



**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 2016

## Highlights

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

- In honor of Eid al-Fitr, **Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada**, the leader of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**, stresses the Emirate's obligation to work toward the liberation of Afghanistan from foreign – especially US – control. According to him, jihad is the way to achieve this goal but caution must also be taken not to harm innocent civilians and not to attack public areas.
- Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda**, praises the Uyghur mujahideen from **eastern Turkestan** (Xinjiang Region in western China) for their contribution to the struggle against the Alawite, secular, Shi'ite Crusader campaign in the arena of jihad in Afghanistan. According to him, the Turkestani fighters are a symbol and role model for the Muslim Nation, both for their determination in fulfilling the obligation of jihad and for their efforts to maintain unity among the ranks of the mujahideen. In his opinion, considerable importance must be ascribed to building and cultivating the system of jihad, dawah and the recruitment of Muslims in Turkestan against the Chinese regime in light of the brutal persecution that they suffer at its hands, and he calls on the Turkestani mujahideen to focus efforts on this issue.
- **Abu Hamza**, a member of **Al-Qaeda**, and the son of Sheikh Osama bin Laden, threatens to take revenge on the US and its allies for killing his father and for the persecution of Muslims in various Muslim countries.
- **Abu Yahya al-Hammam**, Emir of **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in the Sahara**, emphasizes that his organization is determined to continue its war against French forces due to their invasion of Mali, and he threatens to attack French and American areas both within and outside of Mali. In addition, al-Hammam calls on jihadist groups in the Sahel region to unite and join forces in the battle against the French army and the local army forces that are collaborating with it, and warns local power groups not to cooperate with the regimes in the area. In addition, al-Hammam appeals to Muslims in Mali and praises them for standing strong against the French invasion, and stresses that Mali must be liberated from foreign control.
- **Al-Nusra Front**, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, continues its PR campaign in honor of Ramadan about the importance of fulfilling the obligation of jihad during the month. For example, France

and Spain were mentioned as places where battles were fought between Muslims and local residents in early Islam.

- **Asim Umar**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent**, emphasizes that India's Hindu population is considered an enemy of the Muslim Nation due to their lack of faith in Allah and their efforts to clear India of a Muslim presence, as evidenced by the rise of Modi as Prime Minister of India thanks to incitement against Muslims.
- Twelve prominent sages serving as representatives of various Salafi-jihadist factions in Syria, including **Al-Nusra Front**, **Ahrar al-Sham** and others, announce the establishment of an Islamic legal body called the "Assembly of Al-Sham Scholar". In their vision, the role of the new body is to serve as source of Islamic authority on issues concerning the Syrian arena, to publish fatwas concerning general issues and to unite the ranks of the mujahideen by, among other things, establishing a court to settle disputes between factions.
- **Abu Ubaidah**, the leader of **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen**, makes a public speech for the first time since being appointed leader of the organization two years ago. In his speech, he calls on his fighters to battle against African Union forces in southern Somalia, claiming that their goal is not to maintain peace in the region but rather to plunder Somalia's resources. Abu Ubaidah also accuses Turkey of attempting to perpetuate Somalia's primitiveness and refers to it as an enemy state.
- The **Islamic State** publishes a video regarding the structure of the Islamic Caliphate and the role of its various institutions. According to him, the establishment of the Caliphate reflects the fulfillment of the dream of Muslims and their success in thwarting the efforts of the enemies of Islam who try to prevent it.
- The **Islamic State in Bangladesh** intensifies its propaganda activities among the Muslim residents of Bangladesh, and calls on Muslims in Bangladesh to fulfill the obligation of jihad and fight against the infidel Bangladesh regime. In addition, the organization claims responsibility for a series of assassinations of Hindu religious figures and Christian preachers.
- The **East Africa Front**, which supports the Islamic State, declares that it is committed to eliminating heretics from East African countries, including Tanzania and Zanzibar. In addition, the organization calls on jihad fighters from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda who belong to **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen** to defect and join the East Africa Front.

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- Al-Sahab Media Foundation, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published video no. 9 titled, “Turkestan: Patience, then Victory” in the framework of a series of publications titled, “The Islamic Spring” by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of the organization.

In his opening remarks, al-Zawahiri summarized the main points and central themes covered by previous parts of the series. Afterwards, he explained that the ninth part of the series was dedicated to the issue of Muslims in eastern Turkestan. According to him, Muslims in this region of the world are suffering tyranny at the hands of the Chinese regime and the religion of Islam is harshly suppressed. He noted that the battle against the Chinese occupier will be long and difficult, and will require appropriate preparations to which the Muslim Nation must be mobilized and efforts concentrated on the dawah system in Turkestan to encourage residents of the region to return to Islam. He added that Turkestani Muslims are also preoccupied with battle and the fulfilment of the obligation to wage a war of jihad in every arena of jihad, thereby fulfilling an important principle in Islam according to which every Muslim is obligated to migrate from his land if he is unable to wage jihad. For example, Sheikh Abdallah Azzam, one of the founders of Al-Qaeda, did this when he migrated from Palestine to Afghanistan since he could not wage a war of jihad against the Jews. Sheikh Osama bin Laden, the leader of the organization, and Sheikh Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the founder of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, also acted in this manner. Following their move, they established an action base from which they could fulfil the obligation to wage a war of jihad. This was also the path taken by Abu Muhammad al-Turkistani, who migrated to the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan and swore allegiance to it. In general, according to al-Zawahiri, the latter absorbed mujahideen and migrants from eastern Turkestan and other areas.

Al-Zawahiri emphasized that it is important to remember that the Zionists were plotting to take over Palestine by taking part with its allies in the two world wars that took place in Europe, Libya, Egypt and the Levant. According to him, the infidels succeeded in establishing a broad

front, which included the Iranians, in order to prevent the establishment of an Islamic state in the Levant.<sup>1</sup>

Al-Zawahiri went on to praise the contribution of the Turkestan mujahideen in various arenas of jihad. For example, he noted the good reputation that they have as experienced and dedicated fighters in Afghanistan who fearlessly protect the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan from the aggression of the Pakistani regime, the US and its allies, and other enemies. He added that their contribution can be prominently seen in the Syrian arena. According to him, victory in Syria will prove to the oppressed people in Egypt and Tunisia that the path of dawah and jihad is the correct path that will lead the nation to victory and herald the Islamic Spring. Al-Zawahiri also emphasized that the dedication of the Turkestan mujahideen is a role model for everyone and indicates their determination to maintain unity among the ranks of the mujahideen in the struggle against the Shi'ite, Alawite, Crusader and secular campaign aimed at uprooting jihad and Islam. In light of this, al-Zawahiri called on them to continue to stand strong and united against the infidel front. In conclusion, he again praised the contribution of the Turkestan mujahideen for defending Islam in Turkestan, Afghanistan and the Levant, and he called on Muslims to help them and support them the entire way.



- A recorded speech by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri praising Sheikh Abu Basir Nasir al-Wahishi, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula who was killed about one year ago in a US drone strike. Al-Zawahiri addressed al-Wahishi's contribution to the arena of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://justpaste.it/vvaw>

jihad in Yemen and in general, as well as biographical information about his military path. For example, he addressed the correspondence between al-Wahishi and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the IS, according to which al-Wahishi refused to join the ranks of the IS and clarified to him that it is preferable to retain allegiance to al-Zawahiri. The latter also stated that he instructed al-Wahishi to kidnap American and Iranian diplomats in order to serve as a bargaining chip to release members of the organization.

Al-Zawahiri also accused Saudi Arabia and its allies of assassinating Zahran 'Alush, the former leader of Jaysh al-Islam, a rebel faction in Syria, and of attempting to create a rift among the ranks of the mujahideen in Syria. In addition, he accused the leaders of the Gulf States of corrupting jihad in Syria. According to him, jihad in Syria is divided into two types: members of the first type are ignorant and stupid fighters who mill around a false caliphate, and members of the second type are fighters who follow the orders of the Saudi and Gulf regimes.<sup>2</sup>



The banner of a speech by al-Zawahiri in praise of the former AQAP leader

- A recorded speech by Abu Hamza, the son of Sheikh Osama bin Laden, titled, "We Are All Osama", in which he threatened to take revenge on the US and its allies for killing his father: "We will continue to strike you and attack you on your soil and beyond in response to oppression of the people of Palestine, Afghanistan, the Levant, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia and other Islamic countries that are exposed to your oppression". He added that

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<sup>2</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

“the revenge of the Muslim Nation for Osama is not revenge for the man, but rather revenge for the one who defended Islam and its holy places”.<sup>3</sup>



The banner of the audio clip, “We are all Osama”

- Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, a senior Salafi-jihadist supporter of Al-Qaeda exiled in London, published the following on his Twitter account:
  - Correspondence regarding an explosion that took place at the Prophet’s Mosque in Medina in Saudi Arabia. According to him, the ones responsible for the terrorist attack were either IS fighters, who he referred to as *Khawarij* (a derogatory term for a separatist sect advocating violence named after an ancient sect that broke off from mainstream Sunna in the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD), radical Shi’ites or Hezbollah. Al-Sibai further described events from the past in which the Khawarij or Shi’ites attacked Sunnis, and noted that even though the Khawarij and Shi’ites have a different faith, they agree among themselves to damage and abandon Sunni mosques.<sup>4</sup>
  - An announcement titled, “Wrong are those who think that the Islamic State Claims Responsibility for Every Killing that is Carried Out”. In the announcement, al-Sibai listed incidents in which IS fighters took part but they did not publish an announcement claiming responsibility for the incident. He added that *DABIQ* magazine, which is affiliated with the IS, does not have a Twitter account and what was published regarding the organization’s refusal to claim responsibility was fake. Al-Sibai claimed that the IS

<sup>3</sup> <https://justpaste.it/w3en>

<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/hanisibu/status/750182451398512640>

does not immediately publish a claim of responsibility but rather waits for a response so that the claim of responsibility will be interpreted in its favor. He added that as long as a claim of responsibility can be interpreted in a negative light, the organization will not take responsibility for an incident. Al-Sibai also claimed that the IS does not recognize the mosques of Muslims and so it has no problem attacking them, apparently referring to the mosque in Medina in Saudi Arabia. In addition, at the end of the announcement, al-Sibai noted that the Islamic State is harming jihad in Syria and in the world in general.<sup>5</sup>

- An announcement in which he claimed that there is no comparison between the Egyptian army and Mamluks (rulers of Egypt and Syria in the 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries CE) since the Mamluks were jihad fighters who brought victory to Islam and took part in battles against infidels while the Egyptian army depends on enemies of Islam, kills and imprisons Muslims, and protects the interests of their enemies.<sup>6</sup>
- A tweet in which he expressed joy over the death of Abu Omar al-Shishani, an IS commander in Syria. He also added that one should not regret his death but rather should feel sorry for all of the Muslims that he slaughtered.<sup>7</sup>
- The Turkistan Islamic Party, a Salafi-jihadist organization associated with Al-Qaeda, published a video titled, “Come to Jihad”. In the video, members of the organization called on Muslims to fulfil the obligation to wage jihad against the infidels.<sup>8</sup>
- Al-Mourabitoun, an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published audio clips containing several chapters on Islamic legal issues. For example, a member of the organization named Abu Hamza al-Ansari discussed the fast of the month of Ramadan.<sup>9</sup>
- Al-Istiqlama jihadist media institution published the following:
  - An article by a writer named Qari Sa'id Khusti, a member of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, titled, “Afghan Fatimides in Syria and the Islamic Emirate”. The writer addressed the question of why members of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan are not operating in the field against Afghan Shi'ites who are migrating to Syria in order to fight

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<sup>5</sup> <https://twitter.com/hanisibu/status/750405691865763840>

<sup>6</sup> <https://twitter.com/hanisibu/status/753328116563607552>

<sup>7</sup> <https://goo.gl/wWya9X>

<sup>8</sup> <https://justpaste.it/w0n1>

<sup>9</sup> <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=yRaSlb3YqRc>

alongside the Assad regime. According to the writer, an escalation to religious conflict between Shi'ites (who he referred to as Fatimids, a dynasty of Ismaili Shi'ite rulers in the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries) and Sunnis will surely serve the enemies of Islam, led by the US, who strive to create division among the ranks of Muslims and weaken their strength. Therefore, the Emirate is warned against activity that could cause Afghanistan to deteriorate into a bloody war. Nevertheless, the writer remarked that the Islamic Emirate was not indifferent to the existence of this trend of Shi'ite migrants from Afghanistan to Syria and that it was trying to warn Afghan Shi'ites living in areas that are not under the control of the Emirate not to leave for Syria. According to him, the Shi'ite population living in areas under the Emirate's control is not interested in migrating to Syria and is even partner to the Emirate's interest in expelling US forces from Afghanistan and the battle against the pro-West government in Kabul. In light of this, the writer explained that the Emirate is not interested in escalating the tension with the Shi'ite population in Afghanistan but at the same time is proceeding with caution in order to deter Shi'ites not under its control to avoid this trend.<sup>10</sup>

- Amaq News Agency published a news item regarding the death of Sheikh Abu Umar al-Shishani, a senior commander in the organization, in the city of Sharqat while he was taking part in a battle against army forces in the city of Mosul.<sup>11</sup> Upon learning of his death, several jihadist media institutions published eulogies and condolences. For example, the Hafidat Aisha jihadist media institution, published a collection of video clips and photos of al-Shishani,<sup>12</sup> and Jaysh Abnaa al-Khilafa published the nasheed (Islamic national anthem) in his memory.<sup>13</sup> In contrast, a senior Salafi-jihadist philosopher named Abu Qattada al-Filastini expressed his joy over al-Shishani's death and explained that since members of the IS are considered Khawarij (dissenters), it is permissible to be happy about their deaths.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> <https://justpaste.it/imarahhazaraa>

<sup>11</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>12</sup> [https://archive.org/details/translator\\_201607](https://archive.org/details/translator_201607)

<sup>13</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>14</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).



#### Eulogies in memory of al-Shishani

- A message was published from a former prisoner in a Saudi Arabian jail who expressed support and encouragement for the IS. In the framework of her message, the anonymous writer called on women to continue to support the organization in light of the propaganda campaign being waged against it. In addition, she encouraged men to take revenge on the authorities in Saudi Arabia by following in the footsteps of Muhammad Hizam al-Maleki, a fighter who was killed after trying to attack a police station in Taif, Saudi Arabia, in May 2016. The writer even recommended that fighters use encrypted Telegram conversations and then delete the messages, as well as the jihadist videos that they watch, for security reasons.<sup>15</sup>
- Sheikh Abu Basir al-Tartusi, a Salafi-jihadist proponent of Syrian origin, published a series of statements regarding the Syrian revolution, which constituted Part 3 in the series titled, "Notebook of the Revolution and the Revolutionaries". The statements were published during the period between May 19, 2016 and June 24, 2016.<sup>16</sup>

#### ***The Month of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr***

- In honor of the fast of the month of Ramadan, various jihadist organizations, including branches of Al-Qaeda, the Islamic State and other jihadist organizations such as the Turkestan Islamic Party published various publications on the topic. Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, published videos regarding various battles and territorial conquests that took place during the month of Ramadan throughout Muslim history titled, "Ramadan the Month of Conquests". In one of the videos, a member of Al-Nusra Front emphasized that jihad fighters are armed with faith and motivation to fight against the Syrian regime and its allies, and are willing to sacrifice

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<sup>15</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb/> (Arabic);

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/saudi-arabia/terrorist-involved-police-station-attack-killed/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

their lives especially during the month of Ramadan, which is considered a holy month in Islam.<sup>17</sup> Another video documented several members of the organization dining at a table after breaking the Ramadan fast. Some of them noted that jihad is the solution and adherence to it will lead to victory over the enemies of Islam.<sup>18</sup>

- The Ministry of Dawah and Guidance, an organization composed of Salafi-jihadist sages entrusted with bequeathing and spreading Salafi-jihadist thought among the local population, and which has close ties to Al-Nusra Front, published the following:
  - A series of publications titled, “Ramadan: The Month of Conquests”. The series documented activities by the ministry’s sages in mosques in honor of the month of Ramadan, especially in the southern areas of Aleppo and eastern Idlib.<sup>19</sup>



**Photos of sermons given by Ministry of Dawah and Guidance sages in mosques during Ramadan**

- A video documenting a visit by several members of the organization to businesses belonging to the city’s residents to mark Eid al-Fitr, the celebration to mark the end of the Ramadan fast. In the framework of the visit, members of the organization blessed the residents in honor of the end of the fast and praised the memory of the city’s residents who were martyred.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=BTxevtMK0jE>

<sup>18</sup> [https://ia801506.us.archive.org/4/items/Fotohat\\_27](https://ia801506.us.archive.org/4/items/Fotohat_27)

<sup>19</sup> <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=pAstKOFXRNM>; [https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=TA\\_WvtkP6j4&](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=TA_WvtkP6j4&)

<sup>20</sup> <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=-DTGIhVRG58>

## Strategy

- Al-Furqan jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a video in English regarding the structure of the Islamic Caliphate. In the opening of the video, the narrator stressed that the establishment of the Caliphate is the fulfilment of all of the desires of Muslims. According to him, the enemies of Islam – led by the West – failed in their efforts to sabotage the establishment of the Caliphate. Nevertheless, Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi succeeded in revitalizing Islam with the establishment of the Caliphate. After the opening, the video focused on the authority of the Caliphate, the list of provinces (*Wilayat*) that comprise the Caliphate (19 in Syria and Iraq, and 16 outside of them), the role of departments in the Caliphate (*Dawawin*), and the organization's committees and ministries.

The following is a list of the department names:

- Diwan of Judgment and Grievances
- Diwan of Hisbah
- Diwan of Proselytizing and Mosques
- Diwan of Zakah
- Diwan of Media
- Diwan of Public Security
- Diwan of Services
- Diwan of Soldiery
- Diwan of Education
- Diwan of Health
- Diwan of Agriculture
- Diwan of Resources
- Diwan of Treasury
- Diwan of Fay' and Ghana'im [Loot and Booty]
- The Committees and Offices
- The Hijrah Committee
- Committee for Affairs of Prisoners and Shuhada'
- Office of Research and Studies
- Administration of Distant Wilayat

- Office of Public and Tribal Relations

The end of the video included a collection of beheadings of enemies of the organization.<sup>21</sup>



**A diagram of the structure of the Caliphate according to what was published in the video**

- In its magazine, *Al-Naba*, the IS published a summary of its military activities around the world during the month of Ramadan. According to an announcement that was published during the month, over 5,200 “infidels and apostates” were killed and injured, 440 army vehicles were destroyed and six reconnaissance drones. The seven major attacks that were listed in the announcement were: attacks against “Crusader” forces in Nigeria, the killing of a French police officer and his wife in France, the assassination of an American officer at the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, a suicide attack against an American-Jordanian base in Jordan, an attack against subjects of the “Crusader States” in Bangladesh, a suicide attack against a bus of security forces in Pakistan, and an attack against an LGBT club in Orlando.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> <https://ia601507.us.archive.org/4/items/StructureOfTheKhilafahEN>

<sup>22</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CnL---KWEAAduPp.jpg>



**A summary of IS activities during the month of Ramadan 2016**

- Al-Wa'd jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for the IS, published a video titled, "In Your Own Homes". In the video, which was mostly composed of clips from previous videos, showed video footage from terrorist attacks in the West accompanied by the caption, "What is Next – Roma – Berlin or Moscow" and the promise "to burn America" and send "lone lions" to carry out additional attacks.<sup>23</sup>
- Visitors to the Da'wa al-Haqq jihadist news portal held a discussion regarding the decision made by Twitter and Facebook to immediately delete the Islamic State's posts using automatic detection. In order to cope with this challenge, visitors advised changing the words and common phrases that appear in the headings of the organization's publications and to make minor changes to its videos (making a minor change to color, inserting a flag in one corner of the screen) in order to change the "digital fingerprint" of the publication and prevent these detection tools from automatically deleting them.<sup>24</sup>
- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, which is identified with the IS, sought clarification from forum members as to whether the scanning devices at the airport entrance can detect a chlorate device mixed in black caraway and well-hidden inside a teddy bear, while using acetone peroxide as a fuse. One visitor responded that the explosive material can be

<sup>23</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>24</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46524>

wrapped in 2-cm. thick silicone and dipped in spices and hot pepper in order to prevent the airport dogs from detecting the smell. The same visitor even advised giving the teddy bear to a child to hold rather than transporting it in luggage to reduce the possibility of the device being discovered.<sup>25</sup>

## Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** launched a new series of publications encouraging the fulfilment of the obligation of jihad titled, “Life in Jihad”. The video included words of praise by several spokesmen for the organization in memory of the martyrs who were killed in the line of duty in the Emirate.<sup>26</sup>
- **Al-Nusra Front**, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Syria, published a video in memory of Mahmud Qara ‘Ali (aka Abu ‘Ali al-Suri), a member of the organization. The video included interviews that were held with members of the organization about his life and personality.<sup>27</sup>



The banner in memory of Abu ‘Ali al-Suri, a member of Al-Nusra Front

- Al-Fursan jihadist media institution published a biography about the martyr, Abu Qasura al-Makki, which constituted Part 5 in a series of publications titled, “The Martyrs of Khorasan”. According to the biography, al-Makki migrated from Saudi Arabia to Afghanistan in order to take part in the jihad war against US army forces in 2009. In Afghanistan, he was involved in training at mujahideen army camps and took part in battle. In 2010, he began to teach classes on shari'a

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<sup>25</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>26</sup> <https://archive.org/details/PartFromTheSeriesOfLifeInJihad>

<sup>27</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

and Islamic law, and served as a member of a Shari'a Council, apparently one belonging to Al-Qaeda. In 2014, he was killed in a gun battle with US army forces in Afghanistan.<sup>28</sup>



The banner in memory of Abu Qasura al-Makki

- Jaysh al-Islam, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Syria, published a eulogy in memory of Sheikh 'Umar al-Shishani, a senior IS military commander who was killed in March 2016.<sup>29</sup>

## Magazines

- Issue no. 12 of the magazine, *Ihya al-Khilafa*, was published by the Taliban in Pakistan.<sup>30</sup>



The issue banner

<sup>28</sup> <https://justpaste.it/w6w1>

<sup>29</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>30</sup> <https://ia801500.us.archive.org/22/items/IhyaekhilafatMagzineNo12>

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published issue no. 15 of its magazine, *Al-Masra*. The periodical reviewed developments in various arenas of jihad where Al-Qaeda and its various branches operate, and gathered the official publications and declarations by leaders of the organization. One particularly prominent interview was given to Al-Masra by Hamd bin Hamud al-Tamimi, a member of AQAP's Sharia Council, regarding the assassinations of jihad commanders. According to him, these assassinations were a hard blow but despite all of the sadness and pain, the war of jihad against the infidels continues and the jihad leaders who are killed are replaced with a new line of leadership. Moreover, according to him, the death of a jihad commander also has positive elements. With his death, his name becomes famous, thereby spreading his teachings advocating a war of jihad, inspiring other Muslims to perform this obligation, and more.<sup>31</sup>



The issue banner

- Issue no. 38 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, was published by the Islamic State. The periodical reviews central developments in various arenas of jihad in which members of the organization operate, and gathers the organization's official publications and announcements.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>32</sup> <https://ia801505.us.archive.org/17/items/Naba38>



The issue banner

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

*The first half of July opened with a declaration by the new leader of the Taliban, Hibatullah Akhundzada, in honor of Eid al-Fitr, in which he called for the end of the American occupation in Afghanistan as a condition for an agreement with the Kabul government to be based on Islamic law.<sup>33</sup> Meanwhile, US President Barack Obama announced a slowdown in the rate of withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan. According to the new roadmap, 8,400 US soldiers will remain at the end of 2016 instead of 5,500 as was previously planned.<sup>34</sup> In addition, it was decided that NATO would continue to provide financial support in Afghanistan until 2020 and continue its military presence until the end of the year.<sup>35</sup> Meanwhile, the spokesman for the Afghan President claimed that the Kabul government does not intend to renew peace talks aimed at bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table with the Kabul government, after efforts by four countries – Afghanistan, Pakistan, the US and China – to renew peace talks did not yield results.<sup>36</sup>*

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/taliban-leader-peace-foreigners-leaving-160702090651574.html> (English).

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/obama-leave-8400-troops-afghanistan-160706144621883.html> (English).

<sup>35</sup> <http://goo.gl/m8dDyJ>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/afghan-official-plans-revive-taliban-peace-talks-160714083916947.html> (English).

*At the same time, Umar Narai, a senior Taliban in Pakistan official who was responsible for the slaughter at a school in northwest Peshawar in 2014, was killed in a US air strike in Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan.<sup>37</sup>*

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

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
  - An announcement by Hibatullah Akhundzada, the leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, in honor of Eid al-Fitr. In the beginning of his announcement, Akhundzada referred to the organization's previous leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, and stressed his contribution to jihad. He went on to claim that even though the organization's previous leader were martyred, Islam and the mujahideen are still as strong as ever. He added that he considers the leadership of the Islamic Emirate to be a great responsibility and vowed to continue the path of its previous leader. He added that the organization has a clear policy whose goal is the end of the occupation, the establishment of an independent state and the establishment of an Islamic system, and he noted that the organization's Ministry for Political Affairs will continue its efforts to find a solution to the Afghan issue. Akhundzada also called on supporters of the invaders, referring to the Afghan government, to stop their support and start working to liberate Afghanistan. He added that the Afghan government must not be swept away by the hopes given to them by the Americans because the Afghan people stand against them. Akhundzada then called on Muslims around the world to support the mujahideen in order to liberate Afghanistan, and he noted that the US occupation harms the interests of Afghanistan with countries in the region. At the end of his announcement, Akhundzada called on the mujahideen to exercise caution in their jihad activities and not attack public places.<sup>38</sup>
  - An announcement condemning the attack that was carried out at the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, in Saudi Arabia. According to the announcement, the organization views the

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<sup>37</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/pakistan-school-attack-mastermind-killed-strike-160714043215785.html> (English).

<sup>38</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=981> (English).

attack as an act of hatred against Islamic ritual and, therefore, such an act must encourage Muslims to fight together.<sup>39</sup>

- An announcement by the spokesman of the organization regarding the visit by the US Secretary of Defense to Afghanistan. The announcement stated that during the visit, he awarded additional authority to the commander of American forces and discussed keeping 400 additional soldiers near Afghanistan. The announcement added that American leaders need to accept the reality instead of making empty statements, end the occupation in Afghanistan and save itself from international embarrassment. The announcement also stated that the Islamic Emirate's struggle against the conquerors will continue until its complete independence from Afghanistan and the establishment of an Islamic system, and that no threat will stop the organization, not even the granting of greater authority to the commander of US forces.<sup>40</sup>
- A video from the Umar Ibn Al-Khattab training camp, which is located in Kunduz in northern Afghanistan.<sup>41</sup>

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

- The Taliban in Pakistan published a propaganda video titled, "Raid on India – Part 3" about the persecution of Pakistani citizens by the Pakistani regime. In addition, the video reviewed the organization's armed actions against Pakistani military forces.<sup>42</sup>

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

- The Islamic State in Khorasan Province published a video titled, "Khorasan: Graveyard of the Apostates 2". The video opened with a historical review of the situation in Afghanistan and operations by IS fighters against the Taliban and the Afghan army. The video also showed the organization's fighters in Khorasan (a historical nickname for Pakistan, Afghanistan and countries of the region) in various attacks, such as: an attack against the Taliban headquarters in

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<sup>39</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=1095> (English).

<sup>40</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=1230> (English).

<sup>41</sup> [https://ia801504.us.archive.org/25/items/iea\\_663](https://ia801504.us.archive.org/25/items/iea_663)

<sup>42</sup> [https://archive.org/download/Ghazwa-e-Hind\\_03](https://archive.org/download/Ghazwa-e-Hind_03)

Shadal, in Nangarhar Province, and an invasion (*inghimās*) of the Pakistani Consulate in the city of Jalalabad. The video also showed the executions of Taliban fighters who were taken captive by the organization, one of which was carried out by a young boy.<sup>43</sup>



A child in Khorasan Province executing a Taliban captive

## The Arabian Peninsula

*Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) displayed initiative and determination in its battle against Houthi forces in the country but also suffered casualties. In the beginning of July, AQAP fighters attacked Al-Sulban military camp in Aden and managed to seize control of the camp, which had been under the control of Houthi forces. Two AQAP suicide terrorists drove an explosives-ridden car and detonated at the gate of the camp in order to enable the other members to storm the camp. However, the organization was forced to retreat from the camp after several hours as a result of an attack by Yemeni army forces.<sup>44</sup> The organization also suffered casualties as a result of US drone fire.<sup>45</sup> In addition, the US declared its intention to improve its preparedness in Yemen ahead of an attack against the organization as declared by the Commander of the US Central Command, General Joseph Votel.<sup>46</sup>*

*Despite the blows suffered by the organization, IS fighters managed to return to Abyan Province in southern Yemen and seize control of several centers after voluntarily retreating from the province*

<sup>43</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46579>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abwMCK5LkyY> ; <http://www.alhayat.com/Articles/16477857> اليمن--الجيش-يصد-هجوم--القاعدة--على-معسكر-الأمن-في-عدن

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/831794/us-strikes-kill-4-al-qaida-terrorists-in-yemen> (English).

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/2016/07/15/الجيش-الأميركي-يدرس-تعزيز-وجوده-لمواجهة-القاعدة.html> (Arabic).

*two months earlier thanks to mediation by local tribes. It should be noted that Abyan Province holds strategic importance since it serves as the eastern gateway to the city of Aden.<sup>47</sup> In addition, the organization scored an achievement with its killing of a senior leader of the “popular resistance”.<sup>48</sup>*

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

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published a video documenting its fighters undergoing physical training, hand-to-hand combat and weapons training at the Hamza al-Zinjibari training camp, named for the organization’s senior field commander who was killed in a US drone strike in 2015. The video also included statements by several senior members of the organization about the dedication of AQAP fighters to fulfilling the obligation of jihad against the enemies of Islam.<sup>49</sup>



**Top left to right: photo of Hamza al-Zinjibari, the video banner; Bottom: AQAP fighters undergoing training**

### **Iraq**

<sup>47</sup> أبين-اليمنية-البوابة-الشرقية-لعدن-بين-القاعدة-والإهمال-الحكومي/ (Arabic). <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2016/7/7/>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.elwatanneWS.com/news/details/1249939>

<sup>49</sup> <https://justpaste.it/HamzaCamp>; <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

*The first half of July opened with a series of terrorist attacks by the IS against security forces and Shi'ite targets in the capital city of Baghdad. The most prominent attack was a car bomb explosion at a shopping center in the Shi'ite neighborhood of Al-Karada, in central Baghdad. The explosion, which took place at the height of shopping for Eid al-Fitr, killed over 250 people.<sup>50</sup> That same day, another terrorist attack took place at the entrance to a market in the Shi'ite neighborhood of al-Sha'ab, which is also located in Baghdad. In addition, IS fighters attacked a Shi'ite holy place north of Baghdad. As a result of these attacks, the Iraqi Interior Minister resigned.<sup>51</sup> Later in the month, additional terrorist attacks took place in Baghdad, which led to casualties among the security forces and civilian population, including a car bomb explosion at the entrance to a market in Al-Rashidiyah neighborhood in northern Baghdad<sup>52</sup> and another explosion at a checkpoint in the same neighborhood.<sup>53</sup> Analysts claimed that the attacks in Iraq were becoming more lethal in order to create instability in the country after the organization started to lose territory in Iraq, including the city of Al-Fallujah, which was liberated by the Iraqi army at the end of June.<sup>54</sup>*

*Meanwhile, the US decided to send 560 additional forces to Iraq in order to help the Iraqi army capture the city of Mosul from the IS.<sup>55</sup> Meanwhile, the Iraqi army continued to try to establish its presence in Al-Qayyarah, located south of Mosul, in order to prepare the ground for the capture of the city. In this framework, the army – with aerial assistance from the US – managed to liberate an air force base near Al-Qayyarah from the IS. At least 38 IS fighters were killed in an army attack against the base.<sup>56</sup>*

## ***The Islamic State***

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<sup>50</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/iraq-bombing-baghdad-death-toll-rises-250-160706045245744.html> (English).

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/30-killed-isil-assault-iraq-shrine-160708040331081.html> (English).

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/iraq-deaths-car-bomb-market-attack-baghdad-160712070446950.html> (English).

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/iraq-isil-claims-deadly-checkpoint-attack-baghdad-160713101012356.html> (English).

<sup>54</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/07/04/middleeast/baghdad-car-bombs> (English).

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/send-560-troops-iraq-160711133237770.html> (English).

<sup>56</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/07/09/middleeast/iraq-mosul-isis-air-base/> (English).

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

A. Battles, Military Deployments and Executions:

- Dijla Province: A video titled, “Deterrence of the Monotheists of the Campaigns of the Apostates”. The 30-minute video documented the battles waged by the organization in the province against Iraqi army forces. The attacks were carried out in memory of the organization’s media person known as Abu Fatima. The video combined the wills of several suicide terrorists, including a fighter of Palestinian origin known as Abu al-Mu’tasim al-Filastini.<sup>57</sup>



**Attacks against the Iraqi army in Dijla Province**

- Various provinces: Filmed reviews, videos and announcements regarding various operations, including: suicide attacks and car bomb explosions of military vehicles in the area of Baghdad, Sharqat and Makhul,<sup>58</sup> a suicide attack against the PMF west of Tikrit,<sup>59</sup> attacks against the Iraqi army in the area of Baiji (in one of the attacks the suicide terrorist was of French origin and in another attack the terrorist was of British origin),<sup>60</sup> an attack against the army on the Haditha-Baiji road,<sup>61</sup> attacks against the army on the outskirts of Al-Nasr village west of Makhmur,<sup>62</sup> a suicide attack in the Karrada District in Baghdad,<sup>63</sup> an attack

<sup>57</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

<sup>58</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46568>

<sup>59</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46583>

<sup>60</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46580>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46578>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46699>

<sup>61</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/47444>

<sup>62</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46628>

<sup>63</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46712>

- against Peshmerga posts northwest of Mosul,<sup>64</sup> several suicide attacks against the Iraqi army and militias north of Baghdad,<sup>65</sup> a report of ten Iraqi army soldiers killed in Rutba,<sup>66</sup> and a report of 100 killed and wounded in an attack at a tomb in a Shi'ite shrine in the city of Balad, south of Samarra.<sup>67</sup>
- Diyala Province: A filmed review regarding the execution of five members of the “Tribal Union”.<sup>68</sup>

B. Propaganda and PR:

- Various provinces: Several provinces published videos on the subject of Ramadan under the following titles: “Ramadan, the Month of Jihad” (*Nineveh*)<sup>69</sup> and “Ramadan, the Month of Jihad and the Quran” (*Al-Jizra*). The videos included the following content: a review of battles held during the month of Ramadan throughout Islamic history, praise for the Quran that was given to the Prophet Mohammad during the month of Ramadan, encouragement for Muslims in the West to kill every “infidel” that they encounter, and footage of IS fighters during battle and prayer during Ramadan.<sup>70</sup>
- Nineveh Province: A video titled, “This is Our Holiday”, which documented the Eid al-Fitr atmosphere in the city of Mosul. The video showed holiday celebrations among civilians in mosques and public parks, and among fighters on the front.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>64</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46653>

<sup>65</sup> [https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/CnQahK5WgAA\\_3fK.jpg](https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/CnQahK5WgAA_3fK.jpg);

<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/47405>

<sup>66</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/47161>

<sup>67</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Cm38JtkWYAA70b5.jpg>

<sup>68</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/47023>

<sup>69</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46666>

<sup>70</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46546>

<sup>71</sup> <https://ia601202.us.archive.org/25/items/edonaME/edona.mp4>



**Eid al-Fitr celebrations in the city of Mosul**

- The Amaq news agency published videos regarding the downing of an Iraqi army reconnaissance drone and a suicide attack south of Qayyara.<sup>72</sup>

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

*Battles continued in Syria, especially in the area of Manbij, which led to the displacement of at least 13,000 people.<sup>73</sup> The battles, which have been going on for a month, began with an attempt by Syrian Democratic Forces to expel the IS from the area.<sup>74</sup> Other intense battles took place in the area of Aleppo between local opposition militias and regime forces.<sup>75</sup> In honor of Eid al-Fitr, the Syrian army announced a 72-hour ceasefire<sup>76</sup> but on the last day of the ceasefire approximately 50 people were killed in air strikes on Idlib and other areas.<sup>77</sup> The month also saw casualties among foreign forces operating in Syria with a report by the Russian Ministry of Defense that two pilots were killed after their helicopter was downed in the area of Palmyra.<sup>78</sup>*

*A significant change was noted in the political arena with regard to Turkey's attitude towards Syria with the declaration of the Prime Minister of Turkey, Binali Yıldırım, that his country was interested in normalizing diplomatic relations with Damascus.<sup>79</sup> Meanwhile, US Secretary of State, John Kerry, held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin regarding military coordination in*

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<sup>72</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46755>; <https://sendvid.com/klwwypag>

<sup>73</sup> <https://goo.gl/KAT2k3>

<sup>74</sup> <https://goo.gl/Gr4ZS7>

<sup>75</sup> <https://goo.gl/T6ekTe>

<sup>76</sup> [http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/07/160706\\_syria\\_army\\_truce](http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/07/160706_syria_army_truce) (Arabic).

<sup>77</sup> <https://goo.gl/fncyLi>

<sup>78</sup> <https://goo.gl/aNPFFy>

<sup>79</sup> <https://goo.gl/V3uCEi>

Syria.<sup>80</sup> In contrast, the Supreme spiritual leader in Iran, Ali Khamenei, announced that he refused to coordinate with the US on the subject.<sup>81</sup>

### **The Islamic State**

- 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:

- Homs Province: A video titled, “The Clear Victory”, which described the Islamic State’s takeover of the Sha’er and Huwaysis gas fields in the north of the province. The video opened with a review of the organization’s successes in the province on the one hand, and addressed an attack by the Assad regime and Russia on the other hand. It went on to describe the attack itself, which included light and heavy weapons alongside artillery fire. The video ended with the explosion of facilities at the Sha’er gas field and explained that their destruction could harm Assad’s rule as he uses these resources in the framework of “his war against Islam”.<sup>82</sup>



**The destruction of the Sha’er gas field in Homs Province**

- Various provinces: Filmed reviews, videos and announcements regarding various operations, such as: a video regarding the destruction of a Syrian

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<sup>80</sup> [http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/07/160714\\_usa\\_russia\\_kerry\\_proposals](http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/07/160714_usa_russia_kerry_proposals) (Arabic).

<sup>81</sup> <https://goo.gl/Dlw4zw>

<sup>82</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46815>

army bulldozer using a guided missile in Jabal Tharda,<sup>83</sup> a thwarted attack by the Syrian regime and Shi'ite militias in eastern village area of Homs,<sup>84</sup> a series of attacks against Kurdish militias in the area of Manbij,<sup>85</sup> an attack near the Syria-Jordan border in which 16 people were killed and one member of the Syrian opposition was taken captive,<sup>86</sup> a suicide attack by an Uzbek terrorist against Syrian regime sites in Al-Khayr,<sup>87</sup> an announcement regarding the deaths of three members of Kurdish militias in an explosion of a booby-trapped house in western Hasakah Province,<sup>88</sup> the destruction of a Syrian army tank in the eastern countryside of Homs,<sup>89</sup> an announcement regarding the deaths of over 35 Kurdish militia forces in a suicide attack in the city of Hasakah,<sup>90</sup> an announcement regarding attacks against Kurdish militias in the area of Ayn Issa and Jabal Abd al-Aziz,<sup>91</sup> an announcement regarding the downing of a Russian helicopter and the takeover of three roadblocks east of Palmyra,<sup>92</sup> and a filmed review regarding the activities of air defense groups in eastern Qalamoun against the Syrian and Russian air forces.<sup>93</sup>

#### B. Propaganda and PR, and Civilian Issues:

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<sup>83</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46541>

<sup>84</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46719>

<sup>85</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46757>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46812>;  
<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46746>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46896>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/CnQaAXeW8AAgkE2.jpg>

<sup>86</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46760>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46810>

<sup>87</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46771>

<sup>88</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/CmmzN-RWIAAdd0K.jpg>

<sup>89</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/CmmyqsKWAAABLze.jpg>

<sup>90</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46963jpg>

<sup>91</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Cm3ktHVVYAAAGnER.jpg>

<sup>92</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Cm3krCoXYAA4dnG.jpg>;

<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/47156>

<sup>93</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/47080>

- *Raqqah Province*: A fictional film that simulates the story of a young Raqqah resident who joined the ranks of the IS. The video showed a lost boy named Mohammad who sees the suffering of his nation as a result of attacks by coalition forces, and is simultaneously exposed to IS videos on a smart phone. After visiting a mosque, where he meets a contact person, Mohammad arrived at the registration office in order to join the organization as a fighter. Mohammad took leave of his family and arrived at the shari'a training camp where he learned about Islamic commandments and then underwent military training at a training camp. The end of the video showed Mohammad during ribat (defense of Muslim land) against the enemies alongside his brothers in arms.<sup>94</sup>
- *Raqqah Province*: A video titled, “To the Knights of the Caliphate in Bengal” in Bengali and English, with Arabic translation. In the framework of the video, three Bengali fighters living in Syria made threats against the Bangladesh government, vowed to attack the “Crusaders and Jews” and encouraged Muslims in their homelands to financially support the mujahideen.<sup>95</sup>



**Threats from Syria against the Bangladesh government**

- *Raqqah Province*: A video regarding Eid al-Fitr in the city of Raqqah, including information about prayers and sermons in mosques, visiting the

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<sup>94</sup> [https://ia601205.us.archive.org/31/items/nafer\\_201607/nafer.mp4](https://ia601205.us.archive.org/31/items/nafer_201607/nafer.mp4)

<sup>95</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46966>

- sick and injured, dawah events, religious quizzes and courses on shari'a that were held during the month of Ramadan.<sup>96</sup>
- *Al-Khayr Province*: A video titled, "Ramadan in the Shadow of the Caliphate". In the framework of the video, the various operations carried out by the organization during the month were reviewed, both in terms of battles and military deployments (attacks and ribat) and in terms of civilian activities (dawah, the distribution of zakat to residents, infrastructure repair by the Ministry of Services, etc.). An effort was made in the video to present the lives of residents in the province as safe and peaceful thanks to the protection provided by the mujahideen.<sup>97</sup>
  - Amaq news agency in Syria published the following:
    - A video regarding the detonation of an explosive against a vehicle belonging to the commander of Asayish (the Kurdish police force) forces on the Qamishli-Tall Hamis Road.<sup>98</sup>
    - An announcement regarding the downing of an American attack drone above the city of Tabqa, west of Raqqah.<sup>99</sup>
    - A video of the downing of a MiG plane in Deir Ezzor and the death of the pilot.<sup>100</sup>
    - Videos on civilian topics, such as: dawah activities youth and children in one of the villages next to Tabqa<sup>101</sup> or the distribution of zakat to the needy in Raqqah.<sup>102</sup>

## Syria

### **Al-Nusra Front**

- Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, published the following:

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<sup>96</sup> <https://ia601209.us.archive.org/7/items/hadakm/hadakm.mp4>

<sup>97</sup> [https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46680\\_mp4](https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46680_mp4)

<sup>98</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46754>

<sup>99</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46897>

<sup>100</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/47397>

<sup>101</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46822>

<sup>102</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46972>

- An announcement regarding the liberation of the city of Kinsabba and other strategic points in Latakia Governorate after battles that took place in the area against the Alawite regime. In addition, the organization listed the weapons that it plundered following its capture of the city.<sup>103</sup>
- A clarification regarding Jaysh al-Tahrir. In the announcement, the organization criticized the call made by several sheikhs to bring the issue between Al-Nusra Front and Jaysh al-Tahrir to a shari'a court without informing the organization ahead of time, as well as the fact that they gave the organization short notice to respond to the proposal. Later in the announcement, the organization called for the establishment of a shari'a court to be agreed upon by both sides. The organization added that it had arrested the leader of Jaysh al-Tahrir on suspicion of implementing programs for the benefit of Americans. In addition, the organization claimed that it is not fighting against Jaysh al-Tahrir and even expressed willingness to give the new leadership of Jaysh al-Tahrir the weapons that were confiscated in the previous conflict between them. The organization added that it has no problem with the new leadership of Jaysh al-Tahrir but that its previous leader will remain in custody and be brought before a shari'a court.<sup>104</sup>
- An audio clip by Sheikh Abu Malik al-Shami, a senior member of the organization, regarding an attack that was carried out by members of the organization at a large Syrian army roadblock in western Qalamoun.<sup>105</sup>

### ***The Assembly of Al-Sham Scholars***

- Twelve prominent clerics from the Syrian revolution declared the establishment of the Assembly of Al-Sham Scholars, which will serve as a source of shari'a authority on issues concerning the Syrian arena, publish fatwas on general issues and bring about unity among the ranks. The announcement also stated that the Assembly's top priority is the establishment of a court to settle disputes among the factions and examine each one's claims in accordance with shari'a rulings. The announcement called on all factions to agree to a court and noted that the

<sup>103</sup> [https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmRNvhPVIAAm2\\_P.jpg](https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmRNvhPVIAAm2_P.jpg)

<sup>104</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cm4EPy2XgAESAC.jpg>

<sup>105</sup> [https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=if52BO\\_RqNg](https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=if52BO_RqNg)

Assembly is open to all clerics. Among the prominent founders of the Assembly are: a judge from Jaysh al-Fatah, Abdullah Al-Muhaysini; the former general shari'a advisor of Al-Nusra Front, Abu Maria al-Qahtani; the Chairman of the judiciary committee of Ahrar al-Sham, Ahmad Muhammad Najib; and a member of the shari'a council of Ahrar al-Sham, Ayman Harush.<sup>106</sup>



### **Ahrar al-Sham**

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
  - An announcement addressed to residents of the city of Jayrud, which is located in Al-Qalamoun, regarding the killing of the captive pilot. The announcement stated that the organization had nothing to do with the killing of the pilot who was captured in Jayrud. The announcement also stated that it had been agreed upon by the factions of the revolution to keep the pilot alive in order to free prisoners from among the city's residents and mujahideen who were in the jails of the Alawite regime.<sup>107</sup>
  - An announcement regarding a terrorist attack that was carried out by a suicide terrorist next to the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. In the announcement, the organization condemned the attack and claimed that such attacks emphasize the need for unity in order to eliminate evil. The organization also noted its battle against the Alawite regime and claimed that the regime is the only one to benefit from the acts of radicals who carry out these attacks.<sup>108</sup>

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<sup>106</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeFOi4KK09g>

<sup>107</sup> [https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cmcvz\\_uW8AArlp8.jpg](https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cmcvz_uW8AArlp8.jpg)

<sup>108</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmpL-VEXEAAjehs.jpg>

- An announcement regarding a report by Amnesty. In the announcement, the organization denied what was stated in Amnesty's previous report, according to which opposition forces in northern Syria were guilty of war crimes. The announcement also stated that the report focused on exceptional cases that are still under investigation and did not provide information about the crimes committed in those areas by the al-Assad regime. The organization also claimed that the Jaysh al-Fatah operations room is not a group, but rather a military operations room composed of several factions that differ in their policies and reject the link made between Ahrar al-Sham and Al-Nusra Front by Amnesty when it referred to them as one entity. The organization also denied that it sent representatives to a negotiation in Geneva, and asserted that Amnesty's claims that the organization destroyed churches, kidnapped Christians in Idlib and forced them to convert to Islam or leave were false. In this context, the organization noted that it protects minority groups in areas that it liberated in accordance with Islamic principles. The organization added that it was surprised not to have been contacted prior to the publication of the report even though it includes serious and inaccurate allegations.<sup>109</sup>

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

- Ansar al-Din Front published the following:
  - An announcement in which the organization denied a report published by Al-Quds Al-Arabi according to which it was responsible for the explosion at the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey and that it cut ties with the IS, as was reported in previous announcements.<sup>110</sup>
  - Blessings to the Muslim Nation in honor of Eid al-Fitr. In the announcement, the organization wished for all Muslim prisoners everywhere to be released and for their brothers, the mujahideen, to achieve victory in Palestine, Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq and Syria.<sup>111</sup>

<sup>109</sup> <https://justpaste.it/w87e>

<sup>110</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmYtNyxWYAADDtK.jpg>

<sup>111</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmnJ5z1VUAET48T.jpg>

### ***The Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham***

- The Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham published the following:
  - Blessings to the Syrian people in honor of Eid al-Fitr. In addition, the organization called on all armed factions in Syria to put their differences aside, transcend the various divisions and join hands in the struggle against the Shi'ite enemy.<sup>112</sup>
  - Videos in praise of the martyr's death and fulfilment of the obligation to wage jihad against enemies of Islam.<sup>113</sup>

### ***Ajnad al-Kavkaz***

- Ajnad al-Kavkaz, a Chechen Salafi-jihadist organization operating in Syria, denied any involvement in the suicide attacks that took place in Medina and Istanbul. According to the announcement, the organization disapproves of the bloodshed of Muslim civilians as the Quran and Sunna forbid it and, therefore, it avoids attacks that are likely to cost the lives of Muslim civilians.<sup>114</sup>

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

- Sheikh Siraj al-Din Zurayqat, spokesman for the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, a Salafi-jihadist organization operating in Syria and Lebanon with ties to Al-Qaeda, harshly criticized the war taking place in Houran, which is in southwest Syria. According to him, the Syrian regime, Russia and Iran joined together to launch a systematic attack aimed at wiping out the Sunni presence in the Syrian arena. Al-Din Zurayqat called on the residents of Houran to regain their composure in the face of this malicious plan and help the mujahidden to fight against the enemies of the Sunnah.<sup>115</sup>

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

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<sup>112</sup> <http://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>113</sup> <http://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>114</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>115</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

- The Ibn Tamiya media center, which serves as a platform for the publications of the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement, published an announcement regarding the martyr's death of Ali Hassham al-Saidni, the son of Sheikh Abu al-Walid al-Maqdisi, one of the leaders of the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip. According to the announcement, he was killed in an attack by coalition forces after returning from battle in Manbij.<sup>116</sup>

### **Aknaf Bayt al-Maqdis**

- Aknaf Bayt al-Maqdis, a Salafi-jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip, published a collection of photos documenting weapons training courses. The photos were published in the framework of an online campaign titled, "Arm Us", which was designed to raise funds to purchase weapons. Most likely, the photos were meant to demonstrate to the online public that the money raised in the framework of the campaign was indeed channelled to the purchase of weapons.<sup>117</sup>



**Aknaf Bayt al-Maqdis fighters undergoing weapons training**

### **Ahfad al-Sahaba: Aknaf Bayt al-Maqdis – Gaza**

- On July 2, 2016, Ahfad al-Sahaba: Aknaf Bayt al-Maqdis – Gaza ("Descendants of the Prophet in the Environs of Jerusalem-Gaza"), a Salafi-jihadist group in the Gaza Strip, claimed responsibility for the launch of two rockets at the city of Sderot. In addition, the group posted several threats against Jews on its Telegram channel that they will not enjoy security in their country that Israel's Defense Minister, Moshe Ya'alon, had failed to provide security for the Jews.<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46680>

<sup>117</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/47052>

<sup>118</sup> <https://justpaste.it/ahfad-sahaba>



A threat to continue attacks against Jews in Israel

## Africa

### The Maghreb

Battles in the city of Sirte in Libya, which has become a central point in the battle between unity government forces and the IS, cost the lives of 20 people.<sup>119</sup> Additional battles took place between Khalifa Haftar's forces and rebels near Benghazi, killing at least four people.<sup>120</sup> In addition, battles renewed between the Libyan army and Al-Qaeda east of Ajdabiya.<sup>121</sup> It should be noted that Libya's instability was also manifested in the kidnapping of six Egyptian civilians by an armed group on their way back to Cairo.<sup>122</sup>

Counter-terrorism efforts continued in other North African countries. In Tunisia, increased security coordination with Saudi Arabia was reported,<sup>123</sup> as was the discovery of a radical cell whose members swore allegiance to the IS.<sup>124</sup> The increased security measures also came as a result of the discovery that the perpetrator of the ramming attack in Nice, France was from M'saken in eastern Tunisia.<sup>125</sup> Security sources in Algeria announced that the IS branch in the country, Jund al-Khilafa,

<sup>119</sup> <https://goo.gl/1kq732>

<sup>120</sup> <http://onaeg.com/?p=2641291>

<sup>121</sup> <https://goo.gl/sRXCBh>

<sup>122</sup> <https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/07/05/943304.html> (Arabic).

<sup>123</sup> <https://goo.gl/GHSkec>

<sup>124</sup> <https://goo.gl/0N916u>

<sup>125</sup> <http://www.febrayer.com/368921.html>

*was in the process of “dying out” due to the siege imposed on it by the army.<sup>126</sup> In Morocco, efforts to combat radicalization were made by the “Mohammed VI Foundation for African Ulema”, whose goal is to train Islamic religious leaders to promote the values of justice, peace and human rights on the continent.<sup>127</sup>*

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

- Al Andalus jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published an audio clip by Abu Yahya al-Hammam, the organization's emir in the Sahara, titled, “A Message to our People in Muslim Mali. Al-Hammam opened by praising the residents of Mali for standing strong against the invasion of Mali by French forces. According to him, France seeks to plunder Mali’s resources and use them to strengthen its economic power, and continued its imperialistic policies in the area manifested in, among other things, the establishment of army bases in various African countries and in the use of local army forces to help them achieve their aspirations. Al-Hammam went on to stress several points: the organization is determined to continue its war against French forces as long as its forces remain in Mali; a threat to attack French and American citizens in Mali and around the world; jihadist groups in the Sahel must unite and cooperate with one another in order to fight more effectively against their common enemy, namely the French army and local army forces cooperating with France; a warning to local power groups not to cooperate with the regimes in the region; an emphasis of the organization’s loyalty to Al-Qaeda. In conclusion, al-Hammam emphasized that Mali is Muslim land that must be liberated from foreign control.<sup>128</sup>



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<sup>126</sup> <http://www.echoroukonline.com/ara/articles/490852.html> (Arabic).

<sup>127</sup> <http://www.eremnews.com/news/world/521717>

<sup>128</sup> <http://www.eremnews.com/news/world/521717>

<sup>128</sup> [https://justpaste.it/Yahya\\_Mali\\_2016](https://justpaste.it/Yahya_Mali_2016)

## The banner of al-Himmam's speech

### Libya

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

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna published the following:
  - A statement regarding the cessation of court and police activities in Derna due to concern for the lives of innocent civilians as a result of air strikes by Haftar's army forces against civilian population centers in areas where the courts and police stations are located, as well as other areas. In addition, the organization clarified that it gave over the hotel, the port and the medical system to those appointed to supervise them, and denied Haftar's claim that IS fighters are still spread out in these areas.<sup>129</sup>

#### *The Islamic State*

- The Amaq news agency reported that 35 Libya Dawn militia fighters were killed and approximately 100 others injured during a three-day battle against the IS. According to the report, the casualties included a commander in the militia and IS fighters seized control of two vehicles during the battle.<sup>130</sup>
- The IS in Tripoli Province published the following:
  - A claim of responsibility for two suicide attacks south of Sirte against Libyan unity government forces. The attacks were carried out using explosives-ridden vehicles, and killed and injured dozens of people.<sup>131</sup>
  - An announcement regarding the downing of a military drone on the outskirts of the city of Sirte.<sup>132</sup>

### Algeria

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<sup>129</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>130</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46729>

<sup>131</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Cnax-4wXYAASif4.jpg>

<sup>132</sup> <https://s02.justpaste.it/files/justpaste/d320/a12219323/p-188pxh21.jpg>

- An anonymous writer published an announcement regarding the death of a mujahid in Algeria on July 8, 2016 who answered to the name Jurman Karim (aka Abu Abd al-Rahman). The announcement did not mention the circumstances surrounding his death or which organization he belonged to.<sup>133</sup>

## **Egypt**

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

- The IS in the Sinai Peninsula claimed responsibility for a series of terrorist attacks against Egyptian security forces, including the killing of several Egyptian army soldiers near the city of Rafah.<sup>134</sup>

## **Mali**

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility for the explosion of an army vehicle belonging to the French army and the killing of its occupants. The attack was carried out as a result of the detonation of a roadside charge on the outskirts of near the city of Gao in northern Mali.<sup>135</sup>

## **Nigeria**

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

- The IS in West Africa published the following:
  - A video documenting the IS takeover of a Nigerian army training camp in Bosso.<sup>136</sup>
  - A claim of responsibility for the killing of dozens of Nigerian army soldiers following clashes with IS fighters in Borno State, northern Nigeria.<sup>137</sup>

## **Somalia**

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<sup>133</sup> <https://justpaste.it/w4bx>

<sup>134</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46555>

<sup>135</sup> <http://www.alakhbar.info/news/16695-2016-06-30-19-11-07.html>

<sup>136</sup> [https://ia801501.us.archive.org/23/items/ghazo\\_201607](https://ia801501.us.archive.org/23/items/ghazo_201607)

<sup>137</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46619>

*During the first half of July, clashes continued between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and Somali security forces and the African Union force operating in Somalia. In this framework, Al-Shabab fighters used a car bomb and guns to attack a base of Somali security forces in the Lower Shabelle region in southern Somalia.<sup>138</sup> In contrast, Somali security forces carried out raids on Al-Shabab camps in southern Somalia, and seized weapons and supplies used by Al-Shabab fighters.<sup>139</sup>*

*Meanwhile, Al-Shabab fighters continued to carry out attacks in Kenya as well. In the beginning of the month, they attacked two buses in the area of Mandera, which is located on the northern border with Kenya.<sup>140</sup> Furthermore, later in the month, over 100 Al-Shabab fighters raided a police station in northeast Kenya.<sup>141</sup>*

- Al-Kataib jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published the following:
  - An audio clip (approximately 44 minutes) by the leader of the organization, Abu Ubaidah, in honor of Eid al-Fitr titled, “Sharia or Martyrdom”, designed to encourage his fighters to battle against African Union forces in southern Somalia. This was Abu Ubaidah’s first public speech since being appointed leader of the organization approximately two years ago. In his speech, Abu Ubaidah referred to Turkey as “an enemy state” and claimed that Turkey’s involvement in Somalia led to the collapse of Somalia’s economy. He added that Turkey’s goal is to keep Somalia in a cycle of poverty. With regard to the African Union Force, Abu Ubaidah claimed that the Somalis received this force after being misled by the international community, which claimed that it was a peacekeeping force while its real mission is to plunder Somalia’s resources, according to him.<sup>142</sup>
  - The fourth chapter in a series of publications titled, “From the Fortified Strongholds of Glory”. The chapter, titled “From Golis to Lamu”, described the organization’s attacks

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<sup>138</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/al-shabab-fighters-attack-somali-army-base-160711060125783.html> (English).

<sup>139</sup> <http://www.africanews.com/2016/07/11/at-least-10-somali-soldiers-killed-in-al-shabaab-attack-on-army-base/> (English).

<sup>140</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-kenya-attacks-idUSKCN0ZH49A> (English).

<sup>141</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/al-shabab-raids-kenyan-police-bullets-guns-160709083752370.html> (English).

<sup>142</sup> <http://uptobox.com/dq46kg3gr65w>

against Somali security forces, Kenyan security forces and the African Union Force operating in Somalia.<sup>143</sup>

### ***East Africa Front***

- The East Africa Front, which swore allegiance to the IS, published the following:
  - A video clip showing German jihad fighter, Martin Mueller, who – according to the organization – defected from Al-Shabab and joined the East Africa Front.<sup>144</sup> A Twitter post attached to the video hinted that Mueller was dead.<sup>145</sup>
  - An announcement stating that the organization's mujahideen are working to rid East African countries of infidels, including Tanzania, with the aim of reaching Muslims in Zanzibar. The organization also added that Al-Shabab is experiencing a big crisis and is not acting according to the Sunnah since it is focused solely on imprisoning and killing innocent mujahideen from among the East Africa Front. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on mujahideen in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda to leave Al-Shabab and join the East Africa Front.<sup>146</sup>

### **The Indian Subcontinent**

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the official publications of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, published an audio clip by Asim Umar, the leader of the organization. In the clip, Umar first explained that Hindus in India are considered enemies of the Muslim Nation due to, among other things, their lack of sanctity for the principle of the oneness of God and their devotion to the worship of cows. According to him, many Hindus want to cleanse India of a Muslim presence but this initiative is impossible to implement and is doomed to failure, just like the Soviets tried to do in Afghanistan and the Americans tried to do in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to him, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, was elected to lead India thanks solely to his slaughter of Muslims. He pleaded with India's Muslim youth not

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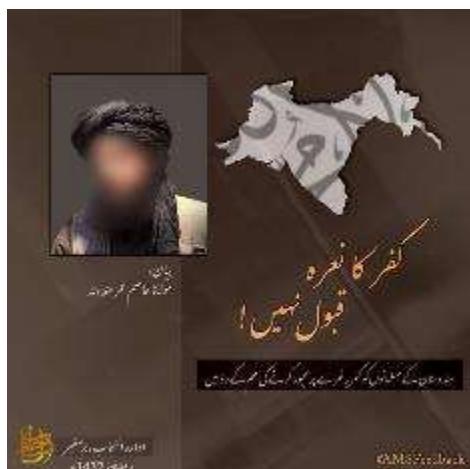
<sup>143</sup> <https://ia801506.us.archive.org/7/items/kaetib-iid2>; <http://alfidaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>144</sup> [https://archive.org/details/jahba\\_Ger](https://archive.org/details/jahba_Ger)

<sup>145</sup> <http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/07/shabaab-defectors-claim-german-jihadist-is-dead.php> (English).

<sup>146</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmhtPm6XYAAhiy.jpg>

to believe the slogans and the propaganda campaign being waged by the Indian media according to which India is a country for all of its citizens. According to him, it is a deception, and he called on young Muslims to defend their honor and religion with their lives just as the Syrian people did.<sup>147</sup>



**The banner of the speech by Asim Umar, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent**

### **Bangladesh**

- The IS in Bangladesh Province published a claim of responsibility for a terrorist attack that was carried out in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, which killed dozens of people. The announcement stated that five members of the organization had carried out the attack against a gathering of “Crusader states’ citizens” in Dhaka and managed to kill 22 “Crusaders” (seven of whom were Italian) and two Bangladeshi police officers, and to injure over 50 others. The announcement concluded with a threat against citizens of those countries that take part in attacks against the IS and attached photos of the five attackers, all of whom were Bangladeshi in origin.<sup>148</sup>
- The Amaq news agency reported that IS fighters had assassinated the leader of a Buddhist party in the Bandarban District in southeast Bangladesh. Media sources reported that the victim was

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<sup>147</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>148</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46622>

Mong Shwe Lung Marma and that he had served as a senior member of the Awami League Party.<sup>149</sup>

- Al-Hayat jihadist media institution published a nasheed (an Islamic anthem) in the Bengali language titled, “Arise, oh Mujahid”.<sup>150</sup>
- The Amaq news agency published a graphic chart illustrating IS activities in Bangladesh during 2016. The charts showed that the pattern of attacks mainly included assassinations of Hindu religious figures and Christian preachers. Alongside the timeline of attacks, the map showed their withdrawals throughout Bangladesh.<sup>151</sup>



A summary of terrorist attacks carried out by the IS in Bangladesh during 2016

## The Philippines

- The IS in the Philippines published a filmed review regarding the oath of allegiance taken by Al-Muhajer Brigade and their joining the ranks of the Caliphate. In the review, approximately 20 fighters were shown waving guns and waving the banner of the IS.<sup>152</sup>
- Amaq news agency reported on battles between IS fighters and Philippine army soldiers in Balisan Island in the Philippines. According to the announcement, during the 8-day long battle,

<sup>149</sup><https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/CmRoWGcWAAuLC.jpg> ; <http://www.buddhistchannel.tv/index.php?id=41,12874,0,0,1,0#.WBduS197cs>

<sup>150</sup> <https://ia801504.us.archive.org/23/items/NasheedBN>

<sup>151</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/CnZYvabWYAAeOwk.jpg>

<sup>152</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46809>

40 Philippine soldiers were killed and IS fighters managed to seize control of three strategic military sites.<sup>153</sup>

## The West

- Abu Qatada al-Filistini published a statement regarding the “Islamic State attack in Nice” following the ramming attack that was carried out against French civilians by a Muslim who swore allegiance to the IS. According to Abu Qatada, all non-Muslims - whether civilians or soldiers – living in the West are considered infidels due to the help that they provide to the army and due to their standing as potential military personnel. For this reason, it is permissible to kill them and their property may be taken as plunder.<sup>154</sup>
- Al-Basira jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Nusra Front in Syria, published a video titled, “Month of Conquests: Jihad in France”. In the video, Sufyan al-Muhajir, a member of the organization, reviewed Muslim battles that took place near France in early Islam. In addition, he emphasized that the jihad war against Spain and France is an individual obligation incumbent upon every Muslim, especially during the month of Ramadan.<sup>155</sup> In another video, he referred to the conquest of Andalus, which is Spain, by the Muslims.<sup>156</sup>



A clip from the video

- Al-Hayat media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a psalm titled, “My Revenge” in French. In the psalm, IS members called on Muslims to display initiative and take revenge

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<sup>153</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/47073>

<sup>154</sup> <https://justpaste.it/3mliyatnees>

<sup>155</sup> [https://ia601509.us.archive.org/30/items/Fotohat\\_26](https://ia601509.us.archive.org/30/items/Fotohat_26)

<sup>156</sup> [https://ia801501.us.archive.org/0/items/Fotohat\\_28](https://ia801501.us.archive.org/0/items/Fotohat_28)

against France on French soil.<sup>157</sup> Meanwhile, the organization continued to operate a radio station in French called Al-Bayan in Iraq and Syria about its activities in the field<sup>158</sup> and the Amaq news agency in French.<sup>159</sup>



**From left to right: Amaq news agency in French; Al-Bayan radio station in French; Al-Hayat jihadist media institution in French**

Meanwhile, a considerable effort was made by the IS to open French accounts on the social network, Twitter, and on the encrypted chat program, Telegram. For example, the organization announced to its supporters the opening of Al-Nur media institution (the organization's media institution in French), entrusted with the distribution and publication of jihadist content in French, on the Telegram channel.<sup>160</sup>



**Al-Nur jihadist media institution on social networks and the Telegram chat program**

<sup>157</sup> <https://ia801504.us.archive.org/32/items/MAVENGEANCE/MA%20VENGEANCE.mp3>

<sup>158</sup> <https://archive.org/details/30Ramadan1437>

<sup>159</sup> [https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmcELkrWEAAHN\\_R.jpg:large](https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmcELkrWEAAHN_R.jpg:large)

<sup>160</sup> <https://twitter.com/mkzannr41/status/749873034652164096>

## **ABOUT THE ICT**

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The Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG) is a specialized research and analysis team at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT). Composed of researchers fluent in Arabic, the JWMG monitors websites that support and serve the Global Jihad organizations. The unique characteristic of JWMG publications is the team's integration of diverse materials from a wide variety of Arabic sources. JWMG connects each source to larger trends, providing a complete understanding of events on both a local and a global scale.

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