



**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 July 2015**

## Highlights

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

- **Sheikh Qasim Al-Raymi**, the new leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), pledges allegiance to the leader of Al-Qaeda, **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, and expresses his condolences over the death of Al-Wuhayshi, his predecessor as leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. He calls upon the mujahideen to continue their struggle against the United States. He accuses the United States and other Western countries of using the Shi'ites as shields against attacks by the mujahideen, and as a tool in order to enslave the Sunnis. He praises the military successes of the Sunni Salafi jihad umbrella organization in Syria, Jaysh Al Fateh, in the sphere of its struggle against the Alawi regime and the Shi'ite forces. In addition, al-Raymi promises to invest efforts in liberating the organization's captives.
- **Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent** calls upon Muslims in Pakistan to go out and fight against the Pakistan regime and its security forces. That is due to the trend of oppression imposed against the Muslims and the side-lining of the Islamic religion in the country.
- The **Islamic State** takes responsibility for a shooting attack carried out by a fighter named Abu Yahya al-Qayrawani against tourists at the beach and in the hotel compound in the Sousse vacation city. Thirty-eight people are killed in the attack, and dozens more are injured. In the statement claiming responsibility, the Islamic State justifies its attack on tourists, since they were citizens of countries in the coalition attacking the Islamic State.
- The **Al Nusra Front**, a branch of Al-Qaeda in Syria, puts out a new magazine in English called *Al-Risala*. This new publication discusses issues such as the importance of migration of Sunni Muslims to the jihad arena in Syria to fight against the Syrian regime, and accusations against the Islamic State regarding the sinful establishment of an Islamic Caliphate and for causing division among the ranks of mujahideen.

- **Islamic State** fighters from Saudi Arabia threaten to harm Shi'ites and Shi'ite religious scholars in Saudi Arabia, and to continue carrying out attacks against them in Saudi territory. According to the fighters, the Islamic State is concentrating all of its efforts in expanding its presence in Saudi territory, as is apparent in the terror attacks against Shi'ite mosques in the country.
- **Islamic State** fighters from Algeria threaten to attack the secular Algerian regime and the security forces, due to the massacres they carried out against the Algerian people. In addition, fighters from the jihad organizations in Algeria call for a pledge of allegiance to the Islamic Caliphate headed by Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Bagdadi, and for immigration to their territories to join the jihad.
- The **Islamic State** publishes a propaganda video documenting the execution of 25 Syrian Army soldiers at the amphitheatre in the city of Palmyra (Tadmor) which it conquered in May, 2015. The execution is carried out by teenage boys. In addition, an explosion of the Tadmor prison is documented. The prison was a prominent symbol of Bashar al-Assad's regime, and was known as a site where thousands of Sunni Muslims had been tortured and died.
- **The Ibn Taymiyya Center**, which focuses on reporting on the Palestinian Salafi jihad movement, announces the launch of an online fundraising campaign to purchase weapons for the Palestinian mujahideen. The campaign is called "Arm us...we will receive money from you and you will receive our blood".

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- The Al-Hikma media institution, which focuses on news about Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published a three-part article called “Why We Chose Al-Qaeda”. The article justified joining the organization with personal stories about members in the organization.<sup>1</sup>
- The Nukhbat Al-Fikr group published a book (877 pages), covering the general letters and instructions Sheikh Osama bin Laden, former leader of Al-Qaeda.<sup>2</sup>



**An anthology of all of Sheikh Osama bin Laden’s publications**

- The Al-Malahim media institution, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published two videos (parts 3 – 4) in the framework of a series of publications called “Lessons about the Prophesizing Biography” by Sheikh Khalid bin Umar Bartifi, a senior official in the organization.<sup>3</sup>

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

- A member of the Shari’a Council of the Minbar al-Tawhid wal-Jihad website, Abu al-Mundhir al-Shanqeeti, published an article titled “The Country of Catchwords”. At the beginning of his

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<sup>1</sup> <http://justpaste.it/m5fn> (Arabic).

<sup>2</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>3</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

words, he claimed that al-Baghdadi succeeded in basing his influence on the naivety of the simple people who blindly followed catchwords like “Islamic State” and “Caliphate”, who didn’t know what truly stood behind the words. He added that those who were deceived by al-Baghdadi even left their countries with the goal of defending the Muslims. But the only thing they were actually defending was al-Baghdadi’s policies, and they even fought other Muslims in order to implement those policies. In this context, al-Shanqeeti explained that the Islamic State fooled its supporters twice – once when it asked them to get rid of all its opponents, and the second time when they presented it as an application of Islamic law. Al-Shanqeeti also claimed that al-Baghdadi only lead to a division between the mujahideen in Iraq and Syria, and to war between them. In that context, he added that when al-Baghdadi began to speak out against al-Zawahiri, and was doubtful about his policies, he was forced to use catchwords in order to blur his apprehension. And therefore, he tried to present his organization as one that was a jihad organization even more radical than Al-Qaeda – something which lead to the organization’s deviation from the straight path and distanced it from jihad, to the point where the organization was no longer based on shari’a, but rather on al-Baghdadi’s personal orders and policy.<sup>4</sup>

- Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi published a summary of a statement about the Islamic State rejecting an initiative he had proposed regarding a cease-fire between the factions in Syria, in 2014. He claimed that the summary was published in response to lies spread by the Islamic State about that initiative. In the statement itself, al-Maqdisi claimed that the conflict between him and the Islamic State was not rooted in the initiative itself, but originated instead in his standpoint regarding the organization, which he publicized after it refused to accept the initiative. He repeatedly emphasized that there was no connection between his initiative and a previous initiative suggested by Sheikh al-Muhaysini, and that he adhered to the conditions specified by the Islamic State, but that the organization had dragged its feet with regard to the initiative for eight months, and in the end rejected it.<sup>5</sup>

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

<sup>5</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic).

- A writer who called himself Hamel al-Bushra published an article criticizing the Salafi Islamist Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi. In the article, the author claimed that al-Maqdisi changed his skin when he called for fighting against the Islamic State mujahideen.<sup>6</sup>
- The Al-Basira media institution, affiliated with the Al-Nusrah Front in Syria, published a video in honor of the month of Ramadan. In the video, the organization’s spokesman blessed the Muslims in honor of the month of fasting, and emphasized that according to tradition, this month is one that promises victories for Muslims over their enemies.<sup>7</sup>
- The Al-Kataib media organization, affiliated with Al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen, published three videos titled “The Quran and its Virtues”, “Honesty”, and “Integrity”, by Sheikh Abd al-Qadir Mumin, a member of the organization.<sup>8</sup>

### ***Religious Rulings***

- The Al-Andalus media institution, affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published a religious ruling by the organization’s Shari’a Council. The ruling stated that every Muslim, including the mujahideen, was obligated to give charity during the meal eaten to break a Ramadan fast.<sup>9</sup>

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

- The Akhbar Sham news portal, used as a platform for the messages of the Jaysh Al-Muhajirin wal-Ansar – “Army of Emigrants and Supporters” – published a video documenting the pledge of allegiance to the leader of the Caucasus Islamic Emirate, Sheikh Abu Uthman al-Ghaymrawi, made by Sheikh Salah al-Din al-Shishani, a representative of the organization. Jaysh Al-Muhajirin is composed mostly of fighters from Chechnya based in Syria.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/showthread.php?t=242086> (Arabic).

<sup>7</sup> [http://justpaste.it/Tazkera\\_2](http://justpaste.it/Tazkera_2) (Arabic).

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

<sup>9</sup> <http://justpaste.it/Fatwa-Mujaheed-Ramadan> (Arabic).

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



**A pledge of allegiance by the “Army of Emigrants and Supporters” in Syria, to the leader of the Caucasus Islamic Emirate**

- The Dagestan Province of the Caucasus Islamic Emirate published a recording of Sa’id Abu Muhammad al-Arkani, leader of Dagestan Province, pledging allegiance to the leader of the Caucasus Islamic Emirate, Sheikh Abu Uthman al-Ghaymrawi. Al-Arkani called upon all the mujahideen in the Caucasus to join forces with al-Ghaymrawi and to pledge allegiance to him.<sup>11</sup>



**on the right: the leader of Dagestan Province – on the left: the leader of the Caucasus Islamic Emirate**

- The Suqour al-Ezz Brigades in Aleppo, a Salafi jihadist organization in Syria, announced that its fighters were pledging allegiance to the Al-Nusra Front.<sup>12</sup> A Salafi jihadist organization called the Al-Battar Division, active in the city of Hama, also pledged allegiance to the Al-Nusra Front.<sup>13</sup>

### ***Jihad and Women***

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

<sup>12</sup> [https://archive.org/details/bi3t\\_sqor\\_3z](https://archive.org/details/bi3t_sqor_3z) (Arabic).

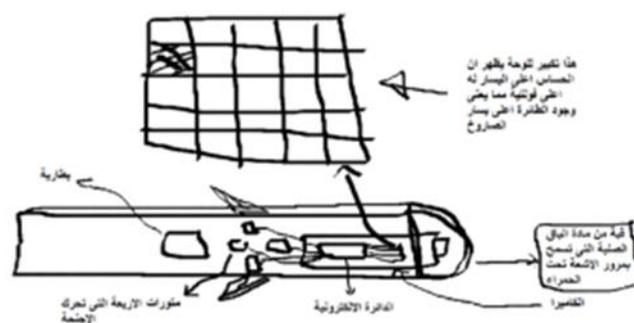
<sup>13</sup> [https://archive.org/details/lea\\_btara\\_b3](https://archive.org/details/lea_btara_b3) (Arabic).

The Al-Khansaa media institution, which identifies with the Islamic State and distributes materials related to women and jihad, began publishing a series of articles authored by women involved with jihad in different arenas. One the stories used as an example was by Umm al-Iraqiyya, who related how she helped the mujahideen during the war against the Americans, and how her brothers fell in combat and became *shahids*.<sup>14</sup>

In that context, the Al-Aaan satellite channel published an interview with a female Syrian fighter named Umm Asmaa, who was a member of the Al-Khansaa Brigade, and then defected from it. Umm Asmaa related how the brigade was involved in transporting foreign women from the border into Syria, and how it carried out patrols and infiltrations in areas controlled by the Islamic State. During the interview, Umm Asmaa emphasized that secretiveness and compartmentalization were widespread within the organization. For example, the leader would only provide a fighter with information pertaining to a mission he was involved in – but nothing more. In addition, it was mentioned in the interview that Asmaa welcomed three British girls who joined the organization in Syria.<sup>15</sup>

## Strategy

- A poster on the jihadist forum Shumukh al-Islam published a post titled “manufacturing thermal rockets”. The post suggested dismantling the heat sensors inside FLIR camera (a camera that that senses infrared radiation), and putting them together with a Yttrium Aluminum Garnet (YAG) head on a rocket. The poster added a diagrams and illustrations explaining the process.<sup>16</sup>



A schematic drawing of installing heat detectors to a rocket in an effort to direct it towards a heat driven rocket

<sup>14</sup> <http://justpaste.it/qisah1>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQK5sXoaoSQ> (Arabic).

<sup>16</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

- The Media Front for Support of the Islamic State and the Al-Battar media institution published an article on the importance of physical fitness among supporters of the mujahideen. The article suggested to those interested in enlisting in the ranks of the mujahideen to prepare themselves physically by engaging in sports activities at fitness centers, and by eating a healthy diet. The article explained that a fighter who is not physically fit would not be able to march long distances or to run, and was liable to become a burden on the other mujahideen if he thus encumbered and endangered them.<sup>17</sup>

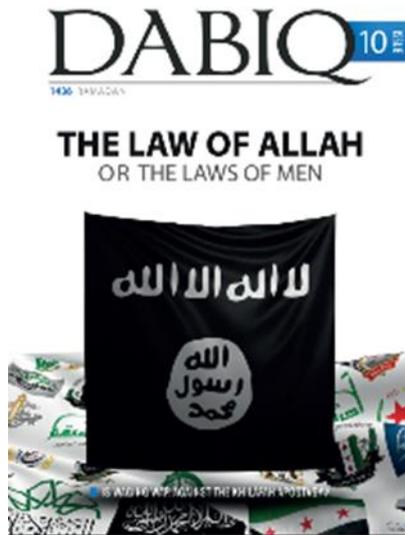
## Magazines

- The Al-Hayyat media institution, affiliated with the Islamic State, published issue #10 of the magazine Dabiq - an IS magazine in English (79 pages). Among the topics covered in that issue were: the domination of Al-Qaeda's allies in the jihad arena in Syria; the importance of the oneness of God; the support and encouragement of Muslims around the world for "lone wolf" terror attacks; a religious ruling stating that the pledge of allegiance to Mullah Omar, leader of the Afghan Islamic Emirate, was not valid, while a pledge of allegiance to Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi was valid in its place; a report of historical Muslim victories in the month of Ramadan; the domination of Iraqi Kurdistan and accusations that it cooperated with the United States and other enemies of Islam; an interview with a Jordanian jihad fighter who defected from the Al-Nusra Front in Syria and joined the ranks of the Islamic State; commentary on several jihad fighters who emigrated from various countries to Iraq and Syria in order to join the ranks of the Islamic State, and more.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

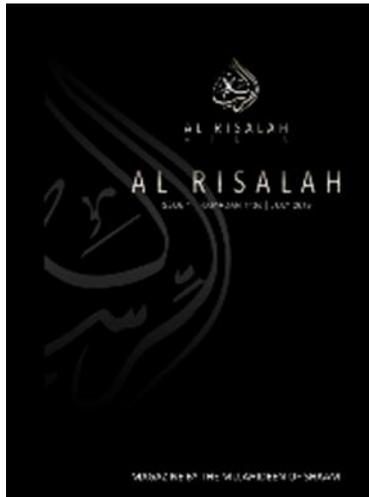


**The cover of the tenth issue of Dabiq**

- The Al Nusra Front, a branch of Al-Qaeda in Syria, put out a new magazine in English titled *Al-Risala* (43 pages). Among the topics covered in the first issue were: a report on the military victories of Jaysh al-Fatah, an umbrella group for the Salafi jihad organizations in Syria, headed by the Al Nusra Front; the importance of immigrating to the jihad arena in Syria and fighting against the Syria regime; the domination of the Islamic State, and blaming it for sinfully establishing an Islamic Caliphate that was not legitimate, and for causing strife among the ranks of the mujahideen; an interview with Muslim Shishani, a senior field commander from Chechnya who operated in collaboration with the Al Nusra Front; and the value of self-sacrifice and of dying a martyr's death for the sake of God.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <http://justpaste.it/alrisalah> (Arabic).



The cover of the new magazine *Al-Risalah*

- The Al-Ramah media institution, affiliated with Ahrar Al-Sham Al-Ilamiya, an organization of Salafi jihad rebels in Syria, published a new 20-page magazine in Arabic called *Rabi Al-Sham (The Levant Spring)*. Among the topics covered in the latest issue were the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad; biographical reports about the organization's commanders who died as shahids; an analysis of the jihad arena in Syria, and more.<sup>20</sup>



The cover of the new magazine *Rabi Al-Sham*

<sup>20</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

- The Jihad’s Callers Center, a training institute for preachers and religious leaders that collaborated with the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, and which was established by the Saudi Sheikh Abdulla al-Muhaysini, published a new jihad journal called *Iyyahat Jihadyya*. Among the main topics covered in the first issue were: a report about the activities of the Jihad’s Callers Center; a short biography about Sheikh Abdulla Azam, one of the founders of Al-Qaeda; criticism of the tendency of jihad organizations to exaggerate in its interpretations of the holy sources and the Quran; a report about the jihad arena in Syria, and religious rulings about jihad, etc.<sup>21</sup>



From left to right: the logo of the Jihad’s Callers Center; the cover of the new magazine

- Ajnad Al-Sham, a Salafi jihad organization in Syria, published issue 2 (16 pages) of the jihad journal *Nabd al-Ajnad* – which reported on the jihad arena in Syria.<sup>22</sup>



The cover of the second issue of the journal

<sup>21</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>22</sup> <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=1840> (Arabic).

- Issue 65 of the jihad journal *Al-Waqi Al-Jihadiyya* was published.<sup>23</sup>



The journal cover

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

*In the first half of July, clashes between the Afghan-Taliban and the government and army forces continued, in different provinces throughout Afghanistan,<sup>24</sup> with most of the fighting taking place in Faryab Province, in northern Afghanistan.<sup>25</sup> During the fighting, the security forces claimed that they had been able to kill the most senior commander of the Afghan Taliban, Haji Wazir, who was responsible for weapons security, in Herat Province in western Afghanistan.<sup>26</sup>*

*In addition, the Taliban continued its attacks against foreign forces in the country, with members of that organization attacking a NATO convoy in Kabul with a car bomb.<sup>27</sup> At the same time, Pakistan reported that peace talks had started in Pakistan between the Afghan government and the Afghan Taliban organization.<sup>28</sup>*

*In the Pakistan arena clashes continued between Afghan Taliban and the Pakistan Army, particularly in northern Waziristan province, located on the border of Afghanistan.<sup>29</sup>*

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<sup>23</sup> <http://justpaste.it/m3ki> (Arabic).

<sup>24</sup> <http://goo.gl/x5ucMc> (Arabic).

<sup>25</sup> <http://goo.gl/sj5Z20> (Arabic).

<sup>26</sup> <http://goo.gl/6dLOfi> (Arabic).

<sup>27</sup> <http://goo.gl/ZUNSIL> (Arabic).

<sup>28</sup> <http://goo.gl/HIJEsk> (Arabic).

<sup>29</sup> <http://goo.gl/HLfF2e> (Arabic).

*It is important to mention that at the beginning of the month, US drone air strikes in eastern Afghanistan lead to the death of the commander of the Islamic State in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Hafiz Saeed, as well as other members of the organization.<sup>30</sup>*

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

- The Al-Emarah media institution, affiliated with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, published the following:
  - Blessings purportedly recited by Mullah Omar, leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, in honor of Id al-Fitr – a holiday celebrated by Muslims at the end of Ramadan. According to Omar, jihad would continue in Afghanistan until the country was liberated from the occupation of apostates and until an Islamic system was implemented. He added that in addition to military jihad, the organization would continue its political efforts and peace talks in order to achieve those goals, and claimed that to that purpose the organization had established a political bureau. Later on in the statement, Omar called for unity on the jihad front in Afghanistan and added that along with the warm relationship that organization already had with Pakistan and Iran, it was also interested in developing good relationships with other neighbouring countries, and with other countries around the world. He called upon the mujahideen to take every possible measure in order to avoid harming civilians, and asked them to lead their opponents along the true path, and not to kill them, whenever they enjoyed victories. He also called upon the Muslims of the world – and specifically those residing in Afghanistan – to increase their financial and physical support of the mujahideen. At the end of the statement, Mullah Omar asked the entire Muslim world to maintain a state of unity, and not allow internal differences between them to weaken their ranks.<sup>31</sup>
  - A statement announcing that only the organization’s Political Bureau had the authority to negotiate with internal and external elements. According to the statement, this standpoint was intended to prevent lack of order in political matters, as well as preventing meeting with members of the organization who were not recognized as

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<sup>30</sup> <http://goo.gl/PeHgel> (Arabic).

<sup>31</sup> <https://justpaste.it/md6b> (Arabic).

official representatives. This statement, released by the Taliban, was published on the backdrop of a report from Pakistan that representatives of the Taliban had met with representatives of the Afghan government for peace talks in Pakistan. This was denied by the spokesman for the organization's Political Bureau, Mohammed Naim, who claimed that representatives from the government did not meet with any official representatives of the Taliban, but rather with individuals close to senior officials in the organization.<sup>32</sup>

- A video documenting the liberation of Khogyano District in the Ghazni province. The video began with footage of the organization's military activities carried out in an effort to take control of the district, and then featured footage of the liberation, interviews with jihad leaders, and interviews with residents of the district.<sup>33</sup>

### ***The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan***

- The Jundallah media institution, belonging to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, published a video titled "The Friend of a Friend and the Enemy of the Enemy".<sup>34</sup>

### ***The Islamic State in Khorasan***

- In a recorded message to the Muslims in Afghanistan, Sheikh Hafiz Sayyid Khan, a senior official in the Islamic State in Khorasan, called for a pledge of allegiance to the Islamic Caliphate, headed by Sheikh Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, and to cleave to him. According to Khan, the highest goal one can hope to attain is the liberation of all Muslim lands from foreign control, from Andalus and to Eastern Turkestan. That can be achieved through jihad against apostates in their lands. He added that in the days of Mullah Omar, leader of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, shari'a had been implemented. But for a long while since then, shari'a had not be fully in effect, and there were organizations and individuals who pretended to operate in its name. According to that same official, Pakistan was considered an enemy due to its activities against the enforcement of shari'a, and against Muslims. He even expressed criticism of Muslims who enlisted the help of Iran to harm the

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<sup>32</sup> <http://goo.gl/qZZZ8A> (Arabic).

<sup>33</sup> <http://shahamat-english.com/liberation-of-khogyano-a-new-video-release-by-al-emarah/> (English).

<sup>34</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

Islamic Caliphate. In conclusion, Khan emphasized that it was the obligation of every Muslim to pledge allegiance to the Caliphate, and stand by its leaders.<sup>35</sup>

## The Arabian Peninsula

*During the first half of July 2015, Arab Coalition forces headed by Saudi Arabia, local militias in southern Yemen, and Yemenite Army units all made significant progress in the campaign against the Houthi rebels in the country. For example, they were able to re-conquer the main harbor in the city of Eden – the second largest harbor in the country. These developments indicate that the UN peace talks had failed, as did all efforts to impose a state of peace in the divided country.*<sup>36</sup>

*At the same time, it was worth noting that the coalition forces avoided attacking members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and focused on attacking only the Houthis. Despite the fact that Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula had lost a number of high ranking commanders during the first half of 2015, including its leader Al-Wuhayshi as a result of an American drone attack, it seemed that there was an increase in the organization's strength and presence in the southern part of Hadramawt Province, and in particular in the city of Mukalla.*<sup>37</sup> *Members of the organization described themselves as "Sons of the Hadramawt", which expressed their attempt to maximize their power and attraction in the eyes of the local tribes. Sheikh Qasm al-Rimi, the new leader, of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, pledged allegiance to Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, emphasized that his organization continued to see the United States as an enemy of the Muslims, and that all efforts should be focused on attacking America.*<sup>38</sup>

### Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- Qasim al-Rimi published a recorded message via the Al-Malahim media institute, affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. Al-Rimi spoke in the framework of his new position as leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). At first, al-Rimi repeated his pledge of allegiance to the Al-Qaeda's leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri. He also expressed his condolences over the death of Al-

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<sup>35</sup> <http://justpaste.it/mbg2> (Arabic).

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/yemen/2015/07/05/-اليمن-قتلى-وجرحى-من-الحوثيين-في-قصف-للتحالف-على-حجة> (Arabic).

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/arabic/2015/7/11/خارطة-تقوى-حضر-موت-اليمنية-في-اليمن> (Arabic).

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2015/7/9/اليمن-زعيم-القاعدة-الجديد-يبايع-الظواهرى-ومعارك-في-الجنوب> (Arabic).

Wuhayshi, his predecessor as leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and called upon the mujahideen to continue their struggle against the United States. He claimed that the United States and other Western countries were using Shi'ites as shields against attacks by the mujahideen, and as a tool intended to enslave the Sunnis. In that regard, al-Rimi praised the progress made by Jaysh al Fateh in Syria, in the struggle against the Alawi regime and the Shi'ite forces. Furthermore, al-Rimi addressed members of the organization being held prisoner around the world, promising them that Al-Qaeda had not forgotten them, and that the branch of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula would work to liberate them from captivity.<sup>39</sup>



**The publication banner**

- The Al-Hikma media institution published an article about the present geo-political situation in Yemen. According to the institution, the article was intended for the mujahideen far from the jihad arena in Yemen, and who usually received false and incomplete information about the events in Yemen. The article's author added that Yemen was in a severe political crisis due to the civil war in the country. He also stated that since al-Rimi had taken charge of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the Ansar al-Sharia organization had entered a new level of operation, with an increase in the number of attacks against the rebel Houthis.<sup>40</sup>
- Ansar Al-Sharia, an organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published a video documenting its military activities in the Shabwah province.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>39</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/-aren.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>40</sup> <http://justpaste.it/ALHKMA-4> (Arabic).

<sup>41</sup> <http://nshr.co/shabwah/> (Arabic).

## Iraq

*The first half of July was marked by Iraqi air force bombings and artillery attacks against the Islamic State in the cities of al-Ramadi and Fallujah in the al-Anbar province – which for the most part was under Islamic State control. These attacks caused the deaths of at least 73 people.<sup>42</sup> Later on in the month, the Iraqi Army announced the commencement of a broad military campaign together with the Shi'ite militias, against the Islamic State fighters, in an effort to retake control of areas in the Al-Anbar province. The first goal of the campaign was to retake Fallujah.<sup>43</sup> In that regard, the Iraqi government announced the closure of the bridge connecting Al-Anbar Province to Baghdad, out of concern that together with refugees escaping from Al-Anbar, Islamic State fighters would also infiltrate Baghdad.<sup>44</sup>*

*At the same time, in northern Iraq, around the city of Kirkuk, clashes continued between the Peshmerga forces and the Islamic State.<sup>45</sup>*

*The UN published a report stating that at least 3,000 Iraqi civilians had been killed between December 2014 and April 2015. The report said that the Islamic State was mainly harming Iraqi civilians during the combat in Iraq, and that the Iraqi Army was making no effort to protect the civilians when it carried out air strikes.<sup>46</sup>*

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

- The Islamic State in the Kirkuk Province published the following:
  - A report about a group of armed fighters that attacked the al-Shahid complex in al-Rashad, and the Al-Mara village, southwest of Kirkuk. The fighters had control of the village for several hours, and dozens of Peshmerga fighters were killed and injured during the attack. One Peshmerga fighter was taken captive. In a proclamation released,

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<sup>42</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/scores-killed-iraqi-army-raids-anbar-province-150705065022342.html> (English).

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/iraq-launches-offensive-retake-anbar-isil-150713084742187.html> (English).

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/iraq-anbar-baghdad-150711052725027.html> (English).

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/isil-peshmerga-forces-battle-ground-kirkuk-150706042712437.html> (English).

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/report-civilians-main-target-iraq-conflict-150713074526495.html> (English).

it was emphasized that despite coalition air strikes, the attack had been successful and a significant amount of weapons and ammunition was seized as booty.<sup>47</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:
  - A video about activities during the month of Ramadan, such as prayer services in mosques, commerce in the markets, and bathing in the river. The video also featured interviews with civilians who praised the “security and abundance” they enjoyed under Islamic State rule.<sup>48</sup>
  - A video titled “The Joy of Believers over the Pledge of Allegiance of the Mujahideen in the Caucasus”. The video featured street interviews with civilians who blessed the pledge of allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State, as publicized at the end of June 2015.<sup>49</sup>
  - A photo report about the nights of Ramadan in Mosul, during which different sites around the city were featured, with footage of the city residents enjoying themselves. One site featured was the Islamic State “Media Center”.<sup>50</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Al-Janub Province published the following:
  - A video featuring IS fighters in the province blessing the pledge of allegiance from the Caucasus Province to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi – a pledge of allegiance that was publicized at the end of June 2015.<sup>51</sup> The video – which featured 11 fighters, some of whom had masked or blurred faces – ended with a message that the fighters were standing strong in the face of the “Worshippers of the Cross” (the Christians).<sup>52</sup>

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

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<sup>47</sup> [https://twitter.com/abu\\_bakr\\_iraqi/status/618158960990814208](https://twitter.com/abu_bakr_iraqi/status/618158960990814208) (Arabic).

<sup>48</sup> <https://archive.org/details/fjSO0d> (Arabic).

<sup>49</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/21086> (Arabic).

<sup>50</sup> [http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post\\_34.html](http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_34.html)

<sup>51</sup> <http://goo.gl/E0HdFP> (Arabic).

<sup>52</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16748> (Arabic).

- The Islamic State in the Diyala Province published the following:
  - A video documenting the liberation of dozens of prisoners from the A-Khalis prison on May 8, 2015. The video featured the liberated prisoners arriving in territory under the control of the Islamic State, and making threats at the Shi'ite leaders in the country – including the Prime Minister of Iraq, Haider al-Abadi; the head of the Badr organization, Hadi al-Ameri; and Sunnis who cooperated with them. The video ended with the freed prisoners pledging allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and with the distribution of what appears to be envelopes full of money to the organization's new recruits.<sup>53</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Falluja Province published the following:
  - A video titled “The Victorious Knights”, about the destruction of a number of army bases in the province. In an attack against Iraqi Army forces, IS fighters used light and heavy weapons, RPG and mortar rockets. An observation tower was destroyed, and a number of suicide attackers were dispatched in armored cars. At the end of the video, Islamic State fighters reported on the site they conquered, and then destroyed it with explosives.<sup>54</sup>



**Islamic State fighters explode an Iraqi Army post in Falluja Province**

- A video about a course for children and teenagers on shari'a, offered by the Islamic State Department of Dawah and Mosques. The course taught the basic of the Islamic creed and jurisprudence, including the principle of the “Rejection of Taghut”.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>53</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/17031> (Arabic).

<sup>54</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16726> (Arabic).

<sup>55</sup> <https://archive.org/details/fdsbs24> (Arabic).

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

- The Islamic State in the Saladin Province published the following:
  - A video titled “Slay Them Wherever You Find Them”. The video, which was over twenty minutes long, documented Islamic State attacks on Iraqi Army posts, and anti-aircraft fire at army helicopters. However, the main bulk of the video was images of the Speicher Camp massacre – the execution of masses of Shi’ite cadets and soldiers in June 2014. According to estimations, at least 1,566 people were killed. Along with the graphic images of the execution, and of the captives begging for their lives, the video also featured segments of a speech made by the spokesman for the Islamic State, Abu Mohammed al-Adnani. He spoke out against Shi’ite, and other members of the organization were filmed making threats.<sup>56</sup>



**New footage of the execution at the Speicher Camp in June 2014**

- A sixth video in a series of videos titled “Those who Carry the Wounds of their Ummah”. The video documented the final statement of a Saudi Arabian suicide bomber named Maslama al-Jazrawi, who carried out a suicide attack with a car bomb against Iraqi Army forces west of the city of Baiji. Al-Jazrawi encouraged others to carry out suicide attacks, and sent threatening messages to the coalition forces.<sup>57</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for the infiltration of six Iraqi Army posts, south of the city of Baiji, using medium and heavy weapons.<sup>58</sup>

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

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<sup>56</sup> <https://archive.org/details/srhZJS00> (Arabic).

<sup>57</sup> [https://archive.org/details/maslama\\_aljazrawe](https://archive.org/details/maslama_aljazrawe) (Arabic).

<sup>58</sup> <https://twitter.com/talebiidriss/status/621382799862407172> (Arabic).

- The Islamic State in the Al-Anbar Province published the following:
  - A video documenting two Saudi suicide bombers, named Abu al-Mundhir al-Jazrawi and Abu al-Baraa al-Jazrawi. The first terrorist detonated himself inside a tanker full of explosives opposite an Iraqi Army post in the Hit area. The second terrorist detonated an armored vehicle opposite army forces in the Al-Sakkar region. Before carrying out the attacks, the terrorists spoke and encouraged other Muslims to also carry out suicide attacks. They sent warnings to the President of the United States, Barak Obama, and threatened to detonate a car bomb in United States territory.<sup>59</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Al-Furat Province published the following:
  - A video titled “L’étincelle de L’Euphrate” (“The Spark of the Euphrates” in French), documenting a suicide attack carried out by a terrorist named Abu Maryam al-Faransi. The short video demonstrated how to make an explosive device, and documented how intelligence was gathered about Iraqi Army vehicles and posts in the Albuhatat region using a glider and an airborne camera. Before carrying out the attack, Abu Maryam sent a threatening message regarding “Francois Hollande and everyone who fights against Islam”, stating that more attacks would be carried out in European territory. In addition, al-Faransi encouraged his family to convert to Islam, and called upon all the Muslims who had not yet been able to join jihad, to wait no longer to do so.<sup>60</sup> It should be noted that al-Faransi was a convert to Islam who appeared in an Islamic State video in November 2014 alongside other French fighters. In that video they were all filmed burning their passports and joining the Islamic State.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16911> (Arabic).

<sup>60</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16908> (Arabic).

<sup>61</sup> <http://goo.gl/43LnNG> (Arabic).



**A final message from Abu Maryam al-Faransi**

- A video about fighting in Haditha city area. The attack included launching rockets, sending in a suicide bomber, and firing light weapons.<sup>62</sup>

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

*Alongside Syrian regime air strikes in which dozens of people are killed,<sup>63</sup> the Coalition Forces attacks in Syria continue, particularly in the Raqqa region – an Islamic State stronghold in the northern part of the country.<sup>64</sup> At the same time, clashes continue between the regime forces and Jaysh Al-Fateh, mainly in the city of Aleppo.<sup>65</sup> Also in the north, Kurdish YPG forces announce that they had succeeded in taking control of the city of Tell Abyad, a strategic city for the Islamic State, since it is located on the Turkish border and served as a gateway for new recruits.<sup>66</sup> The Kurds are also victorious in the town of Ayn Issa, where they managed to oust all of the Islamic State forces.<sup>67</sup> Further south, in Zabadani, in the Rif Dimashq Governorate, the deaths of four Hezbollah fighters is reported.<sup>68</sup> In spite of the losses, it is reported later in the month that the Syrian Army and Hezbollah had made successful advances in the Zabadani area.<sup>69</sup>*

*Meanwhile, the humanitarian crisis in Syria continues. A report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated that the number of Syria refugees in neighboring*

<sup>62</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16894> (Arabic).

<sup>63</sup> <http://goo.gl/5xJ9R9> (Arabic).

<sup>64</sup> <http://goo.gl/MRrEGJ> (Arabic).

<sup>65</sup> <http://goo.gl/F3ck0R> (Arabic).

<sup>66</sup> <http://goo.gl/7lO7HB> (Arabic).

<sup>67</sup> <http://goo.gl/bXsCxo> (Arabic).

<sup>68</sup> <http://goo.gl/JOiXAt> (Arabic).

<sup>69</sup> <http://goo.gl/7znC1W> (Arabic).

countries had reached four million.<sup>70</sup> The information is accompanied by a warning from Turkey that one million Syrian refugees would try to reach Europe.<sup>71</sup>

## Syria

### ***Al-Nusra Front***

- The Emir of the Al-Nusra Front in Qalamoun, Sheikh Abu Malik al-Shami, published a recorded message on the Al-Jazeera station, titled “Victory Comes with Patience”. During the recording, al-Shamai calls the Hezbollah organization “criminal” and accused the supporters of Hezbollah of inadvertently assisting the Alawi regime, and thereby demonstrating their hatred of the Sunnis. He added that the Al-Nusra Front would always hold a grudge against Hezbollah, and would never forget the injustices committed by the organization. He also claimed that even if the combat between Hezbollah and the Al-Nusra Front ended without a victor, the Al-Nusra Front would continue to fight against the organization in order to take revenge for all the injustices it had suffered at Hezbollah’s hand.<sup>72</sup>
- Among publications by the Al-Manara Al-Bitza media institution, affiliated with the Al-Nusra Front were: a video about the liberation of the town of Handarat in northern Aleppo;<sup>73</sup> a video documenting the downing of a Syrian Army MIG airplane over the city of Daraa, with an anti-aircraft missile shot by the Al-Nusra Front.<sup>74</sup>

### ***Jaysh al-Fath***

- Jaysh Al-Fateh, an umbrella group for a coalition of Salafi jihad organizations lead by the Al-Nusra Front, published a statement on the organization’s Twitter account, announcing the opening of a “Kafarya Al-Fu’ah” campaign against the forces of Al-Assad’s regime and the Iranian militia forces, in order to take revenge against them in northern Syria after they held members of the Al-Zabadani organization under siege. Later in the statement, the organization called upon the armed factions participating in the Syrian revolution to join them in liberating

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<sup>70</sup> <https://goo.gl/f0XEgw> (Arabic)

<sup>71</sup> <http://goo.gl/R7sf6M> (Arabic).

<sup>72</sup> <https://justpaste.it/annasr> (Arabic).

<sup>73</sup> [https://archive.org/details/hndrat\\_3mlia](https://archive.org/details/hndrat_3mlia) (Arabic).

<sup>74</sup> [https://archive.org/details/mek\\_modadat](https://archive.org/details/mek_modadat) (Arabic).

Al-Zabadani.<sup>75</sup>

### ***The Operations Room of Ansar al-Sharia***

- Several factions of Salafi jihad rebels in Syria published a written statement and a video announcing the establishment of a shared operations room called “Ansar Al-Shari’a’s Room”. According to the statement, the operations room would be used to help liberate the city of Aleppo, and to unite all the other factions under a joint creed that would enable the management of Aleppo according to shari’a law – after its liberation. The following factions were members in the joint headquarters: the Al-Nusra Front, the Ansar Al-Din Front, Ansar Al-Khilafa, Al-Faqi Al-Awal, the Abu Amara Battalions, the Fajr Al-Khilafa Battalions, the Al-Mi’ad Troops, the Al-Sahaba Battalions, Jundaalh, and the Al-Sultan Brigade.<sup>76</sup>



**From left to right: representatives from the different factions in the merger;  
the logo of the Ansar Al-Sharia operation room**

- The Ansar Al-Shari’a operations room published a video documenting Jaysh Al-Mehajirun and Al-Ansar, a Salafi jihad organization mostly made up of Chechnyan fighters, shooting light weapons and mortar rockets at Syrian security forces.<sup>77</sup>

### ***Ajnad Al Sham***

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<sup>75</sup> <https://twitter.com/alsdq1/status/621387045437636608> (Arabic).

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

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

- The Eastern Al-Ghouta United Military Council published a statement announcing the beginning of a campaign called “Ayam Bader” – “Days of Hail”. The goal of the campaign was to take control of several strategic positions in the Jobar neighbourhood in eastern Damascus, and to cause casualties among the Syrian regime forces.<sup>78</sup>

### **Ahrar Al Sham**

- The Rammah media institution, affiliated with the Arara Al-Sham Movement, published video documenting actions taken against Islamic State fighters in Aleppo.<sup>79</sup>
- The Director of the Foreign Relations Office of the Ahrar Al Sham movement, Labib al-Nahas, published an article in the *Washington Post* titled “The Deadly Consequences of Mislabelling Syria’s Revolutionaries”. In the article, al-Nahas pointed out that America’s main mistake was making a differentiation between “radicals” and “moderates”, as the criteria for including anyone in the latter group were so narrow they invalidated the central opposition movement in Syria. He added that the Ahrar Al-Sham movement, which he belonged to, considered itself to be a central Sunni Islamic group, but it had been falsely accused by the United States of being an organization that maintained ties with Al-Qaeda and supported its ideology. According to Ahrar Al-Sham, the United States needed to understand that even volunteers funded by Shi’ite money - brought by Assad from Afghanistan – would not be able to ensure that he remained in rule, or that he would be part of the solution to the conflicts in Syria. The most pressing question was: Who would take control of Syria after Assad? The Syrian opposition or the Islamic State? Therefore, al-Nahas called upon the United States to support the moderate Sunni Syrian opposition, and added that the term “moderate” needed to be defined by the Sunnis, and not by the Americans.<sup>80</sup>

### **Ansar Al Islam in Al Sham**

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<sup>78</sup> <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=1852> (Arabic).

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

<sup>80</sup> [http://justpaste.it/ahrarwpst;https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-deadly-consequences-of-mislabeled-syrias-revolutionaries/2015/07/10/6dec139e-266e-11e5-aae2-6c4f59b050aa\\_story.html](http://justpaste.it/ahrarwpst;https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-deadly-consequences-of-mislabeled-syrias-revolutionaries/2015/07/10/6dec139e-266e-11e5-aae2-6c4f59b050aa_story.html) (English).

- The Ansar Al Islam organization in Al Sham claimed responsibility for a joint attack, together with fighters from the Al-Nusra Front, on Tal al-Qura around southern Aleppo. It was also written that the Syrian security forces and their Iranian partners ran away from the site and left a large amount of weapons behind.<sup>81</sup>

### ***Jaysh Al-Islam***

- Jaysh Al-Islam published a statement about their disagreement with the Al-Nusra Front in the city of Ghouta, a suburb of Damascus. Jaysh Al-Islam accused the Al-Nusra Front of breaking in to the former's Office of Security Matters in the town of Modira, and arresting one of the organization's commanders.<sup>82</sup> In response, the Al-Nusra Front published in its Twitter account a statement accusing Jaysh Al-Islam of attacking Muslims in Al-Ghouta and arresting members of their organization without any proof of guilt. It was also written in that statement that the organization was surprised that Jaysh Al-Islam had made accusations against the Al-Nusra Front publically, and had not addressed the organization directly in order to find a solution to the crisis.<sup>83</sup>

### ***Other Organizations***

- The Ajnad a-Kavkaz organization published a video documenting its fighters liberating the Idlib region.<sup>84</sup>

### **The Islamic State**

- Newspaper reports quoted in jihad forums revealed that 18 doctors from Sudan joined the Islamic State in Syria, along with the daughter of the official spokesman for the Sudani Foreign Ministry. The reports also revealed that the new recruits entered Syria by way of Turkey in an operation that earned the praise of supporters of the Islamic State.<sup>85</sup>

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

<sup>82</sup> <https://www.jaishalislam.com/statement/73> (Arabic).

<sup>83</sup> [https://twitter.com/Mohammad\\_Ali\\_80/status/621184882597756928](https://twitter.com/Mohammad_Ali_80/status/621184882597756928) (Arabic).

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

<sup>85</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/showthread.php?t=241333> (Arabic).

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

- The Islamic State in the Raqqa Province published the following:
  - A video titled “A message to the People of Algeria”. The video featured a number of fighters from Algeria who immigrated to Al-Raqqa and sent different messages to several different entities. Most of the video featured a fighter named Abu Hafs al-Jazairi, who addressed the “apostate secular” regime in Algeria, threatening to take revenge for the slaughter of the Algerian people. Al-Jazairi explained to the Algerian people that Democracy was heresy, and that it should be rejected. He praised the Jund al-Khilafa (Soldiers of the Caliphate) in Algerian territory for their pledge of allegiance to the Caliphate after a call upon other organizations in the country to do the same. Al-Jazairi’s final message was to all of the “believers in one God” in Algeria, calling on them to carry out Hijra and to join jihad. Another fighter featured in the video, named Abu al-Baraa al-Jazairi, threatened the Algerian soldiers and security forces and asked them to stop defending what he referred to as “Jahiliyyah regimes and Crusader laws”.<sup>86</sup>



**Messages to the Algerian people, and threats to the Algerian regime**

- A video called “They Are the Enemy, So Beware of Them”. The video documented the interrogation of two young men who were accused of distributing proclamations against the Islamic State, and of spying against it with different gadgets, such as a watch that also functioned as a hidden camera. The two related how they had transmitted information and photographs in exchange for money, to a man named Hammud al-

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<sup>86</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16997> (Arabic).

Musa. Al-Musa was involved in the campaign called “Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently” (RSS), which documented crimes committed by the Islamic State in Raqqa. At the end of the video, the two fighters were featured being tied to a tree and executed by gunshot.<sup>87</sup>

- A video about the explosion of bridges in the province by coalition forces. The video – which began with footage of the explosions filmed from the air – also included interviews with local residents who described the damage caused by the bridges being exploded. Since then, they were forced to travel on dirt roads, rather than on paved ones.<sup>88</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for suicide attacks carried out with car bombs, against PKK forces. The first attack occurred in the north-east region of Ayn Issa,<sup>89</sup> and the second attack occurred east of the Saluk area.<sup>90</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Damascus Province published the following:
  - A video documenting the execution of four people presented as “Sahawat” agents acting against the Islamic State, for the good of other organizations, such as: Aknaf Bayt al-Maqdis, and Ajhad al-Sham in the Al-Yarmuk camp.<sup>91</sup>
  - A video about the battles in the Al-Batraa area against the Sahawat militia forces. The video featured the Islamic State using machine guns, mortar rockets, and tanks.<sup>92</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Aleppo Province published the following:
  - A video titled "A Message to the Sunni People in the Land of Two Mosques". The video features fighters from Saudi Arabia threatening Shi'ites and their religious scholars in that country. At the beginning of the video a fighter named Abu Jihad al-Jazrawi appeared, blessing the attacks on Shi'ite mosques (carried out in May), and vowing that

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<sup>87</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16789> (Arabic).

<sup>88</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16947> (Arabic).

<sup>89</sup> <https://twitter.com/ytytrerertrytyu/status/618054486997733376> (Arabic).

<sup>90</sup> <https://twitter.com/nasertamimi/status/617072579313029120> (Arabic).

<sup>91</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16731> (Arabic).

<sup>92</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16994> (Arabic).

“the rescue forces of the Caliphate” would soon reach Saudi Arabia. Later, other fighters were featured calling upon Sunnis in Saudi Arabia to be alert about the Shi’ite activities and ceremonies that proved they were not Muslims. A measure of criticism was also directed towards the Saudi religious scholars, who were depicted as religious scholars that represented the government and defended the Shi’ites in the country. The video ended with a promise to throw the “Shi’ite garbage” out of the Arabian Peninsula, and to continue the attacks against them in Saudi territory.<sup>93</sup>



**Threatening Shi’ites in Saudi Arabia**

- A video about clashes in southern Kobani (Ayn Al-Arab). The video documented Islamic State fighters attacking PKK forces, and included footage of dead bodies and of weapons taken as booty. In addition, the video included a message in Kurdish, made by a fighter who threatened the PKK, and called upon Kurds to join the ranks of the Islamic State.<sup>94</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack using a car bomb against PKK forces in southern Kobani, in an operation which caused “the death and injury of many”.<sup>95</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for a penetration into the Tall Shair area, into Syrian Army positions. According to the report, dozens of Syrian soldiers were killed in the exchange of fire, and the attack included a suicide bomber with an explosive belt, named Abu Uqba al-Tunisi.<sup>96</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for an attack using a car bomb against the Levant Front in the Al-

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<sup>93</sup> <https://archive.org/details/heulbiu> (Arabic).

<sup>94</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16893> (Arabic).

<sup>95</sup> <https://twitter.com/nasertamimi/status/618710609618710528> (Arabic).

<sup>96</sup> <https://twitter.com/albab1122/status/621419295898271744> (Arabic).

Alqamiyya village, near the Menagh Military Airbase. According to the report, the attack caused the deaths of over twenty people, and the injury of dozens more.<sup>97</sup>

- A photo report about the toy stores in the city of Al-Bab before the Id Al-Fiter holiday. IT should be noted that a large amount of the toys sold were various types of toy weapons, including rifles and RPG launchers.<sup>98</sup>



**A toy RPG launcher in a toy store in Aleppo Province**

- A photo report about the confiscation and shattering of smuggled statues. The report explained that the statues were smuggled out of the city of Tadmor, and were discovered at one of the Islamic State checkpoints spread across the province. The smuggler was rebuked after being sentenced in an Islamic court in the city of Manbij, and the statues were shattered – in accordance with the Islamic commandment to destroy statues and idols.<sup>99</sup>



**Shattering statues in Aleppo Province**

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<sup>97</sup> <https://twitter.com/06cf2baaf20f47a/status/618802640458260481> (Arabic).

<sup>98</sup> <http://justpaste.it/mcn1> (Arabic).

<sup>99</sup> [http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post\\_2.html](http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_2.html) (Arabic).

- A video about the activities of the Service Office in the Sarrin region, including maintenance of the water infrastructure, cleaning streets, building plazas, repairing electric lines, and more.<sup>100</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in the Homs Province published the following:
  - A video titled “And Heal the Hearts of a Believing People”. The high point of the video was the mass execution of 25 Syrian soldiers, carried out in the expansive amphitheatre in Tadmor (Palmyra), which was conquered by the Islamic State in May 2015. A feature of the video was the fact that the executions were carried out by young boys (called in the video “Cubs of the Caliphate”), who shot the captured soldiers in the head in front of a live audience.

The second part of the video documented the explosion of the Tadmor prison, which was described in the video as a prominent symbol of Bashar Al-Asaad’s regime, and as a site where thousands of Sunni Muslims were tortured and killed.<sup>101</sup>



**A mass execution of Syrian Soldiers at the Tadmur amphitheater.**

- A video about the Islamic State taking control of two check posts on the T4 airport road that had been in the hands of the Syrian Army. The attack included “softening targets” with RPG and tank missiles, and afterwards an exchange of fire with army forces. The video ended with a presentation of the checkpoints “after they were liberated”, and

<sup>100</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16804> (Arabic).

<sup>101</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16762> (Arabic).

with a report about the dead bodies, and the weapons taken as booty.<sup>102</sup> A claim of responsibility for the attack stated that at least five soldiers were killed and ten more were injured. The booty seized after the attack included: A MILAN launcher with three rockets, 13 heavy machine guns, 10 vehicles, various types of ammunition, radios, and night vision equipment.<sup>103</sup>

- A video produced by the Islamic State public relations office, about distributing food in the province, for breaking the fast.<sup>104</sup>
- Photo reports about the maintenance work,<sup>105</sup> and about sulphur water wells<sup>106</sup> in the city of Tadmor.

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

- The Islamic State in Al-Baraka Province (originally Al-Hasaka Province) published the following:
  - A video documenting clashes with the Syrian Army in the province, which included, among other things, “softening targets” with artillery and heavy weapons, sending a suicide attacker in an armed vehicle loaded with explosives, and invasion of the Syrian posts themselves. The video ended with footage of dead bodies and documentation of weapons, ammunition, and vehicles taken as booty. A version of the video with Kurdish sub-titles was also published.<sup>107</sup>
  - A claim of responsibility for five suicide attacks carried out with car bombs, against the Syrian Army and Kurdish militias in the province. According to the announcement, dozens were killed and injured in those attacks.<sup>108</sup>
  - A claim of responsibility for the capture of the Electric Company building in the city of Al-Hasaka, after an exchange of fire and two suicide attacks. According to the announcement, light and medium weapons, as well as ammunition, were taken as

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<sup>102</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16937> (Arabic).

<sup>103</sup> <https://twitter.com/nasertamimi/status/618405873715675136> (Arabic).

<sup>104</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/17026> (Arabic).

<sup>105</sup> <https://twitter.com/ytytrerertrytyu/status/619185703851851776> (Arabic).

<sup>106</sup> [http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post\\_29.html](http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_29.html) (Arabic).

<sup>107</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16819>; <http://isdarat.sd/21260> (Arabic).

<sup>108</sup> <https://twitter.com/nasertamimi/status/620181412268908544> (Arabic).

booty.<sup>109</sup>

- A statement announcing that the Geweran neighborhood in eastern Al-Hasaka had been taken over, including re-taking of a bridge, and the destruction of an armored vehicle with a “guided missile” west of the city, after an exchange of fire with PKK forces.<sup>110</sup> Another report provided details about other areas the Islamic State took control of in the city of Al-Hasaka.<sup>111</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for the liberation of a juvenile detention center, which had been used by the Syrian Army as a military base for defending the southern entrance to the city of Al-Hasaka.<sup>112</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Al-Khayr Province (formerly Dayr Al-Zawr Province) published the following:
  - A video titled “By Allah, We will Exact Revenge 2”. The video opened with a dramatic scene: a masked Islamic State fighter watching a number of television screens all featuring images of attacks on civilians and damaged caused by coalition forces. After the fighter raises his fists in rage, the camera documented a captured Syrian soldier in his prison cell changing out of his military uniform and getting dressed in an orange jumpsuit – the type worn by people destined for Islamic State executions. At the same time, the executor was featured wearing his uniform and holding a pistol. At the end of the video the shooting execution of four Syrian soldiers was documented, but only after each one of them was filmed stating his name and his military rank.<sup>113</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> <https://twitter.com/nasertamimi/status/617686148727590912> (Arabic).

<sup>110</sup> <https://twitter.com/mm10717/status/618538463734861824> (Arabic).

<sup>111</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osx7zo43W8AkPoA/status/616665306816245760> (Arabic).

<sup>112</sup> <https://twitter.com/anastat5/status/620401649866158081> (Arabic).

<sup>113</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/17004> (Arabic).



The execution of four soldiers in Dayr Al-Zawr Province – the use of film methods to create drama

- Publication documenting Ramadan events in the province, such as: a video reporting on prayer services in mosques and commerce in the markets in stores, and interviews with civilians who express their satisfaction with the return of the Caliphate.<sup>114</sup> Another video published reported on contests with prizes arranged by the Islamic State in honor of the month of Ramadan.<sup>115</sup>
- Photo reports about civilian matters, such as: a factory that manufactures granite, distributing food to the needy to break the fast, a candy factory, and the sheep and goat market.<sup>116</sup>
- Photo reports and videos about a training course for slaughterers and butchers,<sup>117</sup> and about punishing a drug dealer with lashes.<sup>118</sup>

### The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

- The Ibn Taymiyya Center, which reports mainly on the Palestinian Salafi jihad movement, published a proclamation called “Arm Us...We [will receive] money from you and you [will receive] our blood”. In the proclamation, the Ibn Tamiyya Center announce the commencement of an online fundraising campaign for the Palestinian mujahideen, and called upon Muslims to make monetary

<sup>114</sup> <http://isdarat.sd/16781> (Arabic).

<sup>115</sup> <https://archive.org/details/musabiqq> (Arabic).

<sup>116</sup> [https://twitter.com/HG\\_14/status/616686256832020485](https://twitter.com/HG_14/status/616686256832020485) (Arabic).

[http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post\\_37.html](http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_37.html) (Arabic).

<http://www.csnw.tk/2015/07/54.html> (Arabic).

[https://twitter.com/islam\\_win/status/618157422603964416](https://twitter.com/islam_win/status/618157422603964416) (Arabic).

<sup>117</sup> <https://twitter.com/mas3ar/status/621323466906533888> (Arabic).

<sup>118</sup> <https://twitter.com/alowlagi78/status/619956560853217280> (Arabic).

donations. The Center added that senior mujahideen, and sheikhs endowed with integrity and sterling characters, were supervising the campaign. In addition, the center provided an email address, details of a Twitter account, and a link to an encoded chat site called Telegram to be used for contacting the managers of the campaign in order to donate money.<sup>119</sup>



**A banner announcing the commencement of an online campaign to collect donations**

- The Salafi jihad group Jaysh Al-Islam, operating in the Gaza Strip, published a video attacking Hamas and calling Abu Bakr Al-Bagdadi “the Muslim Caliph”. The video accused Hamas of maintaining a relationship with senior Iranian officials, and depicted it as a body that “is hostile towards the mujahideen and allies itself with the apostates and idol worshipers”. The video even addressed the kidnapping of the BCC reporter Alan Johnson by the group, which ended with the Hamas liberating Johnson and with an exchange of gunfire in which eleven members of Jaysh Al-Islam were killed.<sup>120</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Sinai Peninsula***

- The Islamic State in Sinai Province (formerly Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis) claimed responsibility for a number of simultaneous attacks on over twenty Egyptian Army basis in Sinai. These attacks included suicide bombings, ambushes, detonating car bombs, and the use of light and heavy weapons, and RPG rockets. In addition, the organization claimed responsibility for firing five missiles at the Al-Arish airfield, for hitting a tank with a missile, and more.<sup>121</sup>

## **Africa**

### ***The Maghreb***

<sup>119</sup> <http://justpaste.it/jahezona> (Arabic).

<sup>120</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>121</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

*In eastern Libya clashes continue between the Libyan National Army forces and the different militias. Along with other information released is a report that the Libyan Air Force struck targets in the city of Benghazi under joint Islamic State and Benghazi Revolutionaries Shura Council control.<sup>122</sup> The Islamic State admits that it suffered a defeat in the city of Derna, and threatens to take revenge against the militias active in the city.<sup>123</sup>*

*Tunisia is in a high state of alert, and steps are taken to keep out Libyan terrorism after the attack in Sousse at the end of June. Among other things, one of the precautionary measures is the construction of a fence and ditch along the Libyan border.<sup>124</sup> A proposal for counter-terrorism legislation was met with a wave of criticism on the part of journalists and human rights organizations that claimed that such legislation is liable to damage freedom of expression and journalism.<sup>125</sup>*

*Efforts are also made in Morocco, in the framework of counterterrorism, to arrest “lone wolves” and the formation of a plan to restore tourism in the country – which had been damaged as a result of the terror attacks in the area.<sup>126</sup> Algeria, on the other hand, is forced to cope with ethnic riots that broke out in the city of Ghardaia in the southern part of the country, in which at least 22 people were killed.<sup>127</sup>*

- The Al-Andalus media institution, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb published the following:
  - A proclamation titled “The Combat Taking Place in the City of Derna in Libya”. In the proclamation, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb denounced the Islamic State for fostering division and disunity among the ranks of the mujahideen, due to its radical perspective and its tendency to label Muslims apostates if they didn’t fit their idea of what a good Muslim should be. According to the organization, the Islamic State was responsible for spilling the blood of innocent people in the city of Derna, and it should

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<sup>122</sup> <http://goo.gl/ymoiP1> (Arabic).

<sup>123</sup> <https://goo.gl/699Ljn> (Arabic).

<sup>124</sup> <https://goo.gl/JN6aUr> (Arabic).

<sup>125</sup> <http://goo.gl/5V5AYG> (Arabic).

<sup>126</sup> <http://goo.gl/Z0QLTy>, <http://goo.gl/8vd9VK> (Arabic).

<sup>127</sup> <http://goo.gl/IHCh6j> (Arabic).

stop doing so immediately – otherwise the Islamic State would have to suffer the consequences.<sup>128</sup>

- An audio recording, which was part of a series of lectures by Sheikh Abu al-Hassan Rashid bin Muhammad al-Bulaydi, titled Battle of Uhud in the Quran.<sup>129</sup>

## Tunisia

- The Soldiers of the Caliphate in Africa (Ajnad al-Khilafa bi-Ifriqiya) media institution, which identifies with the Islamic State, published an article titled “Al-Qantawi Attack – Emergency – Assault them by the Gate”. The author of the article encouraged the successful implementation of a terror attack even bigger than the one carried out at the Bardo Museum, and issued a warning to Muslims in general “to distance themselves from sites visited by cross worshipers (Christians)”. According the the author of the article, there is no agreement or covenant between Muslims and Christians aside from “blood and body parts”. The article ended with words of praise for the terrorist who carried out the attack, Seifeddine Rezqui, and directed threats towards the Tunisian government.<sup>130</sup>

In another proclamation that was published by the media institution, a warning to Tunisian Muslims to distance themselves from areas populated by “apostates” was emphasized. The proclamation also mentioned that during the attack Rezqui avoided hurting local inhabitants who spoke in Tunisian dialects.<sup>131</sup>



The article banners

<sup>128</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>129</sup> [http://justpaste.it/ohd\\_Pdf\\_Doc\\_MP3](http://justpaste.it/ohd_Pdf_Doc_MP3) (Arabic).

<sup>130</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>131</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

- A member of the jihad forum Shumukh Al-Islam published a post addressing the use of jihad as tool to cause economic damage. The author specifically addressed the attack in Sousse which took place at the end of June, and which cost Tunisian 500 million dollars, and almost lead to the collapse of tourism – an industry that accounts for 7% of the country’s total revenues. The poster added that according to financial estimations, it would take the Tunisians between four and five years to recover from the ramifications of the attack.<sup>132</sup>
- Newspaper reports suggested the possibility that the leader of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, Seifullah bin Hussein, known as Abu Iyad, was killed in an American attack that took place in Eastern Libya on June 17, 2015.<sup>133</sup> Despite the reports, Ansar Al-Sharia in Libya and other bodies denied that bin Hussein was dead.<sup>134</sup>

## Libya

### *Ansar Al-Sharia in Libya*

- The Al-Raya media institution, belonging to Ansar Al-Sharia organization in Libya, published a video titled “Repulsion of Aggression”, documenting the heroic acts of the mujahideen in the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries – an Islamic militia coalition that included Ansar Al-Sharia as a member. The mujahideen were able to push back attacks by the dictator Hiftar. The video began with images of destruction in Benghazi caused by bombings carried out by Hiftar’s Army. The video depicted Hiftar as the direct successor of Muammar Gaddafi. Later in the video, images of attacks in retaliation for the bombings were featured, with Ansar Al-Sharia fighters seen clashing with Hiftar’s forces in Benghazi, using light and heavy weapons, RPG missiles, mortar bombs, rockets and artillery (including an Al-Zahawi canon – a locally manufactured canon named after the leader of the organization who was killed). Other new information featured in the video was an image of an area designated for gathering pre-operation using a drone equipped with a camera, and the explosion of a car bomb using a remote control. The attack lead to the deaths of four, and injury of seven people. The video ended with a display of weapons and vehicles taken as booty in the framework of the attacks,

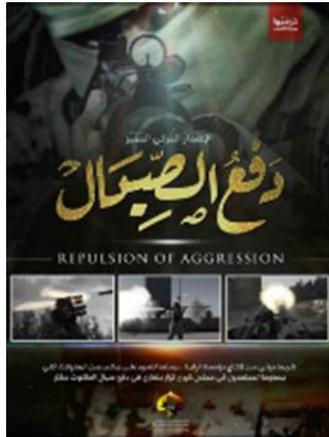
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<sup>132</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>133</sup> <https://goo.gl/AwnJdN> (Arabic).

<sup>134</sup> <http://goo.gl/fPdLzW>; <http://goo.gl/9AGTAS> (Arabic).

and a threatening message directed at the Libyan National Army via their communication network.<sup>135</sup>



**Documentation of Ansar Al-Sharia attacks against Khalifa Hiftar’s forces**

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

- The Media Front for Support of the Islamic State published an article written by a man called Abu Bakr al-Barqawi, titled “What happened and what is going to happen in Derna”. In the course of the article, al-Barqawi wrote about the weakening of the Islamic State forces in Derna, and stated that shari’a law was no longer being enforced in the city, after the Islamic Court had been set on fire and the Hisba office [an Islamic group responsible for maintaining public morality and order] had been destroyed.<sup>136</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Barqa Province published the following:
  - A video including threats against the Sahawat in Derna. The video featured two suicide bombers (Abu Salman al-Sudani and Abu Hazza al-Dernawi) who threatened the Sahawat in Derna and praised the commencement of shari’a rule in the city. In that context, a large portion of the video was devoted to reports about the implementation of shari’a in the city, including the operation of a shari’a court (which sentenced thieves with having their hands cut off, which sentenced people

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<sup>135</sup> <https://archive.org/details/anssh1> (Arabic).

<sup>136</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/showthread.php?t=242052> (Arabic).

who consumed alcohol with lashes, and which resolved arguments and conflicts). The video also featured images from a tour of the Hisba office – an Islamic body responsible for protecting public order, which issued reminders regarding prayer times, and which destroyed amulets, cigarettes, and musical instruments.<sup>137</sup> It should be mentioned that two of the fighters featured in the video were probably two out of three suicide terrorists who carried out attacks at roadblocks in the city of Derna – attacks the organization claimed responsibility for on July 4, 2015.<sup>138</sup>



**Threats against the Sahawat in Derna**

- Photo reports about attacks and exchanges of fire opposite Hiftar's forces in the Al-Lithi District in Benghazi.<sup>139</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Tripoli Province published the following:
  - A claim of responsibility for the destruction of 13 military aircraft at the "Aerospace College" in Misurata. The claim stated that two of the organization's fighters had successfully infiltrated the compound and exploded the aircraft used by the apostates of Libya Dawn to bomb Muslims in general in Sirte, al-Nawfaliyyah, Harawa, and other sites.<sup>140</sup>

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<sup>137</sup> [https://archive.org/details/S7wat\\_drna](https://archive.org/details/S7wat_drna) (Arabic).

<sup>138</sup> <https://twitter.com/ytytrerertrytyu/status/618081578791608320> (Arabic).

<sup>139</sup> [http://i-libya.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post\\_9.html](http://i-libya.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_9.html) (Arabic).

<sup>140</sup> <https://twitter.com/almounfarid43/status/618123363454742528> (Arabic).

- A collection of photo reports from the city of Sirte, under the organization's control. A Dawa convention held in a public park, the goings on in a milk factory, images of the city harbor, and signs with religious messages being hung, were all featured in the reports.<sup>141</sup>



**A sign in Sirte detailing the characteristics of an appropriate hijab according to shari'a law.**

- An entity allied with the Islamic State in Tripoli Province published a claim of responsibility for the killing of Al-Taher Allush in the city of Misurata. Allush was an Intelligence Office in the Libyan Army, and was killed by a car bomb positioned opposite one of the mosques in the city center.<sup>142</sup>

### ***The Mujahideen Shura Council in Derna***

- The Mujahideen Shura Council in Derna published the following:
  - A statement denouncing suicide and shooting attacks carried out by Islamic State fighters in Derna. According to the organization, these atrocious attacks caused the deaths of innocent people, as well as some of the organization's members. In

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<https://twitter.com/almounfarid43/status/618124138385940482> (Arabic).

<sup>141</sup> <https://twitter.com/Hawy92nt/status/618642334310338560> (Arabic).

<https://twitter.com/alowlagi78/status/620645349875552256> (Arabic).

<https://twitter.com/obadhbenalsamet/status/618490008031334400> (Arabic).

<sup>142</sup> <http://goo.gl/5aMzUA> (Arabic).

conclusion, the organization emphasized that it intended to clean the city of Derna of all Islamic State fighters.<sup>143</sup>

- An announcement about the punishment of six Islamic State fighters, for crimes they committed in the city of Derna, when they kidnapped and murdered innocent men, women and children, when they planted explosive devices, and more.<sup>144</sup>
- A proclamation calling upon religious scholars, tribes, and Muslims in Derna not to get dragged into the war between brothers, but rather to maintain unity and stability in the city. The proclamation was published in response to the deterioration of the security situation in the city in the recent past.<sup>145</sup>

## West Africa

### Nigeria

#### *The Islamic State in West Africa Boko Haram*

- The Islamic State in West Africa (formerly Boko Haram) published a video titled "The Arrival of the Caliphate Soldiers in West Africa (part 2)". The video documents the organization's activities against the Nigerian Army, such as launching rockets and the use of light gunfire.<sup>146</sup>

## East Africa

### Somalia

*In the beginning of July, there was an increase in clashes between Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen and the Somalian security forces, against the backdrop of a promise made by the organization to increase its attacks in Somalia and Kenya during the month of Ramadan. For example, on Friday, July 11, the organization carried out two simultaneous attacks on two hotels in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. Among the casualties were members of the security forces, soldiers from the African Union forces, and government representatives.<sup>147</sup> In addition, members of the organization*

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<sup>143</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>144</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>145</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>146</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>147</sup> <http://goo.gl/RZNTM1> (Arabic).

*attacked workers in the city of Mandera, in northern Kenya, causing the deaths of 14 workers.<sup>148</sup> In response, Kenya attacked Al-Shabaab bases in southern Somalia.<sup>149</sup>*

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

- The Al-Kataib media institution, affiliated with Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen movement, published a video featuring footage of various military activities its members engaged in.<sup>150</sup>
- The Shahda media institution, which identifies with Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen movement, published the following:
  - A proclamation about Al-Shabaab fighters regaining control of extensive areas in the Lower Shebelle region, adjacent to Mogadishu. During the battle to gain control, the fighters infiltrated army bases belonging to government forces and killed eight soldiers.<sup>151</sup>
  - A claim of responsibility issued by Al-Shabaab for its fighters ambushing a security force convoy in the Lamu District in Kenya.<sup>152</sup>

### **The Indian Sub-continent**

- The Al-Sahab media institution published an audio message in Urdu, with an English translation, from Sheikh Ahmad Farooq, leader of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Sub-continent, titled “The Fighting Has Only Just Begun”. In the video, Farooq accused the Pakistan Army of persecuting and oppressing the Muslims in Pakistan, and cited as an example the destruction of schools where the Quran was studied. In light of that, Farooq called upon the Muslims in Pakistan to fight against the Pakistan regime and army. The video included old footage of Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda; Sheikh Abu al-Zarqawi, former leader of Al-Qaeda in

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<sup>148</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/al-shabab-suspected-deadly-kenyan-gun-attack-150707044045505.html> (English).

<sup>149</sup> <http://goo.gl/3njmVV> (Arabic).

<sup>150</sup> No source provided in Hebrew doc

<sup>151</sup> <https://dump.to/cGk> (Arabic).

<sup>152</sup> <https://dump.to/cKP> (Arabic).

Iraq; and Sheikh Osama bin Laden, former leader of Al-Qaeda – all of them emphasizing the importance of fulfilling the commandments of jihad against the enemies of Islam.<sup>153</sup>

## China

- The Islamic State published part of a song in the Uyghur language and translated into English, called “Come, My Friend”. The song called upon Muslims in general, and specifically the Muslims in the Xinjiang region of western China (also known as eastern Turkistan) to immigrate to Islamic Caliphate territory and fight alongside it, and fulfil the commandments of jihad.<sup>154</sup>

## Iran

- The Al-Faruq media institution, belonging to the Ansar al-Furqan Salafi jihad organization in Baluchestan, published an article titled “The System of Blood and Dust” by Sufyan Balush. The article told the story of a battle between Ansar al-Furqan fighter and Iranian security forces in Iranian territory.<sup>155</sup>

## The West

- The Al-Wa’d media institution, assisting with public relations for the Islamic State, published a video titled “A Message to Our People in France”. The video included old material that had been published by the Islamic State in the past, while expressing the attempt to continue recruiting Muslims living in France to take part in jihad and lone wolf terror attacks. The video began with a collection of images of IS fighters, and continued with an interview with one of the fighters in Arabic and French. The man interviewed praised fulfilling the commandments of jihad, and glorified the terrorist Amedy Coulibaly as a perfect example and someone to emulate because of the attack he carried out in France and fulfilled the commandments of jihad.<sup>156</sup> In the social networks, IS fighters called for continuing that trend and planted messages on the subject under hashtags in French, such as: #FakirTuNesRienSansTwitter.

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

<sup>154</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>155</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>156</sup> [https://twitter.com/ent\\_wadd/status/618867078053892096](https://twitter.com/ent_wadd/status/618867078053892096) (Arabic).



The video banner

## ABOUT THE ICT

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