



# ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group

## PERIODIC REVIEW

### Bimonthly Report

## Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

**The First Half of May 2015**

## Highlights

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

- **Sheikh Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi**, leader of the **Islamic State**, calls upon Muslims worldwide to immigrate to the Islamic State and fulfil the commandments of jihad against the enemies of Islam. According to al-Baghdadi, the Arab regimes – and in particular Saudi Arabia - are guilty of perpetuating injustice and of encouraging crimes against Muslims, through their cooperation with and servitude towards the Crusaders and the Jews. He claims that Islamic State fighters are succeeding in demonstrating impressive capabilities and tremendous military achievements. He promises that the Islamic State is obligated to liberate all prisoners imprisoned in jails.
- **Abu Abdullah al-Shami**, a senior member of the **Al-Nusra Front** Shura Council, criticizes a religious ruling made by a Syrian Salafi jihadist religious scholar named al-Tartusi, who refused to join the Al-Nusra Front. According to al-Shami, the religious ruling was mistaken, and the obligation of jihad applies to every Muslim. Al-Shami claims that Al-Qaeda operates against countries that cooperate with the Zionists and Christians, and with Shi'ite representation in Iran, Yemen, and Syria. In addition, he emphasizes that members of the Al-Nusra Front pledged allegiance to Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, and intend to remain loyal to their pledge.
- Al Qaeda and its branches continue to eulogize two of its senior leaders who were killed by American drones. **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent** eulogizes **Ahmad Faruq**, deputy emir of the organization, and **Asim Umar**, member of the organization's Shura Council, who were shot dead by American drones in January 2015. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula also eulogizes a senior leader from among its ranks – **Nasser al-Ansi**, who was assassinated in April 2015.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent** claims responsibility for the assassination of several atheist bloggers, and for Islamic religious leaders in Pakistan and Bangladesh. That was because they had disgraced the honor of Mohammed the Prophet.

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## New Publications

### Ideology

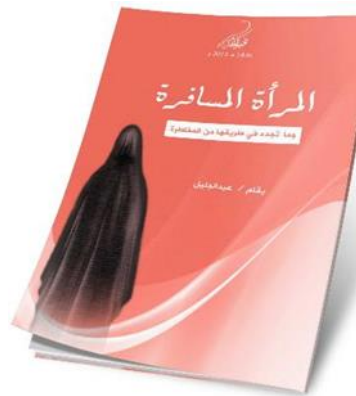
- The Al-Furqan media institution, operating on behalf of the Islamic State, published an audio file by Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Al-Baghdadi emphasized in his speech the obligation to fulfil the commandments of jihad against the apostates, particularly during the present period in which Muslims are forced to defend the Islamic faith before many enemies. Thus, he also emphasized that Islam is a religion of war, and not a religion of peace. Considering that, al-Baghdadi called upon Muslims around the world to immigrate to territories controlled by the Islamic State and fulfil the commandments of jihad. In addition, he blamed the Arab regimes of cooperating with the Crusaders and Jews, and of serving them. He even criticized the apathy and lack of response on the part of the Arab regimes, particularly Saudi Arabia, towards the injustice and crimes committed against Muslims. For example, he accused the Saudi Arabian government of turning a blind eye in the face of the oppressive Syrian regime. According to al-Baghdadi, the Arab regimes bear the sin of forging covenants with the Christians, the Jews, and other non-believers, and of engaging in activities that are detrimental to the Muslims. At the end of his speech, al-Baghdadi praised the Islamic State fighters, and in particular, those in Iraq and Syria, expressing his satisfaction regarding their military achievements and their steadfastness opposition to Shi'ite forces. In addition, he promised that he had not forgotten the issue of prisoners sitting in dictator regime jails, and that the Islamic State was making every effort to liberate them from the jails.<sup>1</sup>
- The Nukhbat Al-Fikr media group, which helps with public relations for the Islamic State, published the following:
  - An article by Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini, a senior Salafi jihadist philosopher who supports Al-Qaeda, about the importance of fulfilling the commandments of jihad as reflected in the holy Islamic sources.<sup>2</sup>
  - An article by Abu Aal-Jalil, called "The Female Traveler, and the Dangers Awaiting her on the Way". The author clarified in his article that a Muslim woman is not required to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>2</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kxnv> (Arabic).

engage in militant jihad, and that religious Muslim scholars over history have forbidden women from immigrating to jihad arenas without a chaperone. According to the author, a Muslim woman may encounter many dangers on the way, such as being taken captive and having her honor desecrated, and therefore she should avoid immigrating to the jihad arenas without a chaperone. In addition, the author clarified that it would be preferable not to believe the false information being spread by the Islamic State, encouraging and attempting to provide religious justification for women to immigrate to jihad arenas.<sup>3</sup>



**The title page of the article**

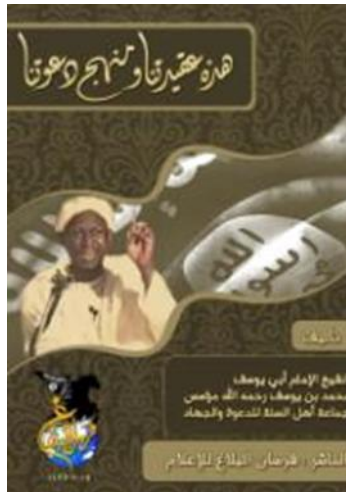
- The Al-Raya media institution, operating on behalf of the Salafi People's Army in Jerusalem, published an article called "Expressions Contradicting the Faith".<sup>4</sup>
- The Fursan Al-Balagh media group published a booklet titled "This is Our Faith and the Way of our Dawa", by Abu Yusuf Muhammad bin Yusuf – founder of the "Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad" aka Boko Haram, in Nigeria.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <http://justpaste.it/158n> (Arabic).

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

<sup>5</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).



The title page of the booklet

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

- The Nukhbat Al-Fikr media group, which helps with public relations for the Islamic State, published a two-part article titled “The Injustice of Imposing Heretic Law on the Entire Education System”, by Sheikh Abu Mohammed al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi jihadist ideologist based in Jordan. Al-Maqdisi clarified that the education system and schools in Syria are contaminated by heretic teachings, but it would be a mistake to include everyone in that accusation. According to al-Maqdisi, it should be taken into account that the Syrian regime compels the teaching staff in the schools to teach certain content in the curriculum, and therefore all the teachers should not be judged as apostates.<sup>6</sup>
- In addition, the group published an article titled “Coping with the Exaggerated Thought”, by Sheikh Abu Mus’ab al-Suri, a senior member of Al-Qaeda. The article was originally published in 1996 in the *Al-Fajr* magazine, and focused on Islamic groups that provide exaggerated interpretations for the holy Islamic sources, and permit the killing of Muslims who don’t adhere to their particular ideologies.<sup>7</sup>
- Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, an Egyptian living in London who identifies with Al-Qaeda, called for the protection of publications put out by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi on his Twitter account. He claimed that Islamic State activists were constantly trying to insult Sheikh al-Maqdisi and get

<sup>6</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kvp4>; <http://justpaste.it/11x7> (Arabic).

<sup>7</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).



his account shut down. He added that the Islamic State is the most “contaminated” Sunnah faction and that it is harming the religion of Islam.<sup>8</sup>

- Sheikh Abu Abdullah al-Shami, a senior member of the Shura Council of the Al-Nusra Front, responded to statements purportedly made by Sheikh Abu Basir al-Tartusi a month earlier. Al-Shami claimed that only a few people from the Al-Nusra Front deserted to the Islamic State, and only then did they become Kharij – an insulting name for a militant sect that deviates from Islam. Therefore, it was not possible to blame the Al-Nusra Front for the actions of those who deserted. Al-Shami emphasized that in contradiction to al-Tartusi’s accusations, Al-Qaeda took action only against countries that collaborated with the Zionists and the Christians. He added that the organization did not battle against Iran itself, but that it did fight against Iranian supported factions in Yemen and Syria. He also emphasized that the goal of the Al-Nusra Front organization in Syria was to topple the Syrian regime, because it only battled against those who fought against its own people. Al-Shami also stated that the Al-Nusra Front would obey any Muslim ruler who was elected by the Syrian people, if he implemented shari’a in the country. He emphasized that the Al-Nusra Front had pledged allegiance to al-Zawahiri, and did intend to break that pledge as long as there was no religious law ruling they should do so. Al-Shami concluded by criticizing the ruling made by al-Tartusi, which stated it was forbidden to join the Al-Nusra Front, and claimed that al-Tartusi should have instead published a ruling calling for jihad under any Sunni organization, including the Al-Nusra Front.<sup>9</sup>

### ***The Pledge of Allegiance***

- The Mauritanian news portal, Al-Akhbar, published an audio recording by Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahrawi, one of the senior leaders of the Al-Murabitun group, which is active in the Maghreb. In the recording, Al-Sahrawi pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.<sup>10</sup> The official leader of the organization, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, immediately rejected and criticised the pledge of allegiance, claiming it had not been approved was not valid.

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

<sup>9</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>10</sup> <http://alakhbar.info/news/9799-2015-05-13-20-45-48.html> (Arabic).



**Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahrawi**

## **Strategy**

- The Fursan Al-Balagh media group published a guide titled “Management and Organization in Islam”, by Abu Talal al-Qasimi. The author suggested ways of organizing ones daily routine and time schedule during such stressful times.<sup>11</sup>
- Sheikh Abdullah bin Muhammad, who identifies with Al-Qaeda and has a Twitter account called “Strategic Matters”, published a proclamation titled “Establishing Power during Modern Times”. The author claimed that the problem with the jihad movement is that it views the concept of “establishing power” in its very narrow perspective, and limits itself to armed rule after military victories. But in order to set up a country, there is a need for – in addition to military power – establishing a state. Bin Muhammad claimed that the establishment of a state must include the establishment of a legal system, the issuance by the state of official documents, protection of the economic rights of the residents, and the existence of free trade. He added that the jihadist trend will not succeed in establishing itself at a state level because it has no government it recognizes, or - the international or regional powers don’t recognize it. Therefore, according to Bin Muhammad, establishing a state must begin with internal reform. He said that the first stage of the reform would be achieved by political agreements between the jihad groups, and the end of conflicts between each other.<sup>12</sup>

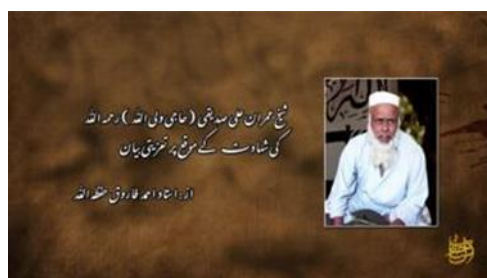
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<sup>11</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>12</sup> <http://justpaste.it/ky82> (Arabic).

## Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The media institution Al-Shab published in the first half of May 2015 eulogies honoring the memories of several senior leaders of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent:
  - Ahmad Farouk, deputy emir of the organization (who was himself killed in January 2015) gave a eulogy in memory of Sheikh Imran Ali Siddiqi, a member of the organization's Shura Council. It should be emphasized that the announcement of Siddiqi's death was first published on the official Twitter account of Usama Mahmoud, the organization's spokesperson, in October 2014. Siddiqi was shot dead last year by an American drone, after taking part in jihad since in the 1990s.<sup>13</sup>



The publication banner

- A video presenting a eulogy in memory of Ahmad Farouq, deputy emir of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, and Asim Umar, member of the organization's Sura Council. The two were shot dead by drones in two separate incidents in the Zaristan region in January 2015.<sup>14</sup>



The video banner

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

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

- The Al-Malahem media institution, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published a video titled “Victory and Death of the Martyrs for Islam”. In the video, a member of the organization named Abu al-Miqdad al-Kandi, aka Khalid bin Umar Bartifi, tells the life story of Sheikh Nasser al-Ansi – a senior member of the organization who was killed in an American drone attack in the Yemenite city of Al-Mukalla in April 2015. At the end of the video, Bartifi calls upon Al-Qaeda to continue waging jihad against the United States, emphasizing that a long running jihad war will exhaust America’s power.<sup>15</sup> The Dagestan province of the Caucasus Emirate also published a eulogy in memory of al-Ansi.<sup>16</sup>



**Nasser al-Ansi**

- The Al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement, a branch of Al-Qaeda in Somalia, published a condolence statement for the death of the emir of the Caucasus Emirate, Abu Muhammad al-Daghistani, who was killed by Russian security forces in the second half of April 2015.<sup>17</sup>
- The Fursan al-Balagh media group published a collection of poems titled “The Travels of a Shahid”, with poem verses praising shahids and the fulfilment of the commandments of jihad.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>16</sup> <http://vdagestan.com/ar/archives/17409>

<sup>17</sup> <https://alminara.wordpress.com/2015/05/03/al-shabaab-condolences-for-the-commander-shaykh-ali-abu-muhammad-ad-dagastani/> (Arabic).

<sup>18</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).



The publication banner

- The “Strategic Matters” Twitter account, which identifies with Al-Qaeda, published a consolation announcement for the death of a senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood, named Farid Ismail, who died in an Egyptian prison.<sup>19</sup>

## Magazines

- The Al-Raya media institution, operating on behalf the Al-Ansar Sharia organization in Libya, published a ninth issue of the periodical “*This is Your Nation, One Nation*”. Among the articles included in the periodical: a death notice for one of the senior leaders of the organization, Milud Sadaqa Abu Mas’ud, a report about the organization’s various military activities (including artillery shooting, hitting tanks, sharpshooting, and detonating roadside bombs against Hiftar’s forces), and new items about the activities of other jihad organizations, including the Islamic State, AQAP, and the Afghan Taliban.<sup>20</sup>



From left to right: distribution of the periodical in Benghazi, Libya; the periodical’s cover page

<sup>19</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/598558304407658497> (Arabic).

<sup>20</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kw62> (Arabic).

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

*In the first half of May, clashes between the Afghan Taliban and the government and army continued throughout Afghanistan. At least 18 police officers were killed in an attack on 13 police checkpoints in Badakhshan Province, in northeast Afghanistan.<sup>21</sup> In addition, the Afghan Taliban activities against foreign forces in the country continued. More than 14 foreign nationals were killed in a Taliban attack on a guest house in Kabul, which is located near the United Nations diplomatic compound and offices.<sup>22</sup> At the same time, a prisoner trade deal was arranged between the Taliban and the Afghan government.<sup>23</sup> On the other side of the battlefield, at the beginning of the month the United States bombed the Kunar region, on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, killing seven armed militants. The area was known to be a Taliban stronghold.<sup>24</sup>*

*Meanwhile, in the Pakistan arena, clashes between the army and the Pakistan Taliban organization continued. At the beginning of the month, the Pakistan Taliban downed a military plane transporting diplomats, which lead to the deaths of six people, including the Norwegian and Pakistan ambassadors to Pakistan.<sup>25</sup> On the other hand, the Pakistan army carried out an airstrike that lead to the deaths of 44 armed militants.<sup>26</sup>*

### The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a statement related to its participation of a delegation of its representatives in the International Pugwash Research Conference that convened in Qatar on May 2. The purpose of the conference was "to discuss the injustices suffered by the Afghan people, and to direct the attention of the world to these injustices".<sup>27</sup> At the beginning of the statement, the organization blamed the United States for invading Afghanistan with the excuse that it was fighting terror. The invasion destroyed the national

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/suicide-blast-targets-government-officials-kabul-150504051626720.html>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/afghanistan-kabul-attack-guesthouse-150513173331558.html>

<sup>23</sup> <http://goo.gl/8M82RO>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/suicide-blast-targets-government-officials-kabul-150504051626720.html>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/pakistan-helicopter-carrying-foreign-diplomats-crashes-150508073528072.html>

<sup>26</sup> <http://goo.gl/nXRpCg>

<sup>27</sup> <http://goo.gl/ZT2EbP>

Islamic identity of Afghanistan. The statement added that in order to reach a state of internal peace and negotiation within Afghanistan, the foreign forces must leave – because as long as there was a foreign presence in the country it would be impossible to establish an independent government or to implement basic policies related to national Islamic interests. It was also written that aside from the foreign forces, the government in Kabul was also taking steps that jeopardized peace, and instead of conducting direct negotiations with the Islamic Emirate, it chose to speak with neighbouring countries. In addition, the statement blamed the international community of spreading negative propaganda about the Afghan Taliban, in order to sabotage the national identity and the jihad reputation, and that was despite the fact that a strong relationship had been forged between the mujahideen and the people.<sup>28</sup>

- The Islamic Emirate published an announcement denouncing the NATO alliance to keep forces in Afghanistan after 2016, claiming that the Afghans were not prepared to accept occupation forces in their country. The announcement also threatened that attacks against American civilians and soldiers in Afghanistan, as well as NATO forces, would continue until all of the occupying forces were exiled from the country, and an Islamic regime was established.<sup>29</sup>

#### ***Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)***

- The Umar media institution, operating on behalf of the Taliban Pakistan organization, published a video of a speech made by senior commander Khalifa Umar Mansur. The subject was the departure of one of the members of the organization to carry out a suicide attack, and the importance of fulfilling the commandments of jihad.<sup>30</sup>

#### ***The Islamic State of Uzbekistan***

- The Jundallah media institution, operating on behalf of the Islamic State of Uzbekistan, published a video titled "The Message of Ramadan and the Message of the Caliphate". The

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<sup>28</sup> <http://goo.gl/LpIARo>

<sup>29</sup> <http://goo.gl/HdZRpR>

<sup>30</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/>



video glorifies the importance of fulfilling the commandments of jihad, and expresses support for the Caliphate of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the Islamic State and Caliphate.<sup>31</sup>

## **The Arabian Peninsula**

*On May 5, Houthi rebels fired rockets and mortars into Saudi Arabia, killing two civilians, and reportedly capturing five Saudi soldiers.<sup>32</sup> On May 7, AQAP announced that a drone strike in April had killed Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi, his eldest son, and several other militants. Al-Ansi was a leader in AQAP who, in a video, claimed responsibility for the Charlie Hebdo attacks.<sup>33</sup> On May 10, Houthi rebels agreed to a five-day ceasefire proposal, set to begin on the 12<sup>th</sup>.<sup>34</sup> The UN planned an aid operation for the duration of the ceasefire.<sup>35</sup> On May 11, a suspected American drone strike hit a car in the Shabwa Province, killing three suspected members of AQAP.<sup>36</sup>*

### **Ansar Al-Sharia**

- The Ansar Al-Sharia organization, affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published a video documenting a raid by its fighters on a Yemenite Army post in Hadhramawt Province.<sup>37</sup>

### **The Islamic State in Shabwa Province**

- The Islamic State in Shabwa Province in Yemen published a video blessing the pledge of allegiance made by Boko Haram fighters in Nigeria, to the Caliphate of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.<sup>38</sup>

### **The Islamic State in Sanaa Province**

- The Islamic State in Sanaa Province published a video titled "A Window from the Land of Yemen". The video began with praises for the Caliphate of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and continued

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

<sup>32</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/yemeni-rebels-bombard-saudis-killing-2-civilians-capture-5-soldiers/2015/05/05/53cab28-f355-11e4-bcc4-e8141e5eb0c9\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/yemeni-rebels-bombard-saudis-killing-2-civilians-capture-5-soldiers/2015/05/05/53cab28-f355-11e4-bcc4-e8141e5eb0c9_story.html)

<sup>33</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/07/middleeast/aqap-commander-killed/>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/yemen/2761815.html>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/un-aid-operation-marshalled-for-yemen-cease-fire/2765858.html>

<sup>36</sup> <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/6a7ada8e72814481afce9f2fde18ab91/4-yemen-al-qaida-leaders-killed-suspected-us-drone-strike>

<sup>37</sup> <http://justpaste.it/13y9> (Arabic).

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



with members of the Islamic State in Sanaa singing praises of Baghdadin, and denouncing the Houthis. According to them, they were determined to fight the Houthis to the death. The end of the video documented a raid by members of the organization on the living quarters of Houthi security forces, including their deaths by rifle fire.<sup>39</sup>

## Iraq

*On May 2, a suicide bomber in an explosive laden Humvee detonated the explosives while driving into the military headquarters in the town of Garma, 40 miles west of Baghdad, killing at least six troops.<sup>40</sup> Late at night on May 2, two car bombs went off in the Karrada district of Baghdad, killing at least 19 people. The Islamic State took responsibility for the attack and claimed it was targeting a Shiite militia.<sup>41</sup> On May 6, the Pentagon announced that Islamic State militants had breached the perimeter of the Baiji oil refinery, although Iraqi forces still controlled the refinery.<sup>42</sup> On May 8, 40 prisoners, including nine imprisoned on terror related charges, escaped from a prison in Al-Khalis, north of Baghdad. The Islamic State claimed it freed the prisoners by blowing up military vehicles outside the prison, in coordination with a prison revolt. The Iraqi government claimed that five guards were killed and 30 were wounded. Also, two car bombs exploded on a busy commercial street in Baladrouz, in Diyala Province, north of Baghdad, killing 11 people and wounding 15.<sup>43</sup> On May 12, a prominent Iraqi Kurdish general was killed along with three guards when his vehicle exploded - either after driving by a roadside bomb or from explosives planted on the vehicle.<sup>44</sup> On May 13, the Iraqi government claimed that an American airstrike had killed Abdul Rahman Mustafa Mohammed, also known as Abu Alaa al-Afar, the second-in-command of the Islamic State, in the Nineveh Province of Iraq.<sup>45</sup> On May 15, Islamic State militants raised their group's black flag over*

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<sup>39</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/suicide-bombing-in-baghdad/2745837.html>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/islamic-state-car-bomb-in-baghdad-kills-19/2746690.html>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/islamic-state-breaches-perimeter-of-iraqi-oil-refinery/2753182.html>

<sup>43</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/09/middleeast/iraq-violence/>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0.7340.L-4656448.00.html>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32726646>

the local government building in Ramadi and proclaimed victory over the loudspeakers of a mosque.<sup>46</sup>

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

- Fighters identifying with the Islamic State published a booklet (197 pages) containing lists of rebel organizations in Syria, and detailed explanations of why they should be viewed as apostate groups operating in the service of Western powers. For example, Ahrar al-Sham was defined as an apostate organization and as evidence of that fact, footage was posted documenting members of the group receiving dollars and secret documents.<sup>47</sup>



An image uploaded by Islamic State fighters to social media sites, displaying logos of rebel organizations

### ***The Islamic State - Baghdad Province***

- The Islamic State in Baghdad Province published the following:
  - A video titled "Bring Me Blocks of Iron (3)", dealing with the manufacture of "sticky" (magnetic) bombs. The video includes footage of a laboratory for making a bomb that is 15 cm long and 4 cm wide, as well as the explosion of a bomb in the framework of testing its effectiveness. At the end of the video, use of this type of bomb in an attack is demonstrated against a checkpoint manned by both army and police forces on Palestine Street in eastern Baghdad. The explosion of the car belonging to a Brigadier general from the Iraqi Ministry of Defence was also documented.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/16/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-ramadi-idUSKBN0O013X20150516>

<sup>47</sup> <http://justpaste.it/SahaExposedOMGbackup2> (Arabic).

<sup>48</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10025> (Arabic).

- An update on the car bomb attack carried out by a suicide bomber named Abu Ibrahim al-Ansari. The report stated that the car was loaded with 500 kilograms of explosives, and was detonated near a large crowd of Shi'ites on Al Sa'adoon Street in the capital city, Baghdad.<sup>49</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Kirkuk Province published the following:
  - Photo reports about Dawa activities in the province. One of the reports dealt with activities for children (contests with prizes, distribution of leaflets about the commandments of Islam, and Quran classes), general preaching to Muslims, and visiting prisoners in jails in order to increase their awareness about Islam.<sup>50</sup> Another report documented a conference about Dawa, held in the town of Hawija before an audience of hundreds.<sup>51</sup>
  - A video about a training camp named after Abu Umar al-Baghdadi. The video featured young masked boys, wearing uniforms and engaging in target practice and a variety of other physical activities. Aside from physical activities, the training included classes on the Islamic faith and theoretic guidance on the use of weapons, and military tactics.<sup>52</sup>



**The training camp named after Abu Umar al-Baghdadi**

<sup>49</sup> <https://twitter.com/abosalhbzaa/status/598234295103311872> (Arabic).

<sup>50</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kv7f> (Arabic).

<sup>51</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9931> (Arabic).

<sup>52</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10141> (Arabic).

- An update about the fourth suicide attack carried out in the Allas oil field, against Iraq military forces and the Popular Mobilization Forces.<sup>53</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Saladin Province published the following:
  - A report on the battles taking place at the oil refinery in the town of Baiji. The photo report about the battles documented shooting mortars and launching Grad rockets at army forces, the destruction and burning of military vehicles, and the suicide attack carried out by two terrorists driving two vehicles loaded with explosives into groups of soldiers and then detonating the explosives. In addition, other sources reported that in the clashes in the Baiji area a total of 46 military vehicles were destroyed.<sup>54</sup>
  - An announcement about the death of Abu Ibrahim al-Shishani, one of the Chechen commanders in the Islamic State. Al-Shishani, who was considered one of the masterminds behind the attack on the oil refinery in Baiji, held a senior position in Jaish Al-Muhajireen Wal-Ansar – a Syrian rebel group made up of Chechen and Syrian fighters – before he joined the Islamic State.<sup>55</sup>



**The death notice for one of the Chechen IS commanders in Saladin Province**

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

<sup>53</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15893> (Arabic).

<sup>54</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9906>; <http://justpaste.it/1094>; <https://dump.to/BaiJiOil>; [https://twitter.com/aswar\\_1001/status/596079529480691715](https://twitter.com/aswar_1001/status/596079529480691715) (all in Arabic).

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/isis-leader-abu-ibrahim-chechen-killed-iraq/>; [https://twitter.com/Ibn\\_J\\_IR55/status/593802082517291008](https://twitter.com/Ibn_J_IR55/status/593802082517291008) (Arabic).

- The Islamic State in the Nineveh Province published the following:
  - A video titled "Eradication of Corruption by the Law of the Lord of Mankind (2)". The video documented the execution of two individuals accused of robbing and murdering to elderly people. During the video, the accused admitted to committing the crimes they were charged with, and even re-enacted the chain of events at the site of the crime. After the suspects were displayed before the residents of the neighbourhood and their identities were revealed, the two accused were executed by beheading before an audience of adults and children. The video ended with reactions by the area residents who thanked the Islamic State for taking care of the criminals and creating "a sense of peace and security".<sup>56</sup>



**The execution of two people accused of murder in Nineveh Province**

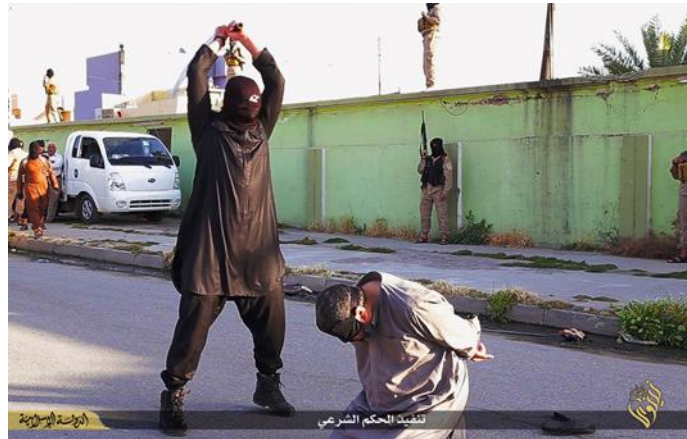
- A photo report about the distribution of Zakat to the needy residents of the province. The report documented the process of preparing the Zakat money, which included counting the Iraqi dinar bills, and putting them into envelopes for distribution. On every envelope appeared the words "The Islamic State is responsible for transferring to you what you deserve from the money of the rich, as commanded by Allah, may He be glorified and exalted."<sup>57</sup>
- A video documenting the *qunūt al-nawazil* – "supplication for removing calamities" ceremony in different mosques around the city of Mosul. According to Islamic tradition, this special prayer is recited when tragedy strikes the nation. The video featured footage of people coming to the mosque and praying for the wellbeing of the fighters, for the

<sup>56</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10004> (Arabic).

<sup>57</sup> <http://goo.gl/YzIGZA>

recovery of the injured, and for the liberation of prisoners, while calling upon God to help them in their struggles against the United States, Iran, the Jews, and the Crusaders. Some of the congregants were even filmed bursting into tears while praying.<sup>58</sup>

- A photo report documenting the execution of three people who were presented as members of a “spy cell” affiliated with the Iraq army.<sup>59</sup>



**The execution of someone accused of spying for the Iraqi Army**

- A photo report dealing with the civilian aspects of managing the Islamic State, with the goal of providing a fair representation of the normal life under the organization’s rule. The reports focused on the city of Mosul, and among other things dealt with the reopening of a renovated hotel,<sup>60</sup> with activities in the shopping centers,<sup>61</sup> with stores that sold light fixtures,<sup>62</sup> and a presentation of photographs from various city sites.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10081> (Arabic).

<sup>59</sup> <http://goo.gl/nZH9qV>

<sup>60</sup> [http://justpaste.it/n\\_6](http://justpaste.it/n_6) (Arabic).

<sup>61</sup> [http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/05/blog-post\\_5.html](http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/05/blog-post_5.html) (Arabic).

<sup>62</sup> [http://justpaste.it/n\\_7](http://justpaste.it/n_7) (Arabic).

<sup>63</sup> [http://justpaste.it/mosul\\_ninawa](http://justpaste.it/mosul_ninawa) (Arabic).





**A gleaming mall in Mosul – an effort to portray a peaceful and secure life under the Islamic State**

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

- The Islamic State in the Al-Anbar Province published the following:
  - A report about an attack to conquer Ramadi, which was named after Abu Mahannad Suwaydawi, one of the IS commanders who was killing in past Ramadi clashes. A news item stated that Islamic State fighters crossed the Euphrates River and penetrated Ramadi from the north. They took control of the government compound in the heart of the city, including the district main office and the police headquarters.<sup>64</sup> According to reports, the attack included widespread use of truck bombs, which cause dozens of deaths and injuries.<sup>65</sup> One of the explosive vehicles was detonated by a British suicide bomber named Abu Musa al-Baritani.<sup>66</sup>
  - The FURAT media institution, operating on behalf of the Islamic State and publishing mainly propaganda materials in Russian, published a video focusing on the training of an elite unit in Al-Anbar Province in Iraq. The unit was mostly made up of fighters from the Caucasus and Central Asia. Interspersed with a report on the fighters' training, the raid by members of the elite unit on an Iraqi Army base at Lake Tharthar was documented. During the raid, 180 Iraqi soldiers were taken prisoner.<sup>67</sup>

<sup>64</sup> <http://goo.gl/fg5B7g> ; <https://goo.gl/QFCikA>

<sup>65</sup> <https://twitter.com/wisaam8003/status/599166030787674112> (Arabic).

<https://twitter.com/jode1/status/599344861234487296> (Arabic).

<sup>66</sup> <https://twitter.com/isisb371/status/599180483553988608> (Arabic).

<sup>67</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).



A segment from the video

### ***The Islamic State – Falluja Province***

- The Islamic State in Falluja Province published the following:
  - A photo report and update about the organization gaining control of the factory compound in the northeast part of the city. According to the report, IS militants killed and injured a number of soldiers, seized weapons and ammunition as booty, and destroyed the outposts.<sup>68</sup>
  - A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack in the southeast part of the city, against the Iraqi Army headquarters. The attack lead to the death and injury of dozens of soldiers.<sup>69</sup> Additional suicide attacks were carried out in the Ameriyyat Al-Falluja<sup>70</sup> and Al-Karma areas.<sup>71</sup>
  - A report about the start of broadcasts from the Al-Bayan radio station in the province (a station operated by the IS, and which broadcasts organization news along with verses from the Quran and jihad poems).<sup>72</sup>

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

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

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<sup>68</sup> <https://twitter.com/biomar75/status/598984532545634304> (Arabic).  
<sup>69</sup> <https://twitter.com/xoxnvczsavrexox/status/598516621246898176> (Arabic).  
<sup>70</sup> <https://twitter.com/isisb371/status/598564804614164481> (Arabic).  
<sup>71</sup> <https://twitter.com/abooamiir12/status/598428637264793600> (Arabic).  
<sup>72</sup> [https://twitter.com/sky\\_7\\_5/status/597770616461197314](https://twitter.com/sky_7_5/status/597770616461197314) (Arabic).  
<sup>72</sup> <https://twitter.com/Alansare33/status/594864641618083841> (Arabic).



- A video titled “Harvesting the Spies”, documenting the execution of a man named Zafer al-Zawi, who was accused of spying for the Iraqi government. During the video, the man was filmed stating his personal details and calling upon others not to spy against the Islamic State. Al-Zawi was executed by a child who shot him to death after sending threatening messages to Western countries and promising that the Islamic armies and the apostates would meet in Dabiq.<sup>73</sup>



**The Islamic State in Al-Furat – the use of boys as executioners**

- A photo report about the punishment of two people accused of injuring a third man’s head. In order to uphold the principle of “an eye for an eye”, the length of a cut on the victim’s head was measured with a ruler, with the intention of making identical cuts on the heads of the accused.<sup>74</sup>



**An “eye for an eye” punishment in Al-Furat Province**

### ***The Islamic State – Diyala Province***

- The Islamic State in the Diyala Province published the following:
  - A video titled “From Captivity to Slaughter”, featuring the story of an Iraqi soldier

<sup>73</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9840> (Arabic).

<sup>74</sup> <http://justpaste.it/126x> (Arabic).

captured by the IS near an army outpost. In the video, the soldier was filmed confessing to crimes and asserting that Qasem Soleimani, the commander of the Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard was indeed in the combat zone. The soldier was executed with a knife.<sup>75</sup>

- An update on the release of 30 IS soldiers from the Al-Khales jail in an operation that included the use of 15 explosive devices, and an exchange of gunfire within the prison walls. According to the report, the prisoners inside the jail were able to coordinate with the fighters outside, who detonated the explosives against military and police vehicles at the site. Inside the jail itself, the prisoners were able to take control of the weapons room, to free 30 of their companions, and to kill and injure dozens of police officers and soldiers.<sup>76</sup>
- An update on a suicide attack with an explosive belt, which was carried out against police officers and soldiers in the Shi'ite village Balad Ruz. The report stated that a fighter named Abu al-Zubayr al-Muhajer opened fire, and when he ran out of ammunition, another fighter with an explosive belt detonated himself and caused the deaths of many.<sup>77</sup>
- The Islamic State newscast on May 6, 2015 reported on the methods used by the organization in the province on a regular basis. The methods included mostly the detonation of explosives against homes of military personnel, police buildings, and military vehicles.<sup>78</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Al-Janub Province published the following:
  - A video documenting an attack against Iraqi Army forces in the Zoba area. The attack included use of light weapons, RPG rockets, and machine guns, and concluded with footage of the bodies of dead soldiers and of the vehicles and buildings destroyed during the attack.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> <https://archive.org/details/mn.al2ser.ela.alna7ero0o> (Arabic).

<sup>76</sup> <https://twitter.com/ali22omar999/status/597017031947390977> (Arabic).

<sup>77</sup> [https://twitter.com/sky\\_7\\_5/status/596679571640033280](https://twitter.com/sky_7_5/status/596679571640033280) (Arabic).

<sup>78</sup> <https://twitter.com/Ibnelnil14/status/596048329089425408> (Arabic).

<sup>79</sup> <https://archive.org/details/sawlet.almow7den.ala.awkar.safwyen> (Arabic).

- A photo report about firing 16 mortar rockets measuring 120 mm towards Iraqi Army posts in the Ameriyyat Al-Falluja area.<sup>80</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Djila Province***

- The Islamic State in Djila Province published the following:
  - A video featuring an interview with several tribal chiefs in Djila Province, about their obligation to fight alongside Islamic State fighters against Iran, the Shi'ites, and Muslims who allied themselves with the enemies of Islam. The video was published in response to news in Iraqi media that several of the tribes in areas under IS control had denied supporting the organization.<sup>81</sup>

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

*According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a May 1 airstrike by American forces resulted in the deaths of at least 52 people in the Aleppo Province.<sup>82</sup> The United States said that it was investigating the Observatory's charges.<sup>83</sup> That same day, a second statement was released: "The observatory also leveled a fresh charge against the al-Assad regime on Sunday, saying helicopters dropped explosive barrels on a neighborhood -- and that medical sources believe the barrels contained chlorine gas. At last 40 people suffered from suffocation, the group said."<sup>84</sup> On May 4, a small group of insurgents, including a suicide bomber, attacked a Syrian Army logistics center in Damascus, killing one guard and wounding a general and two guards.<sup>85</sup> In the second week of May, the United States began to train a small group of moderate Syrian rebels.<sup>86</sup> Beginning during the night of May 15 and continuing into the next day, American Special Forces killed an Islamic State commander, Abu Sayyaf, captured his wife, and freed a Yazidi girl in a raid in eastern Syria.<sup>87</sup>*

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<sup>80</sup> <http://goo.gl/pMygCI>

<sup>81</sup> <https://isdarat.org> (Arabic).

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/02/us-syria-strike-idUSKBN0NN08G20150502>

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/monitor-syrian-death-toll-from-us-strike-rises-to-52/2745954.html>

<sup>84</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/03/middleeast/syria-massacre-accused-us/>

<sup>85</sup> <http://www.wsj.com/articles/suicide-bomber-attacks-syrian-military-facility-1430743894>

<sup>86</sup> <http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-starts-military-training-for-moderate-syrian-rebels-1431024869>

<sup>87</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/16/middleeast/syria-isis-us-raid/>

## Syria

### *Al-Nusra Front*

- During the first half of March 2015, Al-Nusra Front's jihadist media institution in Syria, Al-Manarah al-Bayda, published the following:
  - A collection of photographs of a battle won by the organization in Jisr Al-Shughur, a city in Idlib Province, in north western Syria.<sup>88</sup>
  - A video documenting the assistance provided by the organization's "Dawa and Guidance Office" in the campaign to implement shari'a.<sup>89</sup>
  - A claim of responsibility for an attack on an welfare administration building and on military equipment in Damascus, by three members of the organization.<sup>90</sup>
  - A video of Shi'ite prisoners held captive by the organization, beseeching their children to wake up and stop supporting combat against the Sunnis in Syria, and not to support Hezbollah in Lebanon – which serves the interests of Iran in the region.<sup>91</sup>
  - A denial of the claim that an apology was published for the battles waged against the Islamic State in the eastern Kalmon region. According to the Al-Nusra Front, the battles against Islamic State fighters will continue until the IS fighters repent or until they stand trial.<sup>92</sup>

### *Jaysh al-Fatah*

- Jaysh Al-Fatah, an umbrella organization of several Salafi jihadist organizations, headed by Al-Nusra Front, published an announcement explaining the reasons for battling against the Islamic State fighters in the eastern Kalmon area. For example, the Islamic State was accused of blocking several roads used as supply routes for the other jihadist organizations, and therefore impaired the war efforts against the Syrian regime.

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<sup>88</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>89</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>90</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>91</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>92</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

- At the beginning of May 2015, the jihadist media institution Al-Taghur was established, in order to help with public relations for the Al-Nusra Front and Jaysh Al-Fatah.<sup>93</sup>



The Al-Taghur logo

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

- The Islamic State in the Aleppo Province published the following:
  - A video documenting what was referred to as "the massacre committed by the Crusader coalition aircraft in the village of Beer Mahli on the outskirts of Ayn Al-Islam – Kobani". The video documented the injured and killed in the attack - including numerous children, as well as local residents who called for a cessation of the bombing.<sup>94</sup>
  - A report on the invasion of an Islamic State cell into the AL-Hasiyya village, where an Islamic Front fighter was killed and another was taken prisoner.<sup>95</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Raqqa Province published the following:
  - A video titled "Messages from the land of Al-Sham to the country of faith in Yemen", in which a number of Yemenite fighters active in Syria were featured. In the video, one of the fighters addressed the residents of Yemen and clarified that they had not been forgotten. At the same time, he criticised Operation Decisive Storm. In addition, the fighter addressed the "loyal members" of different organizations and groups in Yemen, encouraging them to join the Islamic State. The video ended with an inciting song, calling upon the residents of Shabwa and Mukalla to eliminate the "cursed" Iranian presence in

<sup>93</sup> <https://twitter.com/althgor1/status/596033684773478400> (Arabic).

<sup>94</sup> <https://twitter.com/aaaaaa37864466/status/594988152709746688> (Arabic).

<sup>95</sup> <https://twitter.com/Ibnelnil14/status/595364323448467457> (Arabic).

Yemen and to kill Houthis.<sup>96</sup>



**A message from Syria to Yemen**

- A photo report about a patrol by Al-Hisba (an Islamic group responsible for preserving public order and ethics) in the city streets for the purpose of "promoting virtue and preventing vice".<sup>97</sup>



**A member of the Al-Hisba Office of the Islamic State, patrolling a market in Raqqa**

- A photo report about distributing Dawa leaflets to pedestrians in the area of Tabqa. Several examples of headlines in the leaflets are: "Loyalty to Islam and not to nationality", "The Hijab according to shari'a", "The commandment to grow a beard and the prohibition against shaving it", "Ten questions of faith", "The Jurisprudence of Zakat", and more. In addition, copies of a disk of the Al-Maysara magazine – a monthly publication put out by the Islamic State, and which includes informational materials about the organization – were distributed to the residents on the area.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>96</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9887> (Arabic).

<sup>97</sup> [http://justpaste.it/hesba\\_raqqa](http://justpaste.it/hesba_raqqa) (Arabic).

<sup>98</sup> [http://justpaste.it/da3wa\\_garb](http://justpaste.it/da3wa_garb) (Arabic).



**Distributing Islamic State leaflets in Raqqa Province**

- A report about two suicide attacks and taking control of several villages in the Ra's Al-Ayn area, after a heavy exchange of fire between the Islamic State and PKK forces. The attacks were carried out by two fighters nicknamed Abu Yassin al-Misri and Abu Ibrahim al-Ansari.<sup>99</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 photo report about the clashes between the Islamic State and the Kurdish PKK militias. Three reports covered the attacks by the Islamic State near Tall Tamer, in which IS fighters used medium and heavy weapons, such as machine guns and RPG rockets.<sup>100</sup> Other reports dealt with the battles between the Islamic state and the PKK south of the town Tall Hamis,<sup>101</sup> and with a suicide attack against the PKK which was carried out by a fighter from Turkistan.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>99</sup> [https://twitter.com/Q\\_vX/status/597029417026629632](https://twitter.com/Q_vX/status/597029417026629632) (Arabic).

<sup>100</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9829>; <https://isdarat.tv/9843>; <https://isdarat.tv/9851> (all in Arabic).

<sup>101</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9909> (Arabic).

<sup>102</sup> <https://twitter.com/isisb371/status/598208746934767616> (all in Arabic).



### Combat between the Islamic State and the PKK in the Tall Tomer area

- A video titled "The Lions of War #3", also documenting the battles between the Islamic State and the PKK in the Tall Tomer area. Interspersed with footage from the battles were messages from the organization's fighters, which included threats made towards dictators, and a call for more Muslims to join the ranks of the Islamic State. The video ended with a short interrogation of one of the PKK fighters who was captured by the IS, and an image of one of the IS fighters who was killed in the clashes.<sup>103</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Al-Khayr (Dayr Al-Zawr) Province***

- The Islamic State in Al-Khayr Province (formerly Dayr Al-Zawr Province) published the following:
  - A video<sup>104</sup> and a photo report<sup>105</sup> about an attack carried out in the Hawija Saker area on the outskirts of Dayr Al-Zawr. The attack included the use of rockets, anti-aircraft missiles, RPGs, and heavy machine guns, as well as a suicide attack carried out by a young man named Abu Ali al-Ansari, who detonated a tank laded with explosives opposite an army checkpoint in the city of Dayr Al-Zawr. In addition, as part of the operation, tunnels leading to the army posts were booby trapped with explosives before they were exploded. The video ended with more reports about the clashes from the

<sup>103</sup> <https://archive.org/details/usdWga3> (Arabic).

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hy4gs0aP2tw>

<sup>105</sup> <http://justpaste.it/10sm> (Arabic).



fighters themselves, who displayed the booty they seized in the operation.<sup>106</sup> After the occupation was complete, another video was published documenting the takeover of IS fighters in Hawija Saker, who threatened to also conquer in the future the entire Dayr Al-Zawr province.<sup>107</sup>

- A video titled "They are your Brethren in Faith", featuring two former Syrian soldiers and two volunteers in the Syrian Civil Defence who deserted from their positions, stopped supporting the Syrian regime, and joined the ranks of the Islamic State. During the video a reception and meal arranged in honor of the new recruits was documented, during which they praised the Islamic State and called upon more soldiers to defect and join the IS ranks.<sup>108</sup>



**A reception held for the four members of the Syrian security forces who deserted and joined the IS**

- A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack using a truck bomb, carried out by a fighter named Abu Yazid al- Ansari at an army checkpoint near the missile battalion.<sup>109</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Homs Province published the following:
  - A video about the liberation of the Umm Al-Tababir checkpoint in the western area of the province. The video documented the developments during the clashes, as well as the weapons and ammunition seized as booty, and the beheading of some of the

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<sup>106</sup> <https://twitter.com/aboohfs5/status/596635715968073728>; <https://goo.gl/dTgYhn> (all in Arabic).

<sup>107</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10170> (Arabic).

<sup>108</sup> <http://isonline.ga2h.com/2015/05/brothers/>

<sup>109</sup> <https://twitter.com/Ibnelni14/status/598990396086190080> (Arabic).

Syrian Army soldiers who were killed in the attack.<sup>110</sup>

- A photo report about the execution of two people presented as agents of the Syrian regime.<sup>111</sup>
- A photo report about the activities of the Hisba people in the province, including destroying cigarettes, alcohol, and charms.<sup>112</sup>

### ***The Islamic State - Damascus Province***

- The Islamic State in Damascus Province published the following:
  - A video titled "The Attack to Liberate the Al-Yarmouk Camp", documenting Islamic State fighters battling in a built up area within the camp. The detonation of a car bomb was also filmed – an attack which killed a group of people presented as supporters of the Alawi regime. In addition, the video featured the testimony of a person who thanked the Islamic State for returning food that was stolen from the storeroom of a soup kitchen by members of the Aknaf Bait Al-Maqdis organization – a group of Palestinian rebels loyal to Hamas, which was active in the camp.<sup>113</sup>
  - A proclamation signed by the governor of the Damascus Province of the Islamic State was circulated. The proclamation advised factions fighting against the Islamic State – such as the Al-Shu'etat tribe, Jaysh Al-Islam, and the Al-Furqan Brigade – to lay down their weapons and repent. The proclamation clarified that the offer was only valid for three days, and any faction interested in laying down its weapons must be committed to taking a shari'a course in order to ensure a successful repentance process.<sup>114</sup>

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

- The Ibn Taymiyya media institution's publications mainly focused on the Palestinian Salafi jihadist fighters:

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<sup>110</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9948> (Arabic).

<sup>111</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9867> (Arabic).

<sup>112</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9864> (Arabic).

<sup>113</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9938> (Arabic).

<sup>114</sup> <https://twitter.com/aboyosefsh1/status/595876284770594816> (Arabic).

- A statement titled " Hamas Military Wing Causes a Dangerous escalation against members of the Salafi movement". At the beginning of the statement, Hamas is accused of a lengthy oppression of Salafi jihadist movement activists in Gaza, which reached its height in May 2015. That was due to the unjustified arrests of several Salafi activists in the city Dir Al-Balah, in the center of the Gaza Strip. In light of that, the Ibn Taymiya media institution called for the start of a widespread public relations campaign denouncing the Hamas persecution.<sup>115</sup>
- Criticism of Hamas' security system, due to the closure of a Salafi mosque called Al-Iman. The institution claimed that the mosque was closed only because Hamas did not like the idea that a mosque was being managed by Salafi elements.<sup>116</sup>
- An article by Abd al-Rahman bin Aqil al-Ghazi, calling upon Palestinian mujahideen to devote themselves to jihad and to remain patient until supremacy was attained.<sup>117</sup>

#### ***Supporters of The Islamic State in Jerusalem***

- The Supporters of the Islamic State in Jerusalem claimed responsibility for shooting two 82 mm mortars at a compound belonging to Az Al-Qassam Brigades, a military branch of Hamas, in west Han Yunis in Gaza.<sup>118</sup>

#### ***The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula (formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis)***

- The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula published a video titled "Attacking the Supporters - #2", which documented attacks by IS fighters against Egyptian security forces in the Sinai Peninsula.<sup>119</sup>

#### ***Others***

- The Al-Buraq media institution published a video about a training camp set up by the Liwa Al-Tawhid organization, active in the Gaza Strip. The video featured a fighter describing the

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<sup>115</sup> <http://justpaste.it/hmas33> (Arabic).

<sup>116</sup> <http://justpaste.it/l3l3> (Arabic).

<sup>117</sup> <http://justpaste.it/l41n> (Arabic).

<sup>118</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>119</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

training camp set up to train hundreds of fighters. The video's narrator thanks the donors who made contributions to date, but asked them to continue donating money in order to outfit the fighters, with the hope that "they will be like arrows in the throats of the enemies of Allah – the Jews – in the next round." At the end of the video, footage of a sampling of the training activities for the camp recruits was shown.<sup>120</sup>



**A campaign to increase contributions to the Liwa Al-Tawhid camp in Gaza**

## **Africa**

### ***The Maghreb***

*Clashes between the Libyan National Army and armed militias active in the country continued. Libya Dawn forces suffered a serious blow when the Libyan Army downed one of the organization's helicopters in the Zenten region, and killed one of the organization's commanders near the Al-Watiya base.<sup>121</sup> At the same time, it was reported that the Islamic State gained power in central Libya, and was able to gain a foothold in the cities of Nofliyya and Harawa.<sup>122</sup>*

*In Tunisia, the security forces continued intense efforts to locate and oust the terror cells that sprouted throughout the country. The Tunisian Defense Ministry reported that four terrorists were killed in Jebel Samama, in Kasserine Province.<sup>123</sup> Meanwhile, the security forces apprehended a cell suspected of involvement in an attack on the American embassy in*

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<sup>120</sup> <https://archive.org/details/lewa2tawhid> (Arabic).

<sup>121</sup> <http://goo.gl/gzX34w> (Arabic).

<sup>122</sup> <http://goo.gl/VjQ3be> (Arabic).

<sup>123</sup> <https://goo.gl/FhIEOM> (Arabic).

Tunisia.<sup>124</sup> Additional efforts were made against terror funding, by suspending the activities of 150 associations, and shutting down another twenty, due to "severe violations" and a propensity for acts of terrorism.<sup>125</sup> Evidence of widespread terrorism in the country was apparent in a statement made by the Tunisian Defense Ministry spokesman, who said that during the years 2014 and 2015, 61 terrorist training camps had been discovered in Tunisian territory.<sup>126</sup> Reports also came from Algeria about armed fighters being killed near the capital city, Algiers,<sup>127</sup> after several days previously it was reported that four members of the security forces had been shot to death in the eastern part of the country by unidentified assailants.<sup>128</sup>

In Morocco, the struggle against terrorism was expressed in the expansion of the cooperation and coordination in this area between Morocco, Spain, and the United Arab Emirates,<sup>129</sup> with increased monitoring of social media sites,<sup>130</sup> and activity by the Global Counterterrorism Forum together with Holland.<sup>131</sup>

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

- The Al-Andalus media institution, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) published a recorded message by Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Rashid al-Bulaydi, head of the organization's Shariah Committee.<sup>132</sup> During his speech, al-Bulayde offered suggestions to Muslims in general, and to mujahideen in particular, calling upon them to preserve unity in their ranks, to avoid making baseless accusations against other Muslims, and to try to achieve victory "not only in weapons store houses, training camps, and battle fields", but also in the realms of

<sup>124</sup> <http://www.albawabhnews.com/1275764> (English).

<sup>125</sup> <http://middle-east-online.com/?id=199648> (Arabic).

<sup>126</sup> <http://www.aremnews.com/news/arab/275350> (Arabic).

<sup>127</sup> <https://goo.gl/M9IuAf> (Arabic).

<sup>128</sup> <http://arabic.cnn.com/middleeast/2015/05/12/algeria-police-attack> (Arabic).

<sup>129</sup> <http://goo.gl/8zsJrJ>; <http://goo.gl/TbC7vW> (Arabic).

<sup>130</sup> <http://www.akhbarona.com/social/119328.html> (Arabic).

<sup>131</sup> <https://goo.gl/lxnu0y> (Arabic).

<sup>132</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kwkl> (Arabic).

prayer and caring for orphans. Captions were added to the speech by the Al-Tahaya institution.<sup>133</sup>

- The Uqba bin Nafe Brigade published a video documenting an attack carried out during the past month of Ramadan, against a group of Tunisian soldiers in the Jebel Chaambi region. Aside from footage of the attack itself, the video featured footage of members of the group training in preparation for an attack described as revenge for the death of a woman who was killed by security forces in Tunisia. Portions of past speeches made by Abdelmalek Droukdel, an AQIM leader, and Abu Yusuf al-Annabi, head of the Council of Dignitaries of Uqba bin Nafe were interspersed throughout the video. The video ended with a promise for more operations in the future, and images of weapons, ammunition, and other equipment seized as booty during the operation.<sup>134</sup> The video ended with captions reading "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb", which contradicts reports from September 2014 stating that the Uqba bin Nafe Brigade had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.<sup>135</sup>

## **Algeria**

- The Al-Battar media institution published the transcription of the pledge of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi by a group that called itself the Skikda Brigade, or "The supporters of the Caliphate in the Mountains of the Merciful". The official version of the pledge of allegiance appeared in the statement, alongside a call for more organizations to pledge allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State. It was emphasized that this group was joining the Jund Al-Khilafa group, which has already pledged allegiance to the Islamic state after deserting the AQIM.<sup>136</sup>

## **Tunisia**

- A group that calls itself Ajnad Al-Khilafa Bi-Ifriqiya – "The Caliphate Soldiers in Africa", and identifies with the Islamic State, published a video that dealt with clashes between its fighters and Tunisian Army soldiers in the Jebel Salloum area on April 22, 2015 in Kasserine Province. The video featured Tunisian media reactions to the events, and footage of some of the

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<sup>133</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kxng> (Arabic).

<sup>134</sup> <https://archive.org/details/okba1>

<sup>135</sup> <http://goo.gl/q6pscO>

<sup>136</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/showthread.php?t=237710> (Arabic).

exchange of fire, with old recordings playing in the background of Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, the Islamic State spokesperson. Since the Tunisian air force bombed the area during the battles, the video ended with a threat that the fate of the Tunisian pilots will be similar to that of Muadh al-Kasasbe, the Jordanian pilot who was burnt to death by the Islamic State.<sup>137</sup> It should be emphasised that in the statement the organization published a short time after the event, it was claimed that the Tunisian Army set up an ambush near the camp, which is what led to the start of the clashes.<sup>138</sup> Newspaper sources reported that at least three soldiers, and ten armed fighters from the organization were killed in the battle.<sup>139</sup>

- An article was published on the Shumukh Al-Islam jihadist forum, titled “Words from the Heart to the Residents of Tunisia and Morocco”, by an author who went by the pen name Al-Layth bin Sa’d. In the article, the author presented to the Muslims of North Africa a report about the glorious history of Islam in the region, and called upon them to “return to their original splendour”. He reminded them that “the lines of history are only written in blood, and the spire of glory is only built with skulls”. At the end of the article, the author called upon all Muslims in North Africa to join one of the jihad groups or to act as a “lone wolf”.<sup>140</sup>
- A recorded message was published, titled “A message from the land of Tunisia to Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi”. In the recording, the voice of an unidentified man was heard complaining about the persecution of the Muslims in Tunisia by the “tyrant regimes”. In the message, the speaker urged al-Baghdadi to announce that he was sending troops into Tunisia in order to break through the “imaginary borders” and to fight against “the apostate regime”.<sup>141</sup>
- The owner of a Twitter account who identified with the Islamic State threatened to harm the Jews on the island of Jerba, which belongs to Tunisia, during the celebrations on the anniversaries of the deaths of Rabbi Meir Baal Hanes and Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai.<sup>142</sup>

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<sup>137</sup> <https://sendvid.com/8c36dieb>

<sup>138</sup> <http://goo.gl/wm7xDY>

<sup>139</sup> <http://www.tap.info.tn/en/index.php/politics2/26428-new-toll-of-jebel-salloum-operation-three-servicemen-martyred-defense>

<sup>140</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>141</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifcJViFBWBk>; <https://shamikh1.info/vb/showthread.php?t=237998>

<sup>142</sup> <https://twitter.com/7yaty1400/status/595324649715597313>

## Libya

### *Ansar Al-Sharia*

- The Ansar Al-Sharia organization in Libya published the following:
  - Photo reports about the organization's activities in the civilian arena, such as opening a medical center,<sup>143</sup> maintaining electric cables,<sup>144</sup> and an event for children and teenagers in the city of Derna organized by the organization's Dawa Office.<sup>145</sup>
  - Chapters 13 and 14 in a series of recorded lectures about the Islam religion, by Sheikh Abu Tamim al\_Libi, titled "Messages to the Murabiteen Front".<sup>146</sup>

### *The Islamic State - Barqa Province*

- The Islamic State in the Barqa Province published the following:
  - A video titled "Benghazi – the Significance of Standing Strong". The video featured IS fighters in Benghazi – wearing masks or with their faces blurred – pledging allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and fighting in a built up area. In addition to the exchange of gunfire, the video included footage of a suicide bomber detonating a car bomb against a group of "the tyrant's soldiers" (a nickname for General Khalifa Hiftar), and the explosion of the police headquarters in the city. The video ended with the execution of a person introduced as Sahawat, and with words of praise for a fighter named Abu Ahmad al-Misri – who called upon fighters from other factions to abandon their groups and join the Islamic State.<sup>147</sup>
  - A photo report about a tunnel built by Islamic State fighters in Benghazi. The report depicted armed fighters moving through the tunnel in order to carry out "high quality operations" in the Assabri district in the north part of the city.<sup>148</sup>

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<sup>143</sup> <http://justpaste.it/mtc> (Arabic).

<sup>144</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kwne> (Arabic).

<sup>145</sup> <https://dump.to/byI> (Arabic).

<sup>146</sup> <https://twitter.com/AtherMadina/status/595058271188320256>;  
<https://twitter.com/AtherMadina/status/596875379119398914> (all in Arabic).

<sup>147</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9992> (Arabic).

<sup>148</sup> <http://justpaste.it/anfaq1> (Arabic).





### The Islamic State in Benghazi – Using Tunnels to carry out “quality operations”

- A photo report about the execution of people accused of engaging in homosexual relations<sup>149</sup> and witchcraft.<sup>150</sup>

## Nigeria

On May 2, the Nigerian government announced that it had rescued an additional 234 women and children from a remote part of the Sambisa Forest. According to a government spokesperson, some of the women rescued tried to shoot at the government soldiers, indicating that some identify themselves as being members of Boko Haram.<sup>151</sup> On May 8, a terrorist opened fire at a college in Potiskum, in Yobe State, with the intention of blowing himself up inside the school. But he was stopped and the attack ended with only six students injured and the suicide bomber dead.<sup>152</sup> Boko Haram is suspected of being responsible for the attack. On May 14, hundreds of Boko Haram militants launched an attack on Maiduguri. The attack was repelled, but the French news agency AFP reported that at least three Nigerian soldiers, six vigilante fighters, and dozens of Boko Haram fighters were killed.<sup>153</sup>

## Somalia

In Somalia, clashes continued between the Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen organization, the most

<sup>149</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9927>

<sup>150</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9917>

<sup>151</sup> <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/05/01/nigeria-rescue-boko-haram/26755427/>

<sup>152</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/nigeria-potiskum-school-attack/2759943.html>

<sup>153</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/boko-haram-attacks-maiduguri-army-repels-but-hundred-flee/2767126.html>

*prominent jihad organization in Somalia, and the government and security forces. On May 15 Al-Shabaab fighters took over two cities in Lower Shebelle Province, in southern Somalia, after heavy fighting opposite government forces.*<sup>154</sup>

*On the other side of the arena, the Somali government issued a ban in the framework of its war on terror.*<sup>155</sup> *The government published guidelines for media institutions, instructing them to stop calling “Al-Shabaab” by that name, and to start calling the organization “Ugus” – the initials for “the Group that Massacres the Somali People” in the Somali language.*<sup>156</sup>

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

- The Al-Mujirun organization, affiliated with Al-Sahbaab Al-Mujahideen movement, published an announcement praising the jihad activities of the organization’s fighters in East Africa, and of the Al-Sahbaab Al-Mujahideen fighters in Somalia. It was also written that the organization fighters viewed themselves as defenders of the Islam religion and of the Muslims in East Africa, before the African colonialist forces, such as Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya.<sup>157</sup> In addition, the organization published a video denouncing violence of the Somali security forces (police and army), and the neighbouring regimes on the continent, against the Muslim civilians.<sup>158</sup>

### **The Indian Subcontinent**

- The Twitter account “Strategic Matters”, which identifies with Al-Qaeda, called upon all social network surfers to monitor the activities of “The Buddhist Terrorism against Muslims” in Burma, Myanmar.<sup>159</sup> The tweet was posted in reaction to the trend of the domination of the Myanmar government, and in an effort to incite the Muslim residents of Myanmar against the regime.
- Al-Qaeda’s official media institution, Al-Sahab, published a video titled “From France to Bangladesh”. The video was credited to Al-Qaeda of the Indian Subcontinent, and it contained a claim of responsibility for the killing of a number of atheist bloggers and one moderate Islamic

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<sup>154</sup> <http://goo.gl/ozgVRk>

<sup>155</sup> <http://goo.gl/eWBOJa>

<sup>156</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-32580748>

<sup>157</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>158</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>159</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/594597311138762753>; #الإرهاب\_البوذي\_ضد\_المسلمين

religious leader. The video made a connection between the attacks in France at Charlie Hebdo and Hyper Cacher, and presented an attempt to imitate or reproduce the same attacks in Bangladesh. At the same time, the idea about assassinating spiritual leaders and artists who are against Islam, and living outside of Europe, became more widespread.<sup>160</sup> In addition, the organization published an announcement on the same subject – the assassination of bloggers who insulted the Prophet Mohammed’s name and damaged his honor: Dr. Shafi al-Islam from Bangladesh, Dr. Shakil Awj from Pakistan, and Aniq Naz from Pakistan.<sup>161</sup>

## The West

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamist preacher in England, continued to publish various controversial posts on his Twitter account. During the first half of May 2015 Choudary posted different tweets, such as: an explanation of why participating in democratic elections is forbidden by Islam; Muslims living in the West must separate themselves and their culture from the heretic culture surrounding them; a threat to attack anyone who dared to curse the Prophet Mohammed and damage his honor; a call for implementing shari’a law in Britain; a criticism against Lebanese government leaders for the court case against Sheikh Omar Bakr, Choudary’s spiritual leader, and a call for Bakr’s release from jail using the hashtag #Freesheihomarbakri; a Muslim cannot be considered a Muslim if he invests his efforts in advancing acceptance and equality between the religions, because the Islam religion is superior to all other religions; Muslims serving in heretic armies, such as the United States and British armies, are considered apostates; blaming the British government for persecuting Muslim citizens of Britain; blaming China for severe political oppression of Muslim civilians, and more.<sup>162</sup>

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<sup>160</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY3enXiaD7c>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/03/south-asia-al-qaida-group-video-claims-responsibility-for-blogger-murders>

<sup>161</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/>; <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (all in Arabic).

<sup>162</sup> <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/>



Anjem Choudary  
@anjemchoudary



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RETWEETS  
36

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8:10 PM - 3 May 2015



Anjem Choudary  
@anjemchoudary



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If the Shariah were implemented in Britain the state would expand its territory to annex land beyond its frontier such as France Belgium etc

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45

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