



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

# ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group **PERIODIC REVIEW**

## **Monthly Report**

### **Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites**

**May 2017**

## Highlights

- **Hamza bin Laden**, the son of Osama bin Laden and a senior member of **Al-Qaeda**, calls on Muslims living in the West to initiate individual attacks against Jewish and Christian targets, as well the US, NATO member states and Russia, in revenge for the crimes committed by the enemies of Islam against the children of Syria, the widows of Palestine, the women of Iraq and the orphans of Afghanistan. According to him, the lone attacker should plan out his targets and choose his weapons carefully in order to inflict maximum damage on the enemy.
- **Hamza bin Laden** accuses the Saudi regime of cooperating with the West since the establishment of the Saudi Kingdom, first with the British and then with the Americans. According to him, one of the devastating implications for the Muslim Nation caused by this cooperation was the creation of the State of Israel. In light of this, Hamza calls on Muslims to wake up and realize that the Saudi regime is acting against the interests of the Muslim Nation and, therefore, they must take action to restore their rights.
- **Dr. Sami al-Aridi**, a senior Salafi-jihadist sage in **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham**, calls on jihad factions in Syria to move to guerilla warfare due to the new circumstances that were created in the region, such as Turkey's attempt to take control of liberated areas in Syria. Al-Aridi warns jihad factions not to turn to the diplomatic path since it is doomed to fail, but rather to adhere to the path of jihad and follow the advice of **Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda**, to move to guerilla warfare and unite under the banner of global jihad.
- **Ali Mahmoud Raji**, the spokesman for **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen**, **Al-Qaeda's branch in Somalia**, calls on new recruits who joined the organization from various African countries, such as Tanzania and Kenya, to put an end to the oppression of Muslims by the infidels in East Africa. In addition, Raji calls on the organization's fighters to lead an army to conquer Kenya so that they can return to their families with dignity and save them from the humiliation of the Christians.
- Jihadist organizations in Syria, including **Ahrar al-Sham**, **Jaysh al-Islam** and others, set conditions for a ceasefire agreement in Syria as a result of negotiations that were held on the matter in Astana. According to them, Iran is unfit to serve as a guarantor of political activity in Syria, and Russia must cease its air strikes in liberated areas and act to implement UN Security Council resolutions. According to them, the principles of the revolution set forth in a joint resolution

between the Syrian Islamic Council and the revolutionary factions are the basis for any negotiations for a future solution in Syria. In this context, senior Salafi-jihadist clerics, such as **Sheikh Abu Mariyya al-Qahtani**, criticize the participation in the Asatana talks and claim that it harms the achievements of the rebels and strengthens Assad's regime.

- **Ansar al-Shari'a in Libya** announces its dissolution, calls on rebels in Libya not to cooperate with the West and encourages Muslims in Libya to support the implementation of shari'a in the country.
- The **Islamic State** claims responsibility for a terrorist attack that took place at the Manchester Arena concert hall in England. The announcement states that "one of the Caliphate's soldiers was able to plant explosive devices among groups of Crusaders [...] that exploded in a building used for licentious parties".
- The **Islamic State** publishes in its magazine, *RUMIYEH*, guidelines on how to kidnap Western civilians and encourages this trend as a means of terrorizing Christians. For example, it recommends seizing control of crowded places, such as movie theaters, malls and universities, and taking hostages there, or publishing fictitious classified ads that would encourage civilians to come to the apartments where the kidnapping would take place.
- The **Islamic State** encourages Muslims to carry out attacks in their countries of origin, especially in the West. One fighter, Abu Hamza al-Amriki, calls on lone terrorists to carry out attacks in the West using stabbings, rammings or throwing people off of high buildings.

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda leadership, published an audio clip by Hamza bin Laden, the son of Osama bin Laden, titled, “About the Intifada of the People of the Holy Place [meaning Mecca] – Part 2”. In this recording, as in Part 1 which was released in August 2016, Hamza criticized the Saudi Royal Family and encouraged listeners to take action against it. Hamza accused the Saudi regime of publishing a false version of its history, and he claimed that already in the early years of the Saudi dynasty it cooperated with the West. According to Hamza, the Saudi dynasty has cooperated with the British since its inception and he provided examples of this. He added that the Saudi relationship with the West later led to the British occupation of Palestine and then to the establishment of the State of Israel. Later in the clip, Hamza emphasized that only once the correct history of Saudi Arabia is presented will Muslims understand the magnitude of the injustice that was done to their country and act to restore their rights.<sup>1</sup>
- A video by Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Libi, a senior Al-Qaeda leader who was killed in 2012 by an American drone, about the month of Ramadan.<sup>2</sup>
- Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafist jihad movement, published a statement regarding the change to the Hamas charter that was published by the organization on May 1. In his opinion, Hamas' announcement of disengagement from the Muslim Brotherhood and its intention to return the territory of Palestine to the 1967 borders, indicate Hamas's defeatism, its transformation into a purely Palestinian national movement and its distancing from the belief in the Oneness of God. He postulated that the change to the charter will lead to splits within Hamas, including within its military wing. Al-Maqdisi expressed his dissatisfaction with the distancing of jihad factions in Syria and Palestine from the path of resistance, but he also noted that the Salafist jihad movement continues to serve as a source of attraction for youth who see fit to join its ranks.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.risala.io/1eeu>

<sup>2</sup> Telegram channel

<sup>3</sup> <https://justpaste.it/166bl>

- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a senior member of the Salafist jihad movement, published an announcement regarding attacks against Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. According to him, members of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham are working to unite the mujahideen in Syria and anyone who works against them is relying on false fatwas and is interested in preventing a united position by the mujahideen concerning the submissive negotiations taking place in Syria. Later in the announcement, al-Filistini called for an end to the support of evil leaders and sheikhs who deviate from the straight path, and for adherence to the jihad of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.<sup>4</sup>
- A senior member of the Salafist jihad movement, Tareq Abdel Haleem, published an announcement regarding Hayat Tahrir al-Sham's merger with other factions. According to him, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham must be composed of factions that share the same goal and give up their ideological differences, just as in the battle of Salah ad-Din against the Christians, the various Muslim factions united. Nevertheless, Haleem emphasized that while Muslim factions who fought alongside Salah ad-Din shared the same goal, factions in Syria do not share the same goals or the same means to achieve those goals and, therefore, it is difficult to form a similar unity. He also claimed that there are three factions in Syria: The first faction is the Khawarij who deviate altogether from the correct path. The second faction includes representatives of Turkey and Russia such as Ahrar al-Sham, and representatives of the Gulf States such as Jaysh al-Islam, whose goal is to use political negotiations to reconcile with the regime, replace the regime leader to the extent possible, and then establish a secular state. The third faction includes Sunnis whose goal is to continue jihadist military operations and not allow Syria to fall into enemy hands.<sup>5</sup>

Tariq Abdel Haleem was interviewed on another topic for the Lebanese Al-Alam channel in Syria, in which he accused Jaysh al-Islam and other factions that participated in the negotiations in Astana of heresy. According to him, the Astana agreement is designed to strengthen Jaysh al-Islam in the south and Ahrar al-Sham in the north. He also added that Jaysh al-Islam is subject to the Alawite regime and is fighting against Hayat Tahrir al-Sham for its sake, and that Ahrar al-Sham is under Christian patronage.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Telegram channel

<sup>5</sup> <https://goo.gl/ZFhLdd>

<sup>6</sup> <https://goo.gl/t25srL>

- Dr. Sami al-'Uraydi, a Salafi-jihadist sage in Syria who is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published a statement against those voices within Hayat Tahrir al-Sham who criticize prominent figures in the Salafi-jihadist movement. According to him, prominent leaders in the Salafi-jihadist movement, such as Sheikh 'Atiyyatallah al-Libi (a senior Al-Qaeda leader who was killed in 2011 ), Abu Musab al-Suri (a senior strategist in Al-Qaeda who is sitting in a Syrian prison), and Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi (a senior Salafi-jihadist philosopher who supports Al-Qaeda and resides in London) significantly contributed to the promotion of fundamental concepts for the Muslim Nation, including fulfilment of the commandment of jihad against the Crusader infidels. According to him, clerics belonging to the Salafi-jihadist movement are not necessarily tied to any organization but they stand at the forefront against the enemies of Islam and, therefore, criticism of any such symbols should be avoided, otherwise it could have the dangerous consequence of creating a rift among jihad fighters.<sup>7</sup>

In another statement, al-'Uraydi discussed the price placed by the US on the head of Abu Mohammad al-Julani, the former leader of Al-Nusra Front (Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria) and the current leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham's military wing. According to al-'Uraydi, the entire preoccupation concerning al-Julani and other jihadists in Hayat Tahrir al-Sham belonging to Al-Qaeda is meaningless since the US will never be satisfied and will continue its policy of persecuting jihad fighters even if they are not tied to one jihadist organization or another. In his opinion, this trend should teach jihadists in Syria that it is preferable to align themselves with the global jihad movement in order to strengthen the ranks of jihad fighters against the enemies of Islam.<sup>8</sup> In May, al-'Uraydi also published a letter regarding the principles of faith that jihad fighters are supposed to adhere to, such as submission and devotion to Allah. In the same letter, he also emphasized the importance of avoiding friction and maintaining unity among the ranks of jihad factions in Syria.<sup>9</sup>

- Sheikh Asim 'Umar, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, published a book titled, "The Democratic System is on the Verge of Destruction" in which he discussed the principles of true faith in Allah and who Muslims should worship. In the book, 'Umar praised and discussed the

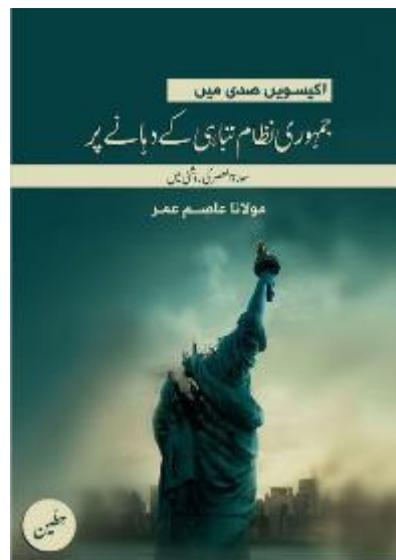
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<sup>7</sup> <https://justpaste.it/169dj>

<sup>8</sup> <https://justpaste.it/16ltv>

<sup>9</sup> <https://justpaste.it/171zb>

meaning of true worship in terms of the structure of government. He stressed the precedence of God's law over man's law and highlighted Quranic verses that discredit man-made government. According to 'Umar, secular government is a very dangerous violation of God's word, and Pakistan is in the hands of the secular and deceives the masses by describing itself as an 'Islamic Republic'. The punishment of having man's law on the creator's land is to be devoid of Allah's blessings. The cause of man's destruction is powerful government forces that are misleading the masses. The only redemption for man is to revert to God's law and the responsibility for this lies in the hands of the Muslim Ummah, which must unite and defeat the enemy.<sup>10</sup>



**The banner of the book**

- On May 17, 2017 the committee appointed by the Caliph of the Islamic State, published an announcement addressed to all of the organization's provinces, departments and authorities. The announcement was intended to explain issues related to faith that concern the Islamic State and its methodology, while rejecting the claims made against it, emphasizing that it adheres to its principles and does not change with the passing of time as opposed to other organizations and factions. The announcement called on critics of the IS to be careful with their words, not to make

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<sup>10</sup> Telegram channel

accusations without religious knowledge and to abstain from drawing general conclusions due to an error committed by one of the emirs or the mujahideen.<sup>11</sup>

- Al-Battar jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for the IS, published the following:
  - An article by the writer, Gharib al-Saruriya, in which he praised the perseverance of the IS in dealing with various organizations that change their positions every day. The writer directed special criticism against AQAP and the Taliban, which he described as a “polytheistic national movement” that does not declare tyrants and Shi’ites as infidels.<sup>12</sup>
  - An article by the writer, Al-Muzaffar Umar, in which he claimed that the West is trying to hide from the public the high economic cost of the war against the IS as well as the large number of casualties suffered by its enemies.<sup>13</sup>
  - Several articles by a writer known as “Turkestan” that included, among other things, blessings and words of encouragement for IS fighters (because of their ability to terrorize the enemy, for one thing), as well as an article criticizing young Muslims today who prefer to marry and raise a family rather than fulfil the commandment of jihad.<sup>14</sup> Another article by the author referred to Syrian journalist, Taysir Alluni, who previously supported the mujahideen in Afghanistan during the invasion by US forces and gave reports in their favor to Al-Jazeera. The writer complained that now Alluni has withdrawn his support of the mujahideen and he expressed hope that Allah would set him back on the right path.<sup>15</sup>
  - An article by the writer, Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Dar’awi, which included praise for the Khalid ibn al-Walid Army operating in the Yarmouk Basin.<sup>16</sup>
- Al-Wafa jihadist media institution published the following:
  - An article by a writer known as Abu Muhammad Zakariyya in which he legitimized the killing of Jews and Christians. In the framework of the article, the writer listed the sources permitting the killing of infidels based on the Quran, the Hadith and rulings by various

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<sup>11</sup><https://shamukh.net/vb>(Arabic);<https://s02.justpaste.it/files/cache/justpaste/d450/a16377235/82-0152.jpg>

<sup>12</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>13</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>14</sup> <http://addpost.it/5280> ; <http://addpost.it/5278> ; <http://addpost.it/5277>

<sup>15</sup> <http://addpost.it/5279>

<sup>16</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

sages, especially in light of the fact that Jews and Christians today do not pay the *jizya* tax.<sup>17</sup>

- An article by a writer known as Abu Said al-Adnani titled, “A statement in defense of the Islamic State and a response to a letter from the apostate Saudi Interior Ministry”. The article referred to the story of Muti' al-Saya'ri, a young member of an IS cell in Saudi Arabia who was killed by his friends when they found out that he planned to turn himself in to the authorities, according to media reports. In the article, the writer criticized the authorities' claims and tried to present them as contradictory.<sup>18</sup>
- Articles regarding the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In an article by a writer known as Abu Abdullah, he accused Saudi Arabia of battling against Islam by, among other things, holding a conference on interfaith dialogue, opening bases that help the infidels fight against the IS, and arresting clerics and mujahideen in its territory. In addition, the writer claimed that the Saudi Kingdom supported the establishment of churches and defended Shi'ites in its territory.<sup>19</sup> Another article by a writer known as Abu al-Faruq al-Gharib called on supporters of the organization in Saudi Arabia to carry out terrorist attacks in the country and bring about the release of prisoners.<sup>20</sup>
- An article by the writer, Ghurba Shamiyya, titled, “From Darkness to the Light” in which she criticized life under the Assad regime and various factions as compared to life under the IS. The writer discussed several parameters - including courts, security mechanisms, the economy, services, education and dawah – in order to illustrate how good life is under the IS.<sup>21</sup>
- Several articles on spiritual and moral topics, including: an article by the writer, Abu Jihad al-Sana'ani, in which he encouraged IS supporters to be patient and draw strength from the past successes of the organization,<sup>22</sup> an article by the writer, Abu Anas al-Tarabulsi, in which he gave advice to the mujahid about the virtues that he must cultivate (such as

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<sup>17</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>18</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>19</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>20</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>21</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>22</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

patience, hope, obedience and prayer),<sup>23</sup> and an article by an anonymous writer encouraging IS supporters to pray for the fighters.<sup>24</sup>

- Several visitors to jihadist Web forums held a discussion about Muslims in East Turkestan. Among other things, the visitors expressed resentment at Turkish authorities for handing over 21 Uighur Muslims to China<sup>25</sup> and for the ban on giving Islamic names in Turkestan,<sup>26</sup> as well as protest over restrictions on prayer placed by the Chinese authorities in Hotan Country in southern East Turkestan.<sup>27</sup>
- The Dawa al-Haq Islamic news agency published several articles condemning Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia. In the framework of the article, the writers mocked Saudi Arabia's 'fawning' over Trump, attacked Saudi clerics who expressed support for the summit in which he participated, and criticized Saudi Arabia for the money that it sent to the US.<sup>28</sup>
- The Dawa al-Haq Islamic news agency published several articles criticizing Hamas over the changes made to the organization's charter (alongside claims of its similarity to Fatah) and for the fact that Hamas stopped executing collaborators with Israel, as well as accusing it of "deviating from the faith". The articles also criticized Hamas for expressing solidarity with the British Nation after the terrorist attack in Manchester.<sup>29</sup>
- The writer, Abu Mu'adh al-Maqdisi, published an article concerning the statue of the Sphinx in Giza, Egypt. The writer reviewed the history of the statue in Islamic sources and emphasized that it must be destroyed and uprooted.<sup>30</sup>

## Strategy

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda leadership, published a video clip by **Hamza bin Laden**, the son of Osama bin Laden, titled, "Advice for Those Who Seek a

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<sup>23</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>24</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>25</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>26</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>27</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>28</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71682>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71627>

<sup>29</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>30</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

Martyr's Death in the West". In the clip, Hamza called for attacks by lone terrorists against Jewish targets, as well the US, NATO member states and Russia. According to Hamza, the lone terrorists must avenge what was done to the children of Syria, the widows of Palestine, the women of Iraq and the orphans of Afghanistan. Hamza added that the lone attacker should plan out his targets and choose his weapons carefully in order to inflict maximum damage on the enemy. He also encouraged those seeking a martyr's death to use previous martyrs as examples and emphasized that there is no reason for mujahideen to migrate to battlefields outside of their countries since, according to him, the attacks carried out by lone attackers in the West have surpassed many of the attacks carried out in the East. He added that attacks against Jews and Christians in their countries is worse for the enemy. Hamza also claimed that the message the lone attacker wishes to send must be explained unequivocally in the media in order for everyone to know why the attack was carried out.<sup>31</sup>



**A clip from the video**

- Al-Malahem jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a video titled, "An Inspire Address: A Lone Mujahid or an Army by Itself" by Sheikh Qasim al-Rimi, the leader of AQAP. In the video, al-Rimi called on Muslims in the West to carry out "lone wolf" attacks against the interests of countries participating in the killing of

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<sup>31</sup> <http://www.risala.io/5j9o>

Muslims. He emphasized that the lone wolf is like a kind of army and that he will be rewarded in the world to come. The video was published in the framework of the *INSPIRE* series and was the first time that it was published in video form. The series was first launched in 2010 by *INSPIRE* magazine and was founded by Sheikh Anwar al-'Awlaqi, an American preacher of Yemeni origin who joined the ranks of the organization. Until now it was published in issues of *INSPIRE* magazine.<sup>32</sup>



**Sheikh Qasim al-Rimi urges Muslims in the West to carry out “lone wolf” attacks against western interests**

- Sheikh Dr. Sami al-Aridi, a Salafi-jihadist cleric in Syria associated with Al-Qaeda, published a statement regarding the war in Syria and provided operative advice to fighters in this arena. In his opinion, jihad fighters must move to guerilla warfare due to the new circumstances that were created in the region, and he agreed with the call by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, to move to guerilla warfare. According to al-Aridi, jihad in the Levant has now entered a new stage due to the intention to create secure zones in Syria and due to attempts by the secular Turkish army to seize control of liberated lands where jihadist factions such as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and Ahrar al-Sham are located. In light of this, al-Aridi emphasized that jihad factions must be prepared for the change to the rules of the game and re-examine their method of operation in the area. Alongside this, al-Aridi warned jihad factions not to be tempted to change their path and turn to politics, but rather to adhere to the path of jihad. According to him, the role model for jihad factions should be the Taliban in Afghanistan as jihad fighters in Syria are

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<sup>32</sup> <https://justpaste.it/16c5t>

in a similar situation to that of Taliban in Afghanistan fighters. He noted that the Taliban is able to protect Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, and his friends, and it wages guerilla warfare against the occupying forces and their allies. Towards the end of his statement, al-Aridi called on jihad fighters in Syria to unite under the banner of global jihad, listen attentively to the advice of their leaders and move to guerilla warfare.<sup>33</sup>

- The Dawa al-Haq jihadist news agency copied and published an article regarding ways to circumvent the blockage imposed on certain Web sites by different regimes. The article explained how a block is imposed from a technical standpoint and reviewed various software (such as Browsec and hola!) that enable it to be circumvented. In response to the article, visitors recommended combining use of a TOR browser with software to hide the IP in order to avoid tracking.<sup>34</sup>
- The Afaq (“Horizons”) media institution published a collection of articles and lessons on various technical subjects, including: security on Telegram and smartphones, use of the QUBES operating system, and use of the Gajim software for encrypted communications.<sup>35</sup>
- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum re-posted old content regarding weapons, explosives and fighting techniques. For instance, they published comprehensive courses on the production of explosives<sup>36</sup> (one of the courses was taken from Hezbollah lessons on manufacturing anti-aircraft weapons<sup>37</sup>), a course on the use of small arms,<sup>38</sup> guidelines on using a knife in face-to-face combat,<sup>39</sup> an article from *INSPIRE* magazine regarding the remote detonation of explosive devices,<sup>40</sup> a video regarding the preparation of an explosive belt by Chechen jihadists,<sup>41</sup> a book titled, “21 Techniques of Silent Killing”,<sup>42</sup> and additional books about weapons and war.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> <https://justpaste.it/16ev1>

<sup>34</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71943>

<sup>35</sup> <https://justpaste.it/ARCHIVET>

<sup>36</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>37</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>38</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>39</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>40</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>41</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>42</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>43</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum held a discussion regarding a video titled, “We Will Surely Guide Them to Our Ways”, which was published by Nineveh Province and dealt mainly with the presentation of the special weapons available to the organization (see below). In the framework of the discussion, visitors analysed the video, praised the locally-produced weapons of the IS (especially its RPG, SPG and anti-tank missiles), and raised several technical suggestions. For example, they suggested flying at a higher altitudes in order to avoid detection, improving the location of explosive barrels in an explosives-ridden car in order to increase effectiveness, and adding a camera to remote-controlled car bombs (in this context, an old project by the organization was mentioned in the discussion, in which it tried to produce remote-controlled car bombs and placed a doll with thermal cells in the driver’s seat that was supposed to simulate a person driving). A recommendation was also published to Muslims outside of the Caliphate to learn metal turning, welding, metalworking, electronics and mechanics due to the assumption that this knowledge will be useful when carrying out *hijra* to the Islamic Caliphate.<sup>44</sup>
- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum held discussions on additional operational topics, including:
  - A recommendation to use trucks with cranes to carry out attacks. The writer explained that such cranes can be used to move fighters to the roof of a tall building where the enemy is entrenched or the crane can be loaded with explosives in order to blow up the building.<sup>45</sup> In another post, the same writer recommended training fighters on how to leap from trucks in order to enable attacks using trucks that do not require the death of the driver (the driver would leap from the moving truck, which would continue to the target using weights placed on the pedals).<sup>46</sup>
  - A discussion regarding the possibility of disrupting guided missiles using LED’s in order to protect armored vehicles used in suicide attacks.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>45</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>46</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>47</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- A discussion on the ways to prepare potassium chlorate in order to use it as an explosive. Other posts contained instructions on producing other explosives, such as mercury(II) fulminate, a primary explosive that is sensitive to friction and shock,<sup>48</sup> and urea nitrate.<sup>49</sup>
- A writer on the forum suggested alternative ways to manufacture explosive belts by accessible and "popular" means. For example, the writer explained that one can use electrical wires instead of a cortex thread, and acetone peroxide or hexamine peroxide as the explosive in the fuse. In addition, the writer suggested using nails to maximize damage from the explosion and recommended watching videos on how to make an electric detonator.<sup>50</sup> In another post, the writer noted having read that the perpetrator of the Paris attack used acetone peroxide in his explosive belt and wanted to know if it is really possible to use this material despite its great sensitivity.<sup>51</sup>
- A post on the topic of a receiver that can be connected to a phone on the Android operating system to allow the reception of transmissions from a drone.<sup>52</sup>
- A writer on a forum posted a message to Muslims outside of the Caliphate in which he encouraged them to help Islam by killing infidels or at least by causing them harm or instilling fear.<sup>53</sup>

## Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 134 (44 pp.) of its magazine, *Al-Somood*, which deals with the arena of jihad in Afghanistan, for the month of May 2017.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic); <https://justpaste.it/17075>

<sup>49</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

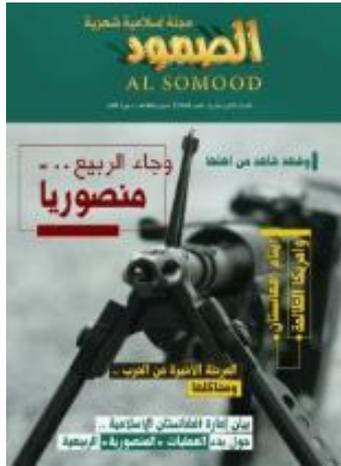
<sup>50</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>51</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>52</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

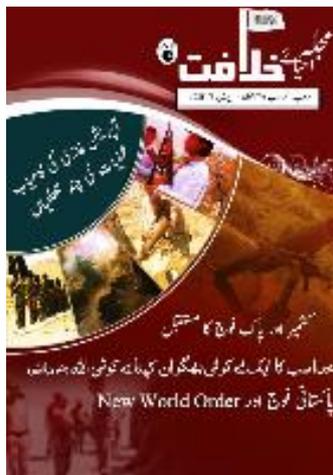
<sup>53</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>54</sup> <https://up.top4top.net/downloadf-491ir5f11-pdf.html>



The banner of *Al-Somood*

- The Taliban in Pakistan published an issue of the magazine, *Ihya Khilafat*.<sup>55</sup>



The banner of *Ihya Khilafat*

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which is associated with Al-Qaeda, published issue no. 15 of its periodical, *Al-Nafir*. In the issue, the organization attacked the Saudi Kingdom in light of the visit by US President, Donald Trump, to Saudi Arabia. For example, the organization accused the Saudi regime of distributing and investing funds in the US as a result of the sale of American arms

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<sup>55</sup> Telegram channel

to the Saudis instead of investing the money in Saudi Arabia. It also accused the regime of cooperating in the battle against jihad fighters and terrorism.<sup>56</sup>



The banner of *Al-Nafir*

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published issues no. 48-51 of its magazine, *Al-Masra*. The issues included reviews of the various arenas of jihad in which Al-Qaeda and its branches operate, as well as statements by senior leaders of the Salafi-jihadist movement.<sup>57</sup>

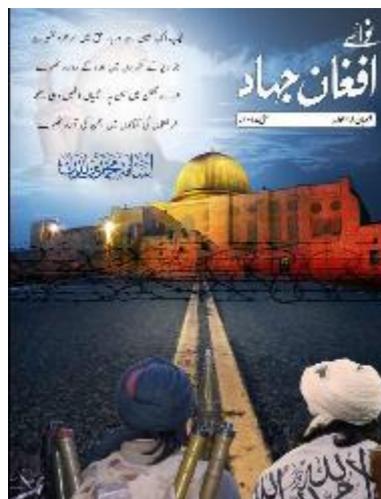


The banner of issue no. 51 of *Al-Masra* magazine

<sup>56</sup> Telegram

<sup>57</sup> Telegram

- The May issue of the magazine, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, which belongs to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, was published. The main points of the issue focused on the importance of good deeds and avoiding sin or else risk punishment from Allah. It stressed the behaviors that should be exhibited during the holy month of Ramadan and the dangers of the ego. It addressed the different kinds of enlightenment and advised leaving one's problems to Allah. The magazine issue urged Muslim youth to become martyrs because victory is near, and it appealed to the people to defend their freedom and honor. It claimed that the Pakistani police are the enemy of God's law and that jihad by sword is necessary in order for all people to become Muslim.<sup>58</sup>



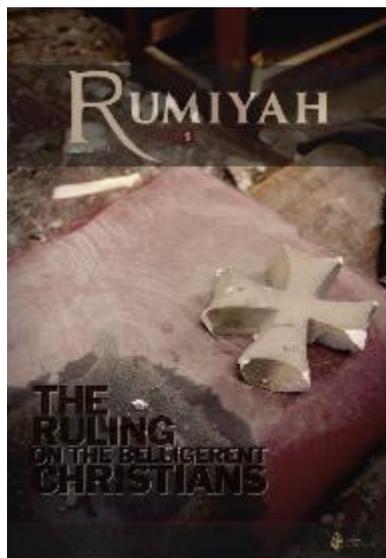
**The banner of *Nawai Afghan Jihad* magazine**

- Issue no. 9 of the magazine, *Rumiyah*, which belongs to the IS, was published. Among the topics covered in the current issue were: An article condemning Christians in Muslim countries, especially in Egypt, who are considered a fifth battalion in the service of the Crusaders and are branded as heretics instead of disciples; An article condemning clerics who are recruited in favor of the regimes, such as Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, one of the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood; A speech by Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir, the spokesman for the organization, about the battle by IS fighters against their enemies; An article condemning Twelver Shi'a and calling its followers infidels; A call on IS supporters to kidnap western civilians and operative advice on how to carry

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<sup>58</sup> Telegram

out the kidnappings. The organization listed ideal places to take hostages such as movie theaters, shopping malls, public swimming pools, universities, concert halls and performances. It also recommended publishing fictitious ads for apartment rentals that would encourage civilians to come to the apartments where the kidnapping would take place. The organization also described how to prepare the scene of the kidnapping. For example, it noted that one must allocate space for the execution of the hostage; An interview with the Emir of the IS in Egypt; Advice on how to carry out a ramming attack against civilians in the West.<sup>59</sup>



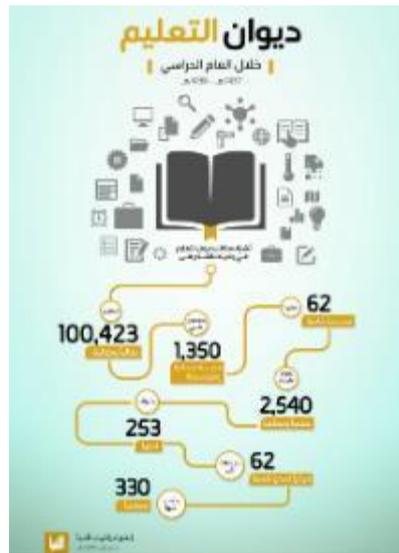
**The banner of *Rumiyah***

- Issues no. 79-82 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State. Among the topics covered in these issues were: Reports from the organization’s attacks in various arenas; An interview with the “Emir of the Caliphate’s Soldiers in Egypt”; An appeal to Sunnis in Iran not to take part in the elections; An article criticizing the Twelver Shia; Updates regarding new fighters who joined the ranks of the “Caliphate Army”; An interview with the person in charge of the financial department (which included encouragement for using only Islamic currency); A poster regarding enemy casualties in Khorasan Province.<sup>60</sup>

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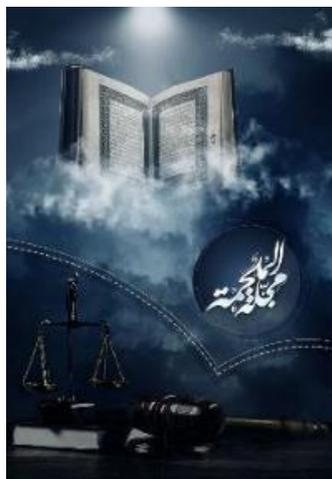
<sup>59</sup> Telegram

<sup>60</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70427>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70858>;  
<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71312>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71850>



A poster from *Al-Naba* magazine regarding the activities of the IS Education Department in Syria

- Issue no. 3 of the magazine, *Al-Malhama*, which is associated with the IS, was published. Among the topics covered in this issue were: Encouragement for the fulfilment of the commandment of jihad; An article criticizing Arab regimes; an article condemning democracy; The importance of the Caliphate institution in Islam; An article criticizing the Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>61</sup>



The banner of *Al-Malhama* magazine

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<sup>61</sup> Telegram

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

#### *The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan*

- The Islamic State in Afghanistan published the following:
  - A clarification regarding “Operation Mansouri”. According to the announcement, the organization operated throughout Afghanistan during the first days of the operation and managed to capture several areas, including those next to Afghanistan’s border with its neighbors, which aroused concern from neighboring countries. Therefore, the organization claimed that this announcement was intended to calm them down and send a message that it has no intention of harming them.<sup>62</sup>
  - A warning to the government in Kabul not to execute political prisoners. In the announcement, the organization condemned the government’s idea to execute prisoners in revenge for military losses in the battlefield, claiming that this goes against the rules of war. The organization added that the execution of prisoners on the basis of a sentence resulting from coerced confessions constitutes a violation of human rights and will be avenged should they be carried out. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on human rights organizations to intervene in order to prevent the execution of prisoners.<sup>63</sup>
  - An announcement denying claims that were made by the spokesman of Hizb al-Islami, according to which the Islamic Emirate had expressed a desire to renew peace talks. The organization also claimed that Hizb al-Islami should not exploit the policy of the Islamic Emirate to reap political gains. Regarding peace talks, the organization claimed that a policy of surrender and assistance to the enemy in achieving its goals is prohibited by Islamic law and constitutes a betrayal of the organization's martyrs.<sup>64</sup>
  - A video documenting activities by members of the organization at the ‘Umar Faruq training camp.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=14196> (English).

<sup>63</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=14428> (English).

<sup>64</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=15074> (English).

<sup>65</sup> Telegram

- A video in memory of Akhtar Mansour, the former leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan who was killed in a US drone strike in Pakistan in May 2016.<sup>66</sup>
- Al-Fursan jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, published a biography of a jihad fighter named Abu ‘Adl al-Tunisi (1992-2016), who migrated from Afghanistan to Syria in order to fight against the Assad regime.<sup>67</sup>

### ***The Taliban in Pakistan***

- The spokesman for the Taliban in Pakistan published an announcement in which his organization claimed responsibility for an attack against a Pakistani army camp in northern Waziristan in revenge for a drone strike against members of the organization in northern Waziristan. In the announcement, the organization threatened to continue its attacks until the elimination of democracy and the establishment of an Islamic system in Pakistan.<sup>68</sup>

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

- The IS in Khorasan Province and the Amaq news agency published the following:
  - A claim of responsibility for an attack near the US Embassy in Kabul. According to the announcement, a suicide terrorist known as Malank Kabuli detonated a car bomb against a US Army convoy in Kabul near the embassy in an attack that killed eight American soldiers and several Afghan army soldiers, as well as destroyed several vehicles.<sup>69</sup>
  - A claim of responsibility for an *inghimas* attack against a radio station in the city of Jalalabad, which it presented as a station belonging to the “apostate government”. According to the announcement, two fighters detonated explosive-ridden bicycles near the building against two groups of security and police forces, and then stormed the building and carried out shooting for three hours, killing approximately 30 security and

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<sup>66</sup> Telegram

<sup>67</sup> Telegram

<sup>68</sup> Telegram

<sup>69</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70328>

media personnel. Alongside the announcement appeared photos of the perpetrators of the attack, Abu Ibrahim al-Khurasani and Abu Aisha al-Khurasani.<sup>70</sup>

- A photograph of a Taliban soldier killed in an exchange of fire against the IS in the area of Jabarhar, in Nangarhar Province.<sup>71</sup> 28 Afghan army forces were reported killed in an exchange of fire against the organization in the same area.<sup>72</sup>
- A filmed review regarding the destruction of hashish by the *hisbah* in the area of Dih Bala in Afghanistan.<sup>73</sup>

## The Arabian Peninsula

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

- Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which is associated with AQAP, published the following:
  - A video titled, “Deterring Aggression – Part 7”. The video reviewed the preparations and attack by members of the organization against a structure belonging to Yemeni security forces in Lahij Province.<sup>74</sup>
  - An announcement regarding “the American raid on the Murad tribe”. In the announcement, the organization accused the US of killing the civilian population from the Murad tribe in Yemen and claimed that there is no truth to the claim that the US acted against an Al-Qaeda base in Yemen. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on tribes in Yemen to help the Muslim Nation in its struggle against the US.<sup>75</sup>
  - A video titled, “With the Quran” by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazī al-Nazari (Muhammad al-Mirshadi), a former senior member of AQAP.<sup>76</sup>
- Ansar al-Shari’a, which is affiliated with AQAP, published several videos tracking the military activities of its members against the Houthis and Yemeni security forces.<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71215>

<sup>71</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>72</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/DACz5LvWsAE3dmg1.jpg>

<sup>73</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70957>

<sup>74</sup> <https://justpaste.it/1653a>

<sup>75</sup> Telegram

<sup>76</sup> Telegram

<sup>77</sup> Telegram

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

- The IS in Yemen claimed responsibility for an attack on Houthi sites in the areas of Qifa al-Baydaa and Al-Zahra.<sup>78</sup>

## **Iraq**

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

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

#### **A. Battles and Military Deployments:**

- Saladdin Province: A video titled, “The Tacticians of War”, which documented attacks and invasions by IS fighters against sites belonging to Iraqi army and security forces in the province. While comparing them to the tacticians from the early days of Islam, the video claimed that among the ranks of the IS command are those with high planning abilities and it mentioned the *inghimas* attack against the city of Tikrit as an example of a well-planned operation both in terms of *modus operandi* and target selection (the head of the local counter-terrorism unit was killed in the attack). In addition, the various attacks that were carried out throughout the province were presented as a “war of attrition” and more attacks were threatened.<sup>79</sup>
- Al-Furat Province: A video documenting attacks by the organization against Iraqi security forces in the south of the province. As typical of the organization’s publications, the video focused on displaying the corpses of those killed and the loot that was taken.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>78</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70914>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/72154>

<sup>79</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70696>

<sup>80</sup> [http://haq52.weebly.com/home/-\\_9456338](http://haq52.weebly.com/home/-_9456338)

- *Nineveh Province*: Filmed reviews documenting a remote-controlled car and a model airplane that were loaded with explosive material and operated against Iraqi security forces in the province.<sup>81</sup>



**A small remote control vehicle laden with explosives in the service of the IS in Nineveh Province**

- Amaq news agency published a poster summarizing the suicide attacks that were carried out by the organization during the month of April. According to the poster, 82 suicide attacks were carried out during the month (26 in Syria and 56 in Iraq) against Iraqi security forces, the Syrian army, the PKK and Syrian factions using car bombs or explosive belts.<sup>82</sup>
- The news agencies of the various IS provinces in Iraq and Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews on a variety of operational issues, including: reports on battles in and around Mosul; a claim of responsibility for the killing of dozens of army personnel in Mosul and the plunder of property; an announcement regarding the deaths and injuries of over 70 police and Sahawat forces in Ramadi; the killing of 30 government security forces in Samaraa; the killing of dozens of Peshmerga forces west of Kirkuk; an attack against a PMF site in western Makhmour; battles against the Iraqi army and PMF forces in the area of Tall Afar; a bombing using an attack drone north of Al-Rutba; the killing of soldiers and

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<sup>81</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71253> ; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71246>

<sup>82</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70800>

the destruction of posts on the Baiji-Haditha road; a report of 50 people killed and injured in a car bombing in central Baghdad; and the training of a new cycle of *inghimas* fighters at a training camp in the area of Al-Zab.<sup>83</sup>

B. Propaganda and Media:

- *Al-Furat Province*: A 45-minute long video titled, “We Will Surely Guide Them to Our Ways”, in which several fighters of American, Canadian, British, Russian and Belgian origin encouraged Muslims to carry out attacks in their countries of origin, and praised terrorists such as Omar Mateen and Anis Amri who carried out attacks in the West. One prominent fighter in the video, Abu Hamza al-Amriki, verbally attacked America and called for lone terrorists to carry out attacks on US soil that involve stabbing, ramming or throwing people off of high buildings. Al-Amriki and other fighters claimed that the Islamic State is capable of producing anti-tank missiles, SPG-9 and RPG-7 rocket launchers, and anti-aircraft missiles.<sup>84</sup>



**IS foreign fighters threatening the West and expressing pride in the organization’s military production capabilities**

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

### **Syria**

#### ***Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham***

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<sup>83</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>84</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71212>

- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (Assembly for the Liberation of the Levant), an umbrella organization composed of Salafi-jihadist factions in Syria, published the following:
  - An article by Sheikh Abu Maria al-Qahtani titled, "Exposing the Backstabbers within the Ranks". In the article, al-Qahtani criticized the attacks by Jaysh al-Islam against Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham in eastern Al-Ghouta, which enabled the Alawite regime and its supporters to wipe out almost all of the enclaves of the revolutionary organizations in eastern Al-Ghouta, according to him. In the article, al-Qahtani accused Samir al-Kaka, a senior cleric in Jaysh al-Islam, of betrayal for permitting these activities by the organization, and he called on Jaysh al-Islam soldiers not to listen to al-Kaka and to put an end to the internal struggles. According to him, al-Kaka adheres to the policies of the Kharawij, which permitted the killing of mujahideen, and its policy is similar to that of the IS. Al-Qahtani also wondered why clerics do not condemn the actions of Jaysh al-Islam but previously condemned Al-Nusra Front for attacking other factions. He then claimed that the previous leader of Jaysh al-Islam, Zahran Alloush, would not have allowed al-Kaka to take action in Al-Ghouta because he knew that it would lead to internal conflict. He also called on factions that do not support Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham not to support Jaysh al-Islam.<sup>85</sup>
  - A condemnation of the agreement that was signed in Astana, which it claimed was designed to achieve the interests of international players but not the interests of the Syrian revolution. The council added that the agreement seeks to sacrifice the goals of the Syrian revolution in return for ending the bombing of the residents, effectively allowing the Assad regime to remain in place. Later in the announcement, the council called for action to be taken against the revolutionary factions that participated in the Astana agreement and their supporters, and it called for them to be prevented from entering Idlib, which is under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham.<sup>86</sup>
  - An announcement by the organization's general shari'a council regarding the battle between Jaysh al-Islam and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham in eastern Al-Ghouta. According to the council, jihadist in Syria must unite and aim their weapons at the Alawites and Shi'ites,

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<sup>85</sup> [https://justpaste.it/Exposing\\_backstabbers](https://justpaste.it/Exposing_backstabbers)

<sup>86</sup> Telegram channel

and not be dragged into internal struggles between Sunni movements because they only serve the enemy. The council added that a union was formed between the jihadist movements in the besieged Al-Ghouta, and even Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham lifted all of its blockades in order in the area so that it could receive assistance from other movements on the front. For this reason, according to the council, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham was surprised by Jaysh al-Islam's attack against it and against other jihadist movements operating in eastern Al-Ghouta. Later in the announcement, the council accused Jaysh al-Islam of betraying jihad, and claimed that the ways of the organization were similar to the ways of the Khawarij of the Islamic State. In addition, the council listed the transgressions by Jaysh al-Islam towards the mujahideen, including a surprise attack against Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, random shellings against residents of besieged Al-Ghouta, the execution of prisoners, and the blocking of the organization's supply routes to the front. Later in the announcement, the council blessed the soldiers of Jaysh al-Islam who refused to aim their weapons at the mujahideen, adding that those involved in the conflict were dragged into it by the organization's leader.<sup>87</sup>

- A statement by Abu Abdullah al Shami, a member of the organization. According to him, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham is not a continuation of Al-Nusra Front and does not belong to any other organization, but rather is a new, independent entity that includes a fusion of different views. He added that Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham strives to combine all Syrian factions under one united entity in order to fight against the Alawite regime and its allies. According to him, the establishment of this new entity required changes from previous existing organizations on organizational, political and discourse levels.<sup>88</sup>
- A denial by Sheikh Abu Malek al-Shami, Emir of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham in the Qalamoun region, regarding the deal between the organization and the Lebanese Hezbollah over the removal of the former's troops from the area and their transfer to northern Syria. Al-Shami explained that the battle with Hezbollah is a battle of dogma/faith and he warned of a similar fate for Lebanon. In addition, he condemned the silence of Sunni clerics

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<sup>87</sup> Telegram channel

<sup>88</sup> Telegram channel

regarding Hezbollah's crimes, he noted that some Sunni dignitaries had sinned more when they chose to stand by Hezbollah due to their personal ambitions, and he called on them to stand by the Sunnis in order to curb Shi'ite expansion. He even mentioned Mahmoud Abbas, the head of the Palestinian Authority, as an example as someone who had sold out his people. Finally, he vowed that Hezbollah and the Shi'ite militias would be defeated.<sup>89</sup>

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

- Several organizations, including Ahrar al-Sham, Jaysh al-Islam, Al-Rahman Legion, Jabhat al-Shamiyah, Yarmouk Army, Free Idlib Army and Jaysh al-Nasr published a joint announcement as a result of the talks that were held in Astana regarding a ceasefire in Syria. In the announcement, the organizations claimed that they are not willing to accept Iran as a guarantor for political activities in Syria since it is considered an occupying enemy that needs to pay for its crimes in Syria. The organizations added that if Russia wants to be party to the agreement, then it must completely cease its air strikes on liberated areas, and act to implement UN Security Council resolutions that include the cessation of immigration and the return of the refugees to their homes, the release of detainees, and the end to the policy of siege and famine. The organizations also claimed that they are acting to fight terrorism in Syria while the regime is protecting areas under IS control. In addition, according to the organizations, a ceasefire in Syria must include all areas and all factions of the Syrian revolution. They added that they already agreed to a ceasefire but that Russia, the guarantor of the Syrian regime, was not able to implement the Ankara Agreement that was signed in December 2016. The end of the announcement stated that the principles of the revolution that were established in a joint agreement between the Syrian Islamic Council and the revolutionary brigades are the basis for any negotiation for a future solution in Syria.<sup>90</sup>
- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
  - An announcement calling on Jaysh al-Islam to cease its attacks against the rest of the factions in eastern Al-Ghouta, which is under siege by the Alawite regime. The

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<sup>89</sup> Telegram

<sup>90</sup> <http://ahraralsham.net/statement-3-5-2017/>

organization also called on Jaysh al-Islam to turn to a shari'a court with the rest of the factions involved in the conflict within 24 hours, and claimed that it would cooperate with shari'a councils and neutral bodies that will examine the issue.<sup>91</sup>

- An announcement in which the organization accused Al-Rahman Legion of attacking the organization's posts in eastern Al-Ghouta. According to the organization, this attack was carried out in the framework of several attacks by Al-Rahman Legion against Ahrar al-Sham even though an agreement was signed between the two according to which the former was supposed to help the latter in the suburbs of Damascus. Later in the announcement, the organization called on Al-Rahman Legion to immediately cease its attacks against Ahrar al-Sham.<sup>92</sup>
- An announcement regarding the evacuation of its military posts in the city of Jarabulus, in Aleppo Province, in order to maintain the stability and well-being of its residents. Later in the announcement, the organization called for the rest of the factions to do the same.<sup>93</sup>
- An announcement regarding the explosion of one of the organization's buildings in the area of Al-Baydaa. According to the organization, an IS fighter blew himself up on a motorcycle at a building belonging to Ahrar al-Sham in the area of Al-Baydaa, which resulted in casualties among members of the organization. Later in the announcement, the organization expressed support for its members and called for a continuation of the battle against the IS and those helping the Alawite regime.<sup>94</sup>

### ***Ahl al-'Ilm fil-Sham***

- Ahl al-'Ilm fil-Sham, published an announcement regarding the battle between factions in eastern Al-Ghouta. In the announcement, the organization claimed that Jaysh al-Islam displayed aggression towards the factions in eastern Al-Ghouta and called on members of the organization to stop their aggression and not to obey their commanders. Later in the announcement, the organization called on all factions to prevent Jaysh al-Islam's aggression by any means possible.

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<sup>91</sup> [https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C\\_FU89rW0AAxNx5.jpg](https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C_FU89rW0AAxNx5.jpg)

<sup>92</sup> [https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C\\_jyI78WAAAftND.jpg](https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C_jyI78WAAAftND.jpg)

<sup>93</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DAGgZLiU0AAAt2CV.jpg>

<sup>94</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DAXU3FYXoAUIUAg.jpg>

In addition, it called on the residents of Al-Ghouta to stage protests and strikes in order to force Jaysh al-Islam to cease its aggression.<sup>95</sup>

### ***The Turkestan Islamic Movement***

- The Turkestan Islamic Movement published various videos regarding the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad, the reward promised to martyrs in the world to come, documentation of battles against Assad's forces, and more.<sup>96</sup>

### ***Katibat Imam al Bukhari***

- Katibat Imam al Bukhari, a Uzbek jihadist faction operating in Syria and fighting alongside Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, published a message of condolences over the death of its leader, Salahadin al-Uzbeki. According to the announcement, Salahadin was killed along with several other members of the organization on April 28 as a result of enemy fire, apparently by an IS fighter.<sup>97</sup> Salahadin had previously fought in Afghanistan and was sent to Syria by the Taliban in Afghanistan and Sirajuddin Haqqani, a senior member of the Taliban and head of the Haqqani Network, which is closely aligned with Al-Qaeda.<sup>98</sup>

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

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Syria, and the Amaq news agency, published a range of videos and filmed reviews on various operational topics, such as: a report about dozens killed and injured in *inghimas* attacks in and around Al-Shaddadi; the penetration of a water installation in northwest Deir Ezzor and the killing of PKK fighters; gun battles against the PKK west of Al-Karama; shooting at a tank east of Palmyra; shooting at an aircraft in the area of Aleppo; the shelling of Kurdish militia sites near Raqqah, claims of ongoing control over central Tabqa; the shelling of PKK fighters and soldiers using combat drones in the

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<sup>95</sup> Telegram channel.

<sup>96</sup> Telegram channel.

<sup>97</sup> Telegram channel.

<sup>98</sup> <http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2017/04/al-qaeda-affiliated-uzbek-leader-assassinated-in-syria.php> (English).

villages of Al-Sahel and Al-Hikma; sniper fire and shelling against Hezbollah sites in western Qalamoun; and attacks against army checkpoints on the Athariyya-Khanaser Road.<sup>99</sup>

Filmed reviews were published regarding various civilian issues, such as: the use of IS currency in commerce activities in Raqqah;<sup>100</sup> the distribution of silver coins and food products to the needy by the zakat center in Raqqah's countryside;<sup>101</sup> market and restaurant activities in the town of Al-Yarmuk; and the preparation of sweets in Al-Mayadin.<sup>102</sup>

A. Propaganda and Media:

- Al-Khayr Province: A video titled, "Heed the Call" to encourage the recruitment of new fighters. The video combined images from the organization's training camps, documentation from battles and sermons from mosques. The video showed the distribution of pamphlets and the hanging of recruitment posters in the street. After being approved by the recruitment office, the new fighters were sent to training camps to receive basic training before being transferred to various fronts. In the video, special emphasis was placed on the fact that the new recruits came from a range of ages, young and old alike, and potential recruits who are unable to go to Syria and Iraq were encouraged to turn to one of the other IS provinces (Yemen, Libya, Sinai, Khorasan, East Asia, West Africa or the Caucasus) or, alternatively, to carry out jihad locally.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>100</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/72025>

<sup>101</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70697>

<sup>102</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71777>

<sup>103</sup> <https://ia601501.us.archive.org/7/items/Labou/Labou.mp4>; Telegram



**An IS poster instructing potential recruits to call the organization's recruitment office**

- The FURAT jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a video in Russian with Arabic subtitles in which it documented the execution of a man presented as a Russian officer accused of spying against the IS. In the opening of the video, the organization presented a picture of the victory of its fighters over Russian military forces in Syria. According to the organization, Russia is unable to achieve its desired results in the Syrian arena due to the organization's brilliant victories and every Russian defeat is described as a tactical retreat. According to the organization, the Russian army is not as strong as it is trying to portray itself to the outside and in light of its defeats in Syrian territory. In addition, the organization accused Russia of carrying out war crimes against the civilian population in Syria and of pretending to offer it humanitarian assistance. The video later showed several interviews with Russian spies who were taken captive by the organization. For example, it was explained in the video that the accused, Evgeny Petrenko, was a Russian intelligence officer who joined the mujahideen in the Caucasus and from there arrived in Syria where he was discovered by IS security forces. According to Petrenko's confession in the video, his handlers sent him on a mission to infiltrate the IS security apparatus in Syria and get close to former IS commander, Omar al-Shishani. At the end of the video, it was claimed that the IS offered Russia to redeem Petrenko but that Russia refused and denied it.<sup>104</sup>

### ***Other Jihadist Organizations***

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<sup>104</sup> Telegram

- Jaysh Khalid ibn al-Walid published a filmed review from battles against the Sahawat in northwest Dara'a.<sup>105</sup>

## **The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula**

### ***Jaysh al-Umma***

- Al-Raya jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Salafist Jaysh al-Umma in Jerusalem, published two announcements of support of the hunger strike by Palestinian security prisoners in Israeli jails. The organization emphasized that the Palestine issue must be the issue of the entire Muslim Nation and he criticized Arab regimes for ignoring the Palestinian problem. The organization noted that, in the event of a deterioration in the health of the prisoners, it will be the responsibility of the Muslims and Arabs. Finally, it again expressed solidarity with the struggle of the prisoners, and wished for the liberation of all Palestine and the establishment of a Palestinian capital in Jerusalem.<sup>106</sup>

### ***The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula***

- The IS in the Sinai Peninsula published the following:
  - The Dawa al-Haq Islamic news agency presented photographs that were published by the “Sahawat of the Tarabin tribe” showing captives from the IS in the Sinai Peninsula, according to the people of Tarabin. In response to the publication, visitors criticized the Tarabin tribe and one of the visitors noted that although he is a member of the tribe, he renounces its activities against the mujahideen. Criticism was also voiced in articles published on the Web site according to which the Tarabin tribe is fighting against the IS out of economic interests based on the smuggling of cigarettes.<sup>107</sup> Meanwhile, the IS in Sinai Province published a statement in which it clarified that it does not generalize and treat all members of the Tarabin tribe as Sahawat, but rather only fights against those who fight against it.<sup>108</sup>

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<sup>105</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71115>

<sup>106</sup> Telegram

<sup>107</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70359>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70475>

<sup>108</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/DAGh4JpVwAAaeAG1.jpg>

- Amaq news agency and the IS in Sinai Province published reviews and announcements on various operational topics, such as: a filmed review regarding a suicide attack against the army south of Sheikh Zuweid;<sup>109</sup> a claim of responsibility for the killing of 15 Sahawat forces in an ambush by IS fighters in western Al-Barath in northern Sinai;<sup>110</sup> an announcement regarding the detonation of an explosive device against an Egyptian army vehicle in southern Al-Arish; a filmed review regarding weapons that were plundered;<sup>111</sup> and a claim of responsibility for the firing of five Katyusha rockets at the Eshkol Regional Council.<sup>112</sup>
- The Ibn Tamiyya Media Center published the following:
  - An article criticizing the Sahawat operating in Sinai Province. In the framework of the article, the mujahideen in Sinai were presented as “Egypt’s first line of defense against the Jews” and the Sinai tribes who helped the mujahideen were praised. Special reference was made to the Tarabin tribe for the sacrifice of its sons and its contribution to jihad, while members of the tribe that fought against the mujahideen and against the implementation of shari’a were renounced.<sup>113</sup>
  - An article against Hamas by the writer, Fadil Abd al-Hakim, a member of the General Shura Council of Afhad al-Sahaba bi-Aknaf bayt al-Maqdis (Descendants of the Companions of the Prophet in the Environs of Jerusalem). In the framework of the article, the writer criticized Hamas and claimed that there is no real difference between it and Fatah since both are working against the mujahideen, and preventing them from carrying out attacks and launching rockets against the Jews.<sup>114</sup>
  - An article against the accusations of espionage that were directed at the Salafi-jihadist movement in Gaza against the backdrop of claims that surfaced against it for its alleged involvement in the killing of senior Hamas operative, Mazen Fuqaha, in March 2017. In

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<sup>109</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71600>

<sup>110</sup> [https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/C\\_mhKaQWsAAVbzP1-1.jpg](https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/C_mhKaQWsAAVbzP1-1.jpg)

<sup>111</sup> [https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/C\\_lmxLJW0AAQrCn1.jpg](https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/C_lmxLJW0AAQrCn1.jpg)

<sup>112</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/DAsu4fRWsAEgnHk1.jpg>

<sup>113</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71008>

<sup>114</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/69646>

the framework of the article, the writer justified the Salafi-jihadist movement in Gaza and recalled that its leaders had also been killed.<sup>115</sup>

## **Africa**

### ***The Maghreb***

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

- The Ifriqiyya al-Muslima media group, which is associated with AQIM, published a biography about Abu Thamama Şawan ‘Abd al-Qadir (1952-2016), a former senior jihad fighter in Algeria, on May 24, 2017.<sup>116</sup>

### ***Tunisia***

#### **Katibat Uqba Bin Nafaa**

- Katibat Uqba Bin Nafaa published a statement on the occasion of the beginning of the month of Ramadan addressed to Muslims in general, and to Muslims in Tunisia in particular. In addition, the organization warned the Tunisian people about the anti-Islamic policies of the Tunisian government.<sup>117</sup>

### ***Libya***

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

- Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published a statement announcing its dissolution. In the framework of the statement, the organization called on rebels in Libya not to cooperate with the West and encouraged Muslims in Libya to support the application of shari’a in the country. In the statement, the organization did not express support for any other organization operating in Libya but rather it made a general call to continue to stand firm and wage jihad in Libya.<sup>118</sup>

#### **The Derna Shura Council**

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<sup>115</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71222>

<sup>116</sup> Telegram

<sup>117</sup> Telegram

<sup>118</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/72045>

- Al-Sabeel jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Derna Shura Council, published the following:
  - A video in which it documented the completion of a new cycle of fighters. In the course of the video, the organization threatened IS supporters and warned them not to harm the residents of Derna.<sup>119</sup>
  - Blessings in honor of the month of Ramadan. Alongside the blessings, the organization condemned attacks by the Egyptian Air Force that it claimed harmed the civilian population. In addition, the organization denied involvement in attacks against civilians in Egypt, and emphasized that its efforts were focused on the battle against the forces attacking Derna as well as General Haftar’s forces and IS forces.<sup>120</sup>

## ***Mali***

### **Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin**

- Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, an umbrella organization composed of jihad factions in Mali, published the following:
  - Videos documenting the organization’s military activities against Malian security forces. For example, it published a video documenting a shelling of the airport in Timbuktu.<sup>121</sup>
  - A video titled, “Deterring the Tyrants”. At the beginning of the video, several cases were presented of mistreatment by Malian army soldiers against Muslim civilians in order to create negative public opinion about the Malian regime. Later, local and foreign fighters in the organization were shown undergoing training in camps. The video also documented military activities by members of the organization against Malian army forces. One of the organization’s military commanders emphasized that the battle in Mali is directed, first and foremost, against French forces in Mali and then against Malian army forces and anyone who helps France.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>119</sup> Telegram channel.

<sup>120</sup> Telegram channel.

<sup>121</sup> Telegram channel.

<sup>122</sup> Telegram channel.

- An announcement of condemnation against media outlets for spreading false reports about the organization in order to damage its reputation. For example, the organization denied that it kidnapped four people from the Red Cross on May 16. According to the organization, the four inadvertently entered the organization's area of activity, were caught and interrogated in order to find out the reason for their entry, and were later released.<sup>123</sup>

### ***Egypt***

- The Hasm movement published a statement according to which the movement's special unit, Hasm Hawks, killed six members of the Egyptian security forces in an exchange of fire that took place in Cairo Province, destroyed two army vehicles and plundered weapons. The statement ended with a promise by the movement to continue jihad against the Egyptian regime.<sup>124</sup>

### ***Nigeria***

#### **Jama'at Ahl al-Sunna lil-Dawa wal-Jihad**

- Jama'at Ahl al-Sunna lil-Dawa wal-Jihad, which is associated with the IS in Nigeria, published the following:
  - A video that included an interview with several of the girls who were kidnapped by the organization in April 2014 in the town of Chibok in northeast Nigeria. In the interview, the girls discussed the process of their getting close to Islam and their decision to help in the organization's jihad activities against its enemies.<sup>125</sup>
  - A video containing threats by several of the organization's fighters to attack the Nigerian regime and the Christian population in the country. According to the fighters, their goal is to spread the principle of the Oneness of God.<sup>126</sup>

### ***Somalia***

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<sup>123</sup> Telegram channel.

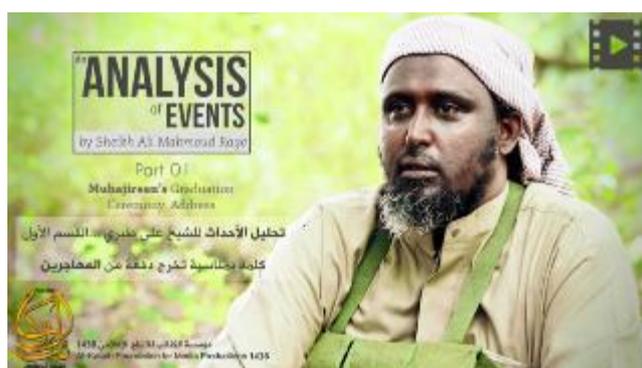
<sup>124</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70437>

<sup>125</sup> Telegram

<sup>126</sup> Telegram

## Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- Al-Kataib jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published the following:
  - A video clip showing a Kenyan captive named Alfred Danyi Kilasi, who was captured during a raid by the organization on a base of Kenyan soldiers in El Adde in January 2016. In the video, the captive criticized the Kenyan government for not working for his release, and he called on Kenyan civilians and Kenyan leaders to act for his release.<sup>127</sup>
  - A video clip of a graduation ceremony from a training camp for foreign fighters in the organization. In the video, Ali Mahmoud Raji, the spokesman for the organization, blessed the soldiers who migrated to training camps in Somalia and underwent rigorous training. He added that the goal of the soldiers who completed the training was to stop the oppression of Muslims by the infidels in East Africa, especially in the countries from which the soldiers came, including Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. Later, Raji addressed the foreign fighters who came from Kenya, and claimed that they must be the army to conquer Kenya so that they can return to their families with dignity and save them from humiliation because, according to him, Christians oppress Muslims in Kenya. He added that all of the organization's soldiers must fight against all regimes and laws of the infidels – democratic, secular and Communist – and achieve victory or die a martyr's death in the battle to achieve this goal.<sup>128</sup>



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<sup>127</sup> <https://justpaste.it/16t86>

<sup>128</sup> <https://justpaste.it/1705j>

- A 55-minute video clip titled, “They Are Not Welcome — They Shall Burn In Their Fire” in which the organization demonstrated that it adheres to the principles of global jihad. In the beginning of the video, Sheikh Omar Abd al-Rahman explained that jihad is the obligation of every Muslim in order to liberate Muslim lands that were taken from them by force. The speaker in the video further claimed that there is a global coalition of infidels that is fighting against Islam and he emphasized that the battle between Al-Shabab and the African Union Force operating in Somalia is part of that same global conflict. The video also included clips by former and current senior Al-Qaeda leaders, including Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and the leaders of AQAP and AQIM who stressed the idea that Muslims are coping with a global anti-Islamic campaign that, among other things, emphasizes US actions against Islam, calling it “the devil of our time”.<sup>129</sup>

### **The Islamic State**

- The Somalia Province of the IS published a photo of the terrorist who carried out a suicide attack against an army checkpoint in the city of Bosaso in eastern Somalia. According to the announcement, the terrorist detonated his explosive belt, killing seven people and injuring dozens more.<sup>130</sup>

### **The Philippines**

- The IS in East Asia Province and Amaq news agency published reports of over 70 Philippine army soldiers killed and injured in IS attacks in the southern city of Marawi. Ten army soldiers were reported killed in Jolo Sulu in southwest Philippines.<sup>131</sup>
- The IS in East Asia Province published photos from the Abu Anas al-Muhajer training camp, allegedly located at an undisclosed site in the Philippines.<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>129</sup> <http://risala.io/jqe1>

<sup>130</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71715>

<sup>131</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71780>

<sup>132</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70414>

- Amaq news agency published a claim of responsibility for the deaths of five Shi'ites in a bomb explosion carried out by IS fighters in central Manila in the Philippines.<sup>133</sup>

## **The West**

- The Islamic State published a claim for responsibility for a terrorist attack that took place at the Manchester Arena concert hall in England. The announcement stated that “one of the Caliphate’s soldiers was able to plant explosive devices among groups of Crusaders [...] that exploded in a building used for licentious parties”. In the announcement, the organization stated that approximately 30 people were killed in the attack and approximately 70 more were injured.<sup>134</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70579>

<sup>134</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/71609>

## ABOUT THE ICT

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