



**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 June 2015**

## Highlights

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

- **The Islamic State** calls upon Muslims in the Balkan countries to emigrate from their native countries to the jihad arenas in Syria and Iraq, in order to help in the Islamic State's jihad war against its enemies. At the same time, the Islamic State calls upon Muslims in the Balkans to take action against the regimes in Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania, and the other Balkan countries, by planting explosives, poisoning food and water and so forth. In a video, harsh criticism is expressed against the Balkan countries for turning to secularism and Communism, and thereby wiping out the Islamic identity of their civilians.
- **The Islamic State** publishes a video documenting the enlistment and integration of Uyghur fighters from Turkestan in the organization's ranks. Among the new recruits are doctors, and Uyghur teenagers and children, and an elderly man who decides to immigrate to the Islamic State after his son is killed alongside the mujahideen in Syria. The video includes calls for Uyghur Muslims in Turkestan to join the Islamic State, and threats to attack the apostates in China.
- An **Islamic State** fighter from France – a former Christian who converted to Islam – named Abu Salman al-Faransi, calls upon Muslims living in the West, and specifically in France, to immigrate to Syria. If that is not possible, then he suggests immigrating to Libya or Africa in order to help fight the jihad war against the apostates. In addition, the fighter threatens that in Paris and other European capitals there are dormant terror cells waiting for the command from the IS to carry out an attack in the heart of Europe.
- **The Islamic State** puts out a new magazine in Turkish called *Constantinople*. It is the first of its kind, and is intended for a Turkish speaking audience, who mainly live in Turkey. The new magazine addresses apocalyptic traditional texts promising that the Muslims will be victorious over the Christians, criticizes the Democratic government in Turkey, calls upon Muslims to immigrate to the jihad arenas and fight alongside the Islamic State, and more.
- **The Salafi jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip** expresses sharp criticism of the Hamas leadership, due to its persecution of Salafi jihadists in the Gaza Strip. According to the Salafi fighters, Hamas is trying to placate Israel and is cowing to the pressure of external influences. In

response, the Salafi jihadists demand from the Hamas leadership to release their members from prisons, and they also fire Grad rockets at Israeli settlements in protest of the oppressive Hamas policies.

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- The Al-Malahim media outlet, belonging to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published: a video titled “When will Sharia Rule?” by Sheik Abu Sufyan Said Ali al-Shihri, a senior leader in the organization who was killed near the end of 2013; a video titled “The Sunna Hierarchy” by Sheikh Qasim al-Rimi, a leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula; and a video titled “The Culture of A Martyr’s Death” by Sheikh Anwar al-Awlaqi, a senior leader in Al-Qaeda who was killed in 2011. The videos are parts two, three, and four in a series of publications called “A Series of Insights”.<sup>1</sup>
- Sheikh Abu Basir al-Tartusi, an independent Salafi jihadist philosopher active in Syria, published an article expressing harsh criticism against Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini, a senior Salafi jihadist philosopher who supports Al-Qaeda. According to al-Tartusi, Abu Qatada was seriously mistaken when he permitted the mujahideen in Syria to loot money and property belonging to Muslims and other mujahideen – if the latter hindered the jihadist war against the Alawi regime. According to al-Tartusi, such a ruling is truly foolish, and a mistaken interpretation.<sup>2</sup>
- The Nukhbat Al-Fikr media group published an article by Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filatini, a senior Salafi jihadist philosopher who supports Al-Qaeda, about the importance of preserving unity in the ranks of the mujahideen, and avoiding internal conflicts. In Abu Qatada’s opinion, the mujahideen in Syria were able to prove their power of endurance, and their ability to cope with the challenges they faced. However, they needed to rid themselves of the elements that leaned towards fanatic religious interpretation, and who were responsible for the dissent among the ranks of mujahideen – due to their radical interpretations.<sup>3</sup>
- The “Army of the Nation, Jerusalem”, a Salafi jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip, published a second article about the “Expressions that Contradict the Faith”.<sup>4</sup>
- The Twitter account “Strategic Questions”, which identifies with Al-Qaeda, published an article by Abdullah bin Muhammad, who owns a Twitter account titled “The Political Mechanism in

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

<sup>2</sup> <http://abubaseer.bizland.com/> (Arabic).

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

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

Islam”. The article explains how elements that form the basis of the political mechanism of Islam influence modern-day reality. According to the author of the article, the jihadist movement has not adopted the religious legislature, which makes it difficult to cope with modern-day questions. He added that parts of the jihadist movement are trying to adopt the religious legislature but don’t understand how it should be applied. Bin Muhammad claimed that the role of the jihadist movements today is identical to the role of the supporters of the Prophet Muhammad in the past, which was to maintain and supervise the government so that it did not stray from the path of Islam. He added that in our times, it is known in many countries that there is a need for an “ideological force” to preserve the principles that the people are struggling to maintain. According to bin Muhammad, this is supposed to occur in practice with the establishment of a body called the “Revolutionary Leadership Council”, which will serve as this ideological force, and will preserve the Islamic mechanism and make rulings on issues that involving deviation from the shari’a laws.<sup>5</sup>

### ***Religious Rulings***

- Salafi jihadist religious scholars, who support Al-Qaeda, published a religious ruling regarding the activities of the Islamic State against the mujahideen in Sawran, Syria. According to this ruling, while the mujahideen expected additional victories in Syria, members of the Islamic State “stabbed them in the back” in Sawran in order to stop the advancement of the mujahideen against the regime – and thereby assisted the enemy. As a result, the religious scholars ruled that the mujahideen are obligated to retaliate against anyone who attacks Muslim cities, whether the attackers are apostates or Muslims, and thereby protect Syrian land. The religious scholars who signed the ruling are: Abu Qatada al-Filistini, Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, Sami al-Uraydi, Sadiq al-Hashimi, Mulih al-Alyani, Abu Sulayman al-Ustrali, Abu Azzam al-Jazrawi, Al-Mutasim Billah al-Madani, and Abdullah al-Muhaysini.<sup>6</sup>
- Sheikh Abu Basir al-Tartusi published a collection of religious opinions and rulings published in the past, relating to the jihad arena in Syrian. The anthology was published under the title “A

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<sup>5</sup> <http://justpaste.it/lmyq> (Arabic).

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

Notebook of the Revolution and the Revolutionaries: Words Written for the Arab Revolution, and specifically for the Syrian Revolution” (380 pages).<sup>7</sup>

### **Pledges of Allegiance to the Islamic State**

- The Media Front for Support of the Islamic State published an article by Sheikh Abu Abdullah al-Libi, titled “Religious and Practical Reasons for Pledging Allegiance to the Islamic State”. In the document of over thirty pages, al-Libi offers religious reasons why a Caliphate must be established, as well as reasons in the field for pledging allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.<sup>8</sup>

### **Books of Advice and Guidance**

- A fighter on Twitter who identified with the Islamic State published a guidebook (24 pages) titled “MujGuide”. The guidebook offered detailed and illustrated explanations about how to construct homemade bombs, using materials and ingredients found at home. For example, the guide explains how to transform a pressure cooker into a bomb. It is worth mentioning that this guidebook is very similar to the newspaper *INSPIRE* published by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, which also contains explanations of how to construct homemade bombs.<sup>9</sup>



From left to right: the publication banner; an explanation about how to transform a private car into a car bomb

- A poster on the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist forum published a collection of instructions regarding the safe use of cell phones, in order to avoid surveillance and location pinpointing, with specific

<sup>7</sup> <http://abubaseer.bizland.com/> (Arabic).

<sup>8</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>9</sup> <http://justpaste.it/mujguide> (Arabic).

information about the Apple I-phone. Among other things, the poster advised using a smart phone only for watching jihadist uploads, while participation in forum discussions should only be done from a computer – and only when using a TOR program. In addition, the poster suggested choosing complex and long passwords for cell phones, and cancelling GPS activity.<sup>10</sup>

- Another poster on the Shumukh al-Islam forum translated from English to Arabic a warning that an update to Windows 10 by Microsoft would include a tracking feature called “Diagnostics Tracking Service”. The poster explained how to delete the activity of this feature in order to prevent tracking and surveillance of personal computers.<sup>11</sup>

### Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- Al-Qaeda in the Sinai Peninsula published a eulogy statement in memory of Hasan Abadallah Fihi aka Hasan Turki, a veteran Somali jihadist fighter who joined Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideed – a branch of Al-Qaeda in Somalia – in 2010. A short biography of Turki was included in the eulogy, including a history of his life as a jihadist fighter. He joined Al-Qaeda in 1997 after personally meeting Sheikh Osama bin Laden, former leader of Al-Qaeda.<sup>12</sup>
- Ansar Al-Shari’a in Libya published a statement on June 6, 2015, eulogizing Al-Sharif Balqasim al-Mushti, a fighter in the organization who was killed in Benghazi during a battle against General Hiftar’s army forces.<sup>13</sup>



**Al-Sharif Balqasim al-Mushti**

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<sup>10</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

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

<sup>12</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>13</sup> <https://dump.to/c8r> (Arabic).

- The mujahideen organization of Indonesia-Timur published a proclamation glorifying two of its members who were killed during clashes with Indonesian security forces.<sup>14</sup>



Two members of the organization who were killed in clashes with Indonesian security forces

## Magazines

- The Afghan Emirate published an issue (# 40) of the magazine “*Shariat*”.<sup>15</sup>



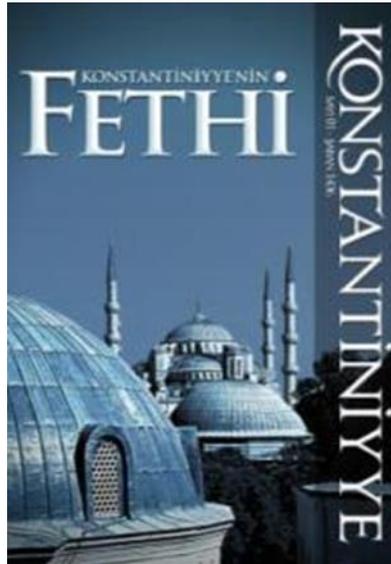
The magazine cover

- The Islamic State produced a new magazine in Turkish called *Constantinople*. It was the first of its kind, and the Islamic State targeted a Turkish speaking audience with this magazine, mainly in Turkey. It is worth noting that this magazine was published two days after the annual Fethih Bunu celebration in Turkey – which mark the conquest of Constantinople (Istanbul today) by the

<sup>14</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>15</sup> [https://ia801501.us.archive.org/15/items/shariat-40\\_201506](https://ia801501.us.archive.org/15/items/shariat-40_201506)

Sultan Selim I in 1453. One of the articles in the magazine addressed the apocalyptic tradition which says that in the future, Muslims will fight against Crusader forces in Dabiq, Syria – and that the conquest of Constantinople is one stage of the apocalyptic prophecy which promises victory to the Muslims. Another article criticises the widely accepted Democratic government in Turkey. A third article publicizes a religious ruling forbidding Muslims living in the Islamic Caliphate territory from eating meat imported from Turkey, claiming that animal slaughtering in Turkey is not conducted according to the religious standards set down by Muslim shari'a.<sup>16</sup>



**The cover of the new magazine in Turkish**

- The Islamic State published the fourth issue of a magazine in French called *Dar Al-Islam* (The House of Islam).<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <http://enfalmedya.com/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://ansar-alhaqq.net/forum/>



The magazine cover

- The Al-Raya media institution, operating on behalf of Ansar Al-Sharia in Libya, published issue #13 of the periodical, *This is Your Nation, One Nation*. The periodical reviews for the most part the organization’s activities in Libya.<sup>18</sup>



The periodical’s cover pages

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

*In the first half of June, clashes between the Afghan Taliban and the government and army continued throughout Afghanistan, with most of the battles occurring in Yamgan Province near Badakhshan Province, in northeast Afghanistan, after hundreds of Afghan-Taliban fighters took*

<sup>18</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

control of the area on June 6.<sup>19</sup> At the same time, the Afghan-Taliban strengthened its ties with the Iranian government. In this context, a delegation of the organization visited Iran in order to discuss opening an office in Iran, in light of the desire of both parties to oust the United States from the region, and a mutual concern about the spread of the Islamic State.<sup>20</sup>

Meanwhile, in the Pakistan arena, clashes between the Pakistan army and the Pakistan Taliban organization continued, mainly in the northeast province of Waziristan, located on the Afghan border. The clashes lead to deaths on both sides.<sup>21</sup>

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

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
  - A statement related to the end of the yearlong "cooling down period", since the release of five members of the organization for the Guantanamo prison. According to the statement, the five senior members of the organization were released from the Guantanamo prison in 2014, in exchange for a prisoner from the United States, but according to the conditions of the agreement, they had to remain in Qatar for the duration of a year. The year ended on June 1, 2015. It was also written in the statement that the former prisoners were now free to go anywhere the Islamic Emirate deemed necessary, in accordance with the agreement conditions. At the end of the statement, the organization warned the United States against stipulating any additional conditions, because they claimed that such additions violated the original agreement.<sup>22</sup>
  - A statement about the humanitarian crisis of the Muslims in the Rohingya group, who lived in Myanmar. At the beginning of the statement, the Emirate denounced the cruelty and barbarianism demonstrated by the Buddhists in Myanmar against the Muslims from the Rohingya group. IN addition, it called upon the UN, countries in the region, and human rights organizations to work towards ending the

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/06/afghan-forces-battle-taliban-northern-province-150607044802492.html> (English).

<sup>20</sup> <http://goo.gl/nQoDLw> (Arabic).

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/06/pakistan-soldiers-deadly-clash-taliban-150608073126307.html> (English).

<sup>22</sup> <http://shahamat-english.com/statement-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-the-completion-of-one-year-period-by-freed-leaders-from-guantanamo/> (English).

humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, to put pressure on the Myanmar government to stop the ethnic cleansing of Muslims in the country, and to put the criminals on trial.<sup>23</sup>

- A statement about a meeting between representatives from the Political Office of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, regarding the end of the occupation in Afghanistan, and in order to convince political players from Afghan society to support the shari'a policy and the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. At the end of the statement, the organization emphasized that these types of meetings with the opposition party were not considered negotiation meetings.<sup>24</sup>
- A call made by the Emirate's Committee for Economic Matters, to the general Muslim population, to participate in jihad against the apostate conquerors in Afghanistan – attacking either people or property. In this framework, it emphasized the need for funding for the Islamic Emirates, and called for collection of money to be used for the needs of the mujahideen. The committee requested that the donations be transferred to the committee via phone or mail.<sup>25</sup>
- A statement by the Emirate spokesperson denouncing the request made by the "religious scholars" acting on behalf of the government in Kabul, asking for jihad in the country to cease. He claimed that jihad was a Divine religious commandment, and that the month of Ramadan was the best time of all for engaging in jihad. He added that the request to stop jihad was not legal or rational, and that specifically during this month it was fitting to fight against the crimes of the apostate occupiers in Afghanistan.<sup>26</sup>
- A consolation statement for the death of Mir Ahmad all Hashmei, who was responsible for jihad in the Nangarhar compound, and who was killed – according to the statement – by enemies of Islam.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> <http://shahamat-english.com/statement-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-the-ongoing-human-crises-in-burma/> (English).

<sup>24</sup> <http://shahamat-english.com/delegation-of-islamic-emirate-meets-with-a-few-countrymen-in-norway/> (English).

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.shahamat-arabic.com/archives/2039> (Arabic).

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.shahamat-arabic.com/archives/2472> (Arabic).

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.shahamat-arabic.com/archives/2578> (Arabic).

- A statement regarding the return of four border guards from Tajikistan to their country. According to the statement, four border guards from Tajikistan were captured by the organization when they crossed the border into Afghanistan in September, 2014. It was also written in the statement that returning the guards to Tajikistan with the mediation of Qatar, was carried out without any compensation – it was done out of the organization's desire to maintain a good relationship with the world, and in particular with the countries neighbouring Afghanistan.<sup>28</sup>
- A statement regarding the participation of a delegation from the organization's Political Department, headed by Sayed Tayyeb Agha, in the annual convention held in Oslo on June 16. According to the statement, about 150 officials from different countries participated in the convention, and expressed their opinions about problems in Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, and Afghanistan. It was also written in the statement that Norway had invited the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to participate in the conference, and the organization agreed to attend because it saw the convention as an opportunity to make the voice of the Afghan people heard – a people that wished to see the end of the occupation, and the establishment of an Islamic State in Afghanistan. At the end of the statement, it was written that the Islamic Emirate did not hold talks with the government of Kabul in the framework of the convention in Oslo.<sup>29</sup>

## The Arabian Peninsula

*Yemen continued to suffer from decreased security, as well as a decline in the humanitarian situation in the country due to the ongoing civil war. Arab coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia continued air strikes on concentration of Houthi forces in areas such as Sa'ada Province, Marib, Al-*

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<sup>28</sup> <http://shahamat-english.com/remarks-of-spokesman-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-transfer-of-4-border-guards-to-tajikistan/> (English).

<sup>29</sup> <http://shahamat-english.com/clarification-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-participation-at-international-conference-in-oslo/> (English).

*Jawf, Sa'ana, and Al-Baydha, after the conclusions of a five day ceasefire in order to offer the civilian population humanitarian aid.*

*The Houthis, on their part, were able to take control of the Saudi Embassy in Sa'ana. They claimed to have discovered documents containing American plans to establish a military base in the Bab-el-Mandeb straits area, in order to protect Israeli and American interests in the region. As a result, the flow of refugees emigrating from Yemen, mainly to Djibouti and Somalia.<sup>30</sup> At the same time, diplomatic efforts continued to be made for finding a solution that would return Yemen to a state of peace. In that regard, the United Nations sponsored Yemen talks on May 28, convening in Geneva, in an effort to restore some semblance of order.<sup>31</sup>*

## **Iraq**

*The second half of May was marked by the Iraqi Army's announcement, together with the Popular Mobilization Forces,<sup>32</sup> of a broad operation in the city of Ramadi, capital of Al-Anbar Province, with the goal of ousting Islamic State forces that had taken control of the city. ON May 31, the Iraqi Defense Minister stated that the army forces had successfully entered the western section of the city after an exchange of fire with IS forces,<sup>33</sup> and later reported that the security forces had achieved total control of additional parts of the city, and had surrounded Islamic State forces.<sup>34</sup>*

*At the same time, American sources reported that Iran had sent soldiers and heavy artillery weapons to Iraq, and that the Iranian forces had participated in the battle over the city of Baiji.<sup>35</sup>*

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.unhcr-arabic.org/557d7bd76.html> (Arabic).

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/yemen-conflict-talks-houthis-iran-geneva-saudi-arabia-150520151108734.html> (English).

<sup>32</sup> <http://goo.gl/2VMXL5> (Arabic).

<sup>33</sup> <http://goo.gl/dBvf8z> (Arabic).

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.alhurra.com/content/iraq-anbar-ramadi-isis-/272193.html> (Arabic).

<sup>35</sup> <http://goo.gl/Z5XrrJ>(Arabic).

*Additional accounts about American involvement was found in reports in the Iranian media itself, which reported on the death of one of the commanders of the Revolutionary Guards during combat in the city of Ramadi,<sup>36</sup> and in the Iranian army's statement acknowledging that Iranian forces had penetrated forty kilometers deep into Iraqi territory in order to push back IS forces.<sup>37</sup>*

*In the international arena, the United States and Russia announces that they would assist the Iraqi Army. In light of the advances made by the Islamic State in Al-Anbar Province, American Vice President Joe Biden announced that his country would hasten to the weapons shipments to Iraq, while the President of Russia (who hosted Prime Minister of Iraq, Haider al-Abadi) promised to strengthen the military cooperation between the two countries<sup>38</sup>*

### **The Islamic State**

- The Al-Hayyat media institution, belonging to the Islamic State, published a video titled "Honor is in Jihad: A Message to the People of the Balkans". In the video Islamic State fighters from the Balkans appeal to Balkan Muslims to emigrate from their region to the jihad arenas in Syria and Iraq, and to team up with the Islamic State. At the same time, the video called upon Muslims in the Balkans to take action against the regimes in Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania, and the other Balkan countries. One of the fighters suggested targeting the leaders of the Balkan countries by planting explosives in their cars and homes, or by poisoning their water and food. The video also included segments denouncing the Balkan countries and accusing them of turning to secularism and Communism while destroying the Islamic identity of their residents.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> <http://goo.gl/A8MzmE> (Arabic).

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.ara.shafaaq.com/3333> (Arabic).

<sup>38</sup> <http://goo.gl/UdwSXj> (Arabic).

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



The video banner

- The Media Front for Support of the Islamic State published a booklet titled "Diary of a Jihad Fighter in Al-Faluja" (100 pages) by Abu Anas al-Shami. The booklet told the story of the life of a jihad fighter in Al-Faluja in Iraq, who was killed there in 2004.<sup>40</sup>



The cover of the booklet

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

- The Islamic State in the Saladin Province published the following:
  - A 21-minute video including a collection of images from the progression of the clashes in the city of Baiji, which was conquered by Islamic State forces. Aside from footage of the exchange of fire, of launching rockets, and documentation of the bodies of dead soldiers, the video also included the final statements of three suicide bombers (from Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Tunisia), who carried out suicide attacks against Iraqi security forces using vehicles rigged with explosives. The last scene of

<sup>40</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

the video showed the execution of eleven members of the Popular Mobilization Forces who were captured by the Islamic State. Audio segments from a speech by the Islamic State spokesman, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, were interspersed throughout the video.<sup>41</sup>



**Abu Ahmad al-Tunisi – one of the Islamic State suicide bombers in Baiji.**

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

- The Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:
  - A video titled "A Year of Conquest", marking a year since the conquest of Mosul by the Islamic State. The beginning of the video included images of a variety of actions taken by organization fighters in the context of invading and taking control of Mosul, including: gunfire battles, explosions, suicide attacks using car bombs, mass executions, and liberating prisoners from jail. In the second part of the video, Islamic State activities related to implementing shari'a were documented, such as destroying "polytheistic" sites (like churches and museums), strict observance of prayer services, operating Hisba (the Islamic body responsible for maintaining public order) and Zakat offices, and opening Islamic courts of law. At the end of the video, the Islamic State was presented in a positive light, as an entity that brought security and routine back to Mosul (by repairing roads and reopening banks), along with worrying about the quality of civilian life, which was expressed by the establishment of education, health, agriculture, and natural resource departments.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/16018> (Arabic).

<sup>42</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).



**The video banner**

- A video about a training camp for teenagers operating in the province. The video featured the youth participating in physical exercises, in boxing matches, in breaking bricks with their heads, and in different types of combat training. At the end of the video the boys were featured practicing shooting with live ammunition in a grove, and engaging in a mock attack on a moving vehicle. It is important to mention that the producers of the video avoiding showing the boys' faces, so as not to reveal their identities. The boys wore masks or were filmed from a distance.<sup>43</sup>



**A training camp for youth in Nineveh province**

- A video about chopping off the hands of three people accused of theft. The beginning of the video featured the thieves delivering their confessions (filmed with their faces blurred, and without mentioning their names). They related what they had done, and then stated that they whole heartedly accepted the punishment since it was "the Word of God". After the sentences were carried out, one of the thieves waved his handless arm and called out words of support for the Islamic State, while hugging and kissing the man

<sup>43</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/16006> (Arabic).

who chopped off his hand. In the framework of this video, words from the Quran and the Hadith as "Divine Commandments" were featured, instructing the amputation of the right hand of anyone who steals.<sup>44</sup>

- A photo report about the execution of two people accused of "spreading corruption".<sup>45</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Al-Janub Province published the following:
  - Videos about detonating explosives against Iraqi army vehicles<sup>46</sup>, and about firing mortar shells and SPG9 rockets at army forces and surveillance towers in the Zoba region.<sup>47</sup>
  - A photo report about shooting 82-millimeter mortar shells at Iraqi Army posts.<sup>48</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Diyala Province published the following:
  - A video titled “The Raid to Avenge the Names of the Companions of the Prophet”. The video documented an attack against a concentration of Iraqi security forces and a Shi’ite mosque in the Balad Ruz district. The video showed the process of collecting intelligence in preparation for the attack, and including words of farewell from the suicide bomber, named Abu Jihad al-Ansari. The attack took place on May 8, and according to news sources, ten people were killed.<sup>49</sup>
  - A photo report documenting twenty fighters in a desert region after being liberated from the Al-Khales prison.<sup>50</sup> According to estimations, in the breakout – which took place in May – at least 40 prisoners escaped.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15427> (Arabic).

<sup>45</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/11019> (Arabic).

<sup>46</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15188> (Arabic).

<sup>47</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/16101> (Arabic).

<sup>48</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10962> (Arabic).

<sup>49</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10933> (Arabic).

<sup>50</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10996> (Arabic).

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/150509095103216.html> (English).

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

- The Islamic State in Baghdad Province published the following:
  - A video about the attacks in the Ishtar and Babel hotels. The attacks were carried out simultaneously, where in the first hotel a suicide bomber detonated a car bomb he was driving, and in the second hotel a parked car rigged with explosives was used. At the end of the video, the last will of the suicide bomber was presented, while the bomber himself appeared with his face blurred. The video also reported on the results of the attack: dozens of people were killed and injured.<sup>52</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Falluja Province published the following:
  - A video about the first meeting of the Al-Falluja tribes, arranged by the Islamic State. In the video, tribe dignitaries were featured wearing their fanciest clothing, with a bound Iraqi soldier sitting at their feet, who was captured by the Islamic State. In a speech he gave, one of the tribe dignitaries spoke out against the Iraqi authorities and emphasized the position of the Al-Falluja tribes alongside the Islamic State. The video ended with footage of the dead body of the Iraqi soldier who had appeared earlier in the film.<sup>53</sup>



**The execution of an Iraqi soldier at a meeting of tribes in Al-Falluja province**

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

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<sup>52</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/11040> (Arabic).

<sup>53</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15911> (Arabic).

- The Islamic State in the Kirkuk Province published the following:
  - A video about a training camp named after Sheikh Nizar al-Assafi. In the camp, the fighters underwent physical training and instruction about weapons, alongside attending classes on religion and Aqida (Islamic faith). The video ended with the first class of graduates from the training camp pledging allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State.<sup>54</sup>



**The shooting range at the Islamic State training camp in Kirkuk Province**

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

- The Islamic State in Al-Furat Province published the following:
  - A video about manufacturing various types of weapons, including: hand grenades, mortars, explosives, and an Al-Faruq cannon. The video reported on the types of weapons and provided a general explanation about how to manufacture them.<sup>55</sup>



**Homemade weapons manufactured by the Islamic State in Al-Faruq.**

- A video about the renewal of the pledge of allegiance to the Islamic State by several tribes in the province. In the video, names of tribes and their leaders who renewed

<sup>54</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/16032> (Arabic).

<sup>55</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10951> (Arabic).

the pledge of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi were presented: Al-Karabla, Al-Marasma, Al-Hassun, Al-Buqan, Al-Jaghayfa, Shammar, Al-Buhardan, Al-Salman, Al-Marih, Al-Bukhater, and Al-Damim. In his speech, the cheif of the Al-Marasma tribe called upon all Muslims to come forward and pledge allegiance to the Islamic State.<sup>56</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Al-Anbar Province published the following:
  - Claiming responsibility for the detonation of thirteen explosive devices against an Iraqi Army supply convoy on the road between the Al-Asad base and the Kilo 160 Region. In the attack, a large number of vehicles were destroyed and a number of soldiers were killed during the exchange of fire.<sup>57</sup>
  - A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack with a car bomb, carried out against an Iraqi Army post near the al-Tharthar Dam.<sup>58</sup>
  - A photo report about a Dawa convention held in the city of Ramadi,<sup>59</sup> and about the distribution of Dawa leaflets throughout the city.<sup>60</sup>
  - A photo report about the final exams at the province high schools.<sup>61</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Djila Province published the following:
  - A video about manufacturing a 120 millimeter mortar bomb. The video reported on the manufacturing process for the bomb, and featured footage of the bombs being fired at Peshmerga force posts.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15917> (Arabic).

<sup>57</sup> <https://twitter.com/mash33mash/status/609643347632766976>

<sup>58</sup> <https://twitter.com/asasas61418954/status/606543164459991041> (Arabic).

<sup>59</sup> [https://twitter.com/Okansar8\\_16/status/609377025133015040](https://twitter.com/Okansar8_16/status/609377025133015040) (Arabic).

<sup>60</sup> <https://dump.to/c9k> (Arabic).

<sup>61</sup> <https://plus.google.com/105680930990105629640/posts/KzY7aHWJMVQ> (Arabic).

<sup>62</sup> <https://twitter.com/s7627i/status/61027139326814208> (Arabic).



#### The Islamic State in Djila Province manufacturing Mortar Bombs

- A photo report about civilian topics, such as: a water pumping initiative, establishing a market,<sup>63</sup> paving roads,<sup>64</sup> and maintenance of infrastructure and electricity in the province.<sup>65</sup>

#### The Islamic State – Al-Jazeera Province

- The Islamic State in Al-Jazeera Province published the following:
  - A video about the curriculum covering Islamic religious law for Islamic State foreign fighters in the province, in the framework of the shari'a institute Abdallah bin Umar. The video included interviews with the institute staff, talking about the curriculum. Abu Muawiyya, a teacher and member of the Islamic State, as well as fighters studying at the institute were interviewed. The video also features documentation of training exercises, shooting practice, and the organization fighters raiding homes.<sup>66</sup>



The video banner

<sup>63</sup> [https://twitter.com/sh\\_salazd/status/610541511084675072](https://twitter.com/sh_salazd/status/610541511084675072) (Arabic).

<sup>64</sup> <https://plus.google.com/105680930990105629640/posts/HH9vwLPvGqV> (Arabic).

<sup>65</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/11018> (Arabic).

<sup>66</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

- A video titled “Oh my People, Follow Me, I will Teach you the Correct Way”. The video encourages immigration of Muslims to the jihad arenas in Syria and Iraq, via an interview conducted with one of the fighters, who joined the organization after immigrating to Iraq from the Bashkortostan Republic, in the Russian Federation, in the center of the Ural Mountains. According to the fighter, it was a great honor to fight alongside the Islamic Caliphate, and to die for God.<sup>67</sup>



**An Islamic State fighter from Bashkortostan spoke about the obligation to immigrate to the jihad arenas to fight against the enemies of Islam**

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

*The second half of May began with the Islamic State's conquest of the city of Palmyra, in the center of Homs Province.<sup>68</sup> This increased the concern of UNISCO that archeological sites in the city would be destroyed by the organization.<sup>69</sup> After Tadmur was conquered, the Islamic State went on to take control of the Al-Tanaf border crossing, which is the crossing point between Syria and Iraq that until recently had been controlled by the Syrian government.<sup>70</sup>*

*As the result of the Islamic State's takeover of Tadmur, the director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, Rami Abd al-Rahman, stated that the Islamic State already controlled 30% of Al-Hasakah Province, Al-Raqqah Province, most of Deir Al-Zor Province, and the north-eastern part of*

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

<sup>68</sup> <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/5/21/isil-fighters-captures-syrian-city-of-palmyra-site-of-famed-ruins2.html> (English).

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/syria-palmyra-unesco-isil-150522060557151.html> (English).

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/key-syria-iraq-border-crossing-falls-isil-150522130256701.html> (English).

Aleppo Province. In addition, the organization had fighters in the eastern suburbs of Tadmor, on the Iraqi border, and in the eastern periphery of Hama.<sup>71</sup> Al-Rahman said that the Syrian regime controlled only 22% of the country's total territory.<sup>72</sup>

At the same time, the Fattah Army organization was able to take over the Syrian regime's largest remaining military camp in Idlib, near the city of Al-Mastouma,<sup>73</sup> and the city of Ariha, which was the last city controlled by the Syrian regime in Idlib.<sup>74</sup> With regard to clashed with the Fattach Army in the Qalamoun mountains, the leader of Hezbollah claimed that his forces were assisting al-Asad and had made significant progress, but that the fighting in the area was far from nearing an end.<sup>75</sup>

Meanwhile, coalition force intervention continued in Syria. On the night between May 15 and May 16, US forces raided the Al-Amr village and killed an Islamic State senior official – Abu Sayyaf, who was involved in managing the organization's activities relating to gas, oil, and finances.<sup>76</sup>

## Syria

### **Al-Nusra Front**

- During the second half of June 2015, Al-Nusra Front's emir, Abu Muhammad al-Julani granted an interview to the Al-Jazeera station. He harshly attacked the Islamic State organization and refuted the rumors that his organization intended to annul its covenant with Al-Qaeda. During the interview, he claimed that the Islamic State was harming Al-Nusra Front fighters – which went against the laws of Islam, and was acting against the Islamic Caliphate which had not been declared in a legal manner. He emphasized that the differences of opinions between his organization and the Islamic State could not be solved at the moment. In addition, he addressed

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<sup>71</sup> <http://www.alrai.com/article/715502.html> (Arabic).

<sup>72</sup> <http://goo.gl/s2wK5W> (Arabic).

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/syria-rebels-seize-military-base-idlib-150519141536615.html> (English).

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/fighters-wrest-town-idlib-syrian-forces-150529163736650.html> (English).

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/nasrallah-declares-victory-syria-qalamoun-150516192033488.html> (English).

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/special-forces-kill-isil-abu-sayyaf-syria-raid-150516122453700.html> (English).

Iran's aspirations in Syria and the Middle East, claiming that it aimed to re-establish the Persian Empire using Shi'ites in the region. With regard to the Al-Nusra Front, al-Julani claimed that the organization had no desire to take over Syria, but it was interested in setting up an Islamic government, and it would support such a regime. He added that it was important for the Al-Nusra Front to play a role in the new regime to be established in Syria, even if it was established by other rebel organizations. During the interview al-Julani also talked about the make-up of the fighters in his organization, claiming that 30% of the Al-Nusra Front fighters were foreigners: Americans, Europeans, Chechens, and Asians – and that in the future their rights would need to be protected by the new regime.<sup>77</sup>

- The Al-Manar Al-Baydha media institution, belonging to the Al-Nusra Front, published the following:
  - A video documenting a raid on the city of Sheikh Miskin in Dara, and its liberation by Al-Nusra Front fighters.<sup>78</sup>
  - Documentation of an attack on Hezbollah fighters, and a video documenting the liberation of villages.
  - An interview with defectors from the Islamic State, advocating joining the Al-Nusra Front.
  - A proclamation calling on all jihad factions to unite under a new organization named Jish al-Fatah in Al-Ghouta, and filmed interviews with Syrian civilians about their satisfaction with the Jish al-Fatah organization. Jish al-Fatah is an umbrella group for several Salafi jihadist organizations headed by the Al-Nusra Front.<sup>79</sup>
  - A statement explaining what happened in a Druze village, Qalb Lozeh, located in a suburb of Idlib, where twenty Druze were killed by the Al-Nusra Front after being accused of collaboration with the Al-Asad regime. In the statement, it was written that the organization was very sorry to hear about the incident in Qalb Lozeh village, in which several Al-Nusra Front fighters participated without receiving orders from their commanders, thereby clearly violating orders issued by the organization's leadership. It

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<sup>77</sup> <http://justpaste.it/ljwi> (Arabic).

<sup>78</sup> <http://justpaste.it/meskeen> (Arabic).

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

was also written that immediately after the incident, a delegation from the organization was sent to investigate the incident, to pacify the village residents, and to clarify to them that what happened was an unjustifiable mistake that occurred without the knowledge of the leadership. Furthermore, the village and its inhabitants could feel safe under the protection of the organization regions where it had control. The statement also said that whoever had been involved in the incident would be tried in a shari'a court, and judgement would be passed.<sup>80</sup>

## The Islamic State

### *The Islamic State – Aleppo Province*

- The Islamic State in the Aleppo Province published the following:
  - A video titled "The Abu Nassar al-Jazrawi Raid", documenting fighters entering the city of Sawran, in the northern part of the province, near the Turkish border.<sup>81</sup> Aside from using artillery and heavy weapons, the attack on Sawran included a suicide attack with a car bomb, carried out by a Turkistan fighter named Abd al-Salam al-Turkestanti.<sup>82</sup>
  - A video about an attack on the Kuweyres Military Airbase. In the video, the base was presented as the site where Syrian pilots were trained to carry out air strikes against innocent Muslims, including women and children. The attack on the base included three suicide attackers (a Moroccan, a Kurd, and a Egyptian), light weapons fire, and shooting at air craft that attempted to retaliate from the air – targeting Islamic State fighters who participated in the attack.<sup>83</sup>
  - A video titled "Go to War, everyone who is light on his feet and solid in body", dealing with the integration of Uyghur fighters from Turkestan in the organization's ranks. Among the new recruits was an elderly man who decided to immigrate to the Islamic State after his son was killed alongside the mujahideen in Syria, Uyghur children and teenagers studying the principles of Islam in the shari'a district in the province, and a staff of Uyghur doctors who travelled to Syria in order to treat sick and injured Muslims.

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<sup>80</sup> <http://justpaste.it/lqj3> (Arabic).

<sup>81</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/12634> (Arabic).

<sup>82</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15922> (Arabic).

<sup>83</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/16100> (Arabic).

The video included calls for Muslims in Turkestan to join the Islamic State, and threats against the apostates in China. The interviews in the video were conducted in the Uyghur language, and then translated into English and Arabic.<sup>84</sup>



**From Turkestan to Aleppo Province – probably the oldest fighter to join the ranks of the Islamic State**

- A fourth video in a series called "I hereby repent", which depicted a group of fighters who defected from different factions and organizations (such as the Al-Nusra Front or Ahrar Al-Sham, and joined the Islamic State after undergoing a "repentance course". The messages transmitted in the video included mainly a call upon Muslims to join the organizations, and threats made towards the Sahawat and the coalition forces.<sup>85</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Homs Province published the following:
  - A photo report documenting the clashes in the city of Al-Sukhna, including images of dead soldiers, and of weapons and vehicles taken as booty. In the combat, Sheikh Abu Malek Anas al-Nashwan was killed. Al-Nashwan was a religious figure in the Islamic State, who in the past ruled that the Christian Ethiopian workers in Libya could be executed by the organization.<sup>86</sup>
  - A two-part video called "The Abu Malek al-Tamimi Raid" about the clashes in the city of Palmyra and the surrounding area. The video documented the progression of the

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<sup>84</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/11044> (Arabic).

<sup>85</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/16106> (Arabic).

<sup>86</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15293> (Arabic).

combat, which included artillery fire, an exchange of fire with light weapons, a raid on buildings, and pursuit of Syrian soldiers who were able to escape. In one high point in the video, a man named Musa al-Sabati – a senior official in the "Popular Committees" which support Asad's regime – was beaten to death by a mob that gathered to take revenge on him. In addition, the video featured vehicles and weapons taken as booty, and images of *shahids* who were killed during the operation. It should be mentioned that Abu Malek al-Tamimi, who the raid was named after, was the nickname of Abu Malek Anas al-Nashwan – an Islamic State religious figure that was killed in the Al-Sukhna clashes.<sup>87</sup>

- A photo report about the civilian activities in the city of Tadmur (Palmyra), including obliterating all traces of Bashar al-Asad's regime, repairing infrastructure and electricity, distributing drinking water to the inhabitants, and pest extermination services in the streets.<sup>88</sup>
- Photo reports about exploding the military prison in Palmyra,<sup>89</sup> and about the military airport in Palmyra after its "liberation".<sup>90</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Al-Baraka Province (originally Al-Hasaka Province) published the following:
  - A video titled "A Dawa Patrol in the Ribat Posts". The video featured an Egyptian fighter named Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Misri, who visited a number of posts in order to boost the morale of the soldiers, to strengthen their faith, and to pray with them against "the Crusader coalition forces".<sup>91</sup>
  - A video documenting the execution of a young man accused of murdering his uncle in order to steal his money. In the video, a representative of the "Islamic Police" related the chain of events, and presented a "police re-enactment" of the act of murder committed

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<sup>87</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10947>; <https://isdarat.tv/15958> (Arabic).

<sup>88</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15288> (Arabic).

<sup>89</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15286> (Arabic).

<sup>90</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15292> (Arabic).

<sup>91</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/16094> (Arabic).

by the young man.<sup>92</sup>

- A photo report about the execution of two people accused of spying. The execution took place before an audience of men and children. The first man was accused of having been trained by the Americans in Turkey to fight against the Islamic State. The second man was depicted as a PKK agent who was active against Muslims.<sup>93</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Damascus Province published the following:
  - A video titled "An Important Message for the Residents of Dar'a and Queitra". Two IS fighters appeared in the video, calling upon the people in those areas to defect from faction that made covenants with the apostates in the West, and to join the Islamic State.<sup>94</sup>
  - A report about preparing food and distributing it among the fighters located in Ribat, in the province.<sup>95</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Raqqa Province published the following:
  - A video titled "Cubs of the Caliphate", about a training camp in the province for children and teenagers. The video featured children of different ages undergoing physical and weapons training, and also reciting verses from the Quran, quoting passages from the Hadith, and stating the Islam principles they adopted. In addition, several children in the video sent threats to the "Arab dictators" and to the President of the United States, Barak Obama.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15563> (Arabic).

<sup>93</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10958> (Arabic).

<sup>94</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15664> (Arabic).

<sup>95</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10999> (Arabic).

<sup>96</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/16120> (Arabic).



**Children using live weapons in Raqqa Province**

- A video titled "The People of Hisba 3". The video reported on the activities of the Hisba office employees (an Islamic body responsible for preserving public order and morality) which included issuing reminders about prayer times, giving instructions to barber shops regarding the prohibition against shaving a beard, putting a stop to smuggling of alcohol and cigarettes, and finding and executing people who practice witchcraft.<sup>97</sup>
- A video titled "The Story of Abu Salman Al-Faransi". The video featured a French speaking fighter who grew up in a secular Christian family, and who began researching Islam via internet videos and visits to a mosque after he was in a motorcycle accident. Since he discovered a difference between the "watered down Islam that satisfies apostates" and the "true Islam" in the Quran and the Hadith, Abu Salman decided to travel to Saudi Arabia. He purchased many books there, most by Muhammad bin Abd al-Wahhab. In these books Abu Salman discovered the significance of "dictators who are apostates" and the "hijra". When he understood that all the Islamic countries are ruled by apostates, he decided to immigrate to Syria, where he underwent religious and professional training.

At the end of the video, Abu Salman described life under the Islamic State as "normal and routine", in order to convince more fighters to immigrate from France to Syria, and he noted that if that wasn't possible, they could immigrate to Libya or to Africa. The final message delivered by Abu Salman was to the dictators in the West, emphasizing that Islamic State fighters in more European capital cities were waiting for just one order

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<sup>97</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10929> (Arabic).

before carrying out attacks in the heart of Europe.<sup>98</sup>



The story of Abu-Salman – from France to the bosom of Salafi Islam

### ***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 about medical services in the province. The video presented in English and Arabic various medical services operating in affiliation with the Islamic State, including: a children's hospital, operating rooms, a fleet of ambulances, a system of collecting donations of blood, an intensive care unit, a department for maintaining hospitals and supervising pharmacies, etc. Throughout the video were explanations provided by an English speaking doctor named Abu Umar al-Muhajer. Aside from providing explanations about the various medical services and systems, Abu Umar encouraged Muslim doctors from the West and from Arab countries to fulfil their duty and join the Islamic State in order to help Muslims in general, and specifically to help those injured in coalition force bombings.<sup>99</sup>



An attempt to recruit doctors into the ranks of the Islamic State in Dayr Al-Zawr province

<sup>98</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15914> (Arabic).

<sup>99</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/16065> (Arabic).

- A video titled "The Return of the Residents of Abu Hamam Village", a village belonging to the Al-Sheitat tribe, which had many members who fought in the past against the Islamic State. During the video, the residents who returned to their homes expressed their satisfaction with life under Islamic State rule, and denounced members of the time who opposed the Islamic State.<sup>100</sup>
- A photo report about the Zakat office distributing money in the western region.<sup>101</sup>
- A photo report about repairing electricity problems.<sup>102</sup>

### ***Ahrar Al-Sham***

- Ahrar Al-Sham published a video called "The Pioneers of Victory – Part 2". The video document several combat scenes of members of the organization battling against their enemies in Syria.<sup>103</sup>

### ***Fajr Al-Islam***

- Fajr Al-Islam, a Salafi jihad organization in Syria, published a proclamation addressing the organization's position regarding the Islamic State. In the organization's eyes, the Islamic State was transgressing its faith as it tended to categorize Muslims who did not meet the organization's standards as apostates, and from there allowed them to be killed. It was also written that until now the organization had maintained a neutral stance regarding the Islamic State, but the time had come to change this position due to the Islamic State's actions against other jihad groups that hindered efforts to topple the Syrian regime.<sup>104</sup>

### ***Ansar Al-Islam***

- Ansar Al-Islam, a Salafi jihad organization operating in Iraq, published a statement clarifying the organization's position regarding the Islamic State after a series of victories by the rebels in northern Aleppo. According to the organization, the Islamic State was continuing to engage in destructive acts against other jihad groups, due to its distorted worldview and mistaken

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<sup>100</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/15995> (Arabic).

<sup>101</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10964> (Arabic).

<sup>102</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10966> (Arabic).

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

<sup>104</sup> <http://justpaste.it/lhrv> (Arabic).

interpretation of the holy Islamic texts. Therefore, the organization clarified that it intended to take a firm stance and act out against Islamic State fighters if they continued their aggressiveness against different jihad factions.<sup>105</sup>

### ***Al Muhajirun***

- The Al-Muhajirun organization announced (in proclamation #1) its establishment on June 1, 2015, in Arabic and English. According to the proclamation, this was not just another new jihad organization in the Syrian arena, but an umbrella group for immigrant fighters who came to Syria from other countries. It was also written that this umbrella organization would help meet the needs of the immigrant fighters, and that it would soon publish the organization's general goals.



The Al-Muhajirun logo

### ***Al-Muhajirun wal-Ansar***

- The military organization Al-Muhajirun wal-Ansar, made up mostly of Chechen fighters, published the following:
  - A proclamation announcing the organization's Shura Council's decision to appoint Abu Ibrahim al-Harsani as the organization's new emir, in place of the previous emir, Salah al-Din al-Shishani, and to appoint a new military leader named Umar al-Daghistani, in place of the previous military leader, Abd al-Karim al-Ukrani.<sup>106</sup>

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

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



*Activity against the Egyptian Army continued in the province, and on May 23 an Egyptian soldier was captured and murdered in an ambulance, near Sheikh Suweid.<sup>109</sup> In addition, on May 27 an Egyptian police general was shot to death near Al-Arish. Ahmdn Ibrahim was the deputy chief of staff responsible for criminal investigations in northern Sinai.<sup>110</sup>*

*In the Gaza Strip, clashes between Hamas and Salafi activists affiliated with the Islamic State. On May 31, terrorist fighters who identify with the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the murder of a Hamas commander, Saber Siam, after Hamas arrested Salafi activists suspected of connection with the Islamic State.<sup>111</sup>*

- The Ibn Taymiyya media institution, which focuses on the Palestinian Salafi jihadist movement, published a statement denouncing the Hamas leadership for executing a Salafi jihadist fighter named Yunus Hunr on June 2, 2015, in the Gaza Strip. This was after Hamas forces besieged and fired at his house. According to the Ibn Taymiyya institution, his body was taken from the place, and fabricated details about the incident were provided via Hamas media sources. In light of that, the media institution explained that: this was a terrible crime against Salafi fighters; Hamas had Special Forces that were especially trained to capture and kidnap Salafis; Hamas waged a fraudulent propaganda campaign denouncing Salafi fighters, which was intended to stain their reputations in the public eye. For example, Hamas claimed that the abovementioned Salafi activist had planned to use a weapon he possessed against Hamas, while in fact, his true intention was to use the weapon against the Jews. The Ibn Taymiyya institution added that Yunus was a former member of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the military arm of Hamas, but chose to abandon that group and join the Salafi activists in Gaza. In the end, the media institution emphasized that the Hamas leadership would suffer the consequences of the crime it had committed.<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> <http://goo.gl/3yPww2> (Arabic).

<sup>110</sup> <http://goo.gl/dsaATJ> (Arabic).

<sup>111</sup> <http://goo.gl/eSCaKc>; <http://goo.gl/okv3C5> (Arabic).

<sup>112</sup> <http://justpaste.it/li43> (Arabic).

- In keeping with this topic, the media institution published an article by a Palestinian Salafi jihadist Sheikh named Abu al-Miqdad, about Hamas's policy of persecuting Salafi activists in the Gaza Strip. According to al-Miqdad, Israel attack the Strip in response to the firing of three Grad rockets on Israeli communities. But the Hamas response was to first of all take action against Salafi activists. That was in total opposition to the position adopted by the Salafis, who focus on fighting only the Israeli enemy, and have no interest in waging war against Hamas.<sup>113</sup>



Yunus Hunr

### ***The Sheikh Umar Hadid Battalion in Jerusalem***

- The Sariyyat al-Sheikh Umar Hadid Bayt al-Maqdis – the Sheikh Umar Hadid Battalion in Jerusalem, a Salafi jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip, published the following:
  - A proclamation criticizing the Hamas leadership for persecuting Salafi jihadist activists in the Gaza Strip. According to the organization, Hamas acted against Salafis due to foreign interests and considerations, and in order to pursue external agendas. This was expressed, for example, in preserving the cease-fire with the Jews. In light of that, the organization clarified that it intended to continue using weapons against the Jews. Later in the proclamation, the organization claimed responsibility for firing a Grad rocket at the city of Ashdod. Finally, the organization demanded of the Hamas leadership to release all of its members and the Salafi preachers from prisons, to stop the propaganda campaign full of lies against the Salafi activists, and to grant the Salafis their rights – such as the right to possess weapons and to continue their own

<sup>113</sup> <https://dump.to/c3K> (Arabic).

public relations campaign. The organization added that it was extending the deadline to 48 hours, for the Hamas leadership to meet the organization's demands.<sup>114</sup>

- A proclamation claiming responsibility for launching three Grad rockets towards Ashkelon, Netivot, and Eshkol. That was in protest of Hamas killing a Salafi jihadist activist in the Gaza Strip named Yunus Said al-Hunr, in an effort to find favor with Israel.<sup>115</sup>
- A video in which Yunus Said al-Hunr's mother is interviewed. She complained about Hamas's harsh treatment of her son. Later in the video the process of making rockets and firing them at Israeli communities in revenge for the murder of al-Hunr was documented. Words spoken by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the former leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, are heard throughout the video, praising fulfilment of jihad commandments and the value of self-sacrifice for the sake of God.<sup>116</sup> Choosing al-Zarqawi may be an indication that the organization identifies with the Islamic State.

## Africa

### *The Maghreb*

*The government intelligence adviser in Libya, Abdul Basit Haroun, claimed that the Islamic State was using refugee boats from Libya headed towards European countries as a means of transporting IS fighters to Europe, thus making it impossible for the Europeans to differentiate between refugees and Islamic State fighters. He added that the organization was permitting smugglers to continue their smuggling activities in return for 50% of their earnings,<sup>117</sup> and that the money the organization received was used to fund terrorism.<sup>118</sup> With regard to that, the Libyan Prime Minister, Mahmoud Jibril, claimed before the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa, that the number of Islamic State fighters in Libya had increased over the last six months from dozens to*

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<sup>114</sup> <http://justpaste.it/omarasdod> (Arabic).

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

<sup>116</sup> <https://sendvid.com/tuleckb9> (Arabic).

<sup>117</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-32770390> (English).

<sup>118</sup> <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/577796/Islamic-State-earn-millions-human-trafficking> (English).

thousands, and he warned the European country that this state of affairs was liable to affect them as well. He also threatened that if Libya did not receive aide, the number of refugees heading to Africa and Europe would only increase.<sup>119</sup>

In Algeria and Tunisia steps continued to be taken to prevent terrorism. In Algeria, security forces killed 21 fighters affiliated with the Islamic State, who planned to carry out an attack in the capital city, Algiers.<sup>120</sup> With regard to Tunisia, the United States promoted the country to a member of the Allied Forces which is not a member of NATO, while Obama emphasized the importance of cooperation between the two countries in the fight against terror and the return of stability to Libya.<sup>121</sup>

In Mali, despite the agreement signed on May 15 between the government and the militia forces allied with the country in northern Mali, and a number of armed rebel organizations, the rebel coalition headed by the Taureg [Berber nomadic people], known as the "Coordination of Azawad Movements" (CMA), rejected the agreement, and violence between the groups continued. According to UN reports, this led to the emigration of more than 60,000 civilians from northern Mali in the last month.<sup>122</sup> At the same time, French Special Forces in northern Mali continued to fight against Al-Qaeda in the area, and in that context four members of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb were killed in May 21. Among them was a senior leader in the organization – Amada Ag Hama, better known as Abdelkrim the Taureg.<sup>123</sup>

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<sup>119</sup> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3094893/Britain-helping-turn-Libya-cradle-terrorism-exporting-killers-Europe-amid-thousands-illegal-immigrants.html> (English).

<sup>120</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/algerian-forces-kill-21-isil-linked-fighters-150520031043192.html> (English).

<sup>121</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/recognises-tunisia-nato-ally-150521200429335.html> (English).

<sup>122</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/mali-violence-displaces-tens-thousands-150529165415304.html> (English).

<sup>123</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/french-special-forces-kill-al-qaeda-leader-mali-150520203048981.html>

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

- The Al-Andalus media institution, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb published a number of recorded lectures (parts 5 – 11), by Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Rashid al-Bulaydi, head of the organization's Shariah Committee. The recordings were published in the framework of a series of lectures titled "Battle of Uhud in the Quran", and included an analysis of the historical battle from a religious angle.<sup>124</sup>

### **Libya**

#### ***Ansar Al-Sharia***

- The Ansar Al-Sharia organization in Libya published the following:
  - A video documenting the explosion of two tanks belonging to General Hiftar's army forces.<sup>125</sup>
  - A photo report about distributing food to families in areas under the control of the mujahideen. According to the report, the body responsible for distributing the food was the Support and Supply Center, belonging to the organization's Economy Office.<sup>126</sup>

### **The Islamic State**

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

- The Islamic State in Tripoli Province published the following:
  - A video titled "Abu Ibrahim al-Misrati Raid". The raid was described as part of a series of attacks "to purify the entrances into the city of Siret from Fajr Libya apostates". Aside from featuring the progression of the raid (which included artillery fire, exchange of fire, and the destruction of vehicles and aircraft), the video transmitted several messages by a suicide bomber named Abu Dujana al-Sudani, who called upon Muslims to immigrate to the Islamic State and engage in jihad. He threatened the "dictators" in Libya, and their soldiers, and sent words of encouragement to the leader of the Islamic State and to members of the

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<sup>124</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>125</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>126</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

organization in Iraq and Syria.<sup>127</sup>



**Destroying aircraft at the Al-Qurdabiya air force base**

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

- The Islamic State in Barqa Province published the following:
  - A photo report about an attack on a Libyan Army post in Benghazi. Aside from featuring the dead body of one of the soldiers killed, and of the weapons and ammunition seized as booty, the report featured various pieces of equipment from Egypt and from the United Emirate, in order to demonstrate that those countries supported the "tyrannical army".<sup>128</sup>
  - A photo report about the destruction of amulets, discs, and alcohol, by members of the Hisba in the city of Nofaliya.<sup>129</sup>
  - A photo report about a training camp in the city of Benghazi.<sup>130</sup>
  - A photo report about stationing the organization's soldiers in the city of Sirte, in the framework of Ribat.<sup>131</sup>

### ***The Shura Council of Mujahideen in Derna and its environs***

- On June 10, 2015, the Shura Council of Mujahideen in Derna and its environs published a proclamation justifying continued fighting against Islamic State fighters, claiming that the latter were too quick to shoot at Muslims who didn't meet their approval. The organization called for

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<sup>127</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/16037> (Arabic).

<sup>128</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/11027> (Arabic).

<sup>129</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/10971> (Arabic).

<sup>130</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/11025> (Arabic).

<sup>131</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/11000> (Arabic).

avoiding contact with Islamic State fighters, and for not falling prey to their public relations campaigns, since they encouraged warring against brothers.<sup>132</sup>

## Tunisia

- The Al-Ifriqiya media institution, which identifies with the Islamic State, published a statement about cancelling "Operation 737" – a nickname for an attack planned on the Tunisia airlines, which was mentioned in the previous message published by this media institution, and which had warned Muslims not to use these airlines. In the cancellation statement, members of Al-Ifriqiya explained that they had received many comments and words of advice regarding the original statement, and they had decided to call upon their "brothers in the field" to cancel operation 737. In addition, it was emphasized in a proclamation that Al-Ifriqiya was not the official spokesman for the Uqba bin Nafe Brigade, or for the Soldiers of the Caliphate in Africa – and that despite the cancellation statement, Al-Ifriqiya would continue to march along the path of jihad and of sanctifying God.<sup>133</sup>

On June 4, 2015 the Al-Ifriqiya media institution published an additional statement titled "Fast Commentary on the Front Lines: A Response to the New Lies of the Tunisian Apostates". The statement harshly criticised the lies fabricated by the Tunisian government regarding the arrest of the supervisor of the Al-Ifriqiya media institution. At the beginning of the statement, the arrest of one of their supervisors was denied, and it was claimed that the media institution continued to publish statements from the Islamic State – and even opened a new account for that purpose. It was also written that the activities of Al-Ifriqiya temporarily ceased because of an operation in Bouchoucha, and that the person responsible for the media institution asked his workers to send their news items about the Islamic State exclusively to the Al-Abaa media institution, and to work on other subjects. It was also written that the media institution's account was suspended and the leadership asked it to cease all activities until further notice. In addition, the statement said that in contradiction to what the apostates reported, Al-Ifriqiya had no official spokesmen of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb, and no journalists in Tunisia. The statement continued to say that the aforementioned media institution had no Facebook

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<sup>132</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>133</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

account in Tunisia or Egypt, because the enemy controlled the social media networks, including Twitter, since the main goal of the authorities was to silence them.<sup>134</sup>

## Nigeria

### *The Islamic State in West Africa*

- The Islamic State in West Africa (formerly Boko Haram) published a video titled "You Arrived with the Caliphate Soldiers". A fighter from the organization scornfully castigated the efforts of Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger – which united in a coalition to act against the organization. According to the fighter, this effort was doomed to failure since the mujahideen were a powerful force and they controlled a very large territory. The fighter stated that the Nigerian army demonstrated their helplessness opposite the organization fighters, and particularly opposite their strongholds in the city of Sambisa, in north east Nigeria. Many soldiers had been killed or taken captive by the organization. That all contradicts what was reported in the propaganda lies, spread by enemies of the organization, in an attempt to portray an inaccurate picture regarding the organization's strength. Later in the video a raid by organization fighters on one of the Nigerian army posts was documented.<sup>135</sup>



A segment from the video

## Somalia

*At the beginning of June, the Somalian president claimed that his government had succeeded in minimizing the influence of Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen organization, since the elections*

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<sup>134</sup> <http://nasheer.me/tsmkj/>

<sup>135</sup> <https://archive.org/details/SolaWestAfrica>

had taken place in the country three years earlier. However, the struggle against Al-Shabaab continued, and the country had still not gained full control over the organization.<sup>136</sup> Meanwhile, during the first half of June Al-Shabaab broadened its activities in Kenya, a neighboring country of Somalia. On June 2 Al-Shabaab fighters conquered a nearby town on the border with Somalia.<sup>137</sup> In addition, on June 15 Al-Shabaab fighters attacked an army base in northern Kenya, which led to clashes between the organization's fighters and Kenyan soldiers, with casualties on both sides.<sup>138</sup>

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

- The Al-Kataib media institution, affiliated with Al-Sahbaab Al-Mujahideen movement, published the following:
  - A video describing the preparations made by the organization for attacking the Police Headquarters in the city of Bothai, Kenya on June 6, and the events that occurred during the attack itself – which included, among other things, firing mortars and RPG rockets.<sup>139</sup>
  - A detailed report about the organization's military activities during the months of April and May against various targets. For instance – detonating explosive devices in the Presidential Palace in Mogadishu, killing Somali security forces, and more.<sup>140</sup>

### **Miscellaneous**

- The “Strategic Matters” Twitter account, which identifies with Al-Qaeda, published a number of tweets in the first half of June, including:
  - Under the hashtag [#الحشد\\_الرافضي\\_يحرق\\_سعودي](#) : Mention of the exposure of a Shi'ite cell in Bahrain, and the attempt to bring explosives into Saudi Arabia, as additional examples of the Shi'ite provocation against the Sunnis, proving that Iran is interested in a future war between Sunnis and Shi'ites.<sup>141</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> <http://goo.gl/3CazaM> (Arabic).

<sup>137</sup> [http://internationalnewsagency.net/news\\_details.php?sid=6740](http://internationalnewsagency.net/news_details.php?sid=6740) (Arabic).

<sup>138</sup> <http://goo.gl/mBMW9Q> (Arabic).

<sup>139</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOnhtCtkTTM>

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

<sup>141</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/607675644751708160> (Arabic).

- An expression of support for establishing a Kurdish state, but without the intervention of agents from the West, and without ethnic cleansing.<sup>142</sup>

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<sup>142</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/610509786841354240> (Arabic).

## ABOUT THE ICT

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