

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The First Half of June 2016

Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the first half of June 2016. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri** and **members of the Taliban in Afghanistan throughout Afghanistan** swear allegiance the new leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada. According to al-Zawahiri, the oath of allegiance reflects the approach of Sheikh Osama bin Laden when he swore allegiance to the previous leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Omar.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb** claims responsibility for a terrorist attack that was carried out by several members of Al-Murabitun, which is affiliated with AQIM, against French army forces and UN MINUSMA forces in the city of Gao, in northern Mali. According to the organization, the military operation was preceded by careful planning and was intended to send several messages: A) A reminder to the French invaders that their crimes will be met with a response and revenge attacks. B) The attack was carried out in revenge for the death of four jihad fighters who were killed by French army forces. C) The countries involved in the French invasion of Mali must withdraw from “this demonic alliance instead of sending more of its sons. And should they refuse and insist”, they will get a taste of the sword.
- **Iyad Agh Ghali**, the leader of **Ansar al-Din** in Mali, praises the residents of Kidal in northern Mali for their steadfastness in the face of the “new French colonialism”, which is battling Islam and pillaging all of the good in the country. In order to cope with this enemy, Agh Ghali ruled that every Muslim is obligated to wage jihad against France, and he asked the residents of Kidal to support and help his organization in its efforts to expel the French occupier and fight its hegemony in the country. He added that the local regimes are also partner to France’s crimes due to the cooperation between them. In addition, Agh Ghali denied reports that he had died in a battle that took place along the Algeria-Mali border.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent** criticizes the Pakistani regime’s policy of persecution against its Muslim citizens and accuses it of uniting with the enemies of Islam, led by the United States. In addition, the organization publishes its significant teachings, which emphasize the sanctity of the lives of Muslims, the importance of defending them and of using great caution when declaring *takfir* on Muslims. According to the organization, the United States, India and

their allies, the Pakistani army and the Pakistani government, and leaders of anti-religious groups are considered obstacles to the implementation of shari'a in Pakistan and, therefore, should be considered enemies that must be fought.

- **Abu Malik al-Shami**, Emir of Al-Nusra Front in Qalamoun, threatens that Lebanese Hezbollah will need to pay in the near future for its crimes against the Sunni population in Lebanon and Syria. According to him, Al-Nusra Front succeeded in establishing an army of over 1,000 fighters who are awaiting the order to expand the operation against Hezbollah and Shi'ite villages in Lebanon.
- Supporters of the **Islamic State** call on Muslims in Tunisia to “prepare the ground” for the arrival of the Caliphate to the country by, among other things, carrying out bombing and stabbing attacks against corrupt individuals, heretics, tourists, police officers and senior government officials. In addition, IS supporters call for efforts to be focused on freeing prisoners from jails and killing prison guards.
- Against the backdrop of the massacre at an LGBT club in Orlando and the beheading of a French police officer by two Muslims who swore allegiance to the **Islamic State**, the organization and its supporters launch an extensive campaign in praise of the attacks and calling for the continuation of “lone wolf” attacks on Western soil. In the framework of this campaign, it is emphasized that the killing of civilians, women and children, and not just members of security forces, is permissible.
- The **Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem** calls on Muslims to send money to the organization for the purchase of weapons and supplies in order to fight against the Jews.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Al-Sahab Media Foundation, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published an audio clip of a speech by **Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of the organization, in which he swore allegiance to the new leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada. In his speech, he mentioned that his oath reflects the approach of Sheikh Osama bin Laden when he swore allegiance to the former leader of the Taliban, Mullah Omar, and therefore all Muslims must support the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.¹



The banner of Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri's oath of allegiance

- Sheikh **Hani al-Sibai**, an Egyptian Salafist living in exile in London and a supporter of **Al-Qaeda**, published the following:
 - An announcement regarding Christians' reference to Muslim activities as terrorist attacks. In the announcement, al-Sibai brought examples of terrorist attacks that were carried out in the past by Christians against Muslims but were not classified by Europe or the US as terrorist attacks. According to him, this was because the perpetrators of these attacks were not Muslims and because only Muslims are defined by the West as terrorists.²

¹ <https://justpaste.it/v5ee>

² <https://justpaste.it/v90c>

- A one-hour video in which he interpreted the Sura no. 7 (Al-'Afrāf) in the Quran and connected it to the fact the US led the Shi'ites to invade Al-Fallujah in Iraq and to seize control of the Church of Egypt.³
- Al-Basira jihadist media institution, which belongs to **Al-Nusra Front**, published a video titled, "Al-Sham Successfully Evaded the Intruders". In the video, Sheikh Abu Tamam al-Ansari, a member of the organization, referred to attempts by the West to weaken Islam, such as the division of the Middle East into national entities according to the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which was signed in the beginning of the 20th century. According to him, Muslims are forced to cope with an "ideological invasion" by the West, which is designed to blur the Muslim identity. He added that there is a formidable battle raging today in Al-Sham between the forces of heresy (namely Crusaders in the West) and the Alawites, against the forces of light (namely, Salafi-jihadists) over religion and Muslim identity.⁴



Sheikh Abu Tamam al-Ansari

- **Al-Murabitun**, an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist organization, published six videos regarding Islamic law.⁵
- The **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** published video no. 12 in a series of publications titled, "Knowledge of Jihad" by Mawlawī Nik Muhammad Hafiz Allah.⁶

³ <https://twitter.com/hanisibu/status/739118060787863552>

⁴ <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Za3aADt1wYM>

⁵ al-Murabitun's Telegram Channel

⁶ <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

- **Al-Himma Library**, which belongs to the **Islamic State**, published the second edition of a book titled, “The Prophet Leader: A Study about the Prophet’s Battalions and Incursions, and the Lessons that Gladden Our God” by ‘Abd al-Mun’im bin Izz al-Din aka Aby Hamza al-Muhajir.⁷

The Month of Ramadan – “Month of Victories”

- Al-Basira jihadist media institution, which belongs to **Al-Nusra Front**, published a series of short video clips by **Sufyan al-Muhajir**, a member of the organization, regarding Muslim conquests of territories in Africa, Asia and Europe during the month of Ramadan throughout Muslim history. Alongside this historical review, al-Muhajir emphasized the importance of fulfilling jihad and the virtues of battle, especially during Ramadan in light of it being a month in which important historical victories and conquests took place, such as the capture of the city of Mecca by the Prophet Mohammad from the Quraysh tribe in 630 AD. Other videos dealt with territorial conquests in India, Cyprus and elsewhere. In addition, he emphasized the importance of liberating the territories that used to be under Muslim control throughout history.⁸



Sufyan al-Muhajir, a member of Al-Nusra Front, discussing historical Muslim conquests during Ramadan

In addition to these videos, al-Basira published videos by other members of Al-Nusra Front regarding the month of Ramadan, such as **Sheikh Abdallah al-Shami**, a member of Al-Nusra Front’s Shari’a Council. Al-Shami encouraged the mujahideen in Syria against the backdrop of

⁷ <https://archive.org/details/Al-nabiAl-qaeed>

⁸ <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

marking Ramadan, and he emphasized the virtues of the month in accordance with the Muslim tradition as well as its greater importance over all other months.⁹

- The **Ministry of Dawah and Guidance**, led by Sheikh Abdallah Muhammad al Muhaysini and affiliated with Al-Nusra Front, published a series of videos titled, “Ramadan, the Month of Conquests”.¹⁰
- Sheikh **Iyad Qunaybi**, a Salafi-jihadist philosopher in Jordan who supports **Al-Qaeda**, noted on his Twitter account the historical battles in which Muslims defeated their enemies.¹¹
- Sheikh **Hani al-Sibai**, an Egyptian Salafist living in exile in London and a supporter of **Al-Qaeda**, published a 54-minute long video about past battles that were waged in the Middle East, some of which took place in Syria, in which Muslims defeated Christians during the month of Ramadan.¹²
- **Al-Himma Library**, which belongs to the **Islamic State**, published a video titled, “Ramadan – the Month of Conquests”. In the framework of the video, the virtues of the month of Ramadan were reviewed, especially as a month in which many important military achievements were made in terms of Islam, such as the Battle of Badr and the conquests of Mecca, Andolusia and Sicily. The video ended with a quote from Abu Hamza al-Muhajer that included encouragement for martyrdom.¹³



A clip from an animation video showing territories conquered by Muslims during the month of Ramadan throughout history

⁹ https://ia801505.us.archive.org/27/items/kalamat_ramadan

¹⁰ <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=WThKZN3hC9g>

¹¹ https://ia801504.us.archive.org/23/items/RamaDHaan_201606

¹² <https://twitter.com/hanisibu/status/741790606620512257>

¹³ <https://vimeo.com/169223141>

Fatwas

- Sheikh **Abu Qatada al-Filastini**, a senior Salafi-jihadist sage who supports **Al-Qaeda**, published a fatwa in response to an audio clip regarding cooperation with coalition forces against IS fighters. Abu Qatada decisively ruled that it is absolutely forbidden for any Muslim to help the Crusaders kill Muslims even if the latter had performed unacceptable acts, such as IS fighters. According to him, IS and other recalcitrant jihad fighters must be fought in ways that conform to shari'a and not through the help of the Crusaders since that would constitute an act of heresy.¹⁴

The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

- **Al-Tahaya jihadist media institution**, which is involved in publicity for **Al-Qaeda**, published the following:
 - An article titled, "Ask the people who mention the name of Allah, if you did not know" by Sheikh Abu Malik al-Shami, a senior Al-Nusra Front leader in Qalamoun. In his article, al-Shami referred to the types of jihadist groups in Syria, placing emphasis on the Islamic State. According to him, the IS seeks to fight against the enemies of Islam and implement shari'a, but despite this the organization is considered to have deviated from the path of Islam for spilling the blood of innocent Muslims just because they do not fit in to its worldview. In light of this, the organization is considered *Khawarij*, a derogatory term for an ancient sect in Islam that split from mainstream Islam and sanctified violence as a means to enforce its will.¹⁵

Strategy

- A writer known as "Waqqas" published an article regarding **Islamic State** PR and media.¹⁶ The article opened with praise for the organization's PR system, which includes a variety of branches and operates in various types of media (official media institutions, magazines and newspapers, radio stations and news agencies). Nevertheless, the writer offered several suggestions for promoting the organization's PR, including:

¹⁴ <https://justpaste.it/tansik>

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/tayaha8/status/739160155670122496>

¹⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- Establish media centers that will train the future generation of Muslim media personnel in a range of fields (content writing, photography, graphic design, etc.).
- Reduce the number of publications by each province in order to increase the quality and hone the message of those that will be produced and distributed.
- Produce additional chapters in the series “Salil al-Sawarem” (“Cling of Swords”), which describes the largest terrorist attacks carried out by the organization in various provinces.
- Create an archive in which all of the organization’s publications and PR materials will be saved.
- Set a uniform format for reporting the news in order expedite the writing of news reports. The fixed format should provide all of the details in the framework of the incident (province, date, day and content), distinguishing between urgent reports to be highlighted in red and standard reports to be highlighted in blue.

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen**, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Somalia, published a eulogy in memory of Sheikh Akhtar Mansour, the leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, as well as words of encouragement and support for continued jihad in Afghanistan, titled, “Khorasan: The Source of Jihad and the Desire to Die a Martyr’s Death”.¹⁷ Abu ‘Umar al-Muhajir al-Masri, the leader of **Al-Mourabitoun** in Egypt, also published a video eulogy in memory of Mansour.¹⁸



¹⁷ <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ https://archive.org/details/nokbah1_tuta_201606

Akhtar Mansour, the leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, in a video by Al-Mourabitoun

- The **Islamic State** in Saladdin Province published a video promoting the myth of martyrdom, and the fighters who were killed in battles and operations in the province. The video showed a collection of the organization’s combat footage in the province, while the narrator explained in the background that the blood of the fallen “was not spilled in vain but rather watered the tree of the Caliphate and illuminated the path for those who will come later”.¹⁹
- The **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** published a book (297 pp.) titled, “From the Stars of Islam in the Land of the Afghans” by Sa’ad al-Balushi, one of the editors of *Al-Somood* magazine, which belongs to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The book included biographies of members of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan who died as martyrs in the arena of jihad in Afghanistan. It should be noted that the introduction was written by Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, a senior Salafi-jihadist philosopher living in London who supports Al-Qaeda, in which he praised the book and its author.²⁰



The banner of the book, “From the Stars of Islam in the Land of the Afghans”

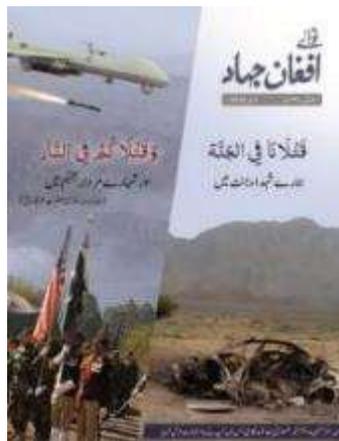
¹⁹ <http://goo.gl/v8OW5L>

²⁰ <http://alsomod.com/?p=13909>

- **Al-Nusra Front** published several videos containing the last will and testaments of several of its members, including Abu ‘Umar al-Raqqawī and Abu Ahmad al-Hamawi, in which they called for the war of jihad to continue against the enemies of Islam. The video also included the instructions given to members of the organization before they embark on suicide attacks regarding the target and how to reach it.²¹
- The **Ifriqya al-Muslima** media group, which focuses on jihad activities in North Africa, published a collection of short biographies (17 biographies) about Libyan jihadists belonging to the Islamic Fighting Group who died as martyrs in the 1990’s. The collection was written by Abu Akram Hisham and constituted the third part in a series of publications titled, “Letters from the Notebook of a Mujahid”.²²

Magazines

- The **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** published a new issue of its Urdu-language magazine, **Nawai**.²³



The banner page of the *Al-Nawai* issue

- **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** published issue no. 13 of its magazine, **Al-Masra**. The issue reviewed central events and developments in various arenas of jihad in which fighters from various Al-Qaeda branches operate, as well as prominent international incidents. Among the

²¹ <https://youtu.be/gRofCtky0yE>

²² <http://up.top4top.net/downloadf-157tdpy1-pdf.html>

²³ <http://www.mediafire.com/download/i566gf1d0uzuao8/final.pdf>

topics covered in this issue were: the oath of allegiance by Ayman al-Zawahiri and members of the Taliban in Afghanistan to the new leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan; an attack by members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen against an Ethiopian army base in Somalia and a terrorist attack at a hotel in Mogadishu; stabbing attacks by Palestinians against Israelis; the battle in Yemen; the execution of Khalid al-Faraj by Saudi authorities due to charges that he recruited for Al-Qaeda; Obama’s ill-fated policy; the implications of Britain staying or leaving the European Union; an interview with Sheikh Hamd bi Hamud al-Uthman al-Tamimi, a member of AQAP’s shari’a council, regarding the theological principles that jihad fighters must believe in and that give them an advantage over their enemies in the battlefield and in general; a recruitment campaign named “Al-Nafir” for jihad fighters in Syria run by the Center for Preachers and Jihad; a series of questions and answers regarding the issue of Palestine and the liberation of Al-Aqsa; a fatwa issued by Abu Qatada al-Filastini, a senior Salafi-jihadist philosopher residing in Jordan who supports Al-Qaeda, forbidding cooperation with coalition forces in the battle against the Islamic State.²⁴



The banner page of *Al-Masra*

²⁴ <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

- Issues no. 34-35 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the **Islamic State**.²⁵ The issues reviewed the organization's activities in various arenas of jihad. Among the articles in the magazine: reports from various arenas of jihad (Syria, Iraq, Libya and Sinai); praise for the terrorist attack against the LGBT club in Orlando; an interview with a *hisbah* official regarding the removal of satellite dishes in areas under the organization's control; reference to Ramadan as a month of jihad; and the view of polygamy as one of the traditions of the Prophet.²⁶



Issues of *Al-Naba*

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

During the first half of June, clashes continued between the Taliban in Afghanistan under the leadership of Akhundzada, and Afghan security forces and foreign forces, with even greater vigor. In the beginning of the month, Taliban fighters attacked a court in Logar Province, which is located south of Kabul, and killed seven court employees. This was the third attack carried out against court employees in the last month, following the execution of a death sentence for several Taliban fighters by the Afghan government. In addition, Taliban fighters killed a member of the Afghan Parliament next to his house in Kabul.²⁷ Taliban fighters also set an ambush against Afghan forces in Helmand

²⁵ https://ia801509.us.archive.org/20/items/Naba34_201606/;

<https://ia601500.us.archive.org/25/items/Naba35>

²⁶ <https://ia800405.us.archive.org/6/items/Naba35/Naba%2035.pdf>

²⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/afghanistan-taliban-attack-logar-court-kills-160605090609051.html>

Province and killed an American journalist who was accompanying the forces.²⁸ Moreover, Taliban fighters kidnapped at least 40 travelers on the main road in Kunduz Province in northern Afghanistan.²⁹ Meanwhile, the IS also carried out a terrorist attack this month against Afghan security forces in Nangarhar Province in southeast Afghanistan.³⁰ In contrast, the US President announced the expansion of the military role of US forces in Afghanistan and more active assistance to Afghan forces.³¹ In addition, according to Afghan forces, a senior member of the Haqqani network, which has ties to the Taliban, was killed in a US Air Force strike in eastern Afghanistan.³²

Meanwhile in Pakistan, the authorities announced that the main border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan was closed and that a visa would be required in order to cross, in an effort to prevent infiltration by armed fighters from Afghanistan into the country.³³ This led to clashes between the parties.³⁴

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
 - An announcement regarding expanding the role of American forces in Afghanistan. In the announcement, the organization criticized the US decision to expand the military role of its forces remaining in Afghanistan, and claimed that it was the wrong decision since US forces would not be able to defeat the Islamic Emirate because the Afghan Nation supports it. At the end of the announcement, the organization vowed to continue waging jihad against the invaders.³⁵

²⁸ <http://goo.gl/KLZQim>

²⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/afghan-taliban-abducts-passengers-kunduz-highway-160608140527564.html>

³⁰ <http://goo.gl/mdkKAA>

³¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/widens-military-role-afghanistan-fight-taliban-160610184646727.html> (English).

³² <http://goo.gl/lvCqPz>

³³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/torkham-restrictions-stoke-pakistan-afghanistan-tension-160601074549322.html> (English).

³⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/afghan-soldier-killed-border-clash-pakistan-160613075159320.html> (English).

³⁵ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=49>

- Video clips showing various provinces in Afghanistan, including Gardez Province,³⁶ Ghazni Province³⁷ and Wardak Province,³⁸ and training camps for members of the organization³⁹ located in those provinces, where members of the organization expressed their condolences over the death of the leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, and swore allegiance to the new leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada.
- A video documenting the training routine of members of the Taliban in Afghanistan in a training camp as part of their training to become jihad fighters. The video also contained an interview with a member of the organization about the circumstances surrounding his joining the movement and the importance of fulfilling the obligation to wage jihad.⁴⁰

The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan

- A faction of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), which split from the IS, published an announcement in which it declared that it had remained loyal to the Taliban and to Al-Qaeda when the leader of the organization had sworn allegiance to the IS in June 2015. In the beginning of the announcement, the organization explained the relationship that previous leaders of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan had with the Taliban in Afghanistan during Mullah Omar's reign, and emphasized that despite the fact that the most recent leader had sworn allegiance to the IS, a faction within the organization had continued to obey the fatwas of senior Al-Qaeda leaders, including Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi and Abu Qatada al-Filistini, who also believe that the IS leader is only the emir of the Islamic State and not the Caliph of all Muslims. The announcement added that the faction loyal to the Taliban continued to fight alongside the organization but it did not have the media tools to declare it. At the end of the announcement, the organization noted that its fighters would continue to stand by jihadist groups in Afghanistan.⁴¹

³⁶ <https://archive.org/details/GurdizMobile>

³⁷ <https://archive.org/details/GhazniDehyakBaiatMobileMP4>

³⁸ <https://archive.org/details/MaidanWardakBaiatMobile>

³⁹ https://archive.org/details/FatehBaiaatAlhijra_201606

⁴⁰ <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁴¹ https://justpaste.it/IMUBayan_5Ramadan1437

The Islamic State in Khorasan Province

- The Islamic State in Khorasan Province published the following:
 - Photographs of children called the “Cubs of the Caliphate” expressing their joy over the terrorist attacks that were carried out under the auspices of the organization in Orlando and Paris.⁴²
 - A claim of responsibility for the assassination of a member of the Afghan Parliament.⁴³

The Arabian Peninsula

Arab coalition forces, led by Saudi Arabia, continued to purge the areas from which Al-Qaeda fighters were expelled in southern Yemen. In the city of Zinjibar, in central Abyan Province, where life returned to normal thanks to its liberation in the beginning of 2015, the city’s residents nevertheless continued to have serious concerns of revenge attacks by the organization, which would enable the organization’s fighters to return to the city. One resident, a member of the mediation committee between the tribes in the city and Al-Qaeda, noted that the departure of Al-Qaeda fighters was made possible thanks to the negotiations that were held between both sides. In the framework of the negotiations, agreements were reached that included: a promise that Al-Qaeda fighters could leave the cities of Zinjibar and Ja’ar safely, an agreement by the organization to dismantle the mines that its members had set by the side of the road or at least to provide maps that document the location of the mines, and an agreement to allow supporters of the organization to continue to live in their homes, lay down their weapons and integrate into society. According to the resident, after achieving these understandings, members of the organization advanced towards the city of ‘Azan in Shabwa Province carrying their small arms and heavy weapons.⁴⁴

The situation of Al-Qaeda in Yemen does not look good in light of its retreat from its strongholds and the continued targeted assassinations of its members, such as the one that took place in the beginning of June when two of its fighters were assassinated in southern Yemen.⁴⁵ Nevertheless, it

⁴² <https://www.alkhelafa.eu/threads/59163/>

⁴³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44625>

⁴⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/reportsandinterviews/2016/6/10/هل-خرج-تنظيم-القاعدة-نهائيا-من-زنجبار-اليمنية> (Arabic).

⁴⁵ <http://www.alhayat.com/Articles/16054196/مقتل-عنصرين-من-القاعدة-في-غارة-جوية-اميركية-في-اليمن> (Arabic).

seems that it was a tactical retreat designed to - among other things - spare lives, avoid friction with the local population and re-organize the ranks of the organization.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published the following:
 - Ansar al-Sharia in Abyan Province, which is affiliated with AQAP, published an announcement clarifying a mistake that was made in another announcement, which was published by the organization at the end of May 2016, regarding the war being waged by the coalition and the army against the mujahideen in Abyan. The organization wished to emphasize that it retracts the threat that it previously made against the families of the army's soldiers, who were involved in fighting against the organization, to vacate their homes because it intended to attack them. The organization emphasized that it does not threaten to hurt women and children, even though children and women were killed in bombings carried out by Arab allied forces, led by Saudi Arabia. At the end of the announcement, the organization threatened to attack officers and security officials taking part in the battle against it, and emphasized that they are not immune from harm and retribution.⁴⁶
 - A video by Ansar al-Shari'a in Al-Baydha, which is affiliated with AQAP, documented the activities of the organization's fighters in the province.⁴⁷

Iraq

During the first half of June, the Iraqi military campaign to purge the city of Al-Fallujah, an important stronghold left under IS control in Al-Anbar Province, continued with help from coalition forces and Shi'ite militias. The Iraqi army captured several targets in the south of the city⁴⁸ but faced difficulty advancing to the city center. The IS responded with guerilla warfare by dispatching suicide bombers, detonating explosives and using the civilians trapped inside the city as a "human shield".⁴⁹

⁴⁶ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CkHehlHXAAkwpf.jpg>

⁴⁷ <https://justpaste.it/Bayda4>

⁴⁸ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/iraqi-forces-secure-southern-edge-fallujah-160605154419289.html> (English).

⁴⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/battle-fallujah-iraqi-troops-die-isil-attacks-160602040503487.html> (English).

In addition, according to reports, the organizations shot civilians who tried to leave the center of the city.⁵⁰

Meanwhile, the IS continued to carry out terrorist attacks against Iraqi security forces and Shi'ite targets in Baghdad. In the beginning of the month, a suicide terrorist detonated at an army checkpoint in the town of Al-Tarmiyah, north of Baghdad. On the same day, additional bombings took place at a restaurant and two markets inside the city of Baghdad.⁵¹ In addition, IS fighters detonated a car bomb in the new area of Baghdad later in the month.⁵²

The Islamic State

- To mark two years since the declaration of the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the Islamic State published a graph displaying data about the geographic areas in which its fighters operate. The graph displayed three main cycles of operation: A) Syria and Iraq as the organization's main center. B) Areas in which there are moderate level activities, such as Libya, Nigeria, Egypt, Yemen, Chechnya, Dagestan, Afghanistan, the Philippines and Somalia. C) Areas in which there is a specific level of activity, including Algeria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Tunisia and France.⁵³

⁵⁰<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/iraq-civilians-shot-isil-fleeing-fallujah-160606070833953.html>
(English).

⁵¹<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/iraq-bombings-kill-15-baghdad-isis-160604132507734.html>
(English).

⁵²<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/twin-bombings-kill-22-iraq-baghdad-160609071839870.html>
(English).

⁵³<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46420>



A graph drawn up by the Islamic State’s ‘Amaq news agency, displaying data regarding the geographic areas in which the organization operates

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

A. Battles and Military Deployments:

- Al-Furat Province: A video titled, “Defender of the Religion 3”, which documented an attack against Iraqi army posts in Sahawat, which is located in Al-Khasfa. The stages of the attack included intelligence gathering using a drone, the launch of rockets, heavy weapons fire directed at the target and at planes flying in the area, and the dispatch of a suicide terrorist in an explosives-ridden vehicle. The end of the video documented the posts abandoned by the soldiers as they were set on fire.⁵⁴
- Al-Anbar Province: A video regarding the organization’s attacks in the area of Al-Tharthar Lake, with emphasis on suicide attacks that were carried out using car bombs against Iraqi army posts. In addition to

⁵⁴ <https://archive.org/details/Homat3>

displaying the corpses of those killed, the video addressed the economic damage that the attacks caused to the army, such as the attack on a post that caused an estimated 80 million dollars in damage, according to the organization.⁵⁵

- Fallujah Province: A video titled, “Tidings of Victory” regarding the Iraqi army’s operation to re-capture the city of Fallujah, with US assistance. The video documented an exchange of fire as well as the dispatch of a suicide terrorist of Uzbek origin who detonated in an explosives-ridden vehicle at a post belonging to the Iraqi army and Shi’ite militias.⁵⁶
- Dijla Province: A video titled, “Battle of Steadfastness 2”, which reviewed the battles waged by the organization against Iraqi army forces and Popular Mobilization Forces in the area of Jabal Makhtul. The video also included ridicule of the US and archive clips of attacks against American soldiers in Iraq.⁵⁷
- Nineveh Province: A filmed review regarding the training underwent by a battalion of soldiers who were trained on how to carry out raids of buildings (fighters known by the Arabic term, *iqtiḥāmi*). The photos showed the fighters as they underwent theoretical training as well as a physical penetration exercise of an abandoned building.⁵⁸
- Various provinces: Reviews, videos and announcements regarding various operational topics, such as: the killing of four police officers in an armed ambush north of Baghdad,⁵⁹ the firing of Katyusha rockets against Kurdish posts west of Sinjar (*Al-Jazira*),⁶⁰ a claim of responsibility for a suicide attack in Karbala (*Al-Janub*),⁶¹ the destruction of army vehicles using an

⁵⁵ <https://vimeo.com/169945255>

⁵⁶ <https://vimeo.com/169307727>

⁵⁷ <https://vimeo.com/168985996>

⁵⁸ <https://www.alkhelafa.eu/threads/59106/>

⁵⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Ckq-aviWEAAu-bh.jpg>

⁶⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44793>

⁶¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44684>

SPG missile east of Fallujah,⁶² the downing of an observation aircraft near Fallujah,⁶³ a suicide attack against army and police forces in Tarmiyya in northern Baghdad,⁶⁴ an attack against Peshmerga bases north of Mosul and east of Sinjar,⁶⁵ a suicide attack using a car bomb north of Fallujah,⁶⁶ and battles against the Iraqi army and PMF north of Zoba (*Al-Janub*), in Al-Dulab (*Al-Anbar*), in Al-Azraqiyya (*Fallujah*), and in Jazirat al-Khalediyya.⁶⁷ Announcements were also published regarding an attack against several PMF posts in Al-Zarka that were set on fire⁶⁸ and the deaths of commanders among the Peshmerga forces, the Badr militia and Iraqi Hezbollah.⁶⁹

B. Executions:

- *Al-Jazira Province*: A video titled, “Deterring Criminals 2”, which documented the executions of several people accused of spying against the IS and passing information to coalition forces, Iraqi government intelligence and Kurdish militias. According to the video, the spies were caught in the framework of an extensive campaign by the organization’s “security forces”, and it attempted to portray them as responsible for the Muslim victims and destruction that was caused as a result of coalition forces’ bombings. Before being executed, the men in the video made threats against the West, renounced the spies among their people and sent words of encouragement to the mujahideen. It should be noted that it was mentioned in the video that one of the IS fighters appearing in the

⁶² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44418>

⁶³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44341>

⁶⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44466>

⁶⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44242>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44250>

⁶⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44460>

⁶⁷ <https://www.alkhelafa.eu/threads/59109/>; <https://www.alkhelafa.eu/threads/59136/>;

<https://www.alkhelafa.eu/threads/59143/>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44298>

⁶⁸ <http://goo.gl/TfdpzY>

⁶⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44413>

video, Abu Abdallah, executed his own brother who was accused of spying.⁷⁰



A series of executions in Al-Jazira

- *Al-Furat Province*: A filmed review regarding the execution of an Iraqi army commander in the city of Al-Bukamal.⁷¹
- *Saladdin Province*: A filmed review regarding the execution of four people accused of recruiting fighters to the PMF and of transferring information about the mujahideen to the army and police.⁷²

C. Propaganda, PR and Civilian Matters:

- *Al-Anbar Province*: A video documenting the destruction of the Nabu Temple, a site located in the old city of Nimrud. The video opened with a reference to the “cultural invasion” of heretical ideas into the Muslim world, and into various structures in the Arab and western world – such as the Pyramids or ancient giant statues – which are considered historical-cultural sites by the “infidels” while Islam considers it evidence of the “moral baseness and tyranny” of those ancient cultures. The video made an effort to present Muslim culture as one that places the individual and his actions at the center rather than “structures and stones”, and it

⁷⁰ https://my.mail.ru/mail/gharib.33/video/_myvideo/4.html

⁷¹ <https://www.alkhelafa.eu/threads/59144/>

⁷² <https://www.alkhelafa.eu/threads/59148/>

included explanations by hisbah officials regarding the obligation to destroy polytheistic sites.⁷³



The destruction of the Nabu Temple in Al-Anbar Province

- *Al-Furat Province*: A video titled, “Wait Patiently, Proud Fallujah”. The video, which opened with a historical review of US and Iraqi government attacks against Fallujah, then showed several clerics and bystanders in the framework of street interviews who sent messages of encouragement and support to IS fighters in Fallujah.⁷⁴
- *Al-Janub Province*: A filmed review regarding the confiscation and destruction of cigarettes in the villages of Zoba’.⁷⁵

Al-Sham [The Levant]

During the first half of June, the city of Manbij and its surrounding areas, which are under IS control, served as a focal point of battles in Syria. In the framework of military activities in the region, Syrian Democratic Forces launched attacks in preparation for their entrance into Manbij with coalition support⁷⁶ - an operation that, in turn, caused the displacement of tens of thousands of people.⁷⁷ Further advancement began with the removal of the siege of the town of Mare’ by Syrian

⁷³ <https://my.mail.ru/mail/q2016e/video/myvideo/1.html>

⁷⁴ https://archive.org/details/alflujah3_201606

⁷⁵ <https://www.alkhelafa.eu/threads/59105/>

⁷⁶ <http://goo.gl/h4z1LC>

⁷⁷ <http://goo.gl/Sn1whl>

opposition factions⁷⁸ and the Syrian army's entrance into Raqqah Province, with Russian assistance, for the first time since August 2014.⁷⁹

During the battles in Syria, several losses to Iran and its representatives in the country were also noted. Among other things, the death of Jahangir Jafari Naya, a commander in the Special Forces of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, was reported, and the opposition announced the death of "50 Iranian officers and fighters who were killed in a bombing carried out by Al-Nusra Front".⁸⁰

In the political arena, the regime in Damascus criticized the presence of French and German troops in Syrian territory although reports of a German presence were denied by the Germany Ministry of Defense.⁸¹ Also in this context, the UN Envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, declared that the UN was not interested in holding another round of talks concerning Syria's political future until the sides could agree on a draft of the agreement ahead of the political transition stage.⁸²

Syria

Al-Nusra Front

- Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, published the following:
 - A statement titled, "The Final Call" by Abu Malik al-Shami, the Emir of Al-Nusra Front in Qalamoun. In the statement, al-Shami warned IS fighters in Qalamoun to repent and lay down their weapons or else they would pay for their crimes against jihadists from other organizations and against the local population. According to him, the Islamic State harms the efforts of other jihadist organizations in the war against the enemies of Islam, shows a willingness to hand over villages and areas under its control, such as in Iraq, to the enemy without a fight; invests fruitless efforts in the battle in Kobani, and is essentially ineffective in the battle. In light of this, al-Shami called on IS fighters to turn to special shari'a courts in order to undergo the process of repentance.⁸³

⁷⁸ <http://goo.gl/3IEFtA>

⁷⁹ <http://goo.gl/hpR9rG>

⁸⁰ <http://goo.gl/34YEqw>

⁸¹ <http://goo.gl/8WEie8>

⁸² http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/06/160609_syria_un_talks (Arabic).

⁸³ <https://twitter.com/tayaha99/status/739602672152653825>

- A statement titled, “Winning with Patience” by Abu Malik al-Shami, the Emir of Al-Nusra Front in Qalamoun. In the statement, al-Shami encouraged Al-Nusra Front fighters and emphasized that patience and perseverance will guarantee the mujahideen’s victory over their enemies. In addition, he noted that all those who were killed fighting against the enemies of Islam are supposed to receive reward from God in the world to come and, therefore, one should express joy rather than sadness over their deaths.⁸⁴
- A statement titled, “This is a Message to the People” by Abu Malik al-Shami, the Emir of Al-Nusra Front in Qalamoun. In the statement, al-Shami explained the organization’s position vis-à-vis Lebanese Hezbollah in particular, and vis-à-vis the Shi’ites in Lebanon in general. In the beginning of the statement, he noted that Hezbollah’s crimes against the Sunni population in Syria and Lebanon are clear to all and are expressed in the methodical purging of the areas in which they live. In light of this, he wanted to send a message to the residents of Al-Qalamoun and to the Sunnis in Lebanon and other places that they will see acts of revenge by Al-Nusra Front against Hezbollah. In addition, he promised Muslim prisoners and mujahideen in Roumieh Prison and in other jails in Lebanon that Al-Nusra Front will work for their release and that they must wait patiently. Afterwards, he addressed the Lebanese Hezbollah and emphasized that the battle against Hezbollah is not limited to borders, and will expand and spread to the organization’s stronghold in southern Lebanon. According to him, Al-Nusra Front has succeeded in establishing a force composed of several thousand fighters who are awaiting the order to launch the campaign against Hezbollah and the Shi’ite villages within Lebanon. Finally, he addressed Sunni residents of Lebanon to come to their senses and recognize the crimes that Hezbollah is committing against the Sunnis and, therefore, they must display resourcefulness and fight against Hezbollah.⁸⁵
- A video containing a call by Sami al-Aridi, a member of the organization’s Shari’a Council, to kill the Alawites in Syria. In order to justify this, he noted that fatwas issued by two ancient Sunni clerics, Sheikh Abu Hamid al-Ghazali from the 12th century and Sheikh Ibn Taimiyya from the 13th century AD, had determined that the Alawites are considered to

⁸⁴ <https://twitter.com/tayaha99/status/739606092855054336>

⁸⁵ <https://twitter.com/tayaha99/status/740181987118440448>

be greater heretics than the Jews and Christians, and that there is an obligation to clear the land of their presence.⁸⁶



Dr. Sami al-Aridi

- Videos regarding the advancement of the organization’s forces in Aleppo, public opinion polls regarding opposition to Russian involvement in Syria, and more.⁸⁷

League of Ulama of Bilad al Sham (Rabita Ulama Bilad al-Sham)

- The League of Ulama of Bilad al Sham (Rabita Ulama Bilad al-Sham) published the following:
 - A television program called “Daimeh”, which was posted on YouTube under the title, “Minbar al-Sham”. The program included an interview with ‘Abd al-Razzaq al-Mahdi, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric in Syria with ties to Al-Nusra Front, who answered various questions regarding the battle arena in Syria, Islamic legal questions and questions concerning the month of Ramadan. Among the interviewers who posed questions to al-Mahdi were Sheikh Abdallah Muhammad al Muhaysini, a senior Salafi-jihadist sage in Syria who also has ties to Al-Nusra Front.⁸⁸

⁸⁶ https://ia801502.us.archive.org/24/items/khair_sham

⁸⁷ <https://dawaalhq.com>

⁸⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEmOIYQ-d6E>



Abd al-Razzaq al-Mahdi on the television program

Jaysh al-Fustat

- Jaysh al-Fustat published the following:
 - Blessings to the Syrian people in honor of the month of Ramadan. In the announcement, the organization praised the steadfastness of the Syrian people and their jihad, and blessed them that the month of Ramadan would bring them victory over their enemies.⁸⁹
 - An announcement regarding the fact that the city of Idlib was empty of the military presence of Syrian factions. The announcement also stated that, due to the departure of military factions from Idlib, the attacks on the city by the Alawite regime are now only hurting the women and children among the refugees in the city. The organization vowed to record every little crime carried out against the city's residents.⁹⁰

The Turkestan Party

- The Turkestan Party in Syria published the following:
 - Videos documenting the organization's activities against Syrian security forces, such as those in Aleppo.⁹¹

Ahrar al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
 - An announcement by the commander of the organization, Mohannad al-Masri, regarding the appointment of Abu Abdullah Al-Shami as commander of the

⁸⁹ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CkM37IHWkAAEvUI.jpg>

⁹⁰ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cj9uxJhWEAIYw5h.jpg>

⁹¹ <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

organization's military wing following the end of the tenure of his predecessor, Abu Saleh Tahan.⁹² In another announcement published by the commander of the organization, he announced the appointment of a new commander of the organization's political wing, Mounir al-Sayyal.⁹³

- An announcement regarding the granting of amnesty to prisoners who served half of their sentence for good behaviour in honor of the month of Ramadan. The announcement also stated that amnesty would not be granted for crimes concerning the security of the Syrian revolution.⁹⁴

The Islamic State

- The Amaq news agency, which belongs to the Islamic State, published the following:
 - A video regarding the capture of several YPG fighters by the organization east of the Faruq Dam. In the video, the injured captives spoke about the circumstances of their captivity and confessed that they used to provide coordinates for the combat planes bombing IS forces.⁹⁵ A video was also published regarding the capture of a young member of the Abu al-Fadl al-Abbas militia on the Raqqa-Etris road.⁹⁶
 - An article about dozens of young men from Mabij who joined the ranks of the Islamic State. The article stated that the young men swore allegiance to the organization after they attended prayers and Friday sermon at a mosque (the video that documented the oath of allegiance claimed that there were approximately 140 youth).⁹⁷
 - A video regarding trucks that, according to the organization, contained fuel intended for civilians and were bombed by the Russian Air Force in the area of Mansura near the city of Raqqah.⁹⁸

⁹² <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cj-rhI3WUAQYABt.jpg>

⁹³ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cj-p2hIWEAAsKm0.jpg>

⁹⁴ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CkdwrrzW0AAebS8.jpg>

⁹⁵ <https://ia800408.us.archive.org/14/items/Ya14062016/Ya14062016.mp4>

⁹⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

⁹⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44451>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44522>

⁹⁸ <http://bilbryiehlvg2wiy.onion.to/32010>

- A video regarding the employment office that was opened in the city of Raqqa. A representative from the office explained that the office was opened over six months earlier in order to provide a respectable income to any citizen of the Caliphate who is looking for work. In order to register at the office, one must pass a shari'a course, provide references, present diplomas and detail their previous work experience. The information is stored in a database and the role of the office is to find candidates for positions on the basis of help-wanted requests made by the various departments and agencies of the IS.⁹⁹
- A video regarding the Ramadan atmosphere in Raqqa Province, including activities in the markets, religious classes in mosques and the screening of the organization's publications in an open air evening.¹⁰⁰
- A video regarding the conversion to Islam of a Christian in the city of Raqqah.¹⁰¹
- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Syria published a wide range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
 - A. Battles and Military Deployments:
 - Al-Khayr Province: A video titled, "Capture Them and Besiege Them" regarding the battles between the organization and Assad's forces in various areas of Deir Ezzor, including the military airport, the neighbourhood of Al-Tahtuh, the industrial zone and several other sites. It should be noted that the video implied the application of new tactics by the IS, such as the digging of tunnels, the laying of a siege, and the slow and planned erosion of areas under Assad's control in order to oust the army from the province.¹⁰²
 - Various provinces: Videos and filmed reviews about various operational topics, including: a claim of responsibility for a suicide attack in the area

⁹⁹ <http://goo.gl/vLIWCC>

¹⁰⁰ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23K_3r_AXMM

¹⁰¹ <http://bilbryiehlvg2wiy.onion.to/32005>

¹⁰² <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.tor2.club/31993>

of Sayyida Zaynab in Damascus,¹⁰³ a claim of responsibility for a suicide attack east of Palmyra (*Homs*),¹⁰⁴ battles in the area of the city of A'zaz (*Aleppo*),¹⁰⁵ the takeover of the Talat Al-Taym site (*Al-Khayr*),¹⁰⁶ shooting at a Russian attack helicopter in the area of Palmyra (*Homs*),¹⁰⁷ the penetration of Syrian army sites west of Deir Ezzor (*Al-Khayr*),¹⁰⁸ two suicide attacks against Kurdish militias in the bridge area of Qara Quzaq (*Aleppo*),¹⁰⁹ an attack on a village that was under the control of Kurdish militias south of Manbij,¹¹⁰ and the thwarted attempted advancement of Sahawat forces towards the villages of Jazer and Yahmul.¹¹¹

B. Propaganda and PR, and Civilian Issues:

- *Al-Khayr Province*: A video regarding the “ideological invasion” of the Muslim Nation by the West. The narrator in the video explained that in the framework of their war against Islam, the “infidel Crusaders” decided to flood the Muslim arena with the “mundane pleasures of this world”, such as cinemas, theaters and - above all - satellite television channels. The video explained that the danger of satellite channels in Arabic lies with the fact that they enter the home space of Muslims and promote the Crusaders’ agendas (missionary channels), provide a platform for heretical sects (Shi’ites, Sufis, Qadianis, etc.) or display immodest content (series, movies, dancing and singing). Sharp criticism was also directed at “secular” news channels and the religious channels that “pretend to be Sunni” when, in actuality, they follow the guidelines of “the rulers’ clerics”. In order to cope with the infiltration of satellite channels, the

¹⁰³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CkqyfNCVEAAvUn1.jpg>

¹⁰⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44587>

¹⁰⁵ <https://vimeo.com/169365448>

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.alkhelafa.eu/threads/59117/>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44471>

¹⁰⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44544>

¹⁰⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44247>

¹⁰⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44447>

¹¹⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44324>

¹¹¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CklAiKZUoAAshSb.jpg>

dawah and hisbah office carried out a campaign lasting several months aimed at explaining to Muslims the damage caused by satellite channels. The campaign was conducted on the preachers' stages in mosques, and in the distribution of pamphlets to passer-by on the street. The satellite channels were replaced with the organization's media stations (such as Al-Bayan radio station, which is broadcast in several language, and Al-Naba pamphlet, which presents the organization's news), and WIFI relay stations were positioned to enable Internet traffic throughout the house (this network is probably under the supervision of the IS). The video concluded with the smashing of converters and satellite dishes as well as threats directed against the West.¹¹²



The smashing of converters and satellite dishes as instructed by the Islamic State

- *Al-Khayr Province*: A video titled, “Between Two Hijras”, which presented the stories of two migrants – one who migrated from Syria to Germany and the second who migrated from Germany to Syria. The first part of the video showed a young man named Ali who moved to the “Crusader Germany” for economic reasons but eventually returned to the heart of the Caliphate due to the bitter reality that he encountered in Germany and especially in light of the attempts by Germans – so he claimed – to get him to renounce his religion. On the other hand, it presented the story of Abu Umar al-Almani, a fighter who migrated from Germany to

¹¹² https://ia600405.us.archive.org/15/items/nfdhhrytgrzfg_mail_Qo/qo.mp4

Syria where he carried out a suicide attack against Kurdish forces' posts. The presentation of these two stories side-by-side was meant to emphasize the differences between those who choose to migrate to "infidel lands" and those who migrate to the Caliphate and choose the "path of truth", while photos were shown in the background demonstrating the migrants' difficulty acclimating in Europe as well as photos showing a life of comfort of honor that the IS allegedly offers to Muslims living under its rule.¹¹³

- Aleppo Province: A photo of a young fighter named Abu al-Faruq al-Safrani, who was killed serving the organization. According to the photo, al-Safrani served as the organization's "media person" – proof that the Islamic State is using children and youth to document its actions.¹¹⁴



Children in the role of "documenters" in the service of the Islamic State

- Raqqaqah Province: A filmed review regarding the destruction of expired products in the framework of hisbah inspection and supervision activities.¹¹⁵
- Raqqaqah Province: A video regarding the distribution of grades to students at a school in Al-Yarmouk camp.¹¹⁶

¹¹³ <https://vimeo.com/169223217>

¹¹⁴ <https://justpaste.it/v4ux>

¹¹⁵ <https://www.alkhelafa.eu/threads/59164/>

¹¹⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44758>

The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

The Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem

- Ibn Yaimiyya jihadist media institution, which focuses on the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement, published a video by Abu al-Muhtasib al-Maqdisi, a senior leader in the organization, in the framework of a campaign called, “Equip Us [*Jahizūna*]”, which called on donors to send money to the organization for the purchase of weapons and supplies to be used to wage battles against the Jews. In the video, a masked al-Maqdisi explained the importance of the donations. Another video that was published in this context demonstrated how donation money was used to prepare explosives and directional anti-personnel mines, and provided a technical description of these types of weapons.¹¹⁷

In addition, a filmed review was published that documented an “explosives engineering” course run by the organization. The photos showed members of the organization undergoing theoretical and practical training on the topic, and detonating an explosive as practice. According to the captions that accompanied the photos, the course was provided thanks to monetary donations, and it encouraged additional donations and provided the contact information via email, Twitter and Telegram.¹¹⁸



From left to right: An explosives course provided thanks to donations; Abu al-Muhtasib al-Maqdisi

Liwa al-Tawhid Nasir Salah al-Din Brigades

¹¹⁷ https://my.mail.ru/mail/gharib.33/video/_myvideo/1.html; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45148>

¹¹⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- Al-Buraq jihadist media institution, which belongs to Liwa al-Tawhid (Nasir Salah al-Din Brigades) in the Gaza Strip, published a video titled, “Your Nation is One Nation”. In the video, a member of the organization addressed jihadists in Syria and Iraq, especially those in Fallujah, Iraq, in order to strengthen them in the face of attacks by coalition forces and Shi’ite militias. He condemned the actions taken by the enemies of Islam, led by the United States, against the Sunni population, including Israel’s actions against the Palestinians. Finally, he threatened the enemies of the Sunnis that they would be punished for their actions.¹¹⁹

Africa

The Maghreb

The campaign, “Solid Structure”, by Libya’s national unity government against the IS continued in the port area of Sirte and the oil facilities.¹²⁰ In response to the campaign, the IS launched a series of suicide attacks using car bombs, which killed one person and injured four others.¹²¹ Despite this, in the framework of the campaign, the unity government managed to secure several achievements as well as gain the support of two armed groups in eastern Libya.¹²²

In Tunisia, the alert level was raised against the backdrop of warnings by Russian authorities of a threat of attacks in the country.¹²³ A special plan formulated in honor of Ramadan was also reported in an attempt to assess the security situation and to “defend sensitive structures”.¹²⁴ Despite these concerns, there was actually relative calm in Tunisia with the renewal of civilian flights from Libya to the airport in the capital, Tunis, after a 6-month break.¹²⁵

Authorities in Algeria also took caution by formulating a special security plan for the month of Ramadan,¹²⁶ a step that coincided with the order by the Chief of Staff of the Algerian army to double the security monitoring in the country.¹²⁷ In Morocco, most of the preventative steps against the

¹¹⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹²⁰ <http://goo.gl/ybmWtj>; <http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/news/libya/108392/>

¹²¹ <http://goo.gl/KTC52R>

¹²² <http://goo.gl/COcS1W>

¹²³ <http://goo.gl/oTc332>

¹²⁴ <http://goo.gl/oTc332>

¹²⁵ <http://goo.gl/DlwnYY>

¹²⁶ <http://goo.gl/hyB773>

¹²⁷ <http://goo.gl/q7RmHg>

terror threat took the form of arrests, including the arrest of an Italian citizen in eastern Morocco who tracked “sensitive targets” in preparation for an IS-inspired attack.¹²⁸

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) published the following:
 - An announcement welcoming the protest by residents of the city of Kidal, in northern Mali, against the French as well as operations by AQIM fighters against French army forces stationed in Mali. Most of the announcement dealt with a claim of responsibility for, and a description of, an attack that was carried out by several members of Al-Murabitun, which is affiliated with AQIM, against French army forces and UN MINUSMA forces in the city of Gao, in northern Mali. According to the organization, the military operation was preceded by careful planning and was intended to send several messages: A) A reminder to the French invaders that their crimes will be met with a response and revenge attacks. B) The attack was carried out in revenge for the death of four jihad fighters who were killed by French army forces. C) The countries involved in the French invasion of Mali must withdraw from “this demonic alliance instead of sending more of its sons. And should they refuse and insist” then they will get a taste of the sword.¹²⁹



Photos of two young members of Al-Murabitun, Mus'ab al-Ansari & Abu Bakr al-Ansari, who carried out suicide attacks in Gao against French forces and MINUSMA forces

Libya

The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna

¹²⁸ <http://goo.gl/wJ894w>

¹²⁹ https://justpaste.it/Gao_AQIM

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna published the following:
 - A eulogy in memory of two children and a woman who were killed in a bombing by General Haftar’s Air Force in the area of Al-Abraq. The organization described Haftar as a war criminal and a murderer of innocents, and vowed to avenge the blood of the victims.¹³⁰

The Islamic State

- The IS in Baraka Province published an announcement regarding the thwarted attempted advancement by Khalifa Haftar’s forces in the Sabri District, in eastern Benghazi. According to the announcement, IS fighters attacked the soldiers with guns and explosives, killed five of them and destroyed two military vehicles.¹³¹ It was also reported that several army soldiers were killed and injured in the area of Gawarsha in Benghazi.¹³²
- The IS in Tripoli Province published an announcement regarding the organization’s takeover of the steam-powered power plant west of Sirte after a suicide attack was carried out using a car bomb at the site against “the US-supported militias.”¹³³ Another announcement was published regarding the downing of a fighter aircraft belonging to Libya Dawn in the same area,¹³⁴ as well as a filmed review regarding the thwarted attempted advancement of Libya Dawn towards Qurdabiya Airport.¹³⁵
- A writer known as Abu ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Libi published an article encouraging fighters to come to Libya in order to join the ranks of the Caliphate. In the framework of the article, the writer advised any Muslim who is unable to come to Syria or Iraq to join the Caliphate in Libya, and explained that it is a golden opportunity to fulfil the obligation of jihad and ribat. In addition, the writer emphasized the need for professional manpower – especially engineers, doctors,

¹³⁰ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Ckfw0YjWEAQ-9QD.jpg>

¹³¹ <https://justpaste.it/v48n>

¹³² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44277>

¹³³ <http://goo.gl/VH6b34>

¹³⁴ https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Cj9n7_NW0AADfpg.jpg

¹³⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44481>

media professionals and preachers – who are in great demand by the IS. He also encouraged IS supporters within Libya to take an active role in jihad in this arena.¹³⁶

Tunisia

The Islamic State

- Al-Sumud jihadist media institution published an article by Ahlam al-Nasr regarding Tunisia. In the framework of the article, the writer harshly criticized the Ennahdha party and its leader, Rached Ghannouchi, and called on Muslims who believe in Tunisia to “lay the foundation” for the arrival of the Caliphate to Tunisia. The article included a direct call for bombing and stabbing attacks to be carried out in Tunisia – with the targets including corrupt figures, heretics and apostates, tourists, police officers and senior officials” – as well as encouragement for the release of prisoners from jails (for example, Burj Amer & Burj al-Rumi) and the murder of the jailers. It should be noted that the article included a call to follow in the footsteps of Ragheb al-Hannashi, a fighter who was accused of killing Tunisian security officials, and that his banner page displayed the photo of Abu Ahmad al-Tunisi, a Tunisian fighter who carried out a suicide attack against the Iraqi army west of the city of Baiji.¹³⁷



IS supporters calling for terrorist attacks to be carried out in Tunisia

¹³⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹³⁷ <https://archive.org/details/tunus>

Mali

Ansar al-Din

- The Ramah jihadist media institution, which belongs to Ansar al-Din in Mali, published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for two attacks that were carried out against French army forces in Abeïbara, next to Kidal, one by burying a mine in the ground and the second by shelling on June 2 and June 4, respectively. In addition, the organization accused France of oppressing its Muslim citizens and humiliating them by searching their homes, among other things¹³⁸
 - A video by Iyad Agh Ghali, the leader of the organization. In the video, Agh Ghali praised the residents of Kidal for the recent protests that they held against the agreement signed by the government in Mali with representatives of movements in northern Mali, and described them as a noble way to fight their enemies. He also praised them for their steadfastness in the face of the “new French colonialism”, which is battling Islam and pillaging all of the good in the country. In order to cope with this enemy, Agh Ghali ruled that every Muslim is obligated to wage jihad against France, and he asked the residents of Kidal to support and help his organization in its efforts to expel the French occupier and fight its hegemony in the country. He added that the local regimes are also partner to France’s crimes due to the cooperation between them. In addition, Agh Ghali denied reports that he had died in a battle that took place along the Algeria-Mali border.¹³⁹



¹³⁸ <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹³⁹ <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

Egypt

The Islamic State

- The IS in Sinai Peninsula published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for a series of operations against Egyptian security forces in the Sinai Peninsula.¹⁴⁰
- A writer on Al-Leyoth jihadist Web forum, which is affiliated with the IS, published correspondence calling on the youth members of the Salafist Al-Nour Party not to follow the party and to distance themselves from it due to the fact that the enlisted leadership seeks to appease Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who does not hesitate to distort the principles of Islam in order to please the authorities. In light of this, the writer called on the youth in Al-Nour Party to defect from the party and join the ranks of the IS in the Sinai Peninsula out of their desire to implement shari'a.¹⁴¹

Nigeria

The Islamic State in West Africa

- The IS in West Africa published the following:
 - A statement regarding an IS attack against an army base of Nigerian and Niger soldiers in southeast Nigeria.¹⁴²
 - Photos of the loot that was plundered by IS fighters from Nigerian police and army forces.¹⁴³

¹⁴⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44169>

¹⁴¹ <http://leyoth.net/showthread.php?t=38200>

¹⁴² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44695>

¹⁴³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44766>



Photos of the loot that was plundered by IS fighters from Nigerian police and army forces

Somalia

During the first half of June, clashes continued between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and security forces and African Union forces operating in the area. Most of the clashes took place in Hiraan Province, where Al-Shabab fighters attacked a base of Ethiopian soldiers serving in the framework of the African Union force operating in Somalia. Nonetheless, the African Union force responded to the Al-Shabab attack and killed 110 of its fighters.¹⁴⁴ Meanwhile, in the capital of Mogadishu, Al-Shabab fighters carried out a car bombing next to a hotel where government workers tended to stay.¹⁴⁵ According to media reports, the attack was carried out in response to actions by Somali security forces, with support from the US Air Force, which led to the death of two senior Al-Shabab leaders in southern Somalia: Mohamud Dhu al-Yadeyn, one of the masterminds behind the attack at Garissa University in Kenya, and Maalim Daud, Chairman of Al-Shabab's Intelligence Unit¹⁴⁶ who was responsible for – among other things - planning, recruitment and training within the organization.¹⁴⁷

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published the following:

¹⁴⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/al-shabab-ethiopian-forces-conflicting-claims-160609101135657.html> (English).

¹⁴⁵ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/01/al-shabaab-claims-suicide-bomb-attack-in-somali-capital-that-kil/> (English).

¹⁴⁶ <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/06/02/africa/garissa-university-mastermind-killed/> (English).

¹⁴⁷ <http://dailycaller.com/2016/06/01/al-shabaab-blows-up-somalian-capital-after-the-us-vaporizes-top-leader/> (English).

- A video calling on Muslims to kill anyone who converts from Islam. The video included a photo of US President Barack Obama, who they claim is a Muslim who converted.¹⁴⁸
- An announcement regarding two Kenyan spies who were caught by the organization. According to the announcement, the spies helped Kenya's counter-terrorism unit to capture Al-Shabab clerics. The announcement also stated that, in revenge for the execution of the clerics by Kenyan authorities, Al-Shabab executed the two spies who were captured. At the end of the announcement, the organization asked Muslims in Kenya to be vigilant and defend themselves from the enemies of Islam. The organization also vowed that it would not rest until it avenged the deaths of the Muslims.¹⁴⁹

The Indian Subcontinent

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent

- Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent published the following:
 - An announcement detailing the main doctrine of the organization by Usama Mahmud, the organization's official spokesman. In the announcement, Mahmud addressed Muslims in Pakistan in particular, and Muslims around the world in general, and condemned the oppressive policies of Pakistani security agencies against students at the university in Charsadda and other places. According to him, these types of crimes – such as killing innocent Muslim civilians – are widespread in Pakistan and do not characterize the mujahideen and Al-Qaeda, which considers them to be a blatant violation of Islamic principles. He noted that Al-Qaeda has an obligation to defend Muslims and, for this reason, its fighters act against the crimes committed by the US and the Pakistani army that cooperates with it. The spokesman also sought to clarify several additional points regarding the nature of the organization:
 - A. All Muslims are considered brothers in the eyes of the organization, and it must defend their lives, their honor and even their money. "Therefore, we view Muslims in public places such as markets, schools and universities in Pakistan as our

¹⁴⁸ <https://justpaste.it/v069>

¹⁴⁹ <http://www58.zippyshare.com/v/oBI82lj1/file.html>

brothers”. The act of declaring *takfir* on any Muslim must only be done after providing strong evidence from clerics.

- B. We consider the US, India and their allies to be enemies. The Pakistani army and government cooperate with the US and are an obstacle to implementing shari’a in Pakistan. “Those who protect the infidel regime and even those who lead it kill Muslims in exchange for American dollars and, therefore, they are considered our enemies”.
- C. The killing of Pakistani army soldiers and the killing of officers and soldiers in military institutions is considered legitimate, and even an obligation between man and God. Nevertheless, the killing of their wives and children is considered a violation of shari’a. unless there is proof of their participation in the battle against Islam and Muslims. Senior Salafi-jihadist clerics such as Muhammad al-Maqdisi and Atiyya Allah ruled that it is forbidden to kill the children and wives of army forces.
- D. The leaders of anti-religious groups are an obstacle to the implementation of shari’a and have left the circle of religion. In light of this, it is permissible to kill them. Nevertheless, “we do not declare *takfir* on anyone who votes for these groups and we do not believe that it should be permitted to harm them”.
- E. Democracy is considered heresy. However, “we do not declare *takfir* on anyone who takes part in it and we do not believe that it should be permitted to harm them”.

Later in the announcement, the organization referred to a series of requirements that should serve as a type of compass for the mujahideen who want to join its ranks:

- A. Place your trust in God and protect the lives of Muslims.
- B. Acquire an education and knowledge in religion before taking action.
- C. Carefully select clear goals that are not contradictory to the doctrine of jihadist clerics and that are obvious to the people. The failure to select targets in accordance with shari’a that are obvious to the people is comparable to harming jihad efforts.
- D. A mujahid must act according to shari’a and correctly channel his zealousness, anger and hostility.

- E. Mujahideen leaders and commanders must show responsibility and not defend or justify acts that are contrary to shari'a, whether they are carried out by the mujahideen themselves or by other Muslims.
- F. One must emphasize the commandment to “perform good deeds and prohibit us from evil acts”. In addition to the battle of jihad against infidels and Muslims who abandoned their religion, the organization emphasized improving one’s soul and called on the mujahideen to do good deeds. Only by doing all of the above “will we be able to defeat the enemy and protect the weak among the nation”.
- G. One must refuse to carry out an order by an emir if it is contrary to shari’a.
- H. All mujahideen must act with honor and behave pleasantly with Muslims. The Pakistani Nation is Muslim and one must treat it gently and advise it.
- I. One must spread the religion of Islam, and plant a love for Islam and jihad within the hearts of the people. Preach the importance of fulfilling the obligation of jihad, and then appeal to Muslims in Pakistan to be aware that the Pakistani army and government seek to oppress the nation and are following the orders of the US, the enemy of the Muslim Nation.¹⁵⁰



The banner of the announcement

¹⁵⁰ https://ia801507.us.archive.org/20/items/jd_bsira_ur

- An announcement by Usama Mahmud, the official spokesman of the organization, about the importance of implementing shari'a.¹⁵¹

Bangladesh

Ansar al-Islam

- Ansar al-Islam, the branch of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent in Bangladesh, published an announcement criticizing the oppressive policies of the Bangladesh security agencies against the family members of the mujahideen, and criticizing the discrimination and murder of clerics and students educated in Islam. The organization further explained that harm to women and children that stems from a desire to punish the mujahideen is considered a crime against Islam and is contrary to shari'a. The organization also explained that each target is carefully selected in accordance with shari'a. Moreover, the organization publicizes the targets that it selects, and so any accusation that it kills innocent Muslims is an attempt to sully the name of the organization. According to the organization, its goal is to fight against the Americans, the Crusader-Zionist axis, the authoritarian regimes and their soldiers, and Islamophobia so long as they do not change their policies and positions against Islam and Muslims.¹⁵²

The Islamic State

- The IS in Bangladesh claimed responsibility for the assassination of a Hindi priest in Bangladesh.¹⁵³

The West

The Massacre Targeting the LGBT Community in Orlando and the Murder of a French Police Officer

- Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS, published an announcement regarding the massacre that was carried out by an American citizen of Afghan origin named Omar Mateen, a resident of Port St. Lucie in Florida, against the LGBT nightclub, "Pulse", in Orlando. Over 50

¹⁵¹ <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb/> (Arabic).

¹⁵² <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb/> (Arabic).

¹⁵³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/44681>

people were killed in the massacre. The announcement stated that “the armed attack that targeted the homosexual nightclub in the city of Orlando in Florida Province in the United States, and left over 100 dead and wounded in its wake, was carried out by an Islamic State fighter”.¹⁵⁴



From left to right: Omar Mateen, the perpetrator of the massacre at the LGBT nightclub in Orlando; the banner in which the IS claimed responsibility for the massacre

In addition, Amaq news agency published a video by Abdallah ‘Arusi, a French citizen who beheaded a French police officer. In the video, ‘Arusi swore allegiance to the organization, called on Muslims in France to carry out terrorist attacks against French targets, and spoke of his intention to carry out an attack in France.¹⁵⁵



Videos by ‘Arusi before he carried out a terrorist attack

- A writer known as Hussein bin Mahmud, an apparent IS supporter, published an article titled, “Condolences to the People of Lut”, a derogatory term in Islamic tradition for homosexuals, in which he referred to the attack at the Pulse LGBT nightclub in Orlando, Florida, which was carried out by Omar Seddiq Mateen, a Muslim of Afghan origin born in New York. In the

¹⁵⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹⁵⁵ <http://www.muslim.org/vb> (Arabic).

framework of the article, the writer praised the attack and noted that the US had destroyed Mateen's country of origin and harmed his countrymen. In addition to a review of Islamic sources regarding the punishment for homosexual relations between men, the writer expressed astonishment at the fact that officials in the Arab and Muslim world had sent condolences following the attack since it involved a community that follows a lifestyle completely contrary to the values of Islam, according to him.¹⁵⁶ Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum also discussed the reports and reactions to the incident, and mainly expressed their astonishment at the fact that Islamic elements in the West and in some Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, had condemned the attack.¹⁵⁷

- The IS in Nineveh Province in Iraq published a video titled, "They are the Most Useful to Us and they are Formidable". The video praised "lone wolf" attacks on western soil and praised the two prominent perpetrators of these attacks: Omar Mateen, who carried out the massacre in Orlando, and Abdallah 'Arusi, who beheaded a police officer in France. The video described the two men as soldiers of the Caliphate who struck the western enemy in the heart of its territory. Later in the video, IS fighters threatened to attack the US, Australia, Canada, Europe and the Balkans in particular, and the "lands of heresy" in general. In addition, they asked Muslims in these countries to wake up and take note of the campaign of oppression by these countries against Islam. For instance, an IS fighter of French origin named Abu al-Mujahid al-Faransi called on Muslims in France to heed the calls of the Islamic Caliphate to carry out attacks on French soil. Another fighter called on Muslims to execute these attacks using various methods, such as planting car bombs, knife attacks, etc. According to them, there is no difference between soldiers, civilians and all heretics considered a legitimate target for attack.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵⁸ <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).



From left to right: French IS fighters: Abu al-Qa'qa' al-Faransi and Abu al-Mujahid al-Faransi

- Al-Batar jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for the IS, published a collection of publications (videos by official and unofficial media institutions, articles and banners) regarding the attack in Orlando titled, “The Attack in Orlando: In the Heart of Their Territory”.¹⁵⁹

The videos included:

- A video titled, “Rely Only on Yourself”. The video opened with a review of the attack that took place in Orlando, Florida. A number of IS fighters speaking English, Turkish, Arabic, Hindi and Uigur blessed the attack and called on Muslims around the world to demonstrate initiative and fulfil the obligation for jihad by attacking targets in their countries. One fighter named Abu Ismail al-Amriki praised the attack in Orlando and emphasized that it was in revenge for US actions against Islam and Muslims around the world. Abu Janna al-Faransi, an IS fighter of French origin, threatened that the West, led by the US and France, would not live in peace and would suffer more attacks by the Islamic State.
- A video by the IS in Khorasan Province titled, “You Will Never Dream of Living in Security” in which an IS fighter made a series of threats against the organization’s enemies operating in Iraq, Al-Sham, Palestine, Chechnya, Bosnia, Kashmir, Pakistan, Afghanistan

¹⁵⁹ https://justpaste.it/Cd_Orlando

and Burma. According to the fighter, Muslims living in these lands must avenge the humiliation of Muslims by using existing technologies, stabbing and car ramming attacks in order to attack targets and civilians living in the area. According to him, the attacks in Brussels and Paris heralded additional attacks against enemies of the Islamic Caliphate, especially against the West and the US, which was described as the leader of the Crusader campaign against Islam.

- An oath of allegiance by Abdallah 'Arusi, a French Muslim who swore allegiance to the IS and beheaded a senior police officer in France.



The banner of the collection of publications titled, “The Attack in Orlando”

- Following the massacre in Orlando, a Telegram channel was launched under the name “Omar Mateen the Channel of Orlando” named after the perpetrator of the Orlando attack, which included statements encouraging additional individual attacks against the West.¹⁶⁰
- A YouTube channel titled, “The Salafist Dawah Channel” published a radio program by Al-Bayyan radio station, which is affiliated with the IS, “about the attack in France and the term innocents and civilians”. The narrator on the radio program justified continued attacks against France, not only against security forces but also against the civilian population, describing them as legitimate targets for attack.¹⁶¹

¹⁶⁰ Was published in Telegram.

¹⁶¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULVzBXzaXJI>



Other

- On June 29, 2016 the IS launched a Telegram channel in Portuguese as part of its dawah program - approximately five weeks before the opening of the Olympic Games in Rio, Brazil.¹⁶²

Miscellaneous

- A Web user named Abu Somaia called on Al-Nusra Front to resume its operations on Al-Fida jihadist Web forum, which serves as a platform for Al-Qaeda's messages, claiming that it adhered to the guideline of avoiding arguments and rifts between jihadists so as not to inflame them and encourage the killing of Muslims. However, the supervisors of the forum erred and deviated from the guideline when it expressed support for the IS. In light of this concerning development, one of the organization's PR leaders was assigned as an arbitrator in order to resolve the problem and get the forum back on track. However, these efforts failed and it was decided to replace the supervisor team and reinstate the forum's guidelines. Abu Somaia also explained that the forum belongs to Al-Fajr jihadist media institution, which operates on behalf of Al-Qaeda leadership, and acts in accordance with the direct instructions from the general leadership, namely Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri. He also emphasized that Al-Fida Web forum espouses several important points:
 - A. The forum is hostile towards the IS but fights against the extremist interpretation of Islamic holy sources and the act of declaring *takfir* on Muslims without consideration.

¹⁶² <https://shamukh.net/vb/> (Arabic).

- B. The forum thus far has allowed the publication of the Islamic State’s victories and information regarding the organization’s operations against the Shi’ites, Alawites and Iraqi “Awakening” factions.
- C. The forum does not allow the publication of information regarding Islamic State operations and hate speech against Islamic jihadist groups in the Levant and any other place.
- D. The forum does not allow the publication of correspondence regarding the methods of the Islamic State.
- E. The forum always welcomes discourse and open discussion about all topics as long as there is a culture of appropriate debate.¹⁶³

¹⁶³ <https://justpaste.it/llcp>

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