



**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 The First Half of October 2015**

## Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the first half of October 2015. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda**, emphasizes that his organization strives to establish an Islamic Caliphate, but that it will be achieved gradually and in an intelligent manner that will a broad support base. In his opinion, the strengthening of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan and the Islamic Emirate in the Caucasus is guaranteed to pave the way to the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate. In addition, he again emphasizes that the Islamic Caliphate led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was established in sin and not according to the path of the Prophet Muhammad, and therefore it is not legitimate and oaths of allegiance to him are not valid.
- Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri** accuses Iran and Shi'ites of joining the Western powers fighting against the Sunnis out of a desire to strengthen their power in the region and to weaken the power of the Sunnis. According to him, Iran and the Shi'ite militias, such as the Houthis in Yemen, present a real danger to the personal security of the Sunnis and, therefore, Muslims must support the mujahideen in any way possible in order to stem the trend of their increasing power and thwart their scheme to weaken the Sunnis.
- Sheikh **Hussam 'Abd al-Rauf**, a senior **Al-Qaeda** leader, eulogizes Abu Baseer al-Wuhayshi, a former AQAP leader, and claims that fighters belonging to Al-Qaeda in Yemen are operating in a complicated reality characterized by unstable security that contributes to the strength of the organization. The presence of weak rivals in Yemen, such as the Houthis, as a result of the civil war and circumstances enabling the recruitment of Sunni tribes to the ranks of the organization due to the Houthi danger underlie the strengthening of the organization. In addition, al-Rauf swears allegiance to the new leaders of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, Akhtar Mansoor.
- Jihad fighters in Syria condemn Russian intervention in Syria and its support for the Alawite regime. **Abu Mohammad al-Julani**, the leader of A-Nusra Front, calls on all jihadist factions in Syria to unite against the backdrop of Russian intervention in Syria, and he calls on the mujahideen in the Caucasus to attack targets inside Russia. In addition, he offers a monetary reward to anyone who delivers the heads of Bashar al-Assad and Hassan Nasrallah. In this context, a group of Salafi-jihadist clerics in Syria issue a fatwa obligating every Muslim to help in the battle

against the Russians in Syria.

- The **Islamic State** and all of its branches intensify their PR activities on the topic of recruiting Muslims to the ranks of the organization in the Somali arena. In this context, IS fighters appeal to jihad fighters in Somalia, especially members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, to swear allegiance to the Islamic Caliphate led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.
- Sheikh **Khalid bin Umar Batarfi**, a senior **AQAP** leader, issues an explicit condemnation of the phenomenon of suicide attacks targeting mosques as a result of an attack that was carried out by an IS fighter at a Houthi mosque in Sana'a. Batarfi emphasizes that his organization is opposed to this trend due to, among other reasons, the possible presence of innocent Sunnis, babies and children in these mosques. According to him, the war against the Houthis needs to be waged in army bases, houses and other places where they are located but not mosques.
- **Abu Muhammad al-'Adnani al-Shami**, the spokesman for the **Islamic State**, claims that the organization is still strong despite the battle against its enemies on various fronts. In addition, he warns the Muslim rebel factions battling against the organization to cease their acts of hostility against it and to accept the dictates of the Islamic Caliphate.
- The rift between **Al-Qaeda** and the **Islamic State**, characterized by mutual de-legitimization, continues with all the more vigor. For example, Al-Qaeda supporters repeat the accusation that the IS allows the killing of innocent Muslims by defining them as infidels and perpetuates the rift among the ranks of the mujahideen.
- Jihadist organizations and writers identified with **Al-Qaeda** and the **Islamic State** on forums and social networks call for attacks against Jews throughout the world, and encourage knife attacks by Israeli Arabs against Jews in Israel. For example, **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen**, Al-Qaeda's branch in Somalia, and the Egyptian **Al-Murabitun**, which supports Al-Qaeda, call on Muslims around the world to wake up, take initiative and act to liberate Al-Aqsa Mosque and other occupied territories in Palestine through the use of armed jihad against all Jews around the world, whether they are civilians or not.
- The **Islamic State** publishes a video in praise of the integration of the gold dinar into the financial life of territories under IS control. According to him, the currency's integration helps weaken the western economy that attempts to use its money exert control of many countries in the world.

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- **Al-Sahab Media Foundation**, which belongs to **Al-Qaeda**, published the following:
  - Additional audio clips in a series titled, “The Islamic Spring” (parts 4-6) by **Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri**.

In part 4 of the series, al-Zawahiri referred to issues regarding the oaths of allegiance to the Caliph. For example, he addressed religious legal questions on the issue, such as whether someone who does not swear allegiance to the Caliph is considered a Muslim according to the hadith: “Whoever dies without taking an oath of allegiance, is it as if he died a Pagan death?”; “Is a Muslim who appointed himself Caliph without consulting with other Muslims allowed to issue orders to his followers?”. Al-Zawahiri responded to these two questions in the negative. In addition to these issues, al-Zawahiri emphasized that his organization strives to establish a Caliphate in accordance with the path and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and based on the model of Islam’s first four Caliphates.<sup>1</sup>

In part 5 of the series, al-Zawahiri referred to two main issues: A. “Do circumstances today allow for the declared establishment of a Caliphate?”; B. “If circumstances today are not ripe for the declared establishment of a Caliphate, then what is the alternative that would allow for its establishment?”. According to him, Sheikh Osama bin Laden took one step at a time towards establishing a Caliphate, as opposed to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and his followers who acted contrary to the Sunnah when they decided to violate their oath of allegiance to Al-Qaeda and decided on their own, without consultation, to establish a Caliphate. Al-Zawahiri emphasized that, in order to establish a Caliphate in accordance with shari’a, several criteria must be met: First, the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan and the Emirate in the Caucuses must be strengthened. Second, they must support jihad movements and act to unite the nation in order to confront the distant enemy and the near enemy. Third, the advisory body to determine whether circumstances are suitable to declare an Islamic Emirate in various locations must be expanded. The advisory body should be consulted to determine if circumstances are suitable to declare the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

establishment of an Islamic Caliphate and who is worthy to serve as Caliph. Once the advisory body selects a Caliph, everyone is obligated to swear allegiance to him.

Finally, al-Zawahiri called on preachers who advocate jihad to focus on soul searching and to educate on virtue. He called on Muslims in general, and on the mujahideen in particular, to be cautious in deciding which Muslim should be deemed an infidel and not rush to this judgement since Muslim blood is holy. According to him, preachers must explain to their followers that Al-Qaeda seeks to maintain their dignity and not to kill them. In addition, he called on the mujahideen to turn to independent shari'a courts in order to solve the disagreements between them and maintain unity among the ranks. According to him, the mujahideen in Al-Sham and Iraq must strive for cooperation and coordinate their operations in order to confront the Crusader, Shi'ite, Alawite and secular alliance, and then strive to establish a Caliphate in accordance with the path of the Prophet Muhammad.<sup>2</sup>

In part 6, the final part of the series, al-Zawahiri devoted the discussion to the danger facing the Muslim Nation from Shi'ite Iran, which is collaborating with the Crusaders against the Sunnis. According to him, this cooperation has already been openly expressed through the US war in Afghanistan and Iraq. He explained that the Shi'ites are waging a bitter war against the Sunnis and publicly declare that they will defend the Assad regime. To this end, they are recruiting Shi'ite fighters from Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon and other countries, and are even cooperating with the Russians on the one hand and with NATO on the other hand, in order to defeat jihad factions in Syria. Due to this danger, it is incumbent on all jihad factions in Syria to expel IS fighters, unite under one banner, and focus efforts against their enemies by fulfilling several criteria that were previously mentioned, including: cease the mutual clashes between jihad factions; cease the mutual incitement; establish an independent shari'a court in Iraq and Al-Sham for all mujahideen; demonstrate willingness to cooperate in all areas, including treating the wounded, releasing prisoners, storage and supply; joint operations, etc. According to him, "jihad in the blessed Al-Sham is the hope that its nation awaits, since Al-Sham and Egypt are the

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<sup>2</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

gateway to the capture of Jerusalem. The defeat of jihad in Al-Sham [is considered] the defeat of the hope of the Nation [...]”.

Al-Zawahiri again stressed the Shi’ite threat. For example, he referred to Iran’s intention to seize control of Iraq, Iran’s use of the Houthis in Yemen and its cooperation with the US in the war against the Sunnis in Iran, and more. He also accused the Saudi regime of cooperating with the Crusader superpowers, such as the US and Britain, in the battle against Muslims in the Middle East, and he claimed that Saudi Arabia is not doing enough to curb the growing Shi’ite threat in the region. In light of this, he called on Muslims to support the mujahideen in any way possible in order to thwart the Shi’ite scheme, block their advancement and increasing strength, defend the Arabian Peninsula where the holy Muslim Kaaba is located, and support the Sunnis living in Iran.<sup>3</sup>



**The banner of al-Zawahiri’s sixth and final audio clip in the “Islamic Spring” series**

- A book by Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri** titled, “Interpretation of Al-Waraqat text” (523 pp.), in which he offer commentary on a book that deals with the roots of Islamic law that was originally written by an ancient Muslim cleric from the Shafi’i population in the Arabian Peninsula named al-Juwayni (died in 1085 AD). In the introduction, al-Zawahiri dedicated the book to a long line of jihad leaders, including members of his own family.<sup>4</sup>
- An audio clip titled, “The Helper of Shari’a has Gone to the Master of the Universe” by Sheikh **Hussam ‘Abd al-Rauf**, a senior Al-Qaeda leader. Al-Rauf’s speech was largely dedicated to Abu Nasir al-Wahishi, the leader of AQAP who was killed in September 2015 by a US drone.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>4</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



In addition to his eulogy, al-Rauf noted that the West is waging a false PR war against Al-Qaeda, describing the organization as standing on the verge of ruination when this is not the case. According to him, the US policy of using drones to persecute Al-Qaeda leaders demonstrates cowardice and an unwillingness to confront the organization's fighters in the field. He then referred to the civil war in Yemen and claimed that the mujahideen today are in a situation wherein their enemies are weak and they can use that to their advantage. According to him, under the existing circumstances, Al-Qaeda can recruit members of the armed tribes in Yemen and together fight against the Houthi militias and the remnants of the previous Yemeni regime that cooperated with Iran, the Gulf States and Saudi Arabia. According to him, the mujahideen today carry a larger responsibility in various arenas of jihad, such as Syria, and must also play a part in the propaganda war. Finally, al-Rauf offered rules according to which the Islamic Emirate must conduct itself, such as the obligation to wage a war of jihad against the enemies of Islam.<sup>5</sup>

- The **Nukhbat al-Fikr** media group, which is involved in publicity for **Al-Qaeda**, published the following:
  - An article titled, “A Warning to the Mujahid about the Bombing of Mosques” by Sheikh **Abu Mundhir al-Shinqiti**, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric. In his introduction to the article, Sheikh Abu Mundhir al-Shinqiti, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric located in Jordan, noted that the discussion on the matter is important to him and that anyone who blows up a mosque risks killing innocent people. According to him, suicide attacks were carried out at Yazidi mosques in Yemen where Sunnis prayed and, therefore, innocent people were hurt. In the article itself, al-Sinqiti noted that it is absolutely forbidden to carry out any kind of attack against mosques due to the Quran's prohibition, which holds that a mosque Allah's home, and due to the fear that innocent Muslims may be among the worshippers.<sup>6</sup>
  - A book containing all of the publications by **Attiyya Allah al-Libi**, a senior Al-Qaeda leader who was killed. The introduction to the book (1,957 pages), which was dedicated to the leader and his philosophical enterprise, was written by a series of Salafi-jihadist clerics,

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<sup>5</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>6</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

including Sheikh Abu al-Hasan al-Bulaydi, the leader of AQIM, Sheikh Dr. Hani al-Sibai, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric of Egyptian origin residing in London, and others.<sup>7</sup>



The banner of the book of Atiyya Allah al-Libi's writings

- **Al-Bushriyyat media group**, which is involved in publicity for **Al-Qaeda**, published the following:
  - The transcript of a series of lectures titled, “The Jews”,<sup>8</sup> a sermon titled, “Intelligence”,<sup>9</sup> and a sermon titled, “The Heart is a Place of Understanding”<sup>10</sup> by Sheikh **Abu Qatada al-Filastini**, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric.
  - The transcript of a lecture titled, “Holding Your Tongue and Avoiding Defamatory Words” by **Abu Anas al-Shami**, a former senior commander in Abu Mus‘ab al-Zarqawi’s organization in Iraq who was killed in September 2011 by American aircraft fire.<sup>11</sup>
- **Al-Tahaya media group**, which is involved in publicity for **Al-Qaeda**, published the following:
  - The transcript of a lecture titled, “Nationalism and its Influence on the Unity of the Muslim Nation” by Sheikh **Hani al-Sibai**, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric of Egyptian origin residing in London.<sup>12</sup>
- The jihadist media institution of **AQAP, Al-Malahim**, published an audio clip titled, “The Fortress of the Mujahid” by **Sheikh Hamd bin Hamud al-‘Uthman al-Tamimi**, a senior AQAP leader. In the audio clip, al-Tamimi discussed the difficulties facing the mujahid and the mental fortitude that he needs to display when fulfilling jihad.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://dump.to/eej>

<sup>8</sup> <https://justpaste.it/o45s>

<sup>9</sup> <https://justpaste.it/o6wp>

<sup>10</sup> <https://justpaste.it/o6xe>

<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/Bushryat1>

<sup>12</sup> <https://justpaste.it/o7rr>

<sup>13</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The **Islamic State's** jihadist media institution, **Al-Furqan**, published an audio clip titled, "Say to the Non-Believers" by **Abu Muhammad al-'Adnani al-Shami**, the spokesman for the organization. Al-'Adnani warned the enemies of his organization, especially the US, that anyone who thinks he can attack and weaken the organization will be proven wrong and that the organization is not losing power. According to him, the US is weak and cannot withstand a war against jihad fighters by itself, and is forced to rely on other forces, such as Russia. Moreover, infidel countries, including the US, its allies and Russia are in a state of weakness. Al-'Adnani also warned other rebel factions to cease their attacks against his organization and submit to the dictates of the Islamic Caliphate.<sup>14</sup>
- **Al-Hayyat** jihadist media institution, which belongs to the **Islamic State**, published a video in English titled, "The Dark Rise of Banknotes and the Return of the Gold Dinar". The video dealt with the importance of the integration of the gold dinar, which was produced by the IS, into the economic life in given areas, as well as its contribution to the weakening of the US economy in the world.<sup>15</sup>

### ***The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State***

#### **Al-Qaeda Supporters**

- **Abu Qatadah Al-Filistini**, a senior leader of the Salafist jihad movement, attacked recent statements made by IS spokesman, Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani, and called him a "hooligan". He claimed that only the ignorant and stupid support the IS and that the IS fights against anyone who does not join its organization. He even claimed that the IS would kill people who seek to join the organization but without repenting, and that it defines "repentance" according to the ignorant way in which it views religion. He also added that people should not be deceived by al-Adnani's words regarding the organization's battle in the US since people have been fighting in the US before his organization was established and will continue to fight there long after. He claimed that al-Adnani only made accusations and that the language he used was designed to conceal his deception.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>15</sup> <http://justpaste.it/o8rm>

<sup>16</sup> <http://islammemo.cc/akhbar/arab/2015/10/14/267151.html>

- Sheikh **Hani al-Sibai**, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric of Egyptian origin residing in London, provided testimony that he received from a defector. The published testimony told of the defector's experiences in the framework of his activities in the IS, and explained his personal opinion on how those activities were carried out. According to his testimony, the IS takes its fighters' passports and does not allow them to leave the borders of the organization's territory. In addition, according to him, the IS issues various fatwas in order to excuse its actions. He added that, according to the IS, the failure of other organizations, such as Al-Nusra Front and Ahrar al-Sham, to make accusations of heresy casts doubt on their Islam.<sup>17</sup>
- **Al-Bushriyyat** media group, which is involved in publicity for **Al-Qaeda**, published an article titled, "Sunni Jihad and the Path of Deviation: From Khawarij to Murji'ah" by **Anas Khatab**. In the article, the author explained that Sunni jihad is not currently conducting itself properly and has even deviated from its path. According to him, Sunni jihad should fight any sign of tyranny, help the oppressed, elevate the words of Allah, etc. However, in reality jihad fighters are battling against their Muslim brothers and, therefore, have deviated from the path of jihad. In order to sharpen this issue, the author discussed the worldview of the Khawarij, an ancient Muslim sect that split from mainstream Islam and viewed Muslims who did not join it as heretics, and by virtue of this dichotomous worldview sanctified violence against its rivals. In contrast, the Murji'ah, an early Islamic theological school of thought and an enemy of the Kharawij, viewed all Muslims as Muslims no matter what and emphasized that only God has the right to judge if a Muslim is considered to be a Muslim or a heretic. With this comparison, the author hinted that the Khawarij of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are the Islamic State fighters who do not loathe to kill their Muslim brothers, and the Murji'ah are the fighters of other jihadist factions who are not quick to label any Muslim as a heretic.<sup>18</sup>
- The '**Umar** jihadist media institution, which belongs to the **Taliban in Pakistan**, published a video documenting the execution of a senior IS fighter in Waziristan.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loUun6U7DOU>

<sup>18</sup> <https://justpaste.it/obx0>

<sup>19</sup> <http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il>

## Islamic State Supporters

- **Al-Battar** jihadist media institution published the following:
  - A video titled, “A Message to the Al-Qaeda Soldier”. The video reviewed declarations made by senior Al-Qaeda leaders, including Osama bin Laden, in order to show that they contradict Ayman al-Zawahiri’s statements regarding oaths of allegiance. According to the video, it is not logical that Al-Qaeda in Iraq (led by Abu Hamza al-Muhajer) swore allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq (led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi) only to recently swear allegiance to Al-Qaeda (led by al-Zawahiri), who in turn swore allegiance to Mullah Omar, the leader of the Taliban. In addition, al-Zawahiri was accused of reducing the power of Al-Qaeda by splitting it into two states: Iraq and Syria (Al-Nusra Front), which the IS tried to dissuade it from doing. The second half of the video was dedicated to accusing the Taliban of concealing the death of Mullah Omar and publishing fake announcements in his name. The video ended with the conclusion that Al-Qaeda and the Taliban lied on two fronts: by claiming that Mullah Omar was alive and by swearing allegiance to a dead man.<sup>20</sup>



**Criticism of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban for hiding the death of Mullah Omar**

- An article titled, “The Delirious Chatter and Lie of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban” by a writer known as Salah al-Din. In the framework of the article, the writer accused the Taliban of holding negotiations with “infidel governments” and accused Al-Qaeda of maintaining its

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<sup>20</sup> [https://archive.org/details/resgteg\\_201510](https://archive.org/details/resgteg_201510)

oath of allegiance to Mullah Omar while hiding the fact of his death. The document ended with a call on Al-Qaeda fighters to no longer serve as “soldiers defending treaties of heresy” but rather to defect from the organization and join the IS.<sup>21</sup>

- An article by the writer, Ahlam al-Nasr (“Dreams of Victory”), about Ayman al-Zawahiri. In the framework of the article, the writer criticized al-Zawahiri for his conduct and for his oath of allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, who he described as a “loyal servant of the intelligence agencies and a friend of the Shi’ites”. The writer noted that al-Zawahiri must ask himself who benefits from his opposition to the IS, referred to him as a “narcissist” and a “joke”, and mocked him for sending greetings in his “bland” speeches to jihad fighters who have already died, such as al-Wuhayshi and al-Daghestani.<sup>22</sup>
- A qasida (a ballad maintaining a single metre and rhyme throughout the poem) by the writer, Ahlam al-Nasr (“Dreams of Victory”), in which she told of the Islamic State’s growth and offered words of praise for the organization.<sup>23</sup>
- **Al-Sumud** jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for the **Islamic State**, published a video regarding Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Somalia. The video opened with a review of the oaths of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi that came from various places around the world, except for Somalia where an IS province has not yet been declared. The narrator in the video praised Al-Shabab for its jihad activities but called on its fighters to swear allegiance to the Caliph and to join the IS in order to avoid being in the middle of the “people of truth” and “people of falsehood”. The video also included harsh criticism of Al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, claiming that he distorted the term “jihad” and gave up on enforcing shari’a in order to gain popular support.<sup>24</sup> Al-Sumud published another video and article on the topic that contained similar messages composed by Abu Qatada al-Hadrami.<sup>25</sup>
- A writer identified with the IS known as al-Jilani published an article titled, “The Dancer and the Drummer”, which levelled harsh criticism at Tareq Abd al-Halim and Hani al-Sibai, two Salafi-

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<sup>21</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>22</sup> [http://up.top4top.net/downloadf-top4top\\_73720b5e411-pdf.html](http://up.top4top.net/downloadf-top4top_73720b5e411-pdf.html)

<sup>23</sup> <https://justpaste.it/NeeDall>

<sup>24</sup> [https://archive.org/details/resgteg\\_20151001\\_1805](https://archive.org/details/resgteg_20151001_1805)

<sup>25</sup> <https://justpaste.it/alsumod3>; <https://goo.gl/HMJiPA>

jihadist clerics living in the West. In the framework of the article, the author attacked the two men due to their opposition to the IS (especially on Twitter), their support for al-Zawahiri, and the fact that they are working from London and Canada, respectively, and not living under Islamic rule. In addition, the author claimed that they are interacting with one another and using vulgar expressions against the organization.<sup>26</sup>

### ***Oaths of Allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mansoor***

- Sheikh Hussam 'Abd al-Rauf, a senior Al-Qaeda leader, swore allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, the new leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan. In addition, Rauf praised the contributions of Mullah Omar, the former leader of the organization, to the war of jihad against enemies of Islam in Afghanistan.<sup>27</sup>
- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda leadership, published an audio clip in which Asim Umar, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, swore allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, the new leader of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan.<sup>28</sup>

### **Strategy**

- A writer known as al-Jilani, identified as a supporter of the IS, published an article titled, “The Time has Come to Change the Palestinian Compass”. In the framework of the article, the writer called on Palestinians not to carry out an Intifada under nationalist movements, such as Fatah or Hamas, but rather to carry out a national uprising in the shadow of the Islamic Caliphate’s return to the world.<sup>29</sup>
- A writer known as Al-Jamuh al-Maqdissiya published several articles on the following topics:
  - An article in which she encouraged IS supporters who are talented writers to compose and published literary works to help spread the organization’s ideas. The author noted that there is a song that praises the IS but there is a lack of stories, plays and children’s literature. The author explained that literary text can be used as a more effective tool for

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<sup>26</sup> <https://justpaste.it/ob6d>

<sup>27</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>28</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>29</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

persuasion and imparting ideas since it does not arouse objection in the reader as a serious article might do.<sup>30</sup>

- An article in which she referred to the difficulty in contacting official IS elements, which makes it hard to receive answers to questions and even sometimes leads to the arrest of Muslims on their way to the IS after making contact with unreliable persons on social networks. In order to solve this problem, the author recommended establishing an office with official email addresses and secure computers to be responsible for maintaining contact with Muslims who are interested in reaching the IS or in receiving a response to their inquiries. One visitor to the forum responded to the article and claimed that the IS uses secure ways to be in contact with its supporters.<sup>31</sup>
- An article titled, “Fax Warrior” in a series of articles titled, “Beyond the Borders of Twitter”. In the framework of the article, the author explained that Twitter’s target audience is one that has already been convinced and, therefore, it must expand its borders and appeal to the true target: the general Muslim population that does not necessarily use social networks and feeds solely from media information regarding the IS. To this end, the author recommended that IS supporters use virtual faxes, or faxes in public institutions in the areas in which they live, in order to disseminate the organization’s messages.<sup>32</sup>
- A writer known as Al-Sultan Sanjar, a supporter of the IS, published the following articles:
  - An article regarding the stabbing attacks carried out by lone wolves in Jerusalem. In addition to praising the perpetrators of the attacks, the article included a variety of practical advice, such as: use a serrated knife, dip the blade in poison or chemical materials, train and plan the attack in advance in order to maximize its effectiveness and carry out several attacks simultaneously in different places.<sup>33</sup>
  - An article titled, “How to Advise the Jihadists”. In the framework of the article, the author explained that, despite the importance of jihad, one should remember that the

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<sup>30</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>31</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>32</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>33</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).



mujahideen are human beings who may make mistakes. In cases where mujahideen make mistakes, the author recommended thoroughly examining the issue before passing criticism and giving advice in a pleasant tone without insulting them, disrespecting them or rejoicing that their distress.<sup>34</sup>

- An article regarding hijra performed by women and the dangers lying in wait for them on the way to the IS. For example, the writer told of four women with whom he was in contact via Twitter and traces of whom were lost in Turkey, which did not receive any response or mention. The author emphasized that he is not opposed to women performing hijra but explained that it must be done carefully and discretely in order to avoid arrest by the Turkish authorities.<sup>35</sup>
- A writer known as Minbar al-Khilafa published an article titled, “Why was the West Shocked?” in which he explained that for many years that West became used to attacking Muslims and their sacred values without incurring any response and, therefore, it is flabbergasted when the IS reacts and attacks in return. The writer explained that the West’s concentrated efforts against the Islamic State is the best proof that the organization is in possession of the true Islam and not the “Islam of traitors” who are trying to appease the West.<sup>36</sup>
- The ‘Amaq news agency, which is identified with the IS, published a report according to which the IS began to prohibit the use of new 500 and 1,000 lira bills that were produced by the Syrian regime in the areas under its control. According to the report, this step was aimed at pushing out the Syrian regime financially.<sup>37</sup>
- Telegram is being increasingly used by IS supporters as a media channel for transmitting the organization’s messages and publications. In the beginning of October, a member of the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum reported the launch of an English-language Telegram channel that distributes the organization’s materials.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>35</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>36</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>37</sup> <https://goo.gl/ElwgaF>

<sup>38</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb/> (Arabic).

## Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published a video titled, “Success in Life” in the Bengali language with English subtitles. The video told the story of a Bengali fighter who was killed. In the video, the fighter praised the war of jihad and the martyr’s death before he was killed. The video also included a message from Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, to Muslims in Bangladesh to support the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan since the assurance of victory in its daily battles will positively impact its supporters in the eastern part of the Muslim world.<sup>39</sup>



The video banner

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published a video titled, “The Message of the Convoys of Martyrs...to Their Dear Nation” by Osama Mahmud, the spokesman for Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent. In the video, Mahmud eulogized several senior AQAP members, including the leader of the organization, Abu Nasir al-Wahishi, who were killed in 2015 in US drone strikes. According to Mahmud, the US and its allies are concentrating efforts on trying to kill senior Al-Qaeda leaders in Libya and Somalia, and noted that all of those jihad leaders who died a martyr’s death promoted several messages, including considering the US to be the Muslim Nation’s most bitter enemy and ascribing significant importance to attacking its interests around the world. This is due to the fact that its heretical leadership, which heads the international campaign, poses an obstacle to the liberation of Palestine and because it is an ally of the local tyrannical regimes that are operating against jihad movements. Mahmud added that all of those

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<sup>39</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

jihad leaders who were killed strove to implement shari'a, adhered to the war of jihad against the enemies of the Nation and the religion of Islam, and more. Finally, Mahmud called on Muslims and the mujahideen to stand with them and fight against the enemies of Islam.<sup>40</sup>



The video banner

## Magazines

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published the second issue of its periodical, *Al-Nafir*. The three-page issue was dedicated to the issue of waging jihad according to the path of the Prophet Muhammad, which will lead to the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate.<sup>41</sup>
- Issue no. six of the magazine, *Al-Wa'd al-Akhir*, which belongs to the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip, was published.<sup>42</sup>

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

*During the first half of October, battles continued between the Taliban in Afghanistan, and Afghan security forces and NATO forces, especially over control of the city of Kunduz, which was captured at the end of last month by the Taliban. In the beginning of the month, security forces – with help from*

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<sup>40</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>41</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>42</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

NATO forces and US air strikes – managed to seize control of large portions of Kunduz,<sup>43</sup> but several days later most of the city was re-captured by the Taliban.<sup>44</sup> Nevertheless, on October 13 the Taliban retreated from the city in order to prevent additional civilian casualties, according to its claim.<sup>45</sup> In addition to the clashes around Kunduz, the battle between Taliban fighters and Afghan forces spread to additional provinces in northern Afghanistan: Badakshan, Baghlan and Takhar,<sup>46</sup> as well as around the city of Ghazni in eastern Afghanistan.<sup>47</sup> Furthermore, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the downing of a US plane in eastern Afghanistan.<sup>48</sup>

Meanwhile, the US President announced this week that he would extend the stay of US troops in Afghanistan, with 9,800 soldiers set to remain until the end of 2016 and approximately 5,500 until the end of 2017.<sup>49</sup>

### **The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
  - A response from the organization’s spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, to a report by Amnesty International. In the announcement, Zabiullah Mujahid criticized the report, which accused the mujahideen of looting the property of Kunduz residents, setting their homes on fire and carrying out other immoral acts. He added that this report is a misrepresentation based on lies spread by the “conquerors” (foreign powers) on the media. Zabiullah Mujahid ended his response by claiming that both residents of the city and Parliament members of the “puppet regime” in Afghanistan can attest to the fact that the mujahideen did not touch the private and public property of the city’s residents. He

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<sup>43</sup><http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/afghan-forces-fight-push-taliban-kunduz-151001085429899.html> (English).

<sup>44</sup><http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/taliban-claims-recapture-afghan-city-kunduz-151004132211450.html> (English).

<sup>45</sup><http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/taliban-claim-pull-kunduz-city-151013130337587.html> (English).

<sup>46</sup><http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/taliban-expands-fight-afghanistan-kunduz-151001172158686.html> (English).

<sup>47</sup><http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/10/12/taliban-threaten-second-afghan-provincial-capital-as-insurgency-spreads.html> (English).

<sup>48</sup> <http://goo.gl/y1wtAQ>

<sup>49</sup><http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/10/15/obama-to-keep-troops-in-afghanistan-beyond-20161.html> (English).

added that Amnesty's report ignored this fact, and that it stands behind the "conquerors" and acts against the IS.<sup>50</sup>

- A response from the organization's spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, regarding a US air strike on a civilian hospital in the city of Kunduz, which killed dozens of doctors and patients. According to him, US forces bombarded the hospital even though no Islamic Emirate jihad fighter was being treated there. He added that the shelling took place one day after the publication of a report by Amnesty International accusing the mujahideen of invading the hospital. Zabiullah Mujahid claimed that the Islamic Emirate condemns the crime that was committed by US forces and that it would seek revenge.<sup>51</sup>
- An announcement in honor of 14 years since the US invasion of Afghanistan. The announcement stated that the US invaded Afghanistan in revenge for the September 11 attacks despite the fact that Afghans were not involved in these events. According to the announcement, the invasion of Afghanistan was carried out in order to achieve four goals: to remove the government of the Islamic Emirate, to eliminate drug trafficking, to establish a government that will meet the Afghan people's desires, and to bring about security and an end to the fighting. The announcement added that none of these goals was achieved with the invasion of Afghanistan, and added that the Islamic Emirate is better able to confront the US than during its reign, drug production has only increased since the American invasion, its method of government in Afghanistan failed and security has only deteriorated. In light of this, the announcement called for the US to withdraw from Afghanistan in honor of the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its invasion and to allow Afghans to decide for themselves the fate of their country.<sup>52</sup>
- An announcement regarding the crime of the Israeli occupiers at Al-Aqsa Mosque. The announcement stated that the conquering forces of the Zionist regime have recently been attacking Al-Aqsa Mosque, which has resulted in the death and injury of dozens of

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<sup>50</sup><http://shahamat-english.com/remarks-of-spokesman-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-report-by-amnesty-international/> (English).

<sup>51</sup><http://shahamat-english.com/barbaric-american-forces-bomb-civilian-hospital-in-kunduz-tens-of-doctors-and-patients-martyred/> (English).

<sup>52</sup><http://shahamat-english.com/67441/> (English).

Palestinians in Jerusalem. The announcement added that the Zionist invaders are cruelly shooting at unarmed worshippers who are defending Al-Aqsa Mosque with their bare hands. The end of the announcement stated that the Islamic Emirate condemns the cruelty of the Zionists against Muslims in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and calls on all of the leaders of the Islamic world and human rights organizations to make efforts to prevent the aggression of the Israeli occupiers towards Palestinians in Al-Aqsa Mosque.<sup>53</sup>

- An announcement from the political wing of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan regarding the organization's latest conquests in northern Afghanistan. According to the announcement, in light of the mujahideen's success in capturing the city of Kunduz and its surrounding areas, and in light of the downfall of the government in Kabul, the latter has begun to spread false propaganda according to which the mujahideen are also trying to attack neighboring countries. According to the announcement, the organization's political branch vows that the Islamic Emirate has no intention of attacking any of its neighbors, but rather it is interested in having good relationships with bordering countries based on humanitarian values and Islamic principles.<sup>54</sup>
- An announcement regarding the organization's retreat from areas in central Kunduz in order to strengthen the city's lines of defense. The announcement stated that all of the goals that the organization set for itself in the operation to capture of city of Kunduz were accomplished: the jail in Kunduz, which held mujahideen and innocent supporters of jihad, was liberated by the organization; the city of Kunduz, which was considered the command center of the northeast province in Afghanistan, was captured, enabling the capture of additional areas in northern Afghanistan; and a large amount of military equipment and weapons were plundered by the mujahideen during the operation. The announcement also stated that, in light of the mujahideen's success, the enemy is trying to restore his honor by discriminately bombarding the city, causing civilian casualties. The announcement added that, due to above-mentioned situation, the organization instructs

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<sup>53</sup><http://shahamat-english.com/statement-of-islamic-emirate-concerning-the-latest-transgressions-on-al-aqsa-mosque-by-the-israeli-occupiers> (English).

<sup>54</sup><http://shahamat-english.com/statement-by-political-office-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-latest-conquests-in-the-countrys-north/> (English).

the mujahideen to retreat from the center of the city and strengthen its lines of defense in rural areas. At the end of the announcement, the organization thanked the mujahideen for their respectful treatment of the residents of Kunduz and rejected accusations made by the enemy according to which the mujahideen are harming the city's residents.<sup>55</sup>

- An announcement by the military congress of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan regarding the propaganda distributed on the TV 1 and Tolo television channels. According to the organization, the programs shown on these channels are aimed at supporting the American invasion in Afghanistan, and are false publications about jihad and the struggle of the Afghan Nation.<sup>56</sup>

### ***The Islamic State in Khorasan Province***

- The Islamic State in Khorasan Province claimed responsibility for the explosion of four bombs at a Shi'ite house of worship in the capital city of Kabul.<sup>57</sup>

### **The Arabian Peninsula**

*The civil war continued in Yemen without significant change. Anti-Houthi forces, with reinforcement by Arab coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia, concentrated efforts on capturing Taiz in an effort to advance into the capital city of Sana'a, which is under Houthi control. A series of terrorist attacks carried out by IS fighters in Aden against Saudi army forces and United Emirate forces also contributed to the lack of calm in the area and to the failure of peace talks between the warring sides. They also undermined the efforts of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi to stabilize his regime as a hegemonic power in southern Yemen.*<sup>58</sup>

*In addition, AQAP made a marked effort to strengthen its position among the civilian population and jihad fighters as a result of the criticism heaped on the organization by the IS for terrorist attacks that the former directed against mosques in Yemen and its attempt to present itself as an organization*

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<sup>55</sup><http://shahamat-english.com/statement-of-islamic-emirate-concerning-withdrawal-from-central-areas-of-kunduz-city/> (English).

<sup>56</sup><http://shahamat-english.com/statement-by-the-military-commission-of-islamic-emirate-concerning-intelligence-tv-networks-of-tolo-and-1-tv/> (English).

<sup>57</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic)

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.criticalthreats.org/yemen/yemen-crisis-situation-reports-october-16-2015> (English).

with an aversion to harming innocent people. Nevertheless, criticism was also heard by civilians who demanded that the organization's power be limited. In Mukala, which is located in Hadramawt Province, residents held demonstrations to expel Al-Qaeda fighters from the city. In response to these protests, the organization kidnapped journalists and political activists from Mukala.<sup>59</sup>

### **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula**

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahim, published the following:
  - An interview with Sheikh Khalid bin Umar Batarfi, a senior AQAP leader, titled, “Mosque Bombings: Avoidance and Advice”. Batarfi condemned the phenomenon of suicide bombings directed against mosques and emphasized that his organization has no part in these attacks, and especially not in the recent attack that was carried out at a mosque in Sana’a. He emphasized that Al-Qaeda leadership came out in the past against this phenomenon and condemned it from every possible platform. Batarfi went on to criticize the claim that these attacks are justified since they are Houthi and Shi’ite places of worship. According to him, these justifications are baseless since there is a risk of Sunni participation in Shi’ite mosques and because there are also innocent babies among the worshippers who must not be harmed. He stressed that anyone who seeks to attack Houthis should do so against their army bases and their homes.<sup>60</sup>



**The banner of the interview with Batarfi**

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2015/10/13/المكلا-في-اليمين-القاعدة-يخطف-صحافيين-وناشطين-سياسيين-في-المكلا/> (Arabic).

<sup>60</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic); <https://justpaste.it/o431>



- A claim of responsibility for an attack against Houthi forces in Al-Baydha Province.<sup>61</sup>
- An announcement regarding the execution of four residents of Hadramawt accused of witchcraft.<sup>62</sup>

### ***The Islamic State***

- The IS claimed responsibility for four suicide attacks against Saudi army forces and United Emirate forces in the city of Aden.<sup>63</sup>
- The IS in Sana'a Province claimed responsibility for a suicide attack that killed dozens of Houthis in Al-Nahdha neighborhood in the city.<sup>64</sup> In addition, it claimed responsibility for an attack on the home of Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, a former leader of the Yemeni Republican Guard.<sup>65</sup>
- The IS in Hadramawt Province published a video in which one of its fighters called on jihad fighters in Somalia to swear allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and accept the authority of his Islamic Caliphate. According to him, jihad fighters in West Africa were correct to do so and the rest of the mujahideen must follow their lead.<sup>66</sup>
- The IS in Najd Province published an audio clip in which it demanded the expulsion of the entire Shi'ite population from the Arabian Peninsula. In addition, it referred to the fatwa that was published regarding the obligation to kill Shi'ites in any place and time. The first part of the audio clip focused on crimes committed by Shi'ites throughout history and warning by sages against them. Saudi Arabia, which follows the Wahabi religious establishment, was accused of hypocrisy for rescinding its previous fatwa imposing *takfir* on Shi'ites. According to the IS, spreading the idea of nationalism and patriotism, since Shi'ites in the Arabian Peninsula are loyal to Iran and not to the Saudi royal family. It added that the Shi'ite population in southeast Saudi Arabia, led by the Shi'ite sage, Nimr, already outlined the borders of the Shi'ite state and is planning its expansion. According to the organization, the Shi'ites proclaimed an all-out war against the Sunnis when they betrayed them by opening the gates of Baghdad to the Mongolians, and are

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<sup>61</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>62</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>63</sup> <http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il>

<sup>64</sup> <http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il>

<sup>65</sup> <http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il>

<sup>66</sup> <https://archive.org/details/mojsomja>

doing to same thing today by collaborating with the enemies of the Sunnis. Finally, the organization noted that the leaders of the Arabian Peninsula are collaborating with the Shi'ites and that every Sunni must drive out the Shi'ites from the Arabian Peninsula.<sup>67</sup>

## Iraq

*During the first half of October, clashes continued between the Iraqi army and Shi'ite militias against the IS in Al-Anbar Province, especially around the city of Al-Ramadi, as the Iraqi army began to advance towards the city with help from the US Air Force. In this framework, the Iraqi army managed to liberate areas north and west of Al-Ramadi, and to take control of the main road west of the city.<sup>68</sup> In addition, Iraqi Air Force planes attacked an IS convoy in Al-Anbar Province that, according to reports, included the leader of the organization, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. However, it seems that al-Baghdadi was not killed in the attack, which claimed the lives of eight other senior members of the organization.<sup>69</sup> Meanwhile, towards the middle of the month, the Prime Minister of Iraq announced a military operation to purge Saladdin Province, including the city of Baiji and its refineries, of IS fighters.<sup>70</sup> Two days later, Iraqi army sources reported that they captured most parts of Baiji, including its refineries.<sup>71</sup>*

*At the same time as the Iraqi army's advancement, the IS continued to carry out attacks against the Shi'ite population throughout Iraq, especially in Baghdad. In this framework, over 51 people were killed on October 5 in a series of IS attacks throughout the country, which included car bomb explosions, and were directed against the Shi'ite population.<sup>72</sup> In addition, two days earlier, two suicide terrorists blew themselves up in northwest Baghdad, killing 24 people among the Shi'ite population.<sup>73</sup>*

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<sup>67</sup> [http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il/2015/10/blog-post\\_925.html](http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il/2015/10/blog-post_925.html)

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/iraqi-forces-recapture-areas-isil-ramadi-151007143240718.html> (English).

<sup>69</sup> <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/10/11/Iraqis-claim-to-have-hit-ISIS-chief-Baghdadi-s-convoy-in-air-raid.html> (English).

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2015/10/13/iraqs-pm-announces-operation-to-liberate-salahuddin-baiji> (English).

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-baiji-idUSKCN0S91GS20151015> (English).

<sup>72</sup> <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/10/5/car-bomb-attacks-kill-dozens-in-iraq.html> (English).

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/twin-suicide-bombings-target-iraq-capital-baghdad-151003154836828.html> (English).

Regarding international support for the Iraqi army, it seems that Iraq is interested in Russian support to help it defeat the IS in the country. In the beginning of the month, the Prime Minister of Iraq said that he would welcome Russian air strikes against the IS in Iraq. He also accused the US coalition of limited support and doubted the desire of western leaders to defeat the IS. The Chairman of the Security Committee of the Iraqi Parliament also said that Iraq would like Russia to play a greater role than the US in the battle against the IS in Iraq.<sup>74</sup> In this context, the Russian Foreign Minister explained that Russia has not yet been officially invited to act in Iraq and, therefore, at this stage his country has no plans to strike in Iraq.<sup>75</sup>

### **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
    - Al-Furat Province: A filmed review and a video regarding battles against Iraqi military forces and Sahawat forces in the area of Barawna. Among other things, the attacks included suicide terrorists who drove explosives-ridden armored vehicles, mortar bomb fire and the invasion of an army post.<sup>76</sup>
    - Al-Janub Province: A filmed review regarding the “air defense” units in Zoba’. The images showed IS fighters reviewing aircraft activity in the area and firing at them with heavy weapons.<sup>77</sup>
    - Saladdin Province: Videos and filmed reviews of attacks against Iraqi army posts west of the city of Samarra, west of the city of Baiji and north of the city of Tikrit.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-russia-idUSKCN0S112120151007> (English).

<sup>75</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/iraqi-prime-minister-says-he-would-welcome-russian-airstrikes/2015/10/01/4177cf3c-684b-11e5-8325-a42b5a459b1e\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/iraqi-prime-minister-says-he-would-welcome-russian-airstrikes/2015/10/01/4177cf3c-684b-11e5-8325-a42b5a459b1e_story.html) (English).

<sup>76</sup> <https://isdarat.ws>; [https://archive.org/details/gharib\\_20151007\\_1251](https://archive.org/details/gharib_20151007_1251)

<sup>77</sup> <http://goo.gl/i79sCB>

<sup>78</sup> <https://isdarat.ws>; <https://archive.org/details/thabat2-002>



## Battles between the IS, and the Iraqi army and Popular Mobilization forces north of Tikrit

### B. Implementation of Shari'a:

- *Al-Furat Province*: A filmed review regarding the destruction of alcohol and prohibited substances in the city of Al-Bukamal.<sup>79</sup>
- *Nineveh Province*: Filmed reviews regarding the stoning to death of a person accused of adultery and the execution of a man accused of killing his uncle.<sup>80</sup>

### C. Oaths of Allegiance:

- *Nineveh Province*: A video regarding the renewed oath of allegiance to the IS by tribes west of Nineveh. The video, which opened with scenes from the explosion of the Badush prison – a symbol of the regime's cruelty – documented the oath of allegiance taken by one of the Badush tribes to the leader of the IS. It should be noted that, similar to previous oaths of allegiance taken by tribes, the oath ceremony and entire meeting was run by the Islamic State's "Public Relations Office".<sup>81</sup>

### D. Execution of Spies:

- *Dijla Province*: A video regarding the execution of people accused of spying against the IS and of transmitting information to the Popular Mobilization Forces. The video showed several executions (using different methods) of spies and agents in several different instances. The video also included extensive interviews with residents who called on people to avoid anti-IS

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<sup>79</sup> <https://archive.org/details/Dawla112-1>

<sup>80</sup> <https://isdarat.ws>

<sup>81</sup> [https://archive.org/details/gharib\\_20151010](https://archive.org/details/gharib_20151010)

actions that could lead to their death and to avoid helping coalition forces that bring harm to all Muslims.<sup>82</sup>

E. Training:

- Dijla Province: A video regarding one of the training camps operating in the province. The training activities included: martial arts, physical fitness and military training (firing various weapons and urban warfare). The video ended by showing a boy delivering a speech and making threats against US President Barack Obama, warning him against sending US troops into Caliphate territory.<sup>83</sup>



**A boy in an IS training camp threatening that the US President will be beheaded**

- Nineveh Province: A filmed review regarding the training of the first cycle of IS Special Forces in Mosul. The photos showed armed fighters holding shooting training exercises, climbing down walls and holding a procession in the city.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> <https://ia801306.us.archive.org/34/items/3lza001/IZ9.mp4>

<sup>83</sup> <https://goo.gl/TzCois>

<sup>84</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).



**The end of IS Special Forces training in Mosul**

F. Civilian Issues:

- Kirkuk Province: Filmed reviews regarding activities at the medical center in Al-Abbasi, as well as the harvest and sale of cotton in the city of Hawija.<sup>85</sup>
- Nineveh Province: A filmed review regarding activities at Al-Ma'ash Market in the city of Mosul.<sup>86</sup>
- Al-Fallujah Province: A filmed review regarding command and control activities in the city of Fallujah.<sup>87</sup>

G. Propaganda and PR:

- Nineveh Province: A video titled, "Listen to Us, Mujahid in Somalia". The video showed several IS fighters who addressed the mujahideen in Somalia and encouraged them to swear allegiance to the leader of the IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The fighters explained that unity among the ranks will strengthen jihad as was proven in the field after many groups from various countries swore allegiance to the IS. It should be noted that among the fighters who were interviewed was a fighter of Indonesian origin.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> <https://isdarat.ws>

<sup>86</sup> <http://goo.gl/CC8dRm>

<sup>87</sup> <https://isdarat.ws>

<sup>88</sup> <https://archive.org/details/somail-043>



**The video banner**

- *Kirkuk Province*: A video titled, “The Escape of Popular Mobilization Forces from Mujahideen Attacks”. The video noted that fighters belonging to the Shi’ite militia Popular Mobilization Forces had removed their uniforms and crossed into Europe as refugees. In the video, an IS member slandered the Shi’ite militias in the country and claimed that, despite their claims of migrating from Iraq due to the economic situation, they essentially left for fear of the IS.<sup>89</sup>
- *Diyala Province*: A nearly 30-minute long video titled, “Land of the Battles”. The video included a collection of attacks and assassinations that were carried out against Iranian elements and Shi’ite militias in Iraq (especially Popular Mobilization Forces and SWAT militias). An analysis of the video indicated that the modus operandi of these attacks included shooting and sniper fire, the dispatch of suicide terrorists in explosives-ridden vehicles, penetration of posts, and the photographing of Shi’ite militia headquarters ahead of an operation.<sup>90</sup>
- *Al-Anbar Province*: A video (lasting over an hour) titled, “Ramadi – Battle of Jihad”,<sup>91</sup> which opened with a brief historical review of the establishment of the Islamic State in Iraq and the growth of the Sahawat. The video then went on to present a collection of photos from past battles waged by the IS in neighborhoods in the city of Ramadi against Iraqi army forces and Shi’ite militias. In addition to images of gunfire exchanges, part of the video

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<sup>89</sup> <https://archive.org/details/Horob-002>

<sup>90</sup> <https://ia601309.us.archive.org/21/items/LANDD012/DL5.mp4>

<sup>91</sup> [https://ia801308.us.archive.org/21/items/RAMADIC\\_2015\\_201510/RAMADIC.mp4](https://ia801308.us.archive.org/21/items/RAMADIC_2015_201510/RAMADIC.mp4)

was dedicated to suicide terrorists who used explosive-laden vehicles to destroy structures belonging to Shi'ite militias, including SWAT forces. It should be noted that one of these suicide terrorists was a British fighter known as Abu al-Musa al-Baritani, whose real name was Fatlum Shalaku. The video ended by showing the idyllic life in Ramadi, which returned to the fold of Sunni Islam, and by calling on Sunnis throughout Iraq to revolt against the Shi'ites.<sup>92</sup>

### **Al-Sham [The Levant]**

*Battles continued in several centers in Syria. In the area of the Deir Ezzor military airfield, battles broke out between IS fighters and regime forces,<sup>93</sup> and in southern Syria battles erupted between the Syrian army and “the war rooms of various militias, including Ahrar al-Sham and the Syrian Revolutionaries Front.<sup>94</sup>*

*The beginning of October was also marked by the death of two Iranian Revolutionary Guard generals in Syria. According to reports by Iranian media representatives in Syria, the two men were killed in battles against the IS.<sup>95</sup> In addition, General Hossein Hamedani, an Iranian military advisor, was killed earlier in the month in battles in Aleppo in the framework of an operation to defend Shia holy places from the IS.<sup>96</sup> It should be noted that Hezbollah also admitted having lost five of its fighters in battles in Syria.<sup>97</sup>*

*In addition to Iranian involvement, Russian involvement in Syria was also on the rise. According to statements made by the NATO Secretary-General at a press conference, Russia stationed a large number of forces in Syria, including ground forces.<sup>98</sup> In addition, the EU called on Russia to stop*

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<sup>92</sup><http://www.joshualandis.com/blog/the-inside-story-of-the-british-suicide-bomber-of-ramadi-by-tam-hussein> (English).

<sup>93</sup> <http://goo.gl/ISzK5S>

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.enabbaladi.org/archives/47245>

<sup>95</sup> [http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2015/10/151014\\_iran\\_syria\\_generals\\_killed](http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2015/10/151014_iran_syria_generals_killed)

<sup>96</sup> <http://goo.gl/hcluvc>

<sup>97</sup> <http://goo.gl/tAhZ98>

<sup>98</sup> <http://goo.gl/l8LfG7>



attacking targets belonging to the “moderate Syrian opposition”, an accusation that Russian rejected.<sup>99</sup>

## Syria

### **Al-Nusra Front**

- **Al-Manara Al-Baydha**, which belongs to **Al-Nusra Front**, published the following:
  - An audio clip titled, “The Russian Intervention – The Last Arrow”, which referred to Russian intervention in the battle in Syria, by Abu Muhammad al-Julani, the leader of Al-Nusra Front. During his speech, al-Julani described the Russians as “Eastern Crusaders” and called on the mujahideen in the Caucasus to conduct reprisals in Russia and distract it from the battle in Syria. He added that Russia’s goal is not to fight against the IS but rather against the Jaysh al-Fatah alliance, which includes Al-Nusra Front and Ahrar al-Sham, since this alliance is in direct confrontation with the Assad regime. In addition, he claimed that the factions fighting against the Assad regime do not need help from the West or from countries in the region, and called on them to fight in Alawite and Shi’ite villages in Syria. In addition, he offered millions of Euros in prizes to anyone who kills Bashar al-Assad or Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah.<sup>100</sup>
  - An announcement regarding the circumstances in which a member of the organization was killed in the city of Al-Dana, in Idlib Province, as a result of clashes between its fighters and Ahrar al-Sham fighters in the city.<sup>101</sup>
  - An announcement titled, “The Words behind the Lines” in which he blessed the merger of Syrian factions fighting in western Al-Qalamoun under the name “Ahl al-Sham’ Brigades” but also criticized the announcement that was released regarding this merger. The first point of criticism raised by the organization was that this manner of merging the ranks is temporary and also has its disadvantages. The second point of criticism was that

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<sup>99</sup> <http://goo.gl/gvAueP>; <http://goo.gl/kOfNDe>

<sup>100</sup> <https://justpaste.it/oabx>

<sup>101</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

most of the factions fighting in Al-Qalamoun are included in this merger but not all of them, notably Al-Nusra Front.<sup>102</sup>

- An announcement regarding the organization's conflict with Nur al-Din al-Zinki in western Aleppo. The announcement stated that Nur al-Din al-Zinki had agreed to remove one of the blockades that it put up at Al-Nusra Front's request but did not actually remove it and, therefore, clashes erupted between the two organizations during which the former began to arrest members of the latter at all of their blockades. The announcement also stated that the organization was surprised by the announcement published by Nur al-Din al-Zinki that included slander against Al-Nusra Front since the organization sent a representative in order to resolve the above-mentioned problem. The announcement added that the organization denied having any connection to the car bombing that took place near the headquarters of the Suqur al-Jabal Brigade in Deir Jamal. In addition, the announcement stated that despite the Russian bombardment of an Al-Nusra Front blockade during the clashes, it does not blame Nur al-Din al-Zinki of collaborating with the Russians and called on them to solve the problem between them.<sup>103</sup>
- A video titled, "Years of Deception: Who is Splitting the Ranks?" which referred to the IS, who it claimed is delaying the decisive battle against the al-Assad regime in Syria.<sup>104</sup>
- Sheikh Abdullah al-Muhaysini, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric who supports Al-Nusra Front, noted that Russia's involvement in Syria is doomed to failure and called on Muslims to support jihad factions rebelling against the al-Assad regime.<sup>105</sup> In a video that was posted to his Twitter account, standing alongside 12 fighters, he vowed that Syria would turn into a graveyard for Russia.<sup>106</sup>
- **'Ali bin Hamd al-'Arjani aka Abu Hasan al-Kuwayti**, a senior Al-Nusra Front commander, published on his Twitter account an announcement in which he offered a financial prize to anyone who takes captive a Russian soldier from Syria. He stated: "Heroic mujahideen brothers [are

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<sup>102</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>103</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>104</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>105</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>106</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

guaranteed] a prize of two million Syrian lira to anyone who takes captive a Russian soldier. Abu Mariyya al-Qahtani, a senior members of the organization, also offered a similar prize.<sup>107</sup>



The banner produced by Al-Nusra Front supporters offering a financial prize for a captive Russia soldier

- **Jaysh al-Fatah**, an umbrella organization composed of several Salafi-jihadist factions, including Al-Nusra Front, published an announcement calling for the liberation of the city of Hamat in response to Russian intervention in Syria, and the assistance that it provides to Syrian and Iranian militias.<sup>108</sup>
- An interview was published with **Abdullah bin Mohammed**, the owner of the “Strategic Affairs” Twitter account and a prominent writer affiliated with Al-Qaeda, to Al-Monitor.<sup>109</sup> During the interview, he noted that the Russians decided to intervene in Syria after the Syrian army’s losses in Idlib and Hamat. In addition, he claimed that the rebels’ chance of defeating Russia depends on the outside support that it receives. He added that when Russia will be forced to battle in the field, the West will supply the rebels with quality weapons that will enable them to cope with the Russians. Moreover, he claimed that when Russia fought alongside the regime, the political resolution that all sides tried to reach failed and, therefore, there is a struggle to impose a new status quo until the opportunity for a political solution again arises.

<sup>107</sup> <http://www.elwatannews.com/news/details/811904>

<sup>108</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>109</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/654592706287570944>

Finally, Abdullah bin Mohammed addressed statements made by **Abu Mohammad al-Julani**, the leader of Al-Nusra Front, who called on jihadist groups to unite against the Russian intervention and to strike targets within Russia, claiming that this is similar to what happened in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation and the US. He added that for now the Russian intervention has attracted many Syrian volunteers who are prepared to fight against Russia. He added that in order to improve the flow of foreign volunteers, some of the countries will have to remove their restrictions on traveling to Syria and recruitment will have to be accompanied by media coverage.<sup>110</sup>

- The “Strategic Affairs” Twitter account, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, noted that the deaths of Iranian commanders due to the Russian intervention in Syria demonstrate the power struggles within Syria.<sup>111</sup>

#### ***The Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham***

- The Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham published the following:
  - A video titled, “Return to the Your Religion”, which called to fulfil the commandment to wage a war of jihad.<sup>112</sup>
  - A video titled, “Wake Up, Nation of Islam”.<sup>113</sup>

#### ***The League of Ahl al-‘Ilm in al-Sham***

- The League of Ahl al-‘Ilm in al-Sham, an umbrella organization composed of several Salafi-jihadist sages in Syria, published a fatwa regarding “the Russian aggression against Muslims in Al-Sham”. In the beginning of the ruling, the League noted that rebel factions in Syria are facing a new chapter in the battle in light of Russia’s public intervention in Syria on the side of the Alawite regime, which is manifested in its dispatching of fighter and surveillance jets, expanding its operations on the Syrian coastline, and dispatching its soldiers in order to protect its own

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<sup>110</sup><http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/10/russia-syria-intervention-compare-jihadists-afghanistan.html#>

<sup>111</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/654310585299922944>

<sup>112</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>113</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

interests. In light of this development, the League noted its desire to send three messages: The first message was addressed the people of Al-Sham to continue to wage jihad against the tyrannical regime. The second message was a plea to the jihadist factions to maintain unity among the ranks in order to best cope with the Russian aggression. The third message was directed at Russia and warned it not to attack the Muslim Nation, its civilians or its jihadists. It also stated that the attempt to save Assad's regime was doomed to failure, and that Russian assistance would fail just as assistance from Iran and Shi'ite militias had also failed, stating: "furthermore, you will fail just as you failed in Chechnya [...]". Finally, the League announced that it would issue a fatwa requiring strikes against Russian targets in Syria, whether they be military, political and economic, in response to the Russian aggression. Finally, the League asked sages in the Muslim world to issue fatwas that call for jihad against Russia and urge young Muslims to fulfil the war of jihad in this context.<sup>114</sup>

### ***Ahrar al-Sham***

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
  - An announcement condemning the killing of the organization's military commander in southern Syria, Abu Khalifa al-Basrawi, along with some of his fighters. The announcement detailed his activities and contributions to jihad in the framework of the organization.<sup>115</sup>
  - An announcement regarding the Russian intervention in Syria. The announcement stated that the battle in Syria has turned from an internal fight between Syrian revolution fighters and the Al-Assad regime to a regional and international battle with direct Russian intervention in Syria. According to the organization, this intervention is aimed at saving what is left of the al-Assad regime and implementing the division of Syria such that Damascus and the coastal region remain in his hands. The announcement added that the Russian intervention arrived on schedule with the international effort to return power to the Alawite regime since it is preferable to anarchy and terrorism, and therefore it should be given the role of combatting terrorism. In light of this, the organization called on Syrian

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<sup>114</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>115</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CQf9l1cWEAADaRM.jpg>

revolutionary forces to unite militarily and politically, and to coordinate in order to maintain the revolution and liberate Syria.<sup>116</sup>

- Condolences over the death of Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abdul Aziz in Al-Ghouta, in Syria, as a result of an assassination by gunmen.<sup>117</sup>

### ***The Islamic State***

- 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:

- Aleppo Province: Filmed reviews regarding *ribāt* activities west of Ayn al-Arab (Kobani) and in the Kweires Airbase area.<sup>118</sup>

#### B. Dawah Activities:

- Aleppo Province: A filmed review regarding *dawah* activities in the area of Akhtarín, in which both children and adults participated and included competitions with prizes.<sup>119</sup>

#### C. Oaths of Allegiance:

- Damascus Province: A filmed review regarding the “repentance” of a group of Sahawat that decided to swear allegiance to the IS. The oath took place in the city of Al-Hajar Al-Haswad, which is located south of Damascus.<sup>120</sup>
- Al-Raqqa Province: A video regarding the oath of allegiance taken by several tribes in the province to the IS, including Al-Majadmeh tribe.<sup>121</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> [https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CQYQLR9UEAE\\_cHF.jpg](https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CQYQLR9UEAE_cHF.jpg)

<sup>117</sup> <http://ahraralsham.net/?p=9907>

<sup>118</sup> <https://isdarat.ws>

<sup>119</sup> <https://archive.org/details/6563017>

<sup>120</sup> <https://justpaste.it/o5i7>

<sup>121</sup> <https://goo.gl/oVy9TS>



**An oath of allegiance taken by an Al-Raqqah tribe to the IS**

D. Execution of Spies:

- Aleppo Province: A filmed review titled, “Elimination of Apostates 2”, which documented the executions of two people accused of subversion against the IS, and of sending information and photos to the “Crusader coalition” forces. According to the two were caught by IS security agencies in the city of Manbij.<sup>122</sup>
- Homs Province: A filmed review titled, “Harvesting the Spies 2”, which documented the execution of three people described as cooperating with the Nusairi (Alawite) regime.<sup>123</sup>

E. Training:

- Homs Province: A filmed review regarding one of the training camps operating in the province. The photos showed the fighters undergoing physical fitness and light weapons training.<sup>124</sup>
- Damascus Province: A video regarding the Abu Ubayda bin al-Jarrah training camp in which fighters of various ages train in physical fitness, martial arts and the use of various weapons.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> <http://goo.gl/wy8wpA>

<sup>123</sup> <https://justpaste.it/lka>

<sup>124</sup> <http://goo.gl/yN4dYj>

<sup>125</sup> <https://goo.gl/pNXJyo>



**An IS training camp in Damascus Province**

**F. Civilian Issues:**

- *Aleppo Province*: A filmed review titled, “Life Goes On”, which showed IS members hurrying to clean and repair infrastructure and stores on the street that were damaged in an air strike.<sup>126</sup>

**G. Propaganda and PR:**

- *Al-Khayr (Deir Ezzor) Province*: A video directed at the mujahideen in Somalia that encouraged them to swear allegiance to the IS. The video opened with a historical review that accused the Christians – especially the French in Africa – of waging war against Islam. Later in the video, various IS fighters – including some of Somali origin – called on their brothers in English and in Somali “to unite against the infidels” and to swear allegiance to the Caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.<sup>127</sup> Additional videos on the subject were published by Al-Raqqah and Homs Provinces.<sup>128</sup>
- *Damascus Province*: A video regarding the Christian residents of Al-Qaraytain. The video showed an IS fighter who explained that some Christian residents of the city had converted to Islam while others signed a “sponsorship contract” with the IS that will guarantee their safety in exchange for fulfilling certain conditions after presenting them with several possibilities: kill the men and take the women and children captive, pay ransom, or agree to *jizyah* payment (poll tax) and life under IS

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<sup>126</sup> <http://goo.gl/czP1jP>

<sup>127</sup> [https://ia601300.us.archive.org/17/items/tomsham/mn\\_khir.mp4](https://ia601300.us.archive.org/17/items/tomsham/mn_khir.mp4)

<sup>128</sup> <https://ia601304.us.archive.org/20/items/ftjrEE4/Q3.mp4>; <https://archive.org/details/somal-0022>



“sponsorship”. In addition, the fighter said that IS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, had given Christians who fled from the city a one-month ultimatum during which time they could return to their homes as sponsored people.<sup>129</sup>



**IS control over the Christian population and their institutions in Al-Qaraytain**

### ***Ajnad al-Sham***

- 41 Syrian factions, including Ahrar al-Sham and Ajnad al-Sham, published a joint announcement condemning Russian military aggression against the Syrian Nation. The announcement described the Russian intervention as “the open occupation of Syria, even if done at the behest of the Syrian regime”. The announcement also stated that Russian air strikes in Homs Province, which led to the deaths of 50 civilians, must be considered Russia’s first war crime in Syria. The announcement added that all occupying forces in Syria constitute a legitimate target and that this occupation effectively brings to an end any political solution in Syria. The end of the announcement called on all factions in Syria to unite their ranks and abandon the differences between them.<sup>130</sup>
- Ajnad al-Sham published a message of condolences over the death of Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abdul Aziz in Al-Ghouta, Syria, as a result of assassin fire. The announcement criticized the series of assassinations of Syrian revolution leaders, and called on all factions of the revolution to unite in order to protect liberated areas from such assassinations.<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>129</sup> [https://ia801307.us.archive.org/19/items/Jizia\\_Q/Jizia.mp4](https://ia801307.us.archive.org/19/items/Jizia_Q/Jizia.mp4)

<sup>130</sup> <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2682>

<sup>131</sup> <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2701>

## The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

On October 9, the Egyptian army announced the start of the second part of “Operation Martyr’s Right” in the Sinai Peninsula. The operation had two goals: eradicate IS terrorism against Egyptian army and police forces in order to bring about the reconstruction and development of new projects in the Sinai Peninsula. The operation is meant to focus on the cities of Sheikh Zuweid and Rafah.<sup>132</sup>

This took place against the backdrop of hostile activity in Sinai Province against the Egyptian army on October 3 in which a senior member of the Sawarka tribe was killed near his house in Cairo by IS fighters.<sup>133</sup> Later, on October 15, three regime-supporting fighters were kidnapped and two others were injured in an attack by IS fighters at a blockade next to Sheikh Zuweid.<sup>134</sup> These actions indicated the approach of IS fighters to the capital of Cairo and the continued persecution of regime-supporting tribes.

- The IS in Sinai Province published the following:
  - A video in which IS fighters called on Muslims in Somalia to swear allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and the Islamic Caliphate.<sup>135</sup>



**Abu Talha al-Janubi, an IS fighter in Sinai Province, urges Muslims in Somalia to swear allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi**

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<sup>132</sup> <http://goo.gl/OtSHKP>

<sup>133</sup> <http://goo.gl/gTgQSE>

<sup>134</sup> <http://goo.gl/aCQoaA>

<sup>135</sup> [https://ia801507.us.archive.org/31/items/sinai\\_somal](https://ia801507.us.archive.org/31/items/sinai_somal)

- A claim of responsibility for the assassination of an Egyptian police commander and police officer in two attacks carried out by IS fighters in Al-Arish.<sup>136</sup>
- A video titled, “Prayers during Hard Times”, which documented prayer services held by members of the IS who called on God to grant victory to IS fighters in their war against Russia and the US.<sup>137</sup>

## Israel

- During the first half of October 2015, the “Strategic Affairs” Twitter account, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, posted several tweets in support of the wave of knife attacks against Jews in Israel, including:
  - Reference to Zionist policies of destroying houses and a call for support of Muslims around Al-Aqsa Mosque under the hashtag: #عملية\_القدس.<sup>138</sup>
  - Reference to the fact that rockets launched from Gaza do not serve the momentum of Al-Quds Intifada.<sup>139</sup>
  - A call for the continuation of the Palestinian popular revolution in Israel.<sup>140</sup>



**A picture of a knife in the shape of the State of Israel in praise of the continued knife attacks against Jews in Israel<sup>141</sup>**

<sup>136</sup> <http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il/>

<sup>137</sup> <http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il/>

<sup>138</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/650410779913523200>

<sup>139</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/652611082918346752>

<sup>140</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/653597125570244609>

<sup>141</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/653596594130960384>

## Africa

### **The Maghreb**

*Despite the plan to announce a national unity government, there were still differences of opinion on the subject<sup>142</sup> and battles continued throughout Libya. In eastern Libya, the IS attacked Al-Sidra oil port and killed three guards,<sup>143</sup> and attacked a convoy of Libya Shield forces near Misurata in western Libya.<sup>144</sup> Additional battles broke out between the IS and the Shura Council of Derna,<sup>145</sup> and between the Toubou tribe and other tribes in Al-Kufra in southern Libya.<sup>146</sup>*

*The threat of terrorism did not pass over Tunisia this month. On October 12, the Tunisian Ministry of Interior announced that four soldiers had been killed and four other wounded in clashes with terrorists in Al-Kasserine, next to the border with Algeria.<sup>147</sup> The clash took place after Tunisia took credit for successfully thwarting attacks, including the discovery of two explosives-ridden vehicles and weapons near the border with Libya, and the dismantling of three terror cells that were involved in recruiting young people to the IS in Libya.<sup>148</sup>*

*A similar thwarting also took place in El Oued Province in northeast Algeria where army units arrested eight online activists who helped terrorist organizations in the region.<sup>149</sup> Meanwhile, in Morocco it was reported that 19 defendants were sentenced to one-to-six years in prison for terrorism-related offenses.<sup>150</sup>*

### **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb**

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) published the following:
  - A recorded announcement by an AQIM member named Hussam Abd al-Rauof in which he addressed the death of Mukhtar Belmukhtar, a fact that was denied by Ansar al-Sharia in June 2015. In the announcement, al-Rauof also eulogized Naser al-Wuhayshi, an AQAP

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<sup>142</sup> <http://goo.gl/wNz9ZM>

<sup>143</sup> <https://goo.gl/Z7Yuxo>

<sup>144</sup> <http://www.worldakhbar.com/maghreb/libya/37685.html>

<sup>145</sup> <http://www.worldakhbar.com/maghreb/libya/37343.html>

<sup>146</sup> <http://www.worldakhbar.com/maghreb/libya/38050.html>

<sup>147</sup> <http://goo.gl/v31cwr>

<sup>148</sup> <http://goo.gl/X14ihm>; <http://goo.gl/D2J0rC>

<sup>149</sup> <http://goo.gl/BnNQ2J>

<sup>150</sup> <http://goo.gl/5vc8l4>

leader who was killed, and the rest of the announcement served as a sort of “statement of defense” by Al-Qaeda in the face of the slander and denunciations directed at the organization. In addition, al-Raouf called on new fighters (especially doctors, engineers and experts) to join the ranks of Al-Qaeda.<sup>151</sup>

### ***Al-Murabitun***

- Al-Muabitun, which supports Al-Qaeda, published an audio clip by Hisham al-‘Ashmawi (aka Abu Omar al-Masri), a commander in the organization and a former officer in the Egyptian army Special Forces. In the clip, al-Masri called on Muslims, especially those in Egypt, to carry out individual, or “lone wolf” attacks against Jewish targets, journalists, and Egyptian police and army officers due to the Jews’ crimes against the Palestinians and their disrespect of Al-Aqsa Mosque.<sup>152</sup> In another audio clip published by the organization, al-Masri called on Muslims in Egypt to fight against al-Sisi’s regime claiming that it represents a Pagan Egyptian regime battling against Islam and its believers.<sup>153</sup>

## **Libya**

### ***The Islamic State***

- The IS in Libya published the following:
  - *Baraka Province*: A filmed review regarding the battles waged by the organization against Khalifa Haftar’s forces in the city of Derna. The battles were waged in Al-Hila, on the eastern coast and in the area of Martuba, and included rocket fire.<sup>154</sup>
  - *Tripoli Province*: A filmed review regarding *hisba* activities in the city of Sirte, which include the destruction of prohibited items (such as cigarettes and card games), reminders about prayer times, the distribution of hijabs, and the deletion of indecent images from the public sphere.<sup>155</sup>

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<sup>151</sup> <https://justpaste.it/oad0>

<sup>152</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>153</sup> <https://justpaste.it/ocoj>

<sup>154</sup> <http://i-libya.blogspot.com/2015/10/blog-post.html>

<sup>155</sup> [http://i-libya.blogspot.com/2015/10/blog-post\\_8.html](http://i-libya.blogspot.com/2015/10/blog-post_8.html)

- *Tripoli Province*: Al-Tawheed radio station, which belongs to the IS, reported the start of activity of the Islamic court in the city of Sirte. In the radiophonic announcement, security and army officials were called on to go to court in order to declare their “repentance”.<sup>156</sup>
- A writer known as Hamza al-Yamani published an article criticizing Ansar al-Sharia in Libya. In the framework of the article, al-Yamani maintained that, in contrast to what the organization claimed in its published statement, there is evidence that Ansar al-Sharia has ties to apostates, including the Libya Shield Brigades, which is tied to the regime in Tripoli.<sup>157</sup>

### ***Ansar al-Sharia in Libya***

- Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published filmed reviews on various topics, including: car maintenance by the organization’s transportation department,<sup>158</sup> and evidence of the damage caused to Al-Hawari Hospital by shellings attributed to Haftar’s forces.<sup>159</sup>

### ***The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna***

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna published the following:
  - Updates on the advancement of the organization’s fighters and the battles that they are waging against IS forces, especially in the eastern coastal region.<sup>160</sup>
  - An update on the operation of a police center in the city that is responsible for, among other things, receiving complaints and reports from civilians, inspecting restaurants and searching for missing persons.<sup>161</sup>

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<sup>156</sup> <http://goo.gl/Oy9V0G>

<sup>157</sup> <https://justpaste.it/e07>

<sup>158</sup> <https://twitter.com/skynewslibya1/status/653360838703755264>

<sup>159</sup> <https://twitter.com/DangerZeus/status/651565588867874816>

<sup>160</sup> <https://justpaste.it/o578>

<sup>161</sup> <https://twitter.com/ala3hed/status/653257838609985536>;

<https://twitter.com/ala3hed/status/652207752090157060>;

<https://twitter.com/ala3hed/status/651149194728636416>

## Egypt

- Al-Wafaa jihadist media institution published an article by a writer known as Umm Nasiba titled, “The Egyptian Woman – from the Hell of Democracy to the Paradise of the Islamic State”. The document included a review regarding the Egyptian woman’s status during different eras (from the days of the Ottoman Empire until the rule of Abdel Fattah al-Sisi). The article also presented several cases of Muslim women who were victims of the Egyptian authorities (especially the army), while comparing the lives of women under tyrannical rule to the lives of women under the Islamic Caliphate where they enjoy “freedom, piety and humility”. Other advantages noted by the writer included the fact that under the IS, women are allowed to learn to fight, are entitled to support if their husbands are martyred, and are not jailed if they sin (women who sin are sent to camps to be re-educated). The article ended with a direct call to women in Egypt to migrate to the IS.<sup>162</sup>

## Nigeria

- The IS in East Africa published the following:
  - A video in which members of the organization renewed their oath of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. In addition, they denied claims that approximately 200 of their fighters had surrendered to the enemy.<sup>163</sup>



**Members of the IS in East Africa swear allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi**

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<sup>162</sup> [http://up.top4top.net/downloadf-top4top\\_e08d8ea0da1-pdf.html](http://up.top4top.net/downloadf-top4top_e08d8ea0da1-pdf.html)

<sup>163</sup> [http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il/2015/10/blog-post\\_0.html](http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il/2015/10/blog-post_0.html)

- A video calling on jihadists in Somalia, and especially members of Al-Shabab al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Somalia, to join the IS.<sup>164</sup>



**A senior member of the organization calling on members of Al-Shabab to swear allegiance to al-Baghdadi**

- A video documenting the victory of the organization’s fighters in a battle against the Nigeria army in the area of Borno.<sup>165</sup>

## Somalia

*During the first half of October, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen continued to carry out attacks against Somali government and security forces. Al-Shabab fighters assassinated two senior government officials in Mogadishu.<sup>166</sup> In addition, the organization’s fighters also took captive an officer in the Somali security forces.<sup>167</sup>*

*Meanwhile, Al-Shabab threatened to welcome British troops interested in joining the “peacekeeping force” in Somalia with gunfire.<sup>168</sup>*

*Meanwhile, the Minister for Social Affairs in Somalia announced that foreign forces are not successful in freeing Somalia from Al-Shabab’s control.<sup>169</sup>*

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<sup>164</sup> <http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il>

<sup>165</sup> <http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il>

<sup>166</sup> <https://twitter.com/shahaadanews/status/652118556532973568>

<sup>167</sup> <https://twitter.com/shahaadanews/status/652878619015028736>

<sup>168</sup> <http://goo.gl/8FwY1U>

<sup>169</sup> <http://goo.gl/M2nPG3>



## ***Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen***

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published an announcement titled, “Support for Al-Aqsa Mosque”, which called for continued attacks against Jewish targets and interests, and those of their allies, in any place and through any means in order to defend Al-Aqsa Mosque. The announcement also stated that Al-Aqsa Mosque and other occupied territories can only be liberated through the use of armed jihad since what was taken by force can only be returned by force. The announcement added that both individuals and groups can join jihad against the Jews. The end of the announcement stated that every Jew is a legitimate target, whether or not he is armed.<sup>170</sup>
- The leader of Al-Shabab in Kenya, Ahmed Iman Ali, published a video aimed at raising the morale of the organization’s fighters. In the video, he claimed that even a small number of fighters can defeat a large number of fighters from various countries that receive assistance from the West.<sup>171</sup>



**The video banner**

- The Shehada jihadist media institution, which is identified with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published photos from an attack by the organization’s fighters on Somali security forces’ bases in the city of Yaaqbariweyne.<sup>172</sup>

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<sup>170</sup> <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/e1b8a5arakat-al-shabc481b-al-mujc481hidc4abn-22support-al-c481qsc481-mosque22.pdf>

<sup>171</sup> <http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il>

<sup>172</sup> <https://twitter.com/shahaadanews/status/651753842116296704>

## The Indian Subcontinent

### Bangladesh

- The IS claimed responsibility for the assassination of a Japanese citizen named Kunio Hoshi in the city of Rangpur, Bangladesh.<sup>173</sup>

### The Philippines

- Al-Wafaa jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for the IS, published a video containing a message for the President of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino, and US President, Barack Obama. The video began with criticism over the Philippines government's expressed willingness to join the battle against the IS, and went on to show documentation from April 2015 of activists from southern Philippines who swore allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and threatened to carry out attack on the Philippines' soil. The final part of the video showed images from IS training camps in the country.<sup>174</sup>



Threats by IS supporters in the Philippines

### The West

- An article was published in Arabic on Al-Fidaa jihadist media institution, which is identified with Al-Qaeda, titled, "How Al-Qaeda Succeeded in Subduing France after the Charlie Hebdo Attacks".<sup>175</sup> The article presented the magazine's decision not to publish more caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad as a success of AQAP in subduing the magazine system and France as a

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<sup>173</sup> <http://dawaahaq.blogspot.co.il/>

<sup>174</sup> <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>175</sup> <https://justpaste.it/ob3q>

whole. The article hinted that the planners of the Charlie Hebdo attack were Nasir al-Wuhayshi, Anwar al-Awlaki, and Gharib al-Taizi Sa'aid al-Shiri. The article mentioned that France's intelligence and security capabilities are fragile, enabling the repeat of attacks such as those by Merah and Kouachi in the future.

The article explained that the attack at Charlie Hebdo achieved two goals: revenge against those who mocked the Prophet Muhammad and the publication of the "Lone Wolves Initiative" (which was founded by al-'Awlaqi and Samir Khan and previously appeared in INSPIRE magazine). The article also praised the fact that the attack made use of the tactic of penetrating and shooting rather than using explosives or car bombs. In this manner, the Kouachi brothers were able to precisely strike planned targets without killing innocent people, such as women and children.<sup>176</sup>



**The article banner**

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<sup>176</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

## ABOUT THE ICT

Founded in 1996, the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is one of the leading academic institutes for counter-terrorism in the world, facilitating international cooperation in the global struggle against terrorism. ICT is an independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability and risk assessment, intelligence analysis and national security and defense policy. ICT is a non-profit organization located at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel which relies exclusively on private donations and revenue from events, projects and programs.

## ABOUT THE JIHADI MONITORING GROUP

The Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG) is a specialized research and analysis team at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT). Composed of researchers fluent in Arabic, the JWMG monitors websites that support and serve the Global Jihad organizations. The unique characteristic of JWMG publications is the team's integration of diverse materials from a wide variety of Arabic sources. JWMG connects each source to larger trends, providing a complete understanding of events on both a local and a global scale.

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