killed-police-station-160911151409114.html> (English).

¹³³ <http://www.news24.co.ke/National/News/islamic-state-behind-kenyas-mombasa-attack-by-robbed-women-website-20160913> (English).

¹³⁴ <https://justpaste.it/yq7g>

¹³⁵ <https://justpaste.it/ysnf>



The video banners

The Indian Subcontinent

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the official publications of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, published the following:
 - An audio clip titled, “Jihad to Kashmir: Thoughts and a Call to Action” by Ustadh Usama Mahmood, the spokesman for the organization. The latter accused the Pakistani regime, the Pakistani army and its intelligence agencies of betraying Muslims living in Kashmir. According to him, the Pakistani regime frequently sabotages jihad fighters’ efforts to free Kashmir from India’s control, contributes to the growing injustice in Kashmir, and perpetuates the problem of the Muslims living there. According to him, in 2002 the Indian army approached the border in order to deter the Pakistani army. In response, the Pakistani army retreated and played into India’s hands. In light of this, he called on Muslims in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan to come to their senses and distinguish between friends and enemies because it is the obligation of every Muslim to take part in the liberation of Kashmir. In addition, he emphasized that the liberation of Kashmir will not be possible without the establishment of a jihad movement to be completely based on shari’a, without supervision or cooperation with any government or military party, but rather on the support of the Muslim masses in India and Pakistan. He added that jihad movements in Chechnya, Yemen, Somalia, North African countries, Islamic Turkestan, and especially the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan have proved that it is possible to defend Islam and Muslims when the jihad movements have no ties to external factors.¹³⁶

¹³⁶ Telegram



The banner of Ustadh Usama Mahmood’s discussion regarding the Kashmir problem

- An audio clip titled, “Pakistan is ours” by Ustadh Usama Mahmood, the spokesman of the organization.¹³⁷ The following is the content of his speech:

“To all my Pakistani brothers, today’s topic is Pakistan – the real Pakistan, who does Pakistan belong to and what does Pakistan stand for, who is fighting for Pakistan and who is fighting against it.

Before I begin today’s topic, I will mourn the Quetta civil hospital blast that was carried out by Pakistani forces and blamed on us. It is important to expose them. The root of the problem in Pakistan is the Pakistani armed forces, which are slaves to America. There is a dangerous conspiracy by the US and its allies to slander jihadists and destroy Muslims. They have carried out bombings in civilian areas and blamed it on the jihadists who are fighting for the sake of Allah’s.

Now I will turn to the main topic of Pakistan. Millions died during the partition and, in spite of all the bloodshed, every Muslim stood by the dream of an Islamic Pakistan – “La Illaha Ill Allah” (Allah’s Pakistan). They rejected Hindu and British rule in order to be Allah’s servants. This life is only a test. The fatwa of Maulana Shah Abdul Aziz Rahimullah clearly stated: “Hindustan is Dar-Al-Harb and jihad in Hindustan is Fard-Al-Ayn to protect Islam; Pakistan will be the Dar-Al – Islam”.

Ulemas like Syed Ahmed Shaheed, Maulana Rashid Ahmed Ganghoki, Maulana Qasim, and Maulana Jaffer Taanees called for the real Pakistan. Pakistan was finally formed – the

¹³⁷ Telegram

dream of “La Illaha Ill Allah” was realized, but the foreigners (the British) put their law and puppets in place. They destroyed the real meaning of Pakistan. Today the infidel Muslims are present in all the institutions of Pakistan under the thumb of the foreigners. The real Pakistan is the mujahideen’s Pakistan; the Pakistan we love has been under attack for 70 years. This is the war of freedom, like the Battle of Badr fought by the Prophet Muhammad against the Meccans.

I plead with my Pakistani brothers to recognize the traitors in the Pakistani army and the politicians. I implore them to recognize the Pakistan of Allah - the real Pakistan”.

An audio message by a spokesperson of AQIS from Maulana Asim Umar Hafiz Allah, Emir (leader) of AQIS, addressed to Sheikh Hibatullah Akhundzada: “Condolences and prayers for the martyrdom of the Commander of the Faithful of the Taliban, Mullah Akhtar Muhammed Mansur Rahimullah (the former Taliban commander who was killed in May 2016), and full support for the solemn oath pledged by Sheikh Hibat Allah Akhund Zadah”. The AQIS spokesperson further asserted that jihad will carry on under Sheikh Hibat’s leadership, as it was under his predecessor, and the enemies of Islam will be defeated. He emphasized that Islam has been under attack for centuries and the enemy must be defeated in Burma, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. He concluded with an expression of full support for Sheikh Hibat Allah Akhund Zadah, the new Supreme Leader of the Taliban.

- A video in memory of AQIS fighters who were martyred in battles in northern Waziristan.¹³⁸

Bangladesh

The Islamic State in Bangladesh Province published a video regarding an attack that its fighters carried out at a restaurant teeming with western tourists in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, in July 2016. The video, which opened against the backdrop of the religion of Islam and the concept of the Oneness of God, criticized the sages in Bangladesh who are loyal to the regime. The attack itself was presented

¹³⁸ <https://justpaste.it/yj2r>

as revenge for bombardments by coalition forces in Iraq and included the wills of the perpetrators of the attack. The video included narration in Bengali with Arabic subtitles.¹³⁹



The last will and testament of one of the perpetrators of the attack in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh

The West

- The 'Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS, published an announcement according to which the attack against the police station in Copenhagen was carried out by an IS soldier as a result of the organization's call for attacks against coalition countries.¹⁴⁰ In addition, the IS claimed responsibility for a stabbing attack that was carried out by a Muslim at a mall in Minnesota, in the United States.¹⁴¹
- The Nashir media group, which is involved in publicity for the IS, published several banners on its Telegram channel regarding the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.¹⁴²



The banners to mark the September 11, 2001 anniversary

¹³⁹ <http://videowood.tv/embed/16luz>

¹⁴⁰ https://web.telegram.org/#/im?p=c1086791726_11576708296860411845

¹⁴¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹⁴² Telegram

Miscellaneous

- Al-Fida jihadist Web forum, which is identified with Al-Qaeda and provides a platform for its publications and the publications of its various branches, announced the renewal of its online activities following an absence of nearly two months. With its return, the forum announced the establishment of a new department covering jihadist correspondence posted on social networks.¹⁴³



Banners produced by Al-Fida jihadist Web forum in honor of its renewed activity

¹⁴³ <http://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

ABOUT THE ICT

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