



**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 March 2015

## Highlights

- **Abubakar Shekau** the leader of the Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad (Boko Haram) pledges allegiance to the Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi Caliphate. Islamic State fighters in various provinces joyfully receive the declaration. **Abu Muhammad al-Adnani**, spokesperson for the **Islamic State**, praises the Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad's affiliation with the Islamic Caliphate and announces the recent expansion of West Africa. According to him, this alliance has resulted in the area of West Africa becoming an integral part of the Caliphates and the jihad arena, and Muslims can immigrate there if they are not able to immigrate to other jihad arenas, such as Syria, Iraq, the Arabian Peninsula, Afghanistan, or Pakistan.
- **The Islamic State** documents the execution of an Israeli Arab "spy", who was purportedly sent by the Mossad to spy on the Islamic State. According to the IS, a similar fate awaits anyone who caught spying on the organization. In addition, the IS publishes a list of names and photographs of supposed Israeli Arab "spies", who are spying on it.
- **The Islamic State in Yemen** promises to protect Sunnis in the country from the Houthis and the Yemenite army. In addition, the IS promises to enact revenge on the Sunnis in Yemen while calling on the general Muslim population not to go near any Houthi areas or congregation sites in order to avoid being hurt.
- **The Pakistan-Taliban Movement: Jam'at al-Ahrar** and **Jaysh al-Islam** announce the formation of a coalition under the name **Pakistan-Taliban Movement**. The purpose of the coalition is to concentrate their efforts on fighting against the Pakistani regime and anyone who assists it.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** publishes a video explaining the importance of assisting jihad warriors in the Caucasus region.
- Sheikh **Abu Malek al-Shami, Al-Nusra Front** Emir in charge of the Qalamoun area, emphasizes that the main goal of the organization is to topple the Alawi regime, but also to hit hard in Lebanese Hezbollah strongholds. That is because Hezbollah fights alongside the Alawi regime.

## Contents

Highlights .....	2
New Publications .....	6
Ideology.....	6
The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State.....	9
Promoting the Myth of the Martyr.....	10
Magazines .....	12
Reports from the Field .....	12
Afghanistan-Pakistan.....	12
The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan .....	14
The Taliban in Pakistan .....	14
The Arabian Peninsula.....	14
Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.....	15
The Islamic State.....	16
Iraq .....	16
The Islamic State – Al-Anbar Province.....	17
The Islamic State – Northern Baghdad .....	18
The Islamic State – Dijla Province .....	18
The Islamic State – Kirkuk Province .....	19
The Islamic State – Saladin Province .....	19
The Islamic State – Nineveh Province .....	20
The Islamic State – Al-Janub Province .....	22
The Islamic State – Al-Furat Province .....	22
The Islamic State – Al-Jazira Province.....	23

Al-Sham [The Levant] .....	23
Syria .....	23
Al-Nusra Front.....	24
The Islamic State.....	28
The Islamic State – Aleppo Province .....	29
The Islamic State – Homs Province.....	30
The Islamic State – Al-Hasaka Province .....	30
The Islamic State – Deir Ezzor Province.....	30
The Islamic State – Raqqa Province.....	32
Group of Supporters of Islam in the Levant (Jana’at Ansar al-Islam fi Bilad al-Sham).....	35
Ansar al-Din.....	35
Abdullah Azzam Brigades .....	35
The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip .....	36
Jundalah in Palestine .....	36
The Salafi Army of the Ummah in Bayt al-Maqdis .....	37
The Islamic State in Sinai Province (formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis - Supporters of Jerusalem) .....	38
Africa .....	39
The Maghreb .....	39
Algeria.....	40
Libya .....	40
The Islamic State - Barqa Province .....	40
The Islamic State - Tripoli Province .....	41
Tunisia .....	42
Mali.....	42

Egypt.....	42
Ajnad Misr.....	42
Nigeria .....	43
Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad (formerly Boko Haram).....	44
Somalia .....	46
Al-Sahbaab al-Mujahideen Movement .....	47
Al-Muhajiroun in East Africa.....	48
The Caucasus.....	49
The West .....	49

## New Publications

### Ideology

- The Al-Furqan media institution, which serves as the platform for the Islamic State's official announcements, published a video titled "Fight and Kill", by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, the organization's spokesperson. Al-Adnani praised the stamina of the Islamic Caliphates in the face of enemy attacks, and expressed his satisfaction over the shock that is gripping the enemy due to IS stamina and victory in the field. In his opinion, the Islamic State is gradually but successfully conquering areas of land in spite of fierce enemy opposition, and he warned the Shi'ites that they will soon be victims of the IS swords.

Al-Adnani noted that the Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi Caliphate has agreed to accept the allegiance of the Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad (formerly Boko Haram). He said that this move extended the Islamic Caliphate to West Africa. Therefore, he emphasized, this area is considered to be the Islamic Homeland (Dar al-Islam), and thus it is possible to immigrate to West Africa and fulfil the commandments of jihad there. Anyone who was unable to immigrate to Iran, the Levant, Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula, Afghanistan, or Pakistan could now immigrate to Africa.

Later in his speech, he addressed the Jews and Crusaders, claiming they had failed in their efforts to prevent the establishment of the Islamic State and Caliphates. He emphasised that that all attempts to get assistance from the local allied forces – such as, for example, the Shi'ites, revolutionary groups, or others in order to halt the expansion of the Islamic Caliphates are futile efforts that will not succeed.<sup>1</sup>



A transcript of part of al-Adnani's speech

<sup>1</sup> <http://justpaste.it/bttar-tf-adnani> (Arabic).

- Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, a Salafi jihad website established by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi – the founder of the Salafi jihad movement in Yarden, published the following:
  - Answers provided by Sheikh Abu Qatada al Filistini to questions posted by different readers, about topics such as the methodology of jihad, jihad and the Muslim Brotherhood in Yemen, the ruling regarding those who repent and return to Islam, what punishments God would mete out to them (*Hudud*) in Syria, and more.<sup>2</sup>
  - An article by Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abd al-Karim al-Jazairi, responding to an article by Abu Usama al-Gharib discussing *Hijra* (emigration) of women to the jihad arenas, without *mahram* – a close relative as a chaperone. Al-Jazairi began the article by attacking al-Gharib, claiming that he did not have sufficient knowledge of Islamic law to write about such matters. Later, in the main body of the article, al-Jazairi criticized the closing remark in al-Gharib's article: "Prayers and peace unto him who was sent with a sword, and not sent with a quill", in reference to Muhammad the Prophet, the messenger of Islam.
  - According the al-Jazairi, such a statement embodies mistakes, and damages the honor of the Prophet and of Islam. The word "quill" – al-Jazairi explained – refers to religious knowledge, meaning Islamic and shari'a wisdom, which were transmitted with the Prophet Muhammad, and they cannot be disgraced. According to al-Jazairi, al-Gharib made a dire mistake when he diminished the worth of the "quill", and seemingly favoured the sword. For the sword (jihad) is supposed to serve religious knowledge and law, and not the other way around. In other words: the jihad is only a tool which is supposed to lead to the implementation of shari'a and religious law, which is an idea express in a famous saying by the Islamic sage Ibn Taymiyyah regarding the essence of Islam: "The foundation of this religion is a book that guides and a sword that brings victory."

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=01031502> (Arabic).

- At the end of the article, al-Jazairi clarified that he wrote the article only for the purpose of protecting the Prophet Mohammad's honor from any insult, whether intentional or unintentional, and not in order to cause harm to the author of the original article. Likewise, al-Jazairi called upon Muslims in general and jihadists in particular to get advice on fundamental religious issues - but only from certified, well-known, and proven experts in the realm of religious law.<sup>3</sup>
- An article by Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abd al-Karim al-Jazairi on the subject of female *Hijra* to the jihadist arena. At the beginning of the article al-Jazairi emphasized the importance of this topic, as it is related to family honor and to religion. At the same time he criticized the "supposed law experts" who issued sweeping religious rulings without giving attention to details or to extenuating circumstances.

After a detailed discussion regarding the various religious legal approaches to the subject of conditions that obligate a Muslim to make *Hijra*, al-Jazairi concluded his article with his personal advice on the matter:

1. The claim that *Hijra* from a "house of heresy" (*Dar al-Kufr*) to a "house of Islam" (*Dar al-Islam*) is an all encompassing obligation is a false claim. For before making *Hijra* one should examine what the positive and negative ramifications of such a move will be.
2. The claim that *Hijra* is obligatory even if the consequences will be negative, just because the Iman or Emir commanded one to comply – is also invalid and must be negated. For that is a case of listening to the word of human beings, and rebelling against Divine command.
3. The call for all Muslims to convene in the jihad arenas is erroneous. The jihad is intended to protect family honor, and when women make *Hijra* their honor may be damaged.
4. It is the responsibility of the mujahideen, and specifically of the Emirs and scholars of religious law, to protect the honor of women.
5. Any Muslim women interested in making *Hijra* to a jihad arena must know that

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=06031502> (Arabic).

*Hijra* is forbidden for her. Instead, she must support jihad from her place of residence by way of prayer, spreading information, social action, etc.

6. Due to tragedies and the violent and rampant arguments today, Muslim women and men must ask advice from the recognized scholars of religious law, in order to ensure they follow the straight path.<sup>4</sup>

- An article by Sheikh Abu al-Ashbal al-Maghribi called "Advice for Dr. Tariq Abd al-Halim". In the article, the author criticized writers like al-Halim, a Salafi jihad fighter based in Canada, who write about Muslim religious topics when they are not knowledgeable in Islamic law but still express their opinion regarding this field. He then admonished anyone who permits women to travel to the jihad arena in Syria, or to any other jihad arena, without a chaperone from among her relatives.<sup>5</sup>
- The Al-Basira media institution, acting on behalf of the Al-Nusra Front, published a first audio clip dealing with the "group's position" according to the Muslim point of view of Abu Abdallah al-Shami, a member of the organization's Shari'a Committee.<sup>6</sup> In addition, a video was published called "Milestones in the Methodology of the Pious Predecessors of Islam - part 5" by Dr. Sami al-Aridi, a member of the organization's Shari'a Committee.<sup>7</sup>

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

- Sheikh Abu Mariyya al-Qahtani, a member of the Shari'a Committee of the Al-Nusra Front organization in Syria, reacted in his Twitter account to posts discussing rumors of the Al-Nusra Front splitting from Al-Qaeda due to pressure from the Gulf countries. At first al-Qahtani clarified that from the moment of its inception, the Al-Nusra Front never received support from any country, political party, or government. Moreover, that was despite the fact that other jihad factions receive funding from outside parties. In his opinion, foreign involvement in the Syrian jihad arena is destructive, and does nothing towards saving the Syrian people from the Syrian regime. At the end of the clip, he emphasized that rumors of a split from Al-Qaeda were

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=06031503> (Arabic).

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=06031504> (Arabic).

<sup>6</sup> <https://justpaste.it/jy3x> (Arabic).

<sup>7</sup> <https://justpaste.it/jy39> (Arabic).

baseless.<sup>8</sup>

## Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center published a special interview with the *shahid* Abu al-Bara al-Maqdisi Ashraf Nimr Saba, founder of the “Ansar al-Sunnah around Jerusalem” faction, which is a group of jihadist Salafis in Gaza. Abu al-Bara was killed in October 2012 by an airstrike in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip. In the interview, Sabah discussed the Salafi jihadist movement in Gaza, emphasized the importance of fulfilling the jihad commandments, praised the deaths of holy martyrs for Allah, and called for a concentrated effort to battle against Israel.<sup>9</sup>



The video banner

- The Islamic State media institution in the northern district of Bagdad published a video called “Knights of Paradise – part 1” in which a suicide attack carried about by a terrorist named Abu al-Qa’qa al-Shani was documented. The video opened with Abu al-Qa’qa’a final statement, in which he called upon Muslims to take part in jihad in order to protect the “weak and dejected” among their peoples, and to protect the honor of Islam and their emissary who was degraded in Denmark and the United States. The rest of the video depicted the terrorist doing target practice, and his journey to the Iraqi army checkpoint where he carried out the attack. The video did not provide information about the number of killed or injured in the attack.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>9</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>10</sup> [https://archive.org/details/fr\\_sh](https://archive.org/details/fr_sh) (Arabic).



The video banner

- The Sawt al-Islam media institution, operating on behalf of the Turkistan Islamic Party, published a video (number 15) dealing with the indoctrination of the value of self-sacrifice, and fulfilment of the jihad commandments under the title of “The Lovers of Paradise”. Interspersed throughout the video are interviews with movement fighters, including threats to attack China.<sup>11</sup>



The publicity banner

<sup>11</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

## Magazines

- The Islamic Emirs in Afghanistan published a March 2015 issue for the *Nawai Afgan Jihad* magazine in the Urdu language.<sup>12</sup>



The front pages

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

*In the first half of March, the Afghan Taliban continued its attacks against Afghan security forces as the government made a concerted effort to gain ground against the Taliban. Meanwhile rumors of peace talks began circulating. After reuniting, the Pakistani Taliban also continued to carry out attacks against its perceived enemies.*

*On March 3, an Afghan official reported that at least eight people were killed when a van packed with explosives was remotely detonated in the Helmand Province.<sup>13</sup> On March 6, attackers in masks bearing guns outfitted with silencers stormed a Sufi mosque in Kabul and killed six people and wounded five, according to a statement by the Afghan government.<sup>14</sup> The gunmen escaped, but five men were later arrested in connection with the shooting. On March 10, a suicide bomber blew himself up in his car at a police checkpoint outside the capital of the Helmand Province, killing seven*

<sup>12</sup> <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.co.il/2015/03/blog-post.html>

<sup>13</sup> <http://news.yahoo.com/afghan-car-bomb-kills-8-including-civilians-111850206.html> (English).

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/07/us-afghanistan-attack-idUSKBN0M30PO20150307> (English).

people and wounding 28 others.<sup>15</sup> Also on March 10, a roadside bomb killed four and wounded five in the Baglan Province, and another bomb exploded near a hospital killing one civilian and injuring sixteen.<sup>16</sup> According to Sky News Australia, on March 11 four Afghan police officers were killed in an ambush in the Syagurd Province, and the next day seven police officers were killed by a Taliban ambush in the northern Kunduz Province.<sup>17</sup> On March 13, an official from the Afghan government reported that an attack on a police operated checkpoint in the Ghazni province led to the deaths of seven police officers and three Taliban attackers.<sup>18</sup>

In March it was also revealed that China held talks with the Taliban and asked the group to talk directly to the Afghan government.<sup>19</sup> It was also reported that the Afghan government began its largest solo operation ever against the Taliban, called Operation Zolfiqar - meaning “double-edged sword” - on February 10.<sup>20</sup>

In Pakistan, in March, the three main groups that made up the Pakistani Taliban reunited, after a brief period of disunity, under the name Tehrik-i-Taliban, or TTP. The group then claimed responsibility for an attack by suicide bombers in the city of Lahore in a Christian neighborhood. That attack killed at least 14 people and wounded 78.<sup>21</sup>

On March 13, a court ordered the release of Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, the alleged mastermind behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks in India, calling his detention illegal. Lakhvi, who is a leader of the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, was accused of helping orchestrate the attack, which killed more than 160 people.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <http://news.yahoo.com/suicide-car-bomber-kills-seven-wounds-28-southern-154812503.html> (English).

<sup>16</sup> <http://news.yahoo.com/official-says-suicide-car-bomber-kills-8-afghanistan-144240280.html> (English).

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.skynews.com.au/news/world/asiapacific/2015/03/12/taliban-attack--kills-7-afghan-policemen-.html> (English).

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/taliban-kill-7-police-officers-in-central-afghanistan-1.2277958> (English).

<sup>19</sup> <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/03/13/uk-afghanistan-taliban-china-idUKKBN0M928020150313> (English).

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/afghan-army-takes-on-taliban-in-first-solo-offensive/> (English).

<sup>21</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/03/15/asia/pakistan-violence/> (English).

<sup>22</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/03/13/asia/pakistan-mumbai-attacks/> (English).

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

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a statement denying rumors about secret talks between itself and the American government. According to the Emirate, if such a process were to take place, it would be officially announced in the media. Later in the statement the Emirate emphasized that jihad is a personal obligation imposed upon every Muslim, due to the continued presence of Crusader invaders in Afghan territory.<sup>23</sup>

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

- The Mahsud media institution, operating on behalf of the Taliban movement in Pakistan, published a statement called "The Unification of the Mujahideen in Pakistan against the Heretic Army", authored by the movement's spokesperson Ihsan Alla Ihsan. At the beginning of the statement, he praised the unification of the three largest jihad groups fighting against the regime and the Pakistani army – the Taliban movement in Pakistan, Jam'at al-Ahrar, and Jaysh al-Islam – under the name "The Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan". According to the statement, the three main commanders of the organization - Mawlana Fadlallah, Khalid Khurasani, and Bagh Hagi Manghal - decided to set up a committee to form a new plan for the organization and the shari'a committee. Later on in the statement, the movement threatened to take action against the Pakistani regime and to kill anyone assisting it.<sup>24</sup>

### **The Arabian Peninsula**

*On March 2, an American drone strike in the southern Yemeni Shabwa Province killed two suspected al-Qaeda militants.<sup>25</sup> On the same day, a Saudi diplomat who had been held hostage for three years by AQAP was released and returned to Saudi Arabia.<sup>26</sup> The next day in the city of Al-Baydah, an AQAP suicide bomber detonated a vehicle laden with explosives outside of a youth*

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<sup>23</sup> <http://shahamat-english.com/english/index.php/paighamoona/53337-statement-of-islamic-emirate-concerning-the-publication-of-rumors-about-negotiations> (English).

<sup>24</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/showthread.php?t=107437>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/02/us-yemen-security-drone-idUSKBN0LY0P620150302> (English).

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-five-dead-in-qaeda-suicide-attack-on-houthis-in-central-yemen/2666478.html> (English).

center used by Houthi militants as an outpost, killing five people.<sup>27</sup> On March 4, Houthi militants in Sanaa seized the headquarters of the National Dialogue's secretariat, the political body set up to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.<sup>28</sup> On March 8, General Mahmoud al-Subaihi, Yemen's Defense Minister, fled to Aden from the Houthi controlled capital of Sanaa.<sup>29</sup>

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

- The Al-Malahim media institution, acting on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published the following:
  - A video about the organization taking control of the Brigade 19 army base in the Shabwa Province in southern Yemen, in February 2014. The video began with footage of an earlier speech made by the organization's leader, Nasir al-Wuhayshi, and then documented a planning meeting attended by a senior member of the organization, Jalal al-Marqashi – better known as Hamza al-Zanjibari. The bulk of the video depicted footage of an attack, including gunfire and a suicide bomber who detonated himself at the army base main gate. Once the organization took control of the base, the base commander and his soldiers surrendered, abandoned their weapons and listened to the speech made by one of the fighters calling upon them to "repent".<sup>30</sup>

News sources reported that 19 of the captured soldiers were released through negotiations with area tribes, and that dozens of tanks and other armoured vehicles were confiscated as booty after the attack.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-five-dead-in-qaeda-suicide-attack-on-houthis-in-central-yemen/2666478.html> (English).

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-yemen-houthis-seize-national-dialogue-headquarters/2668927.html> (English).

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/ap-yemen-defense-minister-flees-sanaa-to-join-president-in-aden/2671950.html> (English).

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/ap-yemen-defense-minister-flees-sanaa-to-join-president-in-aden/2671950.html> (English).

<sup>31</sup> <http://khabaragency.net/news21829.html> (Arabic).



**Al-Queda fighters in Yemen calling on captured soldiers to "repent"**

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

- In the city of Al-Houta, the capital of the Lahij province, a printed manifest was distributed by the "Soldiers of the Islamic State in Yemen", in which the organization promises to protect the Sunnis in the country from the Houthis and the Yemeni army. The manifest includes a promise to take revenge on behalf of the Sunnis, just as the "knives of Zarqawi in Iraq" did. All Muslims are called upon to keep their distance from Houthi areas and gathering places, in order to avoid getting hurt.<sup>32</sup>

### **Iraq**

*In the first half of March 2015, combat in Iraq was concentrated around the city Tikrit, in the Salah ad-Din province. In a cooperative campaign together with the local militias, after ten days of heavy fighting, the Iraq army forces were able to free part of the city.<sup>33</sup> It should be noted that according to a statement made by President of the Badr organization, Hadi al-Ameri, about one hundred Iranian advisors were involved in the Salah ad-Din battles.<sup>34</sup> In the meantime, the Islamic State detonated a number of car bombs in Ramadi, in the Al-Anbar province<sup>35</sup>, and the use of chlorine gas against the Kurdish Peshmerga militia was reported.<sup>36</sup>*

*Simultaneous to the coalition air attacks – in Mosul, Falluja, and Haditha<sup>37</sup> – countries from around the world continue to offer military assistance to Iraq. Turkey sent two cargo planes laden*

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.mnbr.info/vb/showthread.php?t=82607> (Arabic).

<sup>33</sup> <http://goo.gl/lfq6Xe> (Arabic).

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=308930> (Arabic).

<sup>35</sup> <http://goo.gl/EHfzsn> (Arabic).

<sup>36</sup> <http://goo.gl/MbHc5b> (Arabic).

<sup>37</sup> <http://goo.gl/19H20t>

with "military aide" for Bagdad;<sup>38</sup> Hungary stated that it would send one hundred soldiers to Erbil,<sup>39</sup> and Australia announced it would send another 300 soldiers to train Iraqi security forces and prepare them for combat against the Islamic State.<sup>40</sup>

In the political field, Ali Younesi, an advisor of the Iranian President, announced that Iran is an empire and that Iraq is its capital – in a statement that surprised the Iraq foreign ministry.<sup>41</sup> In an effort to counter the ethnic division, Ayad Allawi, Vice President of Iraq, suggesting establishing a national alliance which would also include the Kurds, and the supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr.<sup>42</sup>

### **The Islamic State – Al-Anbar Province**

- The Islamic State in the Al-Anbar Province published the following:
  - Two videos about suicide bombings using car bombs, which were carried out by a terrorist named Abu al-Baraa al-Iraqi and a terrorist named Abu Talha al-Jazrawi, against the SWAT forces in Ramadi. In the first video the suicide bomber made his final statement, and the moment of the explosion was documented by two different cameras. In the second video only the explosion was filmed, without the terrorist's final statement. In both cases no information was provided regarding damage caused by the attack, or the number of injured and killed.<sup>43</sup>
  - A photo report of a suicide attack carried out by a terrorist named Abu Makarem al-Ansari on the "imaginary Jordanian border". It is clear from the images and the accompanying text that the attack was implemented against an Iraqi border army post, and that after the attack Islamic State fighters infiltrated the area in order to murder the soldiers who were still alive.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> <http://goo.gl/ehIzmc>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.al-jazirahonline.com/news/2015/20150310/43733> (Arabic).

<sup>40</sup> <http://goo.gl/knYW36>

<sup>41</sup> <http://arabic.cnn.com/middleeast/2015/03/11/iraq-denounce-iranian-official-statement>

<sup>42</sup> <http://goo.gl/mZZL2Z>

<sup>43</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7447>, <https://isdarat.org/7785> (Arabic).

<sup>44</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7584> (Arabic).



**Suicide attack on the Iraqi-Jordanian border**

- A video documenting the joy of the province residents over the mujahideen pledging allegiance to the Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi Caliphate.<sup>45</sup>

#### ***The Islamic State – Northern Baghdad***

- The Islamic State in Northern Baghdad published the following:
  - A video documenting the explosion of an Iraqi Army guard tower in Samara. In addition, one of the organization's fighters threatened to continue the wave of terror and the murder of Shi'ites and Iraqi security forces.<sup>46</sup>

#### ***The Islamic State – Dijla Province***

- The Islamic State in the Dijla Province published the following:
  - A photo report about the reconciliation of two tribes, under the supervision of the Islamic State's "Office for Solving Disputes". The photographs document a meal attended by notable persons from both tribes, in honor of their kinship. In the background flies the black flag of the Islamic State.<sup>47</sup>
  - A video documenting the destruction of a village called Al-Hajj 'Ali, as a result of Coalition air strikes.<sup>48</sup>
  - A video about the celebrations in the province over Boko Haram in Nigeria's pledging

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<sup>45</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>46</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>47</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7596> (Arabic).

<sup>48</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

allegiance to the Islamic State. In the video, residents of the province and members of the organization are documented celebrating the declaration of allegiance by slaughtering sheep, waving flags, and driving around in car convoys. In addition, the video includes blessings sent to Muslims in Nigeria, including residents of the province, and different soldiers in the organization (including a Turkish speaking elderly soldier). At the end of the video fighters in the organization are documented handing out meat and pamphlets to passers-by, in honor of the "joyful news".<sup>49</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Kirkuk Province***

- The Islamic State in the Kirkuk Province published the following:
  - A video documenting members of the organization raiding the homes of Kurdish Peshmerga forces.<sup>50</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Saladin Province***

- The Islamic State in the Saladin Province published the following:
  - A video including a threatening message directed at Hadi al-Ameri, head of the Shi'ite Badr Organization identified with Iran. In the video about a dozen fighters appeared, led by a spokesman who responded to recent threats made by al-Ameri towards the Islamic State. While encouraging the organization's fighters in the province to engage in combat, the spokesman in the video threatened to attack al-Ameri's "most precious places", and may have been hinting that the Shia holy sites would be hit.<sup>51</sup> The second part of the video showed the execution of four people accused of being affiliated with the Fursan al-Alam militia – a group opposing the IS which began operating in Tikrit in November 2014.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7744> (Arabic).

<sup>50</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/>(Arabic).

<sup>51</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7436> (Arabic).

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.islamist-movements.com/13306> (Arabic).

- A video discussing the "powerful steadfastness of the mujahideen" in the Saladin Province. The video documented IS fighters in Tikrik, Al-'Alam, Ad-Dawr, and other communities in the province, in order to refute rumors about the retreat of IS troops in the face of the Iraqi Army. The video includes footage of combat (such as launching rockets and gunfire exchange) alongside images of dead bodies of killed Iraqi security forces.<sup>53</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Nineveh Province***

- The Islamic State in the Nineveh Province published the following:
  - A video documenting a message from two deaf-mute brothers who work for the Islamic State police forces in Mosul. The fighters – who were praised in the video for joining jihad despite their being exempt from service due to their disabilities – called upon Muslims in Europe and the West to join the organization's ranks. They threatened to slaughter the enemies in Western countries (Britain, the United States, and Italy), and from allied Arab countries (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and Jordan). At the end of the video, the fighters were seen launching rockets towards Kurdish Peshmerga militia forces. The two fighters spoke in sign language, which was then transcribed into text appearing on the screen in Arabic and English.<sup>54</sup>



**Threats in sign language from the Nineveh province**

<sup>53</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7466> (Arabic).

<sup>54</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7674> (Arabic).

- A video about the activities of the Jaysh al-'Usra military unit, which is responsible for the internal security of the province. In the video – which was narrated by one of the unit commanders – fighters were documented throughout the city engaging in training exercises in built-up areas, breaking into buildings, climbing walls, and descending from buildings and bridges using ropes. At the end of the video, a number of attacks made by the unit with mortar shells and machine guns were documented.<sup>55</sup>



**Jaysh al-'Usra training in the Nineveh province**

- A video made in the wake of the pledging of allegiance by the leader of Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, to the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr Al-Bagdadi. In the video, fighters in the province praise the Nigerian pledging allegiance and encourage Muslims around the world to also pledge allegiance to the Caliphate. In addition, the main message of the video is to call upon mujahideen from other organizations and factions to desert their units and join the Islamic State in order to unite contingents and become stronger opposite the enemy.<sup>56</sup>
- A video showing the military and leisure activities of the fighters in the spring “in the shelter of the Islamic Caliphates”. In the video, the province residents were documented spending time with their children in nature, and at a playground. In interviews conducted with them, the locals emphasized their satisfaction with life under the rule of the Islamic State.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7859> (Arabic).

<sup>56</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7757> (Arabic).

<sup>57</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7737> (Arabic).

- A photo report about the activities of pharmacies in the city of Mosul, which operated under the auspices of the organization. The information published does not include additional information about the identities of the pharmacists, or about the way the Islamic State oversees the distribution of medications.<sup>58</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Al-Janub Province***

- The Islamic State in the Al-Janub Province published the following:
  - A statistical report about the military activity in the province during January and February 2015, dividing the activities into categories (for example: bombings, assassinations, targeted explosions, and ambushes). The report concluded with data pertaining to losses incurred by the Iraqi Army and militia forces (35 vehicles destroyed, five posts captured, and 247 dead and injured), as well as a detailed list of weapons and ammunitions taken as booty.<sup>59</sup>
  - A photo report about the manufacturing of “Al-Qa’qa” and “Farouq 1” rockets at the Center for Research and Development, including documentation of the manufacture of a warhead and fuse.<sup>60</sup>



**A lathe for manufacturing rockets in the Al-Janub province**

- A video documenting the slaughter of a fighter named Ra’ad Ali J’asem, a member of one of the movements opposing the Islamic State.<sup>61</sup>
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### ***The Islamic State – Al-Furat Province***

- The Islamic State in the Al-Furat Province published the following:

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<sup>58</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>59</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7568> (Arabic).

<sup>60</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7570> (Arabic).

<sup>61</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

- A video called “The slaughter in the Aisha hospital by the Crusader-Christian allies”.<sup>62</sup>
- A video called “I swear to God we will take revenge”. The video began with a simulation of an air attack by coalition forces against Muslim population centers, and the resulting destruction of life and property. Later in the video, five prisoners dressed in uniforms were led by Islamic State fighters to be executed. In keeping with the name of the video, the reason given for executing the prisoners was their association with Ahrar al-Sham and Iraqi spy agencies, which acted against the Islamic State and its camps.<sup>63</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Al-Jazira Province***

- The Islamic State in the Al-Jazira Province published the following:
  - A video about the shooting down of a coalition plane by IS fighters. At the beginning of the video three fighters were filmed with a crashed, burning plane in the background. One of them notes that they brought the plane down in an effort to defend Kurd Peshmerga forces. The same spokesperson vowed to continue attacking all enemies of the organization.<sup>64</sup>

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

### **Syria**

*The battles in Syria continued on several fronts. In fighting in the south of the country – with help from Hezbollah forces – the Syrian regime tried to retake control of the Quneitra Province, which was under control of the Al-Nusra Front.<sup>65</sup> At the same time, the Free Syrian Army reported taking control of areas in the Dar’ a and Rif Dimashq region.<sup>66</sup> In the Adlab region in the north of the country a strengthening of the Al-Nusra Front was reported, while elements in the Free Syrian Army and other factions defined as moderate expressed concern over the expansion of areas under the*

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<sup>62</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>63</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>64</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.vetogate.com/1526194> (Arabic).

<sup>66</sup> <http://goo.gl/OeIW6D>

Front's control.<sup>67</sup> In the northeast part of the country, near the city Tall Tamr in the Hasaka Province, fierce battles were waged between the Islamic State fighters and the Kurdish YPG militias, and dozens of fighters were killed.<sup>68</sup> According to reports by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) organization, Islamic State sites in those combat zones were bombed by the coalition force airplanes.<sup>69</sup>

On a political level, Staffan de Mistura, the UN emissary in Syria, continued working towards finding a solution for the political conflict. Da Mistura's efforts have not borne much fruit until now, due to both the Syrian regime's refusal to extend the cease-fire zone,<sup>70</sup> and because of the refusal of the opposition forces to stop fighting in the Aleppo region.<sup>71</sup> It should be noted that despite the disagreements, the Syrian regime authorized Da Mistura to send a UN delegation to Aleppo to investigate the situation and the facts on the ground.<sup>72</sup>

### **Al-Nusra Front**

- During the first half of March 2015, the jihadist media institution of Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah al-Bayda, published the following:
  - An announcement about the end of the “purification” of the 48<sup>th</sup> Division of the Syrian Army, and about the attack on Hazzem movement fighters – a rebel faction that also fought against the Al-Nusra Front fighters. According to the Front, Hazzem fighters were expected to surrender and stand trial for the crimes committed against the Front, and their interference with the jihad factions' efforts to fight against the Syrian regime. In addition, the Al-Nusra Front demanded that the bodies of its fighters, who were kidnapped and murdered by Hazzem fighters, be returned or transferred to other jihad factions. The Front emphasized that it was abstaining from spilling more blood of innocent Muslims, aside from the Hazzem fighters battling the Front and thereby sabotaging jihad efforts to overthrow the Syrian regime. Finally, the Al-Nusra Front emphasized that it saw the Al-Atarib villagers and the residents of Aleppo as partners in

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<sup>67</sup> <http://goo.gl/4g931S>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.alhurra.com/content/syria-40-killed-/267526.html>

<sup>69</sup> <http://goo.gl/oeSa0m>

<sup>70</sup> <http://goo.gl/hNeY7E>

<sup>71</sup> <http://goo.gl/sSebiR>

<sup>72</sup> <http://goo.gl/2H9UiA>

the battle against the Syrian regime.<sup>73</sup>

- A video showing an interview between one of the organization's fighters before he carried out a suicide attack on February 1, 2015 against a convoy of vehicles, which were transporting Hezbollah fighters from southern Lebanon to the Al-Kalasa area near the Damascus Fortress. That was in revenge of the killing of Sunni Muslims in Syria and Lebanon. The suicide bomber interviewed in the video sent a threatening message to Al-Assad and his forces, warning them that they were destined to be defeated.<sup>74</sup>
- A commitment made by the Al-Nusra Front to continue battling the Syrian regime from south of Damascus, despite the reinforcements the latter recently received with the acceptance of Shia fighters from Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon into its ranks. According to the Front, focused efforts to topple the Syrian regime were indeed met with a certain amount of hardship, due to the Islamic State's cruel treatment of the Al-Nusra fighters. However, in spite of the difficulties experienced, the Front was still determined to focus on fighting against the Syrian regime.<sup>75</sup>
- A photo report of the General Supervisor of the Hazzem movement, Abu Abdalla al-Khuli, in which he admits that his movement's fighters clashed with Sheikh Ya'qub al-Umar, a senior leader of<sup>76</sup> the Al-Nusra Front in the Idlib region in northern Syria.
- A video documenting the joint attack of the Al-Nusra Front and other jihad faction fighters on Syrian Army posts, using artillery and heavy weaponry in northern Hama. A Syrian soldier was killed and several other Syrian soldiers were injured in the attack.<sup>77</sup>
- A video documenting an Al-Nusra siege on the military airbase Abu Dhaur. According to the video's narrator, the base is considered to be the biggest base in Idlib, and the most important to the Syrian regime. Therefore, emphasized the narrator, the latter kept quiet about the loss of the base. Later in the video, the way the base was captured was explained.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com> (Arabic).

<sup>74</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com> (Arabic).

<sup>75</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com> (Arabic).

<sup>76</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com> (Arabic).

<sup>77</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com> (Arabic).

<sup>78</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com> (Arabic).



**A frame from the video explaining the series of events leading to the capture of the military airbase**

- A denial of the claim that the Al-Nusra Front was splitting from Al-Qaeda – a rumor that was publicised in an article by Reuters news. As a result of the article, the Al-Nusra Front called upon the Reuters news agency and other media sources to take account of their actions and try to publish only accurate news, and to rely only on trustworthy sources. In conclusion, the Front emphasized that in addition to the false information in the article, the Front does not receive any funding from Qatar or the Gulf countries, and continues to fight in Syria.<sup>79</sup>
- A video documenting Al-Nusrah Front fighters in southern Syria preparing for battle against the Syrian security forces and their supporters. This was a result of a command issued by the Al-Nusra Front leadership to prepare for combat, after the Syrian security forces got reinforcements from Shi'ite militias and Hezbollah.<sup>80</sup>
- A statement announcing the conquest of Durin village on March 11, 2015, with heavy losses incurred by the enemy forces.<sup>81</sup>
- A video documenting combat against Lebanese Hezbollah fighters, during which five members of Hezbollah and the Syrian regime were killed by B9 shells, in a tent in Jarrad al-Falithah.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>80</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>81</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>82</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

- The Mulhak internet site published an interview with Sheikh Abu Malek al-Shami, leader of the Al-Nusra Front in Qalamoun, in which he discussed the situation in Qalamoun and Lebanon. During the interview, al-Shami claimed that the Lebanese Army's silence in the face of Hezbollah fighters deciding to participate in the war in Syria, means in fact that the army is involved. He added that the Sunnis will not remain silent about the "Iranian Party's" (Hezbollah's) crimes and will revolt in order to stop them, and that anyone standing in their path will pay the price. He also claimed that the Al-Nusra Front has no targets in Lebanon, and that the bombing of Hezbollah strongholds was in response to its crimes against Sunnis in Syria. He emphasized that the main goal of the organization is to topple the Alawi regime, but the crime committed by Hezbollah against Sunnis in Syria cannot go unnoticed. Therefore, the organization will continue to attack Hezbollah's strongholds and anyone supporting it. Regarding the question of how Al-Nusra Front funds its fighting, al-Shami answered the organization is able to continue its activities in the merit of Muslim financial and moral support, and the booty that is confiscated from Hezbollah and the Syrian Army. With regard to negotiations between the organization and the Lebanese government, al-Shami claimed that the organization released ten prisoners as a symbol of good will, while Lebanon did everything possible to halt the negotiations by arresting Sunni women, tightening the siege on Aarsal, and an increase of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. He also said that only a change of the decision makers in Lebanon, and specifically replacing Hezbollah, would lead to successful negotiations.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> <http://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic).

On March 15, 2015, the Al-Nusra Front published a response to the interview with al-Shami. According to the Front, it was surprised by al-Shami's misleading train of thought, and wished to make some corrections. For example, at this stage Al-Nusra's main ambition was to hit Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon, as well as anyone who supports them. In addition, Al-Nusra conveyed a message to Sunnis in Lebanon, telling them not to help Hezbollah – which would eventually pay a price for its crimes. Regarding the events in Tripoli, Lebanon, Al-Nusra clarified that the campaign against the Lebanese Army was not premeditated, but was in defense of the Sunni brothers, their families, and their residential areas, which were attacked by Hezbollah.<sup>84</sup>

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

- The Al-Furqan media institution, which serves as a platform for Islamic State official messages, published a propaganda video called "What they Buy is Worthless". The video is about a supposed Arab Israeli "spy", named Muhammad Sa'id Isma'il Muslim, who was accused of spying on Islamic State fighters for the Israeli intelligence organization - the Mossad. In the video, Muslim described how he was recruited by the Mossad, the training he received - including shooting a gun, the payment he received for his services, the way he entered Syria from Turkey, how he was caught by IS fighters, and his interrogation by IS. Later in the video Muslim called upon other spies against the IS to end their spy activities, for they are bound to fail and be discovered by the Islamic State.

After making his confession about his "spy" mission, Muslim was shown dressed in orange clothing with his hands bound, kneeling on the ground beside two IS fighters – one an adult, and one a teenager. The older fighter begins speaking in French, saying that his organization has succeeded in attacking the Jewish stronghold in France. He emphasized that the organization's fighters will kill any person who is sent to spy on the Islamic State, and promised that the organization would liberate the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem from the Jews. Later in the video, Muslim is executed by the teenager with a pistol. At the end, photographs and imaging bearing the names and addresses of additional Israeli Arabs who are supposedly "spying" on behalf of

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<sup>84</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

the Israeli Mosad are shown.<sup>85</sup>



From left to right: the moment before the "spy's" execution; the "spy's" Israeli ID card

### ***The Islamic State – Aleppo Province***

- The Islamic State in the Aleppo Province published the following:
  - A video documenting the execution of a man from Jarablus accused of spying on the Islamic State, and of transmitting to a contact in Turkey information and photographs about the activities and movements of the Caliphate soldiers. In a filmed statement, the man related that he was asked by his operator about IS Emirs in Jarablus, about executions, about punishments inflicted, and how the organization treated the local civilians. The man was executed by gunshot to the head.<sup>86</sup>
  - A video called "The Economic Prosperity under the Caliphates". The video included interviews with satisfied civilians in the province who talk about how the Islamic State government had provided them with business security, and how enforcing Islamic punishment had decreased the rate of thefts and bribery. Among those interviewed were owners of various factories and workshops that produce household items, aluminium products, floor tiles, and granite.<sup>87</sup>
  - A video containing a compilation of recorded messages that were sent from the jihad in the province to their brothers "who support them", and which relate to the organization members who are active on the internet and are overseeing an "electronic jihad". In the video, the mujahideen thanked the internet activists and claimed that their work is no less important than fighting on the ground. As proof of

<sup>85</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>86</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7431> (Arabic).

<sup>87</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7836> (Arabic).

that fact, it was mentioned that the United States and other Western countries had invested millions of dollars in the struggle in the internet arena.<sup>88</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Homs Province***

- The Islamic State in the Homs Province published the following:
  - A video documenting the destruction of lives and property of the Muslim residents of Homs, as a result of air strikes made by the Syrian coalition.<sup>89</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Al-Hasaka Province***

- The Islamic State in the Al-Hasaka Province, also known as the Al-Barka Province among IS fighters, published the following:
  - A video about a suicide bombing, using an armed vehicle rigged with explosives, against Kurdish PKK forces in the Al-Na'em village. In the video, no additional details were provided regarding the identity of the suicide bomber, or the number of injured and killed in the attack.<sup>90</sup>
  - A video called "The Lions of War", which depicted images of the battles in the province, among those fought against the Kurdish YPG. Graphic footage of dead bodies was included. The video ended with footage of an injured Islamic fighter on his death bed, reading the Shahada, and crying out "Allahu Akbar". The footage was accompanied by a caption reading "our dead are in Heaven, and theirs are in Hell".<sup>91</sup>
  - A video documenting some of the combat involving the IS taking control of villages around Tall Tamr – a town in the center of the Al-Hasaka Province. In the video, attacks against Kurdish PKK forces were shown, including footage of dead bodies. At the end of the video, IS fighters burned the Kurdish flag and the photograph of the PKK leader, Abdullah Ocalan.<sup>92</sup>
- The Islamic State in the Deir Ezzor Province, also known as the Al-Khayr Province among IS

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<sup>88</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7775> (Arabic).

<sup>89</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>90</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7456> (Arabic).

<sup>91</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7647> (Arabic).

<sup>92</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7800> (Arabic).

fighters, published the following:

- A video called "Words Watered with Blood 3". In the video a Libyan fighter named Abu al-Faruq al-Libi was shown carrying out a suicide attack with a tank rigged with explosives, against Syrian regime soldiers. Al-Libi encouraged Muslims from around the world to come and engage in jihad, and in particular suicide bombings.<sup>93</sup>
- A video in honor of the pledging of allegiance by the Boko Haram organization to the Islamic State. In the video, fighters blessed the widening circle of supporters and called upon Muslims in Nigeria to unite under one flag. The video ended with threatening messages sent by one of the fighters to Nigerian President Jonathon Goodluck – who is a practicing Christian - with a promise that the "cross will be broken" and that attacks will be carried out in Nigeria using car bombs and suicide bombers.<sup>94</sup>
- A video about the reconciliation between two sub-divisions of the Al-Akidat tribe. In the video, notable members of the tribes called for unity between all Muslims and thanked the Islamic State for its intervention and assistance in solving the conflict between the two sub-divisions. At the end of the video appeared the Islamic State's "public relations spokesperson" for the Eastern region, who also blessed the end of the dispute.<sup>95</sup>



The video banner

- A video about the opening of a new marketplace in Al-Mayadin, and a description of the types of commerce that take place there.<sup>96</sup>
- A video about a soup kitchen and bakeries operated under the auspices of the Zakat

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<sup>93</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7461> (Arabic).

<sup>94</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7788> (Arabic).

<sup>95</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7826> (Arabic).

<sup>96</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

Chamber of the Islamic State, in the city of Deir Ezzor. According to the video, the soup kitchen provides food for more than 1,500 families in the city, and the organization's bakeries provide 1,330 packages of pita to the needy on a daily basis.<sup>97</sup>



**Food prepared in Islamic State soup kitchen, in Deir Ezzor**

### ***The Islamic State – Raqqa Province***

- The Islamic State in the Raqqa Province published the following:
  - A video documenting an attack by IS fighters on Tall Tamr, in the northeast area of Raqqa Province, where Syrian security forces were stationed.<sup>98</sup>
  - A video called "Education under the Caliphates", surveying the schools and the educational system established by the IS in the province. The video included archive footage documenting the Syrian educational system under Bashar Al-Asad's regime, and blamed that system for attempting to indoctrinate the students with Ba'ath values and Arab nationalism. In order to retrain the educators according to the Islamic State values, "Repentance Centers" have been established, where teachers take courses on the subject of shari'a, and abandon the principles set down by the previous government. Later in the video, interviews with "teachers who have repented" were shown, with the teachers thanking God for the fact that they have returned to the straight path in order to bequeath to the next generation the values of Islam. One of the heads of the province's department of education said that the educational program is nine years long: five years in elementary school and four

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<sup>97</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7829> (Arabic).

<sup>98</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

years in junior high school. Regarding higher education, the speaker said that the Islamic State needs graduates of various professions such as medicine and engineering, and added that the province recently opened a school of medicine. The video ended by presenting two model schools: one a school for boys and another for girls.<sup>99</sup>



**“Re-education” of teachers in preparation of their integration into the Islamic States schools in Raqqa**

- A video called “A message to the Knights of Propaganda”. The video opened with a presentation of several clips from the Western media, which related to the Islamic State’s successful propaganda campaign on the internet. Later, the video showed IS fighters praising the Islamic State propaganda effort and those who promote it. Among other things, the fighters claimed that propaganda helps combat on the ground, acts as a deterrent, and helps generate sympathy for the fighters among the general Muslim population. The video ended with a call for mujahideen on the internet to continue their efforts, and not to cease working for the good of Islam and the Islamic State.<sup>100</sup>



**The publication banner**

<sup>99</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7469> (Arabic).

<sup>100</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7670> (Arabic).

- Videos about the pledge of allegiance of Boko Haram in Nigeria to the Islamic State. In the video called “Advice for the Caliphate Soldiers in Nigeria”, a representative of the organization blessed the pledge of allegiance and called upon fighters in Nigeria to maintain a state of unity among the troops, and to obey their Emir (Abu Bakr Shekeu). At the end of the video, the fighter called upon his “Tunisian brothers” not to wait, and to also pledge allegiance to the Caliphate.<sup>101</sup> Another video publicized by the media branch in Raqqa included street interviews with several of the province residents, who expressed their joy over the pledge of allegiance, and called for more groups to pledge allegiance to the Caliphate.<sup>102</sup>



**Expressing joy in the Raqqa Province over the pledge of allegiance from Nigeria**

- A video called “Message to the Brothers of Tawhid in Khorasan”. In the video a Jordanian fighter appeared, called Abu Muhannad al-Urduni, who in the past served in the Khorasan arena (presently a region in Afghanistan and several neighbouring countries). Al-Urduni blessed the pledge of allegiance to the Islamic State made by the “Khorasan brothers”, and called upon fighters there to maintain unity among the troops and to keep standing strong. In addition, al-Urduni encouraged the other groups and factions active in Khorasan, who have not yet pledged allegiance, to do so as soon as possible.<sup>103</sup>
- A video and photo report about the battles in Kobani (Ayn al-Arab). The publication documented machine gun fire. and rocket and mortar launching towards “apostate”

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<sup>101</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7864> (Arabic).

<sup>102</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7753> (Arabic).

<sup>103</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7741> (Arabic).

targets. In addition, detonating a truck bomb by remote control was demonstrated. The truck was covered in canvas bearing the UNICEF symbol.<sup>104</sup>

### ***Group of Supporters of Islam in the Levant (Jana'at Ansar al-Islam fi Bilad al-Sham)***

- Group of Supporters of Islam in the Levant published the following:
  - Announcement (#454), in which the group claimed responsibility for the military actions members of the organization took against Syrian security forces in Tal Handarat on March 6-7, 2015. According to the organization, control of the place was achieved in less than fifteen minutes, and led to the deaths and escape of many. The action itself was carried out in cooperation with other jihad factions. After control was achieved, Syrian security forces attempted to attack the area with tanks and airplanes and with other weapons in order to retake the site. But they were not successful. During that attack one fighter from the organization named Yasir Dawud al-Farisi was killed, while trying to save another jihad fighter from the Ansar al-Din Front. It was also written that al-Farisi immigrated to the jihad arena in Syria after fighting in Afghanistan and Vaziristan. At the end of the statement, the organization declared that as a result of the action, it seized numerous weapons.<sup>105</sup>

### ***Ansar al-Din***

- The Ansar al-Din organization publicized a video documenting the liberation of the village of Durin in northeast Syria.<sup>106</sup>

### ***Abdullah Azzam Brigades***

- During the first half of March 2015, Siraj al-Din Zureiqat, spokesperson for the Salafi jihad organization in Lebanon - the Abdullah Azzam Brigades - posted several tweets. Among them were tweets about the importance of popular support for the jihad organizations, mention of the enemy's attempts to drive a wedge between the civilian population and the

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<sup>104</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7657>, <https://isdarat.org/7606> (Arabic).

<sup>105</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

jihad organizations, the importance of fighting against the apostate regimes, and more.<sup>107</sup>

## The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

*In the first half of March the slow burning Islamic insurgency in the Sinai Peninsula continued unabated.*

*On March 5, the court ordered for the gag order on the trial of the 213 alleged members of Wilayat Sinai to be lifted.<sup>108</sup> On March 10, a suicide bomber rammed a car laden with explosives into a police compound, killing a civilian and wounding 24 police officers. Also, on the same day an attack on an Egyptian military vehicle killed an officer and wounded three soldiers.<sup>109</sup> On March 11, Islamic militants attacked an army checkpoint near Gaza killing one soldier and wounding two others, Wilayat Sinai claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>110</sup> On March 12, an attack on a police checkpoint by militants with rocket-propelled grenades in the northern Sinai wounded three Egyptian soldiers.<sup>111</sup>*

## Jundalah in Palestine

- The Jundalah in Palestine group, a Salafi jihad organization in the Gaza Strip, published an article called “Will the Salafis in the Gaza Strip Unite?” According to the organization, the Salafi jihad movement in the Gaza Strip suffers from rifts and an increase in separate groups that share a common belief system. For example: the Mujahideen Shura Council, Ansar al Sunnah, and Jund Ansar Allah. According to the organization, it would be best for all these groups to unite under one name, and to return to the parent group – Jundalah in Palestine – that first founded the Salafi jihad movement in the Gaza Strip back in the 1990’s. According to the organization, such a transpiration would significantly strengthen the Salafi jihad alignment in the Gaza Strip, and its efforts to cope with the enemy.<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>107</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>108</sup> <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/124520/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-court-lifts-media-gag-on-Ansar-Beit-ALMaqdis.aspx>

<sup>109</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/11/world/middleeast/deadly-attacks-hit-sinai-peninsula.html>

<sup>110</sup> <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4635882,00.html>

<sup>111</sup> <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0M82W520150312>

<sup>112</sup> <http://justpaste.it/js6t>



The article published on social media sites

### ***The Salafi Army of the Ummah in Bayt al-Maqdis***

- The Salafi Army of the Ummah in Jerusalem, a Salafi jihad organization in the Gaza Strip, announced a round of visits to hospitals in Gaza, as a sign of appreciation and gratitude to the staffs of doctors, nurses, technicians, etc. for the help and assistance in the struggle of the Palestinian people against Israel. On March 10, the organization published a collection of photographs documenting the visit of senior members of the organization at the Kamal Udwan hospital, in the northern Gaza Strip.<sup>113</sup>



A collection of photographs from the hospital visit, uploaded by the organization to social media sites

<sup>113</sup> <http://justpaste.it/KamalAdwan>

### ***The Islamic State in Sinai Province (formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis - Supporters of Jerusalem)***

- The Islamic State in the Sinai Province published the following: in the first half of March 2015:
  - A propaganda video called “Messages from the Land of Sinai”. In the video, one of the organization fighters spoke in praise of the observing jihad commandments, and calls on all Muslims to obey them.<sup>114</sup>



**The video banner**

- The media branch of the Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula published the A video called “Messages from the Land of Sinai”. One of the organization fighters appeared in the video – without identifying himself by name or nickname – speaking in anger against the Egyptian Army’s attacks in northern Sinai. The fighter transmitted three messages: a message for the religious scholars, calling upon them to stop publicizing religious rulings (fatwa) against the organization; a message to the residents of Sinai, encouraging them to support the organization and stand by its side; and a message to the supporters of the organization, urging them to continue their activities against the Egyptian authorities.<sup>115</sup>
- The Islamic news site dawaalhaq.com published a news item reporting that the Islamic State branch in the Sinai Province is interested in recruiting new fighters. In the news item, it was written that the organization had avoided recruiting new fighters until now because it was focusing its efforts on establishing a structural and

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<sup>114</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7804> (Arabic).

<sup>115</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7804> (Arabic).

command base – a mission that was successful due to “the high military, training, and intelligence capabilities.” The item also mentioned that another strong point of the organization was the alliances formed with some of the tribes in Sinai that had become estranged from the Egyptian Army due to “acts of slaughter carried out against unarmed civilians”.<sup>116</sup>

## Africa

### *The Maghreb*

*Battles continued between the different groups in the Libyan civil war, as major combat is taking place between the Islamic State and Libya Dawn – a coalition of Islamic militias. The main battle area for the two camps was near the city of Sirte, and in the nearby oil fields.<sup>117</sup> In addition, an exchange of gunfire between Libya Dawn and forces lead by General Khalifa Hiftar, occurring west of the capital Tripoli, led to the deaths and injuries of a number of fighters.<sup>118</sup> The severe state of affairs caused the UN representative in Lybia, Beranrdino Leon, to issue a warning about the threat posed by the Islamic State in the country.<sup>119</sup> At the same time, the Libyan foreign minister, Muhammad al-Dairi, called upon the international community to implement deterrence measures against countries that support terror in Libya. He also requested help with arming the Libyan Army to enable it continues the struggle against terror organizations and armed militias in the country.<sup>120</sup>*

*In the other Maghreb countries the struggle against terror continued. In Tunis, the authorities reported on the discovery of a large weapons cache in the town of Ben Gardane, located near the Libyan border. The cache held RPG rockets, Kalashnikov rifles, ammunition, and explosives.<sup>121</sup> In addition, the Tunisian Army killed to terrorists in the Jebel Chaambi area.<sup>122</sup> In Morocco, the king held talks with Abdullah, the king of Jordan,<sup>123</sup> and with Laurent Fabius, the French foreign minister,<sup>124</sup> about ways of fighting terror. In Algeria, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Foreign*

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<sup>116</sup> <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/post/26519> (Arabic).

<sup>117</sup> <http://goo.gl/Ros0Qw>

<sup>118</sup> <http://goo.gl/v75XFQ>

<sup>119</sup> <http://goo.gl/w5TIhh>

<sup>120</sup> <http://goo.gl/dbNUyP>

<sup>121</sup> <http://goo.gl/36P6MD>

<sup>122</sup> <http://www.vetogate.com/1507312>

<sup>123</sup> <http://www.aremnews.com/politics/arab-politics/235954>

<sup>124</sup> <http://www1.el-balad.com/1428187>

*Ministers from Arab Countries took place, and concluded with a call for coordination and cooperation between Arabs - in the framework of the war on terror.*<sup>125</sup>

## **Algeria**

- The Islamic State in Algeria Province media branch published a letter blessing the pledge of allegiance made by the Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad (Boko Haram) to the Islamic State. In the statement, which was signed by Abu Abdullah Uthman al-Asemi, blessings were sent to the Caliph of the Islamic State and to the leader of Boko Haram, while calling on the rest of the Muslims worldwide, and specifically the mujahideen, to fulfil the commandment of pledging allegiance.<sup>126</sup>
- A visitor to the Al-Minbar al-I'lami al-Jihadi forum published a post in which he claimed that on March 10, 2015, Islamic fighters in the Algerian Province detonated an explosive device against a group of soldiers who were on patrol in the city of al Adjiba, located in the eastern region of the Bouira Province, in northern Algeria. According to the visitor, the explosion caused a number of deaths and injuries, but news sources did not mention this event.<sup>127</sup>

## **Libya**

### ***The Islamic State - Barqa Province***

- The Islamic State in the Barqa Province published the following:
  - A video about a suicide bombing carried out by a fighter named Abu Talha al-Tunisi against a group of soldiers affiliated with the forces commanded by Khalifa Hiftar in Benghazi.<sup>128</sup> Abu Talha's last statement was heard in the video, and included a threat against the tyrants in Tunis, and against the Nessma TV station, for insulting the names of Allah and the Islamic prophet.<sup>129</sup> He also promised that terror attacks would be carried out on Tunisian soil.
  - A video called "A message to the tyrannical army 2". An Egyptian born fighter named

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<sup>125</sup> <http://goo.gl/pE93bn>

<sup>126</sup> <http://justpaste.it/jufu>

<sup>127</sup> <https://www.mnbr.info/vb/showthread.php?t=84010>

<sup>128</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7439> (Arabic).

<sup>129</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-15233442>

Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Misri appeared in the video, speaking out against the tyrants al-Sisi and Hiftar, and praising the Abu Bakr Caliphate and encouraging young Muslims to go to Libya in order to fulfil the commandment of jihad. The video ended with documentation of shooting from a moving car at pedestrians, in what is called “assassination of apostates who are members of Sahwa”, with regard to those opposed to Islamic State presence in Libya.<sup>130</sup>

### ***The Islamic State - Tripoli Province***

The Islamic State in the Tripoli Province published the following:

- A video called “Message to the Brothers of Tawhid 2”. In the video, IS fighter Abu Hamza al-Tabawi spoke in the Amazigh (Berber) language, addressing the members of the Toubou tribes in Libya – he called upon them to join the Islamic State and to fulfil the commandments of the jihad. In addition, al-Tabawi called upon the “enemies of Islam” operating under the command of Kahlifa Hiftar to repent before they get hurt, and threatened them with suicide attacks and car bomb explosions.<sup>131</sup> This was a second video published in the Berber language, after a similar video was published at the end of February, 2015.<sup>132</sup>
- A fighter named Abu Mu’adh al-Barqawi published an article called “A Few Words before the Clash – a Short Message to the Libya Dawn Soldiers”. At the beginning of the article, al-Barqawi denied any connection between the Islamic States people in Libya and the allies of the previous regime headed by Mu’ammar Gaddafi – who was considered to be an apostate – such as the Parliament in Tobruk or the National Congress in Tripoli. Later, al-Barqawi called upon the members of Libya Dawn to learn from the bitter mistakes of the members of the Awakening Movements (Sahawat) in Iraq and Syria, and to repent before it will be too late. Al-Barqawi emphasized that these movements, which earned Western support in their early stages of operation, were eventually abandoned to their fate by the United States and their allies, and were forced to face the rage of the mujahideen and flee.<sup>133</sup>

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<sup>130</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7472> (Arabic).

<sup>131</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7781> (Arabic).

<sup>132</sup> <https://isdarat.org/7397> (Arabic).

<sup>133</sup> <https://www.mnbr.info/vb/showthread.php?t=84753>

## Tunisia

- The Ifriqiyya news institution, which disseminates information about the Islamic State, published a statement called "The Real Present Situation in Tunisia". According to the statement, Tunisia was in a state of war with the Islamic State. Therefore, it was arresting without hesitation any person waving the Islamic State flag, or bearing any external signs of supporting the IS – such as a beard. In response to this policy of persecution, the media institution advised all Muslims living in Tunis to be extra careful, and to take a number of precautionary measures: to keep all information secure, and not to reveal even a scrap of information which could indicate affiliation with the Islamic State; to criticize all solidarity or loyalty to the Islamic State, even under torture; to avoid speaking in defence of the Islamic State before crowds, due to the large number of spies; using social media platforms to spread information on behalf of the Islamic State only after security measures had been implemented, and only Twitter should be used, but not Facebook – since it operates in complete cooperation with the government.<sup>134</sup>

## Mali

- The Mauritanian al-Akhbar news agency published an audio file in which Mukhtar Belmukhtar, leader of the Al-Murabitoun group, claimed responsibility for an attack that members of his organization carried out in a restaurant in Mali's capital city Bamako. As a result of the attack five people were killed, including a French citizen and a Belgian citizen. In addition, the organization claimed responsibility for another series of explosions in the area, claiming that it was in revenge for the elimination of its leader Ahmad al-Tilmisani in Mahal, in February. The organization also claimed responsibility for the assassination of Mali's advisor to the Minister of Defence.<sup>135</sup>

## Egypt

### *Ajnad Misr*

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<sup>134</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>135</sup> <http://www.alakhbar.info/news/8664-2015-03-07-17-39-13.html> (Arabic).

- Al-Kinana jihadist media institution, which serves as the media wing for Ajnad Misr, published the following:
  - An article by Mohammed Bilal al-Qahiri, responsible for the organization's general contacts, justified fighting against the tyrannical regimes, such as the Egyptian regime. According to al-Qahiri, the tyrannical ruler is not only satisfied with oppressing his subjects, but also seeks to distort their faith. Thus, all Muslims and mujahideens had cause to revolt against tyrannical regimes.<sup>136</sup>
  - An article by Dr. Ali Sai'd, member of the organization's communications committee. The article emphasized that fulfilling the jihad commandments is a personal obligation applying to every Muslim. According to Sai'd, the jihad against the tyrannical regimes that rule over Muslim lands is the natural right of every Muslim due to the oppression of Muslims, and the desecration of their holy sites.<sup>137</sup>
  - An article titled "Is there Hope?" by Dr. Ali Sai'd, member of the organization's communications committee. At the beginning of the article he wondered whether the picture painted by the tyrannical rulers in the media, regarding their military successes against jihad fighters, actually reflected reality. According to Sai'd, it was all propaganda intended to break the people's moral spirit and cause them to become dejected – in order to suppress their fighting spirit. Also according to al-Sai'd, the jihad should be viewed as an accumulative struggle. For even if in the field there are occasional failures, they are merely isolated events after which lessons can be learned and new successes achieved. Al-Sai'd stated that a sense of optimism must be maintained, and patience is required. He then quoted verses from the Quran that addressed the importance of such traits.<sup>138</sup>

## Nigeria

*On March 2, Boko Haram released a professionally produced video showing the execution of*

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<sup>136</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>137</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>138</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

two alleged spies.<sup>139</sup> The next day Chadian forces recaptured the town of Dikwa in the northeast state of Borno.<sup>140</sup> On the same day, Boko Haram militants killed 68 people in the village of Njaba in Borno and then proceeded to burn the entire village.<sup>141</sup> On March 6, the kidnapped American missionary was released. It was unclear whether a ransom was paid or not.<sup>142</sup> On March 7, four bombs were set off in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno, killing at least 50 people and wounding many more.<sup>143</sup> On March 8, Chad and Niger launched a joint military operation against Boko Haram.<sup>144</sup> The next day soldiers from both countries recaptured the town of Damasak from Boko Haram militants.<sup>145</sup> On March 10, a female suicide bomber detonated an explosive device outside of a market killing herself and at least 12 people.<sup>146</sup> On March 12, it was reported that many South African mercenaries as well as a few mercenaries from other countries were assisting Nigeria in the fight against Boko Haram.<sup>147</sup> Moreover, on March 12, the Nigerian government announced on Twitter that it had succeeded in driving Boko Haram out of the Adamawa state.<sup>148</sup> On March 7, the Boko Haram leader pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.<sup>149</sup> On March 12, the Islamic State accepted Boko Haram's pledge of allegiance.<sup>150</sup>

### **Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad (formerly Boko Haram)**

- Al-Urwa al-Wuthqa media institution, which serves as the media wing for Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad (Boko Haram), published the following:
  - An audio file in which Abubakar Shekau, leader of the Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad, announced his pledge of allegiance and promised to obey the Abu Bakr al- Baghdadi Caliphate. Shekau later called on the rest of the Muslims to pledge

<sup>139</sup> <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-02/boko-haram-posts-video-showing-execution-of-two-men-for-spying>

<sup>140</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/boko-haram-driven-out-of-nigerian-town/2665878.html>

<sup>141</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/03/05/world/boko-haram-nigeria-raid/>

<sup>142</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/kidnapped-missionary-released-nigeria/2671200.html>

<sup>143</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/07/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0M30EV20150307>

<sup>144</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/chad-niger-launch-joint-offense-against-boko-haram/2672156.html>

<sup>145</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/nigerian-official-neighbors-offensive-complementary-to-boko-haram-fight/2672795.html>

<sup>146</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/10/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0M61MN20150310>

<sup>147</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/13/world/africa/nigerias-fight-against-boko-haram-gets-help-from-south-african-mercenaries.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/13/world/africa/nigerias-fight-against-boko-haram-gets-help-from-south-african-mercenaries.html?_r=0)

<sup>148</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/nigeria-says-boko-haram-cleared-from-adamawa-state/2678796.html>

<sup>149</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31784538>

<sup>150</sup> <http://www.wsj.com/articles/is-accepts-boko-haram-pledge-of-allegiance-1426237308>

allegiance to the Caliphate.<sup>151</sup>



The banner for the recording of Abubakar Shekau's pledge of allegiance, published by the Fursan al-Balagh media group

- A video titled "Harvest of Spies 1". The video documented two people having their heads cut off, after being accused of spying for and collaborating with the Nigerian government. It should be noted that the name of this video, the soundtrack used, and the quality of production were exact imitations of the execution videos that were published by the IS in Iraq and Syria. The video included subtitles in English, French, and Arabic.<sup>152</sup>



From left to right: Boko Haram – the execution of two men accused of spying; the video banner

- A compilation of speeches made by the Iman Abu Yusuf Muhammad bin Yusuf al-Midgharie, founder of the Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad. Al-Mi

<sup>151</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/>; [https://twitter.com/fursan\\_albalagh/status/574578959687544832](https://twitter.com/fursan_albalagh/status/574578959687544832)

<sup>152</sup> <https://archive.org/details/6yje0pr0>

dgharie died in July, 2009 while being held in police custody.<sup>153</sup>



The title-page of the "Compilation of Speeches"

## Somalia

*In the first half of March Al-Shabaab carried out significantly fewer attacks than in the second half of February. The cause of this change is unknown.*

*On March 12, terrorists from Al-Shabaab attacked government offices in Baidoa, Somalia, killing at least nine people, including four of the attackers. The attack began with a car bomb detonated at a checkpoint at the gate of the state palace, and was followed by gunfire from Al-Shabaab fighters dressed in military uniforms.<sup>154</sup>*

*On March 13, militants from Al-Shabaab attacked the convoy of the governor of Mandera, killing three police officers and a regional elder.<sup>155</sup>*

*In March, the United States also carried out a drone strike against Adnan Garaar, a high-level Al-Shabaab official accused of being the mastermind behind the 2013 attack on the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya.<sup>156</sup> Later in the month, Garaar was confirmed to have been killed by the strike.<sup>157</sup> Also on March 2, Liban Haji Mohamed, 29, a former cab driver from Northern Virginia, who was on the FBI's most wanted terrorist list, was arrested in Somalia. Mohamed was accused of*

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<sup>153</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>154</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/03/12/africa/somalia-violence/>

<sup>155</sup> <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/03/14/uk-kenya-somalia-idUKKBN0MA0DL20150314>

<sup>156</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/14/us-somalia-security-attacks-usa-idUSKBN0MA01820150314>

<sup>157</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/18/us-somalia-security-usa-idUSKBN0ME2QI20150318>

*fighting for Al-Shabaab.*<sup>158</sup>

### ***Al-Sahbaab al-Mujahideen Movement***

- Al-Kataeb media institution, which serves as the media wing for Al-Sahbaab al-Mujahideen movement, published the following:
  - A video titled "Reclaiming back Muslim Lands under Kenyan Occupation". The video claimed responsibility for the attack carried out on a Kenyan town on June 17, 2014, in an effort to discount reports by the Kenyan authorities that the attack was not carried out by Al-Sahbaab. At the beginning of the video, sections from an old sermon made by Sheikh Aboud Rogo – known for identifying with the organization - were shown. Rogo called for jihad in Kenya, and blamed the country for persecuting and torturing Muslims. Later in the video footage was shown of the attack itself in Mpeketoni. The attack included the use of light weapons and grenades, burning vehicles, and killing civilians who did not know how to correctly answer questions about Islam. Another attack was carried out the following night in the village of Poromoko. The attacks were described as acts of revenge "for the crimes of the Kenyan government against Muslims". The video - which was distributed in English, Arabic, and Swahili – ended with footage of a third village from which the non-Muslims had escaped, and Al-Sahbaab fighters were seen conversing with Muslim civilians who remained, calming them down, and explaining to them the goal of protecting them and redeeming their land for them.<sup>159</sup>



**Al-Sahbaab activists executing non-Muslims in Kenyan villages**

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<sup>158</sup> <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/terror-suspect-on-fbi-list-apprehended/>

<sup>159</sup> <https://www.mnbr.info/vb/showthread.php?t=83672>

- A video with a title inspired by the Quran: "Disperse them in all Directions, so they will see and be afraid – part 10" The video documents the assassination of the governor of Burhakaba, and a raid on a center of Somali security forces in one of the villages in the Lower Shabelle Province.<sup>160</sup>

### ***Al-Muhajiroun in East Africa***

- The al-Muhajiroun organization in East Africa, which is composed of foreign volunteers and is affiliated with the Al-Sahbaab al-Mujahideen movement, published a proclamation titled "The Importance of Protecting our Sheikhs". The organization noted the importance of publicizing explanations made by the Muslim religious scholars for the benefit of the mujahideen and the commandments of jihad. According to the organizations, there were a number of religious scholars who were active in Tanzania, and who thereby endangered themselves in the name of achieving this goal. They were led by Sheikh Ponda Issa Ponda. The organization stated that due to his position, the Sheikh was arrested by the Tanzanian authorities, was described as an extremist, and was accused of being a member of the Al-Sahbaab al-Mujahideen movement. According to the organization, this pattern of action was well known, and was demonstrated in the past with the arrests of various religious scholars in Kenya, such as Aboud Rogo, who was accused of supporting terror. According to the organization, Sheikh Ponda suffered from brutal treatment in his jail cell, to the extent that his life was endangered. Therefore, Muslims in East Africa, and particularly in Tanzania, were obligated to protect their Sheikhs from oppression and humiliation.<sup>161</sup>

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<sup>160</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/showthread.php?t=233853>

<sup>161</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/>

## The Caucasus

- The Al-Malahem jihadist media institution, the official media institution of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a propaganda video expressing support of the Caucasus Islamic Emirates. The video integrated a historical overview of the Russian oppression in Chechnya, interviews with Chechnyan jihad fighters who battle against the Russian regime, old speeches made by senior members of the AQAP organization, such as: Sheikh Harith al-Nadhari – member of the former Shari’a Council of the AQAP; Sheikh Ibrahim al-Rubaish - the organization’s former Mufti; and also an old speech by Sheikh Ayman al Zawahiri – praising the Chechnyan jihad against Russia, and calling upon Muslims around the world to assist the mujahideen in the Caucasus.<sup>162</sup>



The video banner

## The West

- The Al-Hayat media institution, belonging to the Islamic State, published a video about the life and activities of a French fighter named Abu Suhayb al-Faransi. In the video, Abu Suhayb - a sixty-year-old fighter with a red beard – talked about his childhood in France, his conversion to Islam, and his arrival in Syria where he joined the al-Nusra Front. He defected to the Islamic State in August, 2014. While telling his life story, Abu Suhayb described life under the rule of the Islamic State as a “calm and peaceful life” in a “pleasant and loving society”. He thus attempted to convince additional foreign fighters to join the organization’s ranks. The video was published in French, and included a translation into Arabic.<sup>163</sup>

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<sup>162</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>163</sup> <https://www.mnbr.info/vb/> (Arabic).



### The life story of Abu Suhayb al-Faransi – propaganda to recruit new fighters into the organization

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, who preaches about radical Islam in English, continued to publish his controversial comments: Democracy contradicts the principles of Islam and cannot exist in the same realm as the Islamic religion; a secular Muslim is a concept that has no place in Islam; freedom of speech is contradictory to Islam; a Muslim who works for the British police force and performs arrests for them, or spies on Muslims for them, and Muslims who fight in the British army – are all considered to be apostates; belief in jihad and in the Caliphates is obligatory for every Muslim; one cannot call oneself a Muslim without following the principles of Islam; at the End of Days Muslims will conquer Rome; all Muslims must be released from jail, including Omar Bakr, the spiritual guide of Choudary – who is in a Lebanese prison; the participation of Muslims in the British parliament elections is a sin, and in fact a polytheist act; the enemies of Islam battle against the Islamic religion and the prophet Mohammed, under the guise of a war against terror; a eulogy for a British physician and close friend named Mirza Tariq Ali, who joined the Taliban in Pakistan and was shot dead by the Pakistani security forces.<sup>164</sup>



### Examples of Choudary's tweets

<sup>164</sup> <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/>



Anjem Choudary  
@anjemchoudary



My obituary for Dr Tariq Ali, my close brother who was murdered on Thursday by American drones makes the Daily Mail [dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2...](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2...)

Daily Mail Online



**NHS doctor who fled to become Taliban commander 'killed in Pakistan'**

Dr Mirza Tariq Ali (pictured) worked in hospitals in London and Cambridge before fleeing to join the Taliban. His terror group was linked to the massacre of children in Peshawar.

In this tweet Chaoudary eulogizes his British friend who joined the Taliban in Pakistan<sup>165</sup>

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<sup>165</sup> <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/status/572632760923389952>;  
<https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/status/575224728660676608>;  
<https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/status/576371755155062784>

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