



ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group

PERIODIC REVIEW

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The First Half of August 2015

Highlights

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

- Following a one-year absence, **Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri** re-emerges in the media in order to give a eulogy in memory of Mullah Omar, the leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and to swear allegiance to its new leader, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor. Al-Zawahiri vows to work to apply shari'a and continue to wage jihad until the release of all Muslim occupied lands. In addition, he emphasized that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is the only legitimate emirate. The next day, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor announces that he accepted al-Zawahiri's oath of allegiance. In addition, various Al-Qaeda branches and jihadist organizations that support Al-Qaeda gave eulogies in memory of Mullah Omar.
- **Hamza bin Laden**, the son of former Al-Qaeda leader, Osama bin Laden, renews his oath of allegiance to the leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and praises the leaders of Al-Qaeda branches for fulfilling the commandment to wage jihad against the enemies of Islam. In reference to the arena of jihad in Syria, he recommends avoiding internal struggles among the mujahideen in Syria and he calls for the liberation of Al-Aqsa Mosque from the Jews. He emphasizes that the United States is the leader of the heretics, and that all Muslims have an obligation to attack the United States and its allies, including Western countries and the Jews.
- **Khalid Batarfi**, a senior leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), calls on Muslims in the West – especially those in the United States and France – to carry out individual terrorist attacks such as the attack at *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris, and emphasizes that such attacks are a “strategic weapon” that successfully breaks enemy strongholds time and again.
- **Abu Hamza al-Zinjibari**, a senior AQAP commander, vows that when all is said and done the Houthis will be defeated. According to him, their power is already weakening as demonstrated by their withdrawal from stronghold locations. Nevertheless, he emphasizes that the Houthis still present a danger due to the alliance that they formed with the United States in order to crush the power of the mujahideen in Yemen.
- **Islamic State (IS)** fighters call on Muslims in Germany and Austria to move to the territories of the Caliphate or to carry out operations in Germany and “attack the heretics in their homes and

kill them as they happen along their way". In addition, the IS fighters vow to take revenge on German soil for Germany's actions in Afghanistan and for its support in the battle against the Islamic State.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Al-Qaeda's jihadist media institute, Al-Sahab, published an audio clip by Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of the organization, in which he swore allegiance to the new leader of the Taliban-Afghanistan, **Mullah Akhtar Mansoor**. In the recording, al-Zawahiri praised the actions of former Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, and vowed to Mansoor that he would implement shari'a and continue to wage jihad until all occupied Muslim lands are liberated. In addition, he emphasized that the "Islamic Emirate" established by the Taliban in Afghanistan was the first legitimate emirate since the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and there is no other legitimate emirate.¹ The next day, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor announced his acceptance of al-Zawahiri's oath of allegiance.²



The banner containing al-Zawahiri's oath of allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mansoor

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published an audio clip titled, "Blessings to the People of Islam" by **Hamza bin Osama bin Laden**, the son of Osama bin Laden, the former leader of Al-Qaeda.³ The "Global Media Front" jihadist media institution published a translation of his speech in English.⁴

In the beginning of his speech, Hamza bin Laden renewed his oath of allegiance to Mullah Muhammad Omar, the former leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan. In addition, he praised Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, and thanked all of the leaders of Al-Qaeda branches for

¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

² <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

their role in global jihad, including: Nasir al-Wuhayshi (leader of AQAP), Abu Musab Abdul Wadud (leader of AQIM), Ahmed Omar Abu Obeida (leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen), and Abu Muhammed al-Jawlani (leader of Al-Nusra Front). In reference to the Syrian arena, Hamza advised al-Jawlani to avoid internal conflicts among the mujahideen in Syria. Later, he called for the release of prisoners affiliated with Al-Qaeda who are imprisoned in the infidels' jails. He also discussed the expansion of the Zionist-Christian alliance and claimed that what it was trying to present as a "war on terror" was actually an ideological war against Islam. He described the alliance as a bird, with the Jewish State and NATO as its wings and the infidel rulers of Muslim countries as its legs. According to him, focusing on the head of the bird will guarantee a change and dispel all of the problems. He added that the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, which has lasted over a decade so far, has weakened the United States both morally and in terms of its soldiers' resilience. Therefore, the mujahideen must unite and continue to fight against the Zionist-Crusader alliance. He even called on tribes in Yemen who have joined the mujahideen, and on those who have not yet joined them, to fight against the Christian-Shi'ite alliance. In addition, he called on the mujahideen to help their Palestinian brothers who are fighting against the Jews in order to liberate Al-Aqsa Mosque. He further claimed that the mujahideen need to move the battles from Kabul, Baghdad and Gaza to Washington, Paris, London and Tel Aviv, and added that it is a duty to attack US, Jewish and western targets. In this manner, according to him, more lone wolves will take part in attacks against Western countries.



The publication banner

- The jihadist media institution of **Al-Nusra Front**, Al-Basira, published a video titled, “War and Takfir According to the Law” by Sheikh Abu ‘Abdallah al-Shami, a senior member of Al-Nusra Front.⁵
- The **Nukhbat al-Fikr** media group, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published the following:
 - An article titled, “The Al-Qaeda Collaborator in the Eyes of Al-Qaeda” by **Ibrahim al-‘Asiri**, a senior AQAP leader on the top of Saudi Arabia’s most wanted list. In the article, al-‘Asiri criticized the television program that was broadcast on the Qatari satellite channel, Al-Jazeera, titled “The Al-Qaeda Collaborator”, about spies planted inside AQAP by the United States. According to al-‘Asiri, this was another layer in the false propaganda campaign being waged by the US against Al-Qaeda in order to tarnish its image and appeal. According to him, the “spy” that was interviewed for Al-Jazeera recited statements written for him by the US. Al-‘Asiri called on readers to ignore these false propaganda materials, and called on Al-Jazeera journalists to condemn this video and any attempt to take part in false publicity. Finally, he explained that the war against the US is a justified war and he blessed the mujahideen throughout the Middle East.⁶
 - A collection of articles by **Abd al-‘Aziz bin Rashid al-Anazi**, the former PR person for Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia (who was held in a Saudi prison and executed in the beginning of January 2016). According to the editor of the collection, Abu Maryam al-Azadi, this was the first publication of its kind not to be given a stage in any media outlet.⁷
 - An article titled, “Things that Lead to Takfir” by **Dr. ‘Abd Allah bin Muhammad al-Muhsayni**, a Saudi religious sage who supports Al-Nusra Front and resides in Syria. The prologue to the article was written by **Sheikh ‘Umar al-Hadushi**, a Salafi-jihadist sheikh in Morocco. In the article, al-Muhsayni addressed the mujahideen and explained to them that the practice of labelling Muslims as infidels (*takfir*) is legitimate but should only be done very carefully and based on certain parameters. He warned against the

⁵ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷ <https://justpaste.it/mx2r>

exaggerated use of *takfir* and stressed that its use should be carefully considered.⁸ On August 15, 2015 al-Muhsayni published another article that also cautioned against rushing to declare *takfir* on Muslims.⁹

- A collection of sermons titled, “Moments with the Quran (60-1)” by **Abu Qatada ‘Umar bin Mahmud al-Filastini**, a senior Salafi-jihadist sheikh in Jordan who supports Al-Qaeda.¹⁰
- A collection containing all of the books and writings by **Sheikh Muhammad al-Maqdisi**, a senior Salafi-jihadist philosopher in Jordan.¹¹



The banner page the collection of al-Maqdisi’s writings

- **Al-Tahaya** jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published the following:
 - The transcript of a sermon given by **Sheikh Abu al-Walid al-Ansari**, a Palestinian Salafi-jihadist religious sage titled, “A Warning against Issuing a Fatwa [that is not based] on Knowledge”.¹²

⁸ <https://justpaste.it/mwky>

⁹ <https://justpaste.it/n16d>

¹⁰ <https://justpaste.it/mtfu>

¹¹ <http://www.al-aren.com/vb> (Arabic); <http://justpaste.it/n0k8>

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

- The transcript of a sermon given by **Sheikh Hani al-Sibai**, a senior Salafi-jihadist theorist in London, on the topic of “Al-Wala and Al-Bara”, the need to show loyalty to Muslims and help them while shirking anyone who is not Muslim.¹³
- **Al-Bushriyyat** jihadist media group, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published the transcript of a sermon titled, “The Flaw in the Elections and the Sentence for the Those Who Allowed it” by Sheikh Abu Qatada ‘Umar bin Mahmud al-Filastini, a senior Salafi-jihadist philosopher in Jordan. In the sermon, Abu Qatada explained that democracy is not conducive to Islam and anyone who tries to claim that it is legitimate is deviating from Islamic principles.¹⁴
- **Abu Mundhir al-Shinqiti**, a Salafi-jihadist religious sage who supports Al-Qaeda, published a statement regarding the concealment of the death of an emir or leader based on shari’a. The statement was published as a result of the critical discourse raised by members of the Islamic State against the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan over the latter’s concealment of the death of its leader, Mullah Omar, for two years. Al-Shinqiti noted that the concealment of a Muslim leader’s death occurred many times throughout Muslim history and emphasized that it did not constitute a violation of shari’a. According to him, the presence of a leader contributes to unity and high moral among the fighters and, therefore, it is legitimate to conceal a leader’s sudden death. He emphasized that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was correct in hiding Mullah Omar’s death for several reasons, including the desire to avoid a rift among the ranks of fighters especially when they faced persistent battles and in order to refute claims that the Emirate was susceptible to penetration by intelligence agents.¹⁵
- A visitor to Al-Fida jihadist Web forum published an article titled, “There was a Media Soldier” by Anwar al-Qandahari in which he emphasized the importance of engaging Muslims in publicity for the mujahideen and Islam in light of the slander campaign being waged by the Western media against Islam and the mujahideen.¹⁶

¹³ <http://justpaste.it/n0fs>

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

¹⁵ <https://justpaste.it/mzwl>

¹⁶ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- **Sheikh Abu Basir al-Tartusi**, a prominent Syrian Salafi-jihadist philosopher, published a second booklet titled, “Notebook on the Revolution and the Revolutionaries”, which includes opinions and fatwas about the arena of jihad in Syria.¹⁷
- The jihadist media institution of **AQAP**, Al-Malahim, published two additional videos – Parts 7 and 8 – in the framework of a series of publications titled, “Understanding”. Part 7 was titled, “Praises for Life” by Sheikh Harith al-Nidhari, a former senior member of the organization.¹⁸ Part 8 was titled, “The Mistakes of the People” by Sheikh Ibrahim al-Rubaysh, former mufti of the organization.¹⁹
- The publishing house of the **Islamic State**, Al-Himma, published several leaflets under the titles: “Help the Islamic State: Loyalty to Muslims and Shirking Collaborators is Steadfast Faith”;²⁰ “The Joy of Achieving Martyrdom”;²¹ “A Message to Those Who Have Failed to Join Jihad”;²² “The Islamic Gold Dinar or the American Dollar Bill”;²³ “Charity, Charity...Muslims”.²⁴



The banner of the leaflet, “The Joy of Achieving Martyrdom”

The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

¹⁷ <http://abubaseer.bizland.com/>

¹⁸ <http://justpaste.it/mafahem7>

¹⁹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰ https://archive.org/details/nousrat_dowlla

²¹ <https://archive.org/details/Paner-s3adah>

²² <https://archive.org/details/Paner-Qa3din>

²³ <https://archive.org/details/DinarIslame>

²⁴ https://archive.org/details/zakat_zakat_201508

- Sheikh Dr. **Hani al-Sibai**, a Salafi-jihadist philosopher who supports Al-Qaeda and resides in London, accused the administrators of the American video-sharing Web site, YouTube, of supporting the Islamic State's publicity campaign. According to him, IS propaganda videos calling for destruction are being continuously uploaded to YouTube and are not removed. He added that YouTube's management instead chose to remove videos from Al-Makrizi Center, which is headed by al-Sibai, due to requests made by members of the Islamic State. According to him, the videos that were uploaded called on Muslims not to set ablaze churches and other houses of worship and therefore, by removing them, YouTube's management was responsible for fostering terrorism. Finally, al-Sibai wondered if this targeted step indicated a secret connection between the Islamic State and the American YouTube management.²⁵
- Visitors to **Al-Fida** jihadist Web forum, which supports Al-Qaeda, held a discussion criticizing the mass executions carried out by the IS in Mosul. According to them, these executions constituted a blatant violation of shari'a. One visitor noted that these acts do not contribute anything other than to strengthen Iraqi forces and their resolve to fight against the IS.²⁶ Another visitor mentioned a speech given by Sheikh **Abu Basir al-Tartusi** who described IS fighters as immoral and *Khawarij* (a militant separatist Muslim cult that sanctified violence against anyone who did not fit in with its worldview) who are operating out of ignorance and a lack of knowledge about Islam. In response, visitors to Al-Fida forum expressed support for this criticism and claimed IS fighters are not Muslims at all.²⁷
- A visitor to **Al-Fida** jihadist Web forum quoted several queries that were asked by members of the IS about the death of Mullah Omar, the leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. For example, did Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri know about Mullah Omar's death and, if so, why did he remain silent? The same visitor answered the series of questions while expressing support for Al-Qaeda and rejecting the criticism of the organization evident in these questions. For example, the visitor responded that al-Zawahiri preferred to remain silent for security reasons and that he was not obligated to make media appearances because he continued to issue orders and guide his fighters. In another response, he justified the decision made by the Taliban

²⁵ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁶ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁷ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

in Afghanistan to conceal the death of Mullah Omar, claiming that the organization was in a state of war and enemy soldiers were still present in Afghanistan. In another response, he scornfully rejected the claim that the new leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan was an ally of Iran.²⁸

- A senior member of Al-Nusra Front, **Ali al-Arjani** (aka **Abu Hassan al-Kuwaiti**) claimed that the rebel factions in Syria did not commit heresy by asking for Turkey's help to fight against the IS. He added that the factions in Syria must use Turkey's assistance for the sake of their interests, to re-conquer the areas from which the IS retreated and to continue to wage jihad.²⁹
- The Twitter account, "Strategic Matters", which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, noted that the bombing carried out by the IS against the Jaysh al-Fath war room, an umbrella organization made up of Islamist factions led by Al-Nusra Front, indicates collaboration between the IS and the Syrian regime.³⁰

Women and Jihad

- The jihadist media institution of **AQAP**, Al-Malahim, published an audio clip titled, "The Role of Women in Jihad" by Sheikh **Ibrahim al-Rubaysh**, the former mufti of the organization who was killed in April 2015. Al-Rubaysh emphasized the importance of women's help in fulfilling the commandment of jihad.³¹

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

Sheikh Osama bin Laden

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published a video titled, "Days with the Imam – Part 7" by Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of Al-Qaeda. In the video, al-Zawahiri shared impressions and memories of Sheikh **Osama bin Laden**, the former leader of Al-Qaeda.³²

²⁸ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁹ <https://al-aren.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁰ <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/631506724478779392>

³¹ <http://justpaste.it/womenjihad>

³² <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



From left to right: the video banner; Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri

Mullah Omar – Emir of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- As a result of the announcement by the Taliban in Afghanistan regarding the death of its leader, Mullah Omar, many individuals and jihadist organizations published condolences and eulogies in his memory. **AQAP**, **AQIM** and **Al-Nusra Front** in Syria published a joint statement in which they praised his firm stance against the United States.³³ **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen** in Somalia also praised the work of Mullah Omar and called on jihad fighters in Afghanistan to continue to fulfil the commandment to wage jihad until the rule of Islam is imposed there.³⁴ Other individuals and organizations that published statements in his memory included **Ahrar al-Sham**,³⁵ **Ansar al-Din Front**,³⁶ **Army of Muhammad in Al-Sham**,³⁷ **Ajnad al-Qawqaz**,³⁸ **Al-Murabitun**,³⁹ the **Turkestan Islamic Party to Help the People of Al-Sham**,⁴⁰ and **Ansar al-Furqan**.⁴¹ Sheikh Dr. **Hani al-Sibai**, a Salafist philosopher in Britain who supports Al-Qaeda, dedicated his Friday sermon to Mullah Omar and his struggle against the United States.⁴² **Jalaluddin Haqani**, a senior leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan spoke in memory of Mullah Omar and called on all members of the Emirate to swear allegiance to the new leader.⁴³

³³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁴ <https://twitter.com/shahadanews/status/632037663839813632>; <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁵ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁶ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁷ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁸ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁹ <http://justpaste.it/ms27>

⁴⁰ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴² <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



Members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen holding a prayer service in memory of Mullah Omar

Sheikh Abu-Uthman al-Ghaymrai

- The jihadist media institution of AQIM, Al-Andalus, published a eulogy for Abu-Uthman al-Ghaymrawi (aka Magomed Suleimanov), Emir of the Caucasus Emirate, who was killed on August 11, 2015 in an encounter with Russian security forces in Dagestan. Several other militants were killed along with him. The statement included condolences and a call on Muslims in the Caucasus to continue along the path of “jihad and istishhad (martyrdom)”.⁴⁴ Other jihadist organizations also gave eulogies, including the **Taliban in Afghanistan**,⁴⁵ **AQIM**,⁴⁶ **Ansar al-Furqan**,⁴⁷ **Ansar al-Din**,⁴⁸ **Ajnad al-Kavkaz**.⁴⁹



Abu-Uthman al-Ghaymrawi

⁴⁴ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁵ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁷ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁸ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Other Jihadist Organizations

- **Al-Nusra Front** in Syria launched a series of biographies about martyrs from the organization. The first part of the series was dedicated to a senior Al-Nusra Front commander named Zinad al-Najdi, who was killed in Latakia.⁵⁰ In addition, the organization published a video titled, “The Story of the Martyr, Abu ‘Amar al-Jazrawi” about his origins in the framework of his battles for the organization.⁵¹



Banner telling the life story of Abu ‘Amar al-Jazrawi

- Al-‘Awali jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for **Al-Nusra Front**, published a video titled, “Al-Sharqiya Lions’ Convoy of Martyrs”.⁵²
- The Twitter account, “Strategic Matters”, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published condolences over the death of Sulayman al-Kandari, a senior member of Khorasan in Syria.⁵³
- Jihadists produced a video in memory of **Abu Mughayra al-Misri**, an Egyptian who joined the arena of jihad in Syria and was killed in Idlib.⁵⁴



⁵⁰ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵² <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵³ <https://twitter.com/Strateeeegy/status/629027506838843392>

⁵⁴ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Abu Mughayra al-Misri

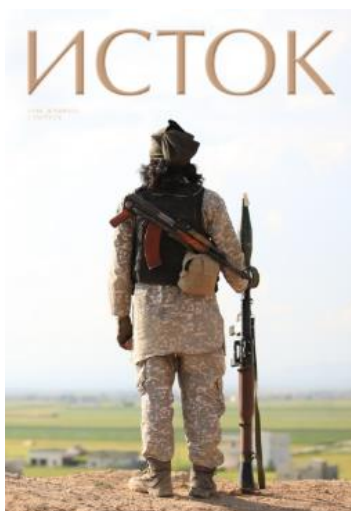
- Visitors to Al-Fida jihadist Web forum eulogized Sheikh **Izzat al-Salamuni**, a senior leader of **Jamaa Islamiyya** in Egypt who died in an Egyptian prison.⁵⁵



Banner in memory of al-Salamuni

Magazines

- The **Islamic State's** jihadist media institution, Al-Hayyat, published the second issue of the Russian magazine, *Ishtok*.⁵⁶



The issue banner

- Al-Muhajirun in East Africa, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Somalia, published a new magazine titled, *Al Ghuraba* ("The Foreigners"). The organization describes

⁵⁵ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic); For more details about the content of published issues of *Ishtok*, see: <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1598/The-Islamic-State-speaks-Russian>

itself as an umbrella organization composed of foreign volunteers who are not from Somalia and help wage jihad in the African continent.⁵⁷



The issue banner

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

During the first half of August 2015, the Taliban in Afghanistan increased its terrorist attacks against army forces, especially in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. In the morning of August 7, a car bomb exploded next to an Afghan army base in Kabul.⁵⁸ Later that morning, a suicide terrorist dressed in police uniform blew himself up at the entrance to the police academy in Kabul.⁵⁹ Later that month, Taliban fighters detonated a car bomb at the entrance to the Kabul airport.⁶⁰ There are those who claim that the Taliban's deadly attacks against police and security forces in Kabul are designed to challenge the assumption that Taliban fighters have been weakened as a result of their change in leadership and the death of Mullah Omar.⁶¹

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

⁵⁷ https://ia601503.us.archive.org/28/items/Al-Ghurabaa_201

⁵⁸ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/large-explosion-strikes-afghanistan-capital-kabul-150806211432862.html>

⁵⁹ <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/8/7/suicide-blast-hits-kabul-police-academy.html>

⁶⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/large-explosion-hits-kabul-airport-entrance-150810075946933.html>

⁶¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/taliban-truck-bomber-kills-people-afghanistan-150806055127072.html>

- During the first half of August 2015, the jihadist media institution of The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Al-Amara, published the following:
 - An announcement by **Mullah Akhtar Mansoor**, the new emir of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** and the leader of the **Taliban in Afghanistan** in which he thanked all those who sent their condolences over the death of Mullah Omar and swore their allegiance to him. The announcement also stated that Mansoor thanked the leader of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, who sent him condolences and swore allegiance to him along with all of the mujahideen under his command.⁶²
 - An oath of allegiance given to the new leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, **Mullah Akhtar Mansoor**, by governors, heads of provinces, members of regional committees, leaders of many groups throughout the country, teachers and other dignitaries. The announcement stated that Mansoor had given a speech in which he described the death of Mullah Omar and his appointment as his replacement. He also added that he accepted the position in order to continue jihad and he called on all members of the Islamic Emirate to cooperate with the new leadership.⁶³
 - A video documenting the oath of allegiance taken in a mosque by members of the Taliban in Afghanistan to the new leader of the movement.⁶⁴



A video documenting an oath of allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mansoor

⁶² <http://shahamat-arabic.com/?p=6378>

⁶³ <http://shahamat-english.com/hundreds-of-jihadi-commanders-religious-scholars-and-dignitaries-pledged-their-oath-of-allegiance-to-the-newly-appointed-leader-of-the-islamic-emirate> (English).

⁶⁴ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- An announcement by the new leader of the Taliban, **Mullah Akhtar Mansoor**, calling for maintaining unity within the organization since, he claimed, internal conflicts only serve to please the enemies of the organization. In addition, he added that the goal of the organization is to apply shari'a and establish an Islamic system, and that jihad will continue until its goal has been achieved. Mansoor also praised the actions of Mullah Omar and claimed that attempts to cause a rift among the Taliban after his death had failed.⁶⁵
- A denial that one of the organization's senior members, **Jalaluddin Haqqani**, had died. The denial came against the backdrop of news reports about Haqqani's death last year.⁶⁶ The next day, a statement by Haqqani was published in which he expressed condolences over Mullah Omar's death and called on members of the Islamic Emirate to swear allegiance to, and obey, the new emir.⁶⁷
- An announcement regarding the resignation of the head of the political wing of the Taliban in Afghanistan, **Muhammad Tayyib Agha**, and the appointment of **Sher Muhammad Abbas Stanakzai** to replace him. The announcement also stated that the Islamic Emirate admired the actions of Tayyib Agha and will continue to use his experience and advice.⁶⁸
- Criticism of a video that was published by kidnappers affiliated with the IS in which they executed public figures and residents of Mamand in Nangarhar Province in Afghanistan. The announcement stated that the Islamic Emirate condemned this crime, in which innocent people were executed for being accused of heresy just because they cooperated with the Islamic Emirate. It also stated that such cruel acts carried out under the guise of Islam are intolerable. The end of the announcement stated that the Islamic Emirate instructed senior members of the organization in the area to catch the perpetrators of this crime and punish them according to shari'a.⁶⁹

⁶⁵ <http://www.islamist-movements.com/30641>

⁶⁶ <http://shahamat-english.com/remarks-of-spokesman-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-rumors-about-death-of-a-jihadi-and-scholarly-personality-al-haj-mawlawi-jalaluddin-haqqani> (English).

⁶⁷ <http://shahamat-english.com/message-of-great-jihadi-figure-moulavi-jalaluddin-haqqani-regarding-the-passing-away-of-his-excellency-late-amir-ul-momineen-and-the-appointment-of-new-leader> (English).

⁶⁸ <http://shahamat-arabic.com/?p=5698>

⁶⁹ <http://shahamat-arabic.com/?p=6132>

- A denial of a publication by Faryab Province according to which several mujahideen had surrendered to the governors of the province. According to the statement, the report of the surrender was false and served as an attempt to raise the morale of the province's soldiers. The statement added that the mujahideen are loyal to their commanders now more than ever.⁷⁰
- A condemnation of an explosion that took place in the Shah Shaheed area in the city of Kabul. The announcement stated that the organization carried out an investigation into the incident and found that it had no connection to the explosion. It also stated that the organization was taking precautions not to attack civilian areas and that such an incident is not in accordance with its practices. At the end of the announcement, it stated that the testimony gathered from the scene of the blast indicated that the explosion was caused by an air strike, seemingly carried out by foreign forces in order to vilify the new leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.⁷¹
- A video documenting the capture of Now Zad in Helmand Province by Emirate fighters.⁷²
- A video documenting an attack against the police headquarters in the city of Kandahar.⁷³
- The jihadist media institution of **Al-Qaeda**, Al-Sahab, published a video documenting a military operation carried out by its fighters against the Mir Ali Airport, which belongs to the Pakistan army, in North Waziristan. The video opened with documentation of the war crimes supposedly carried out by the Pakistani army against civilian women and children in North Waziristan.⁷⁴

The Islamic State in Khurasan Province

- The Islamic State in Khurasan Province published the following:
 - An audio clip by **Hafidh Sa'id Khan**, governor of **the Islamic State in Khurasan Province**, in which he called on jihadist organizations, doctors, engineers, scholars and Muslims in general in Afghanistan to join the ranks of the organization in Khurasan Province and to swear allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the Islamic Caliphate. According to

⁷⁰ <http://shahamat-arabic.com/?p=5774>

⁷¹ <http://shahamat-english.com/report-by-investigation-team-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-the-incident-in-kabuls-shah-shaheed> (English).

⁷² <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁴ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

him, every Muslim has a religious obligation to swear allegiance to the Caliphate and, therefore, must help jihad efforts in the IS Province in Khurasan. He also vowed to free all prisoners being held in the jails of the Afghan regime, and he called on them as well to join the Caliphate.⁷⁵

- A video titled, “Revenge of the Monotheists 2”, which documented the execution of Afghan tribesmen in a bombing. According to the organization, the reason for the execution was because they fought against the organization.⁷⁶



A clip from the video

The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan

- The jihadist media institution of the **Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan**, Jundallah, published a video in which members of the movement expressed allegiance to the Caliphate of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.⁷⁷

The Arabian Peninsula

The first half of August 2015 was characterized by a significant achievement for exiled government forces against the Houthis. Thanks to collaboration with local militias, hundreds of Yemeni soldiers trained in Saudi Arabia, and aerial assistance from the Arab coalition, loyalists to the exiled Yemeni government succeeded in capturing the Laboza army base and the city of Zinjibar,

⁷⁵ <https://archive.org/details/WaliBayan>

⁷⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁷ <https://archive.org/details/0020MavorunnahrMujohidlariBayati>

in southern Yemen, and advancing towards Marib Province, which is under Houthi control.⁷⁸ As the civil war in Yemen continued, there was an attempt to achieve reconciliation and end the war. Houthi representatives met with representatives of the exiled Yemeni Prime Minister in Oman in order to achieve those goals.

Against the backdrop of Yemen's deterioration into security instability, AQAP continued to focus efforts on strengthening its grip on Yemen. In the beginning of August, AQAP managed to seize control of three cities in the area of Aden and to expel the Houthi forces that were stationed there.⁷⁹ In addition, it seemed that the organization was trying to show outsiders that it had not abandoned its intention to attack the United States, and that it was capable of doing so in light of the organization's call on Muslims living in the US to show initiative and carry out individual attacks.⁸⁰ The Islamic State in Yemen also concentrated efforts on expanding its influence and recruiting fighters to its ranks. During the first half of August, the organization published several videos in social networks regarding the importance of fulfilling the commandment to wage jihad against the Houthis in Yemen as well as its intention to implement shari'a throughout the country.⁸¹ In addition, a trend could be seen in which the IS increased its terrorist attacks against the Shi'ite population in Saudi Arabia. On August 6, 2015 the organization claimed responsibility for the bombing of a Shi'ite mosque in southwest Saudi Arabia.⁸²

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published the following:
 - A filmed interview with **Abu Hamza al-Zinjibari**, a senior **AQAP** commander, regarding recent events in Yemen. Al-Zinjibari began with the Houthi conquests in Yemen and their takeover of power. According to him, the development led to opposition from the Sunni population in the country, which is concentrated on several main fronts, including Aden,

⁷⁸ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/anti-houthi-fighters-seize-zinjibar-city-yemen-150809023151653.html> (English).

⁷⁹ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3186934/Yemen-officials-Al-Qaida-exploits-chaos-seize-3-towns.html> (English).

⁸⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDszdWle5EQ>

⁸¹ <http://www.criticalthreats.org/yemen/yemen-crisis-situation-reports-august-10-2015> (English).

⁸² <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/06/middleeast/saudi-arabia-mosque-attack> (English).

Abyan, Lahj and Taiz. He added that the Sunnis have the upper hand in the battle against the Houthis and that while there is no doubt that they are being forced out of their strongholds, the Houthis still pose a threat. Al-Zinibari also noted that Al-Qaeda fighters in Yemen are focused on 11 battlefronts, including: Aden Abyan, Lahj, Al-Jala, Taiz, Shabwa, Al-Baydha, Rada, Al-Hadida, Marib and Al-Jawf. He added that the organization maintains a presence on these fronts, sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly through its management of military camps. He added that it is no exaggeration to say that the organization currently trains thousands of Sunnis in training camps on rifle use, fighting tactics, etc. He added that the organization learned the tactics used by the Houthis and that it is operating according to certain tactics intended to break the Houthi's power. He acknowledged that the organization has carried out significantly fewer terrorist attacks and explained that the organization is choosing to use this weapon in a controlled manner and against specific targets.

Al-Zinjibari then criticized the US use of drones to kill Muslims in Yemen. According to him, there is an alliance between the US and the Houthis, who are serving as an extension of Iran designed to wipe out the mujahideen in Yemen. Al-Zinjibari also discussed the battles with Houthis in Al-Mukala and emphasized that its fall into the hands of the mujahideen was a painful blow to the Houthis. In conclusion, al-Zinjibari estimated that the Houthis were experiencing a trend of withdrawal that will end in painful defeat.⁸³



The video banner

⁸³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A claim of responsibility for a suicide against a concentration of Houthi forces in the city of Al-Hudaydah.⁸⁴
- A video documenting battles against Houthis in Abyan Province.⁸⁵

The Islamic State in Hijaz Province

- The Islamic State in Hijaz Province claimed responsibility for a suicide attack that was carried out by one of its members, Abu Sinan al-Najdi, at a mosque of Saudi security forces in the region of 'Asir.⁸⁶

Iraq

During the first week of August, Iraqi security forces reported their advancement towards the city of Al-Ramadi in Al-Anbar Province, which is under the control of the Islamic State. According to the Iraqi army, it managed to cut off most of the Islamic State's supply and reinforcement routes to the city and was now surrounding it.⁸⁷ A spokesman for the US Air Force also claimed that Iraqi forces had made progress in their efforts to isolate IS fighters in Al-Ramadi.⁸⁸ Meanwhile, the IS continued to carry out terrorist attacks against Shi'ite residents in Diyala Province and in Baghdad. On August 10, IS fighters detonated two car bombs in two cities in Diyala Province, killing over 57 people, most of them Shi'ites.⁸⁹ In addition, on August 14, IS fighters detonated a truck bomb at a market in a mostly Shi'ite neighborhood in Baghdad, killing over 67 people.⁹⁰ The next day, the organization carried out several more attacks in various neighborhoods in Baghdad.⁹¹ In addition, the organization executed 300 Iraqi government officials in Mosul, 50 of whom were women. In this

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

⁸⁵ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁶ https://ia801503.us.archive.org/28/items/klema_201508

⁸⁷ <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/130820152> (English).

⁸⁸ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/08/15/Iraqi-effort-to-isolate-retake-Ramadi-advancing-U-S-military.html> (English).

⁸⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/iraq-baquba-attacks-150810180620487.html>

⁹⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/scores-dead-truck-bomb-rips-baghdad-market-iraq-150813045718318.html> (English).

⁹¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/deadly-explosions-hit-iraqi-capital-150815162828077.html>

context, the Islamic State published at the beginning of the month a list of 2,070 people who were executed by the organization since its takeover of the city in June 2014.⁹²

Meanwhile, the United States and Germany claimed in the beginning of the month that they would investigate instances of chemical weapons use by the IS towards Kurdish forces in northern Iraq.⁹³ In addition, British Defense Minister Michael Fallon announced during his visit to Iraq in August that British attacks against IS targets would continue until March 2017.⁹⁴

The Islamic State – Baghdad

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Baghdad published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for an attack using a car bomb parked at a gathering of army, police and Popular Mobilization forces in Al-Habibiya District in northeast Baghdad. According to the announcement, over 20 people were killed in the explosion and almost 50 others were injured.⁹⁵
 - A claim of responsibility for an attack using a car bomb in Sadr City near the headquarters of the Popular Mobilization Forces. According to the announcement, over 50 people were killed and injured in the attack.⁹⁶

The Islamic State – Saladin Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Saladin Province published the following:
 - Video greetings in honor of the oath of allegiance taken by Al-Ghurabaa Brigade in Algeria to the leader of the Islamic State. The video showed several fighters in the city of Baiji who blessed the oath of allegiance, encouraged the mujahideen to free their comrades languishing in the prisons of the “dictator”, called on other factions in the

⁹² <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3193498/300-murdered-ISIS-firing-squad-Terror-group-gunned-election-officials-including-50-women-Iraq.html> (English).

⁹³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/western-officials-probing-isil-chemical-arms-germany-usa-weapons-150814044133914.html> (English).

⁹⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33762564> (English).

⁹⁵ <https://twitter.com/az43430/status/632661190842417152>

⁹⁶ https://twitter.com/Umm_Asmaaaa/status/629350175354540032

country to swear allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and threatened the President of Algeria and Algerian security forces.⁹⁷



Blessings to the mujahideen in Algeria from Saladin Province

- A filmed review of the execution of members of the Popular Mobilization Forces and the Iraqi Police.⁹⁸
- A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack that was carried out by the IS using a truck bomb that was laden with five tons of explosive material and detonated against Iraqi army forces near the city of Samarra. According to the announcement, the explosion killed and injured dozens of people, including Iraqi army officers.⁹⁹
- Photos of two suicide terrorists who carried out attacks against the Iraqi army in the province, known as: Abu Jundal al-Tunisi and Abu Khattab al-Iraqi.¹⁰⁰

The Islamic State – Nineveh Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:
 - A video documenting the operations and achievements of the “Ministry of Services” in the province. The video showed that the Ministry of Services was involved in, among other things, building markets and shopping malls, renovating mosques, repairing and maintaining roads, taking care of electricity infrastructure, etc.¹⁰¹

⁹⁷ <https://archive.org/details/aljjaseeed.alwaaahheed0o02>

⁹⁸ <http://justpaste.it/mvv4>

⁹⁹ <https://twitter.com/swathosen69/status/631214388159115264>

¹⁰⁰ <https://twitter.com/priddrous/status/632240891143528449>; <https://twitter.com/sa9a3a/status/632235326543687681>

¹⁰¹ <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x35mm0n>



A shopping center for women only – one initiative of the Ministry of Services in Nineveh Province

- A video regarding the activities of the Marriage Registry Office, which operates as part of the Islamic State’s Courts and Grievances Department (Diwān al-Qaḍā wal-Mazālim). In the video, an IS fighter explained the office’s activities, which includes blood tests before marriage and registration of couples using witnesses. The video also included praise for the Islamic tradition of polygamy, which enables a man to support and provide for widows who lost their husbands.¹⁰²



The Marriage Registry Office in Nineveh Province

- A filmed review about the launch of Katyusha rockets and mortar bombs at the posts of Kurdish Peshmerga forces.¹⁰³
- A filmed review about the execution of two men accused of spying. The men were beheaded and shot.¹⁰⁴
- A filmed review about Ribat (guarding Muslim land) activities in the Nineveh plains area.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰² https://archive.org/details/marr_offi

¹⁰³ http://justpaste.it/shw_22

¹⁰⁴ http://justpaste.it/sha_16

- A filmed review about various civilian matters, such as: the repair of water infrastructure,¹⁰⁶ a poultry farm,¹⁰⁷ a market that sells petroleum products,¹⁰⁸ a display of vehicles for sale in Mosul,¹⁰⁹ and the distribution of zakat payments and food items to the needy.¹¹⁰
- A video titled, “Children of Saladdin” about a “fun day” for Kurdish children in the province. The video showed the children playing and eating their fill while thanking their “brothers in the Islamic State” for providing them with food and recreation. The end of the video showed one of the children’s supervisors calling on Kurds in Kurdistan to migrate to the caliphate territories as soon as possible where they will live a life of joy and happiness.¹¹¹ This video was another part of IS propaganda to attract the Kurdish population in the areas under its control.



A fun day for minority Kurdish children run by the Islamic State

- Two videos in which Islamic State fighters in Nineveh Province praised Katibat al-Ghuraba, a jihadist group in Algeria, for joining the Islamic Caliphate.¹¹²
- Al-Hayat jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Islamic State, published a video (in Arabic with German subtitles) about the lives of children in the province during the month of

¹⁰⁵ http://justpaste.it/chw_17

¹⁰⁶ http://justpaste.it/n_fix

¹⁰⁷ http://justpaste.it/ch_18

¹⁰⁸ http://justpaste.it/sha_20

¹⁰⁹ http://justpaste.it/chw_21

¹¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/goodm22151/status/632632632384294913>;

<https://twitter.com/goodm22151/status/632632232549728256>

¹¹¹ https://archive.org/details/nzha_sa

¹¹² <https://archive.org/details/DBDNI9O0>; <https://archive.org/details/aljjaseeed.alwaaahheed0o02>

Ramadan. The video also included a sermon by an IS preacher about the month of Ramadan and the importance of fulfilling the commandment to wage jihad.¹¹³

The Islamic State – Al-Furat Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Furat Province published the following:
 - A video about the execution of several people accused of collaborating with the “apostates” against the IS. The accused were shot to death before an audience of adults and children.¹¹⁴
 - A filmed review about several civilian topics, including markets in the city of Ana,¹¹⁵ gold and jewellery markets in the province,¹¹⁶ marble producing factory operations,¹¹⁷ and children’s clinic operations in the city of Albu Kamal.¹¹⁸

The Islamic State – Al-Anbar Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Anbar Province published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack using a booby-trapped hummer directed at the central headquarters of the Iraqi army and Popular Mobilization forces west of Ramadi. According to the announcement, the explosion caused the destruction of the building and several army vehicles, and killed and injured dozens of people.¹¹⁹ A photo that was published after the attack showed that the terrorist was a Tajik named Abu Khaled al-Tajiki.¹²⁰
 - A filmed review about water rehabilitation projects in the city of Ramadi. The review included photos from water infrastructure buildings under the organization’s control.¹²¹
 - A filmed review about the activities of the Islamic Police in Ramadi, including filling out reports and monitoring traffic in the city.¹²²

¹¹³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹⁴ <http://goo.gl/Oiu1e7>

¹¹⁵ <http://justpaste.it/aswaqanea>

¹¹⁶ <http://justpaste.it/shoppinggold1>

¹¹⁷ <http://justpaste.it/7HAJARANDROKAM>

¹¹⁸ <http://justpaste.it/3eadat>

¹¹⁹ https://twitter.com/diyala_1991/status/631776802550116352

¹²⁰ <http://goo.gl/F5qAbZ>

¹²¹ <http://justpaste.it/myaah>

- A filmed review about the activities of the Zakat and Alms Center, which is responsible for distributing money and food items to the needy.¹²³

The Islamic State – Al-Janub Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Janub Province published the following:
 - A video regarding shooting activities in the area of Zoba’ using various weapons, including a 22 mm. cannon and an SPG-9. The attack targets included observation towers, vehicles and Iraqi army cannons.¹²⁴
 - A filmed review of shooting at Iraqi army posts in the area of Zoba’ using a 220 mm. cannon, 120 mm. mortar bombs, and Katyusha rockets.¹²⁵
 - A filmed review of the distribution of dawah leaflets in Zoba’.¹²⁶

The Islamic State – Kirkuk Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Kirkuk Province published the following:
 - A filmed review of the shelling carried out by coalition forces on a market in Hawija.¹²⁷
 - A filmed review of a vegetable market in Hawija.¹²⁸

The Islamic State – Al-Jazira Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Jazira Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “Deterring the Criminals”, which documented the execution of a man accused of spying and collaborating with coalition forces. The man – who admitted to passing information about the IS via social networks – was executed by a young boy who shot him in the head.¹²⁹

¹²² <http://justpaste.it/cops>

¹²³ <http://justpaste.it/alZaka>

¹²⁴ https://archive.org/details/Qiwat_rammy-04

¹²⁵ <http://justpaste.it/janob-sh6>

¹²⁶ https://twitter.com/diyala_1991/status/631758781949448192

¹²⁷ <http://justpaste.it/mvn5>

¹²⁸ <http://justpaste.it/mvoi>

¹²⁹ <http://www.isdaratdawla.com/2015/08/blog-post.html?m=1>



A young boy shooting to death a man accused of spying in Al-Jazira Province

- A filmed review of the execution of a man accused of having homosexual relations. The man was thrown to his death from a building in front of a large audience.¹³⁰
- A filmed review of the launch of Katyusha rockets and mortar bombs at Pershmerga forces in Iyadiyya and Shandukha.¹³¹
- A filmed review about conflict resolution against the backdrop of murder between two sub-tribes of Al-Ageedat tribe, supervised by the Islamic State's "Tribal and Public Relations Department". In the framework of the reconciliation, the murderer's family paid blood money to the family of the murdered man and the reconciliation between the warring sides was marked with a festive meal.¹³²
- A filmed review about the establishment of an informational stand in Tall Abta. The Islamic State's informational stands serve as points of distribution for the organization's propaganda materials and the screening of its videos.¹³³
- A series of reviews about civilian topics related to the city of Tall Aftar, such as: street cleaning in the city, restaurants and tailors.¹³⁴

The Islamic State – Dijla Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Dijla Province published the following:

¹³⁰ <http://justpaste.it/mrjr>

¹³¹ <http://justpaste.it/mxxo>; https://twitter.com/diyala_1991/status/631813592619159552

¹³² <http://justpaste.it/n1a1>

¹³³ <http://justpaste.it/mzuc>

¹³⁴ <http://justpaste.it/ms92>; <http://justpaste.it/mwsi>; <http://justpaste.it/mxqz>

- A filmed review about the fire of mortar bombs and Katyusha rockets at Peshmerga forces in the Tall al-Rim area.¹³⁵
- Filmed reviews about various civilian topics, such as: the establishment of a sports hall, sidewalk repair, running a free bus, bridge railing installation, etc.¹³⁶

The Islamic State – Al-Faluja Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Faluja Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Knights of Victory 2”, which documented some of the battles that took place in the province against Iraqi army posts east of Al-Karma.¹³⁷
 - A filmed review of the destruction of shrines considered contrary to shari’a.¹³⁸



The destruction of shrines in Al-Faluja Province

Al-Sham [The Levant]

The month of August began with reports that IS forces were being pushed out of the city of Al-Hasakeh in northern Syria.¹³⁹ On the other hand, several reports from later in the month pointed to the organization’s achievements in several areas in the country, including the takeover of the strategic city, Al-Qaryatayn in Homs, and the abductions of dozens of its Christian residents.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁵ https://twitter.com/diyala_1991/status/631759927413899264

¹³⁶ <http://justpaste.it/77858769877554>; <http://justpaste.it/235423465426>; http://justpaste.it/Anakl_majana; https://archive.org/details/saeer_aamal_sharqat

¹³⁷ <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2zzmjp>

¹³⁸ <http://justpaste.it/hdem4>

¹³⁹ <http://goo.gl/OIKggL>

¹⁴⁰ <http://goo.gl/xY2Ebs>; <http://goo.gl/ElQjws>

Alongside IS successes, it was reported that Al-Nusra Front had withdrawn from areas of clashes against the IS in northern Aleppo.¹⁴¹

Meanwhile, coalition forces continued to attack in Syria. Despite their partial success in repelling the IS, in certain instances local residents were forced to pay with their lives. According to one report, dozens of people were killed in a shelling on the city of Al-Bab in Syria.¹⁴² This statistic comes along with a Pentagon statement according to which the United States carried out an attack on Syrian soil for the first time in order to protect a group of opposition fighters that had been trained by the US.¹⁴³

In the political arena, US strikes in Syria provoked tension with the Syrian regime. For instance, Syrian Foreign Minister, Walid Muallem, announced that US strikes carried out without coordination with Bashar al-Assad would be considered a violation of the Syrian regime's sovereignty.¹⁴⁴ Despite events in Syria, US President Barak Obama noted that he still sees a glimmer of hope for a political solution in this arena.¹⁴⁵

Syria

Al-Nusra Front

- During the first half of August 2015, the jihadist media institution of Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah al-Bayda, published the following:
 - An announcement regarding Al-Nusra Front's retreat from the posts that it set up against the IS in Aleppo, in northern Syria, as a result of Turkish intervention in the area. According to the announcement, Turkey feared an expansion of the PKK's power in northern Syria, on the southern border with Turkey, and therefore decided to cooperate with the US to create an Islamic State-free zone in northern Syria. The announcement also stated that Al-Nusra Front decided to retreat from positions in northern Syria because it has its own interests that do not coincide with the interests of the Syrian

¹⁴¹ <https://goo.gl/UzSeHV>

¹⁴² <http://goo.gl/GOuELz>

¹⁴³ <http://goo.gl/9yvEUq>

¹⁴⁴ <https://goo.gl/RXP5bm>

¹⁴⁵ <http://goo.gl/oQTAvu>

revolution.¹⁴⁶

- A video containing an interview with graduates of a shari'a course in Jabl al-Turkman.¹⁴⁷
- A video titled, "Rest from Jihad", documenting the physical activities of Al-Nusra Front fighters around Aleppo, including playing soccer and swimming in a pool. During the video, one of the fighters was interviewed about the importance of physical training.¹⁴⁸



An Al-Nusra Front fighter being interviewed about the importance of physical activity

- A video covering the opinions of Aleppo's Muslim residents regarding outside intervention in Syria.¹⁴⁹
- A video documenting a prisoner exchange – two prisoners from the Syrian security forces in exchange for residents of the Al-Kabun neighbourhood in Damascus.¹⁵⁰
- An interview conducted by a journalist named Bilal 'Abd al-Karim with Sheikh Abu Firas al-Suri, a member of Al-Nusra Front's Shura Council, regarding Al-Nusra Front's platform and its attitude towards Islamic State.¹⁵¹



¹⁴⁶ <http://justpaste.it/mwjt>

¹⁴⁷ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁴⁸ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁴⁹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵⁰ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Turkestan Party in Al-Sham

- The Turkestan Party in Al-Sham, an organization composed of Uighur fighters that helps Al-Nusra Front, published a video documenting the liberation of Karkour.¹⁵²

Jaysh al-Fath

- Jaysh al-Fath, an umbrella organization composed of Islamic rebel factions led by Al-Nusra Front, published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the success of Jaysh al-Fath strikes against the IS in Sad Kawkab and Al-Shajara, in southern Syria. According to the announcement, in the framework of the successful attacks, supplies and ammunition were taken as plunder. The end of the announcement stated that fighting continued in Syria's southern region.¹⁵³
 - An announcement regarding the beginning of the second stage of the organization's battle against the Syrian regime in the Shi'ite cities of Kafarya and Al-Fu'ah, in Idlib Province. The announcement was published in response to the regime's attack and siege placed on residents of Al-Zabadani.¹⁵⁴ The announcement was published against the backdrop of the organization's success in achieving significant results in its battle against the regime in these cities during the month of July.
 - A chart of Jaysh al-Fath's military achievements and the losses suffered by Assad's security forces near Idlib.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵² <http://justpaste.it/mxkk>; <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵³ https://twitter.com/Fath_Army_South/status/627387413468327936

¹⁵⁴ https://twitter.com/ward_alyafe/status/627601382321836033

¹⁵⁵ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- An announcement stating that the organization supports Turkey's plan to establish an "Islamic State-free" zone in Aleppo, in northern Syria, since it serves the interests of the Syrian nation and will have a positive effect on both countries. According to the announcement, the delay in implementing the Turkish plan has led to the deaths of many Syrian civilians as well as damage to the country's infrastructure. It also stated that Turkey is the main supporter of the Syrian revolution, and that the relationship with Turkey is essential in order to cope with the current challenges and to shape Syria's future. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on rebel groups to cooperate at the state level since the threat posed by the Syrian regime, with the support of Iran, is not limited to a particular part of Syria.¹⁵⁸ This announcement stood in contrast to the one published by Al-Nusra Front, which stated that the organization was against Turkish intervention in northern Syria.
- An announcement regarding an air strike that was carried out by allies on the town of Atma on August 11, which led to deaths and injuries among the town's residents. In addition, according to the announcement, the organization clashed with the Syrian regime additional times that day in Idlib, and the IS carried out attacks against Syrian rebels. In light of this, the announcement called on Syrian factions to unite and fight against the Syrian regime and the IS.¹⁵⁹
- A video regarding battles between the organization and Syrian regime forces.¹⁶⁰

Ajnad al-Qawaqaz

- Only Ajnad al-Qawaqaz, a Chechen jihadist faction operating in Syria, published a platform describing itself as an independent faction that receives instructions only from the emir, 'Abd al-Hakim al-Shishani, has no connection to other factions, including Al-Nusra Front and Jund al-Aqsa, and does not receive support from any internal or external party; a faction that engages purely in military fighting; decision-making is based on consultations among the mujahideen;

¹⁵⁸ <http://ahraralsham.net/?p=9381>

¹⁵⁹ <http://ahraralsham.net/?p=9407>

¹⁶⁰ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

the faction is an integral part of the Islamic Nation; the faction renounces the existing disputes and rifts among the various jihad factions.¹⁶¹



The logo of Ajnad al-Qawaqaz

The Islamic State – Aleppo

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Aleppo published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the invasion of a Sahawat post in the village of Fafin by several IS fighters, in which they took one person captive. The announcement stated that, in the framework of the operation, a cannon was destroyed, and small and medium arms were taken as plunder.¹⁶²
 - A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack by a terrorist who managed to penetrate a building belonging to Sahawat forces in the village of Umm Hawsh. After the suicide bombing, other IS fighters invaded the village and seized control of it, killing and injuring dozens.¹⁶³
 - An announcement regarding the IS takeover of the village of Talalin, which is located along the strategic road connecting Mare' and Suran.¹⁶⁴
 - An announcement regarding a repelled penetration attempt by Sahawat fighters near the border with Turkey. The announcement stated that, despite the aerial cover provided by coalition forces for the penetration attempt, IS fighters managed to repel

¹⁶¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁶² <https://twitter.com/AmirKp261/status/628806816479100928>

¹⁶³ https://twitter.com/qa2el7aq_11/status/630428013335810048

¹⁶⁴ <https://twitter.com/EfsaneZorlu/status/632277111466782722>

the Sahawat fighters and take an armored BMP tank, as well as a large amount of weapons and ammunition, as plunder.¹⁶⁵

- A filmed review of SPG9 cannon fire at Syrian army posts at the Kweres airbase.¹⁶⁶
- A video documenting battles between the IS, and PKK and Free Syrian Army forces south of Ayn al-Arab (Kobani). The attack included the launch of rockets and the dispatch of two suicide terrorists in explosive-ridden vehicles.¹⁶⁷
- A filmed review of the distribution of awards in the framework of a quiz on the Quran and Hadith in the city of Al-Bab.¹⁶⁸

The Islamic State – Homs Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Homs Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “Patience! O the Land of Revelation!” which documented several Saudi militants making threats against their homeland. They called on Sunnis in Saudi Arabia to fight against the Shi’ites and banish them from the Kingdom, and encouraged them to carry out attacks against the Saudi regime itself (another target of harsh criticism were Saudi clerics who one of the militants accused of misrepresenting the religion). The video ended with the execution of a man presented as an agent of the Syrian regime, and included a message threatening all enemies of the Islamic State.¹⁶⁹



Threats directed at Shi’ites and the Saudi regime from Homs Province

¹⁶⁵ https://twitter.com/diyala_1991/status/631936677267681280

¹⁶⁶ <http://justpaste.it/mw51>

¹⁶⁷ <https://archive.org/details/sayeer.alm3areek.fe.ref>

¹⁶⁸ <http://justpaste.it/mqvp>

¹⁶⁹ <https://archive.org/details/sabra-blad-alwahi>

- A video in German titled, “Tourism of the Ummah”, which showed several German militants in the city of Palmyra, led by Abu Umar al-Almani, who called on Muslims in Germany to perform hijra (“migration”) to the territories of the Caliphate or to act in Germany and “attack the infidels in their homes and kill them and they happen on their way”. Later in the video, another militant named Abu Usama called on Muslims in Germany and Austria to carry out terrorist attacks, and advised them to “take a large knife, go out to the street, and slaughter every infidel that he sees”. Abu Usama’s final message was addressed to German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, in which he vowed revenge on German soil for Germany’s actions in Afghanistan and for its support in the battle against the Islamic State.¹⁷⁰



A message from Homs Province – threats to carry out attacks on Germany soil

- A video regarding a group oath of allegiance to the IS taken by Al-Sukhnah tribe. The oath of allegiance was held under the auspices of the “Public Relations Department” of the IS, which encourages the tribes to stop protecting and helping the mujahideen. The event ended with a joint meal with tribal dignitaries and members of the Islamic State.¹⁷¹

¹⁷⁰ <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://isdarat.sd/18964>

¹⁷¹ https://archive.org/details/sawxxsaw22_moakt_20150811



An oath of allegiance to the IS taken by Al-Sukhnah tribe

- A video regarding the execution of two people accused of having homosexual relations, who were thrown off of a tall building and stoned by the audience. The video – which combined quotes from the Islamic tradition regarding ways to execute people guilty of having homosexual relations – ended by showing the bodies being washed and buried in order to demonstrate the strictness of IS members in keeping the laws of shari’a.¹⁷²
- A filmed review regarding the northern bald ibis, a rare bird found in areas under IS control. The organization published the photos in response to rumors claiming that the bird could become extinct as a result of fighting in the area.¹⁷³
- A filmed review regarding battles in the Jazal region, including documentation of the penetration of Syrian army warehouses, machine gun fire directed at aircraft, and the display of corpses and equipment that was plundered, including a tank and weapons.¹⁷⁴
- A filmed review regarding various civilian topics, including street cleaning and supermarket activities in Palmyra.¹⁷⁵

The Islamic State – Al-Baraka Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Baraka (formerly Al-Hasaka) Province published the following:

¹⁷² <https://archive.org/details/eqamat.al.had>

¹⁷³ <http://justpaste.it/Bird>

¹⁷⁴ <http://justpaste.it/jazaal>

¹⁷⁵ <http://justpaste.it/mt5k>; <http://justpaste.it/soo8>

- A video titled, “Assailants are the Pride of the Nation”, which documented the *Inghimāsiyūn* – “assailants” who attack a target when their chance of survival is low. The first part of the video, which opened with a filmed clip of Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, presented explanations and definitions of the term “*Inghimāsiyūn*” and claimed that one such “assailant” could shake up an entire army and emphasized the psychological damage that these fighters have caused to the Americans in Iraq. The second part of the video showed seven “assailants” who met their death in attacks against buildings in the city of Hasaka that belonged to the Syrian regime and Kurdish PKK forces, including Al-Hajjana base, the National Defense headquarters, and the headquarters of the Kurdish Asayis (it should be noted that among the fighters was an Iranian who expressed hope that Iran would be overtaken by suicide attacks). The third part of the video listed legal reasons taken from Islamic sources that permit the acts of assailants, most of which lead to the assailant’s death.¹⁷⁶
- An announcement regarding the organization’s takeover of a transmission tower in Jabal Abd al-Aziz, which was under the control of PKK forces. The announcement stated that the attack took place in the morning and that the tower – which was used by PKK snipers – was attacked from two sides.¹⁷⁷
- A filmed review regarding various civilian issues throughout the province, such as: the presentation of shops selling gold jewellery in the city of Al-Shaddani and the repair of power lines in the town of Al-Hawl.¹⁷⁸

The Islamic State – Al-Khayr (formerly Deir Ezzor) Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Khayr (formerly Deir Ezzor) Province published the following:
 - A video about a militant named Abu Hajer al-Shula who was allegedly killed in an attack by coalition forces. Al-Shula became famous on social networks after a photo of him smiling and his hand stained in blood, seemingly after his death, was published in an

¹⁷⁶ <https://goo.gl/pEfs1L>

¹⁷⁷ <http://postimg.org/image/ghyew7o0h/>

¹⁷⁸ <http://justpaste.it/dhahab> ; <http://justpaste.it/mxqo>

apparent testimony to the virtue of martyrs after their death. The video, which included interviews with al-Shula's father, brother and friends, was published in response to claims on social networks according to which al-Shula had belonged to Jaysh al-Fath and not to the Islamic State.¹⁷⁹

It should be noted that, at the same time this video was distributed, Al-'Awali jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Nusra Front, published a video in which it claimed that al-Shula was alive and that the IS was staging the death of its fighters while presenting the deaths of martyrs as a miracle and an example to follow.¹⁸⁰



Abu Hajer al-Shula – Is the martyr alive?

- A video regarding the uprooting of a tree known as Shajart al-Musa, which was considered a holy place by the locals and described as a “site for pilgrimage and idolatry”.¹⁸¹



The uprooting of a tree that served for “idolatry” in Al-Khayr Province

¹⁷⁹ <https://archive.org/details/kazb-yahdi-ila-alfajor-01>

¹⁸⁰ <http://goo.gl/oBP9bA>

¹⁸¹ https://archive.org/details/shajara_musa

- Filmed reviews about mortar fire aimed at the “security district” in the city of Deir Ezzor and about fire from a 57 mm. cannon aimed at “Crusader-Nusayri Coalition” aircraft.¹⁸²
- Filmed reviews regarding punishment for various criminals, including lashes given to two men accused of supplying drugs, lashes and public humiliation for cell phone thieves, and the arrest of food smugglers for the Assad regime.¹⁸³
- Filmed reviews regarding the distribution of zakat in various areas of the province, including Boufiry, ¹⁸⁴ Al-Zirr¹⁸⁵ and the northern region.¹⁸⁶
- A filmed review of the reception for refugees that came from Al-Jura and other areas under the control of the Syrian regime. The photos showed IS members helping the displaced persons and giving them food.¹⁸⁷
- A filmed review regarding stores that sell military equipment, such as uniforms, bullet—proof vests and weapons.¹⁸⁸
- Filmed reviews regarding a shari’a course for imams and preachers in the city of Al-Khayr and dawah activities in the village of Mrat.¹⁸⁹
- A filmed review regarding the distribution of an electric magazine, *Al-Maysara*, on discs to passers-by in the eastern part of the province.¹⁹⁰
- Filmed reviews about various civilian topics, including: laying out a power line in the city of Deir Ezzor, picking grapes, planting trees, manufacturing pipes, etc.¹⁹¹
- A filmed review regarding a new session in an educational institution that trains the next generation of IS fighters. The photos showed the young students as they prayed, studied the Quran and engaged in wrestling exercises.¹⁹²

¹⁸² <http://justpaste.it/mdf57>; <http://justpaste.it/mdf57>

¹⁸³ <http://justpaste.it/twithn>; <http://justpaste.it/srqhwtf>; <http://justpaste.it/qabdh>

¹⁸⁴ <http://justpaste.it/tzzabf>

¹⁸⁵ <http://justpaste.it/alzirr>

¹⁸⁶ <http://justpaste.it/zkhshm>

¹⁸⁷ <http://goo.gl/sbaHxp>

¹⁸⁸ <https://dump.to/dat>

¹⁸⁹ <http://justpaste.it/drshr>; <http://goo.gl/O64vWR>

¹⁹⁰ <http://justpaste.it/tzmys>

¹⁹¹ <http://justpaste.it/kahraba>;

http://justpaste.it/3enab_raq;

<http://justpaste.it/tarq>;

<http://justpaste.it/mtcbsh>

¹⁹² <http://justpaste.it/ashbal>

The Islamic State – Damascus

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Damascus published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the organization’s complete takeover of the city of Al-Qaryatayin. The announcement stated that three suicide terrorists had carried out an attack against several Syrian army barriers at the entrance to the city in order to enable the other mujahideen to break through. After they broke through, the battles continued for a long time during which many Syrian soldiers were killed, and small, medium and heavy arms were taken as plunder.¹⁹³ Filmed reviews that were published about the incident contained footage from the battles in Al-Qaryatayin (including photos of the three suicide bombers),¹⁹⁴ photos of Katyusha rockets and a tank that were taken as plunder,¹⁹⁵ and photos of barriers and centers in the city in which Syrian army forces were entrenched.¹⁹⁶



A tank that was plundered in the framework of the IS takeover of Al-Qaryatayin

- Filmed reviews about the execution of two men accused of activities against the IS. The first was described as “a collaborator with the Syrian regime” and the second was described as a founder of the “popular committees” (militias composed mainly of Christians, Druze and Alawites) in the village of Al-Husayniya.¹⁹⁷

¹⁹³ <https://twitter.com/dba091190/status/628951460542291968>

¹⁹⁴ <http://goo.gl/jkWwp1>

¹⁹⁵ http://justpaste.it/Alkreten_2

¹⁹⁶ <http://justpaste.it/7ajez>

¹⁹⁷ <http://justpaste.it/barada>; <http://justpaste.it/qatel>

- A filmed review titled, “Lion Cubs Camp in Southern Damascus”, which showed young children in an IS training institute learning Islamic content, wrestling exercises and weapons training.¹⁹⁸



Weapons training at the “Lion Cubs Camp” in Damascus

- A filmed review regarding the launch of locally made rockets aimed at the Sahawat in eastern Qalamun.¹⁹⁹
- A filmed review regarding an IS sniper squad in southern Damascus that fights against the Sahawat and Assad’s forces.²⁰⁰
- Filmed reviews regarding religion and the application of shari’a in the province. The reviews included the following topics: providing shari’a lessons to all Muslims in Al-Qaryatayin, flattening prominent headstones over graves,²⁰¹ and burning large amounts of cigarettes south of Damascus.²⁰²
- Filmed reviews about various civilian issues, including: caring for camels in Bir Qassb, raising crops in various areas of the province, and ancient trees in Qalamun.²⁰³

The Islamic State – Al-Raqqa Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Raqqa Province published the following:

¹⁹⁸ http://justpaste.it/ashpal_D

¹⁹⁹ <http://justpaste.it/etlak>

²⁰⁰ <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://www.csnw.tk/2015/08/28.html>

²⁰¹ <http://justpaste.it/tsoia>

²⁰² <http://justpaste.it/dokhl>

²⁰³ <http://justpaste.it/beer;>

<http://justpaste.it/lajaht;>

<https://twitter.com/BrandonDDuncan1/status/629982432293449728;>

<http://justpaste.it/treeD>

- A video titled, “Words from the Heart to our Brothers in the Caucasus”. The video showed several Russian-speaking militants in two groups, who blessed the oath of allegiance from the Caucasus, called to fill the Caucasus with the blood of infidels and apostates, and encouraged Muslims who have not yet joined the ranks of jihad to do so.²⁰⁴



A message to the people of the Caucasus from Al-Raqqa Province

- A video titled, “They are the Enemy So Beware of Them – 2”, the continuation of a video that was published in the beginning of July. The video showed three people accused of spying and providing information against the IS to, among others, officials in Turkey. In this video, as in the previous one, the captives admitted to allegedly using sophisticated spying methods, such as watches that contain a camera. Before they were executed, the captives called on all parties operating against the IS to “repent” and turn themselves in to the organization before falling prisoner. The three men were shot at point-blank range at night while they were bound to trees.²⁰⁵ According to media sources, the three men had passed along information that they had gathered in the framework of the “Raqqqa is being Slaughtered Silently” campaign, which documented IS crimes in the province.²⁰⁶

²⁰⁴ <https://archive.org/details/Quqaz-0001>

²⁰⁵ <http://goo.gl/GokxvI>

²⁰⁶ <http://www.elfagr.org/1834525>



The execution of accused spies

- A video titled, “Manager of Bakeries and Ovens”, which documented the bread production process and provided a review of the subject by a member of the organization who explained that the job of the “General Manager of Bakeries” is to regulate the production of bread, receive complaints and supervise the 148 ovens operating in the province.²⁰⁷ This video is additional testimony to the depth of the Islamic State’s involvement in the economic-civilian life in the territories under its control.



Bread production in Raqqa Province

- A filmed review about the oath of allegiance taken by Al-Majadma tribe to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The video showed tribal dignitaries holding a feast for members of the Islamic State’s Public Relations Department and making a group oath of allegiance to the Caliph.²⁰⁸

²⁰⁷ <http://goo.gl/ZZ969t>

²⁰⁸ http://justpaste.it/majadma_raq

- Filmed reviews regarding Hisba (an Islamic body responsible for maintaining public order and morality) activities in the province. The videos showed Hisba officials destroying structures over graves and burning a large amount of confiscated cigarettes.²⁰⁹
- A filmed review regarding the distribution of the *Al-Naba* pamphlet to residents in Raqqa. This pamphlet, which is published periodically, including details about the organization's activities and operations.²¹⁰
- A filmed review about the exams given in a teachers' training course held in the city of Tabqa.²¹¹
- Filmed reviews about various civilian issues throughout the province, including fishing, sewing, grape picking and ice cream cone production.²¹²

Ajnad Al-Sham

- The Islamic Union of Ajnad al-Sham published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the establishment of a civil authority to oversee the transfer of goods through the tunnels and crossings, and their distribution in eastern Al-Ghouta in Syria, which is under siege. According to the announcement, the above-mentioned authority will also oversee commodity prices in order to alleviate the plight of the besieged inhabitants of eastern Al-Ghouta.²¹³
 - An announcement regarding recent developments concerning Jaysh al-Islam in eastern Al-Ghouta. In the announcement, the organization called on Jaysh al-Islam to release members of the Fajr al-Umma Brigade, which belongs to Ajnad al-Sham, and their commander, Abu Jafar, who were arrested by Jaysh al-Islam in the city of Harasta. In addition, the announcement called on Jaysh al-Islam to apologize to the Fajr al-Umma

²⁰⁹ http://justpaste.it/hes_gar; http://justpaste.it/dokh_raq

²¹⁰ http://justpaste.it/nabaa_raq

²¹¹ http://justpaste.it/mo3alem_tab

²¹² <http://goo.gl/gYCWZN>;
http://aswarhadem.blogspot.com/2015/08/18_7.html;

http://justpaste.it/3enab_raq;

http://justpaste.it/beis_raq

²¹³ <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2113>

Brigade, stop its false propaganda against it, and turn its weapons against the real enemy.²¹⁴

- An announcement regarding the battle that the organization began on August 2 in the northern part of the city of Darayya against the Syrian regime in order to lift the siege on city and alleviate the suffering of its residents. The announcement also stated that a special operations room was set up for the battle in order to achieve the best possible results and in order to coordinate the missions among the parties involved. At the end of the announcement, the organization emphasized its commitment to the Syrian revolution and called on all of its brothers to act for the sake of the residents of Al-Zabadai in particular, and the Syrian people in general.²¹⁵
- An announcement regarding the massacre of residents of eastern Al-Ghouta that was carried out by the Assad regime. According to the announcement, the regime is attacking residents of Al-Ghouta under cover of the world's silence while Ajnad al-Sham does not turn its weapons at civilian neighborhoods in Damascus.²¹⁶

Jordan

- On the Facebook page of **Sheikh Dr. Iyad al-Qunaybi**, a Salafi-jihadist preacher in Jordan, his supporters posted criticism against the Jordanian authorities over al-Qunaybi's arrest and the harsh treatment that he is receiving in prison.²¹⁷ One of the supervisors of Al-Fida jihadist Web forum raised this topic to forum visitors after a letter that al-Qunaybi wrote to his mother from prison was published.²¹⁸ Al-Qunaybi was arrested in mid-July and placed in Jordanian custody after he posted on his Facebook page criticism of the Jordanian regime for its relations with Israel and the westernization of Jordanian society.

Lebanon

²¹⁴ <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2137>

²¹⁵ <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2152>

²¹⁶ <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2260>

²¹⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/eyadqunaibi/>

²¹⁸ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Sheikh Ahmad al-Asir, a senior Lebanese Salafi-jihadist preacher, published a last will and testament on social networks via an audio clip in which he explained that Lebanese security officials were searching for him, and that they may end up arresting or killing him. In light of this, he chose to leave a will in which he called on the mujahideen, especially in Iraq and Syria, to help the Sunni population in Syria due to the harsh persecution that they face and to help the Sunnis in Lebanon as well.²¹⁹



The banner of Sheikh Ahmad al-Asir's last will and testament

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

- Palestinian jihadists published a photo of Israeli citizen, Yehuda Landsberg, on Al-Fida jihadist Web forum, claiming that he was guilty of burning a Palestinian and called for his assassination.²²⁰

The Maghreb [North Africa]

Reports continued of atrocities committed by the IS in the areas under its control in Libya. According to several reports, the organization carried out mass executions in the city of Sirte and even burned down a hospital there with many patients inside.²²¹ In eastern Libya as well, there were reports of various security incidents, including a car bomb explosion in Derna and an exchange of fire in Ajdabiya.²²² In the political arena, it should be noted that, despite the difficult situation, talks between the warring sides in Libya continued at the UN headquarters in Geneva.²²³

In light of the unstable security situation in Libya, Tunisia increased the monitoring of its

²¹⁹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²²⁰ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²²¹ <http://goo.gl/NhGiDM>

²²² <https://goo.gl/ofJxMi>; <https://goo.gl/0BQdtl>

²²³ <http://goo.gl/mZ213j>

borders, arrested 12 people who were planning to infiltrate into Libya, and began constructing a separation wall along the border.²²⁴ In addition, it was reported in the beginning of the month that a terror cell planning to attack sensitive facilities in the country had been thwarted; the cell had been in contact with local armed groups in the mountains along the Tunisia-Algeria border.²²⁵

Counter-terrorism efforts also continued in Algeria, with a report that four terrorist attacks had been thwarted and twenty terrorists had been arrested within two months.²²⁶ Despite its concerns, Algeria decided to re-open its borders with Libya after they were closed for over a year.²²⁷ In this context, it should also be noted that Morocco's counter-terrorism efforts bore fruit and the terror threat in the country dropped from a medium to low warning.²²⁸

Libya

Ansar al-Sharia in Libya

- Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published the following:
 - A filmed review of power generation firms in areas under the organization's authority.²²⁹
 - A filmed review of the Islamic Police confiscating alcohol, cigarettes and drugs.²³⁰



- A senior Libyan National Army officer reported that Rajab al-Agguri, a field commander in Ansar al-Sharia in Benghazi, had been killed along with several others in battles against the army.²³¹

²²⁴ http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2015/08/150808_tunisia_security_libya;

<http://www.albawabhnews.com/1435266>

²²⁵ <http://goo.gl/043nsF>

²²⁶ <http://goo.gl/oHLG3D>

²²⁷ <http://goo.gl/WTcFi3>

²²⁸ <http://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2015/08/165435/terrorism-risk-in-morocco-is-lower-than-in-algeria-and-france-report> (English).

²²⁹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²³⁰ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A writer known as Abu al-Barra al-Azadi published an article criticizing IS operations in Libya. Al-Azadi said that he was appointed by Muhammad al-Zahawi (the leader of Ansar al-Sharia in Libya until his death in January 2015) to work in the IS administration department in the city of Derna but that he later left the organization. Based on his experiences, al-Azadi described the sequence of events and the Islamic State's relation to other Islamist organizations in eastern Libya, such as Ansar al-Sharia and the Shura Council of Islamic Youth in Derna. According to his criticism, al-Azadi claimed that the IS in Libya declares other organizations to be infidels without any foundation, and that members of the organization demonstrate a blind loyalty to their leaders and do not listen to advice and criticism.²³²

The Islamic State – Barqa Province

- The IS in Barqa Province published the following:
 - An announcement and photos regarding the IS takeover of several posts belonging to Haftar's forces in Sabri District in the city of Benghazi. According to the announcement, several soldiers were killed and injured as a result of the exchange of fire, and a tank, two army vehicles, weapons and ammunition were taken as plunder.²³³ Additional photos documented the firing of 60 cm. mortar bombs at Al-Lithi District in Benghazi.²³⁴
 - A report about an exchange of fire with Libyan army forces on the east coast of the city of Derna using heavy and medium weapons, and mortar bombs. According to the announcement, dozens of Haftar's forces were killed and injured, and small arms and heavy weapons were taken as plunder.²³⁵ In another announcement, the organization claimed responsibility for a suicide attack using a car bomb, which was carried out by an IS fighter named Abu Ja'far al-Sudani.²³⁶
 - Filmed reviews regarding the city of Harawa, including security at the entrances and exits from the city, nightly patrols, a market for selling animal-feed, the distribution of

²³¹ <http://www.aremnews.com/news/arab/323775>

²³² <http://justpaste.it/mshv>

²³³ <https://twitter.com/nasertamimi/status/632166412786601985>;

<https://twitter.com/nasertamimi/status/632181336288178176>

²³⁴ https://twitter.com/diyala_1991/status/632211733264797696

²³⁵ https://twitter.com/qa2el7aq_11/status/630429224516587521

²³⁶ <https://twitter.com/nasertamimi/status/630512224004665346>;

<https://twitter.com/nasertamimi/status/630763064288280576>

Al-Naba pamphlet (a periodic pamphlet published by the organization) to passers-by, and Friday prayers at Al-Nur Mosque during which the organization's propaganda was distributed.²³⁷

The Islamic State – Tripoli

- The IS in Tripoli published the following:
 - A filmed review of weapons that were looted by the organization in Sirte, including rockets, RPG and vehicles.²³⁸



Weapons that were looted by the IS in Sirte

- Additional filmed reviews regarding the city of Sirte, including: marble factories and a review of supermarkets in the city. Other videos documented the “repentance” of a group of apostates and the distribution of *Al-Niba* pamphlet (a periodic pamphlet published by the organization detailing its attacks in various provinces) to passers-by.²³⁹

The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna and its Surrounding Areas

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna and its Surrounding Areas published the following:

²³⁷ <https://twitter.com/nasertamimi/status/629330737024618496>;
https://twitter.com/k_k_l/status/630331913815719936;
https://twitter.com/diyala_1991/status/632514114296786944;

<http://justpaste.it/a3laf>; <http://justpaste.it/jumaa-harawa>

²³⁸ <http://justpaste.it/ganaem-sert>

²³⁹ <http://justpaste.it/rokhamsert>; <http://justpaste.it/mwadsirt>

- An expression of solidarity with residents of Sirte for the atrocities suffered by them at the hands of the IS. According to the statement, one should renounce the IS, and embrace with open arms the Shura Council of the Mujahideen and its initiative to apply shari'a in the city in a pleasant manner and not in the aggressive way that characterizes the Islamic State.²⁴⁰
- A video documenting a battle between members of the organization and the IS in the area of Nahrawan. In the beginning of the video, the Islamic State is accused of committing crimes against women and children in the area of Derna.²⁴¹

Mali

Al-Murabitun – Al-Qaeda in West Africa

- Al-Farouk jihadist media institution, which belongs to **Al-Murabitun – Al-Qaeda in West Africa**, published the following:
 - An announcement explaining the path of the organization: adherence to the jihad of Osama bin Laden; concentration of efforts on expelling French forces and their allies from Muslim lands, and a pledge to strike them everywhere; a call on all of the mujahideen around the world to unite under one banner with the goal of renewing the Caliphate; renunciation of the IS and its leaders; a call on all of the tribes fighting in northern Mali to unite under the banner of Allah and turn their weapons against the French occupier and its allies.²⁴²
 - A claim of responsibility for the attack on the Byblos Hotel in the city of Sevare in central Mali where UN workers resided. Approximately 12 people were killed in the attack.²⁴³
- A writer calling himself Midad al-Klash published an article criticizing the claims made by **Al-Battar** jihadist media institution, which supports the IS, and the IS English-language magazine, **Dabiq**, according to which AQIM made a pact with the Movement for the Liberation of Azawad without stipulating their signed agreement to apply shari'a in northern Mali. In response, the writer noted that the IS was acting hypocritically since it had also not imposed shari'a in some of

²⁴⁰ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴² <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

the provinces over which it declared control, including Algeria and Yemen. The writer made additional allegations against the official and unofficial jihadist media institutions of the IS, and claimed that the organization was acting according to the “law of the jungle” and not according to shari’a.²⁴⁴

Egypt

The Islamic State – Sinai Province

- The Islamic State in Sinai Province published a video titled, “A Message to the Government of Egypt”. In the video, the organization threatened to execute a Croatian citizen held captive by the IS within 48 hours if the Egyptian government did not meet the organization’s demand to free Muslim women from Egyptian prisons. The Croatian prisoner was dressed in an orange jumpsuit and identified himself as Tomislav Salopek, 30, married with two children. According to him, he worked for a French company in Egypt and was captured by the IS on July 22, 2015. He explained that if the Egyptian government did not meet the demands of the organization, he would be executed. The video was published 24 hours before the start of celebrations over the launch of the new Suez Canal.²⁴⁵



A clip from the video

Jund al-Islam

²⁴⁴ <https://dump.to/gfyj>

²⁴⁵ <https://archive.org/details/msrrrrr>

- Jund al-Islam published a video titled, “The Way of the Strong (Part 2): The Raid on Rafah”. The video documented suicide attacks carried out by members of the organization against Egyptian security forces in Rafah.²⁴⁶

Nigeria

The Islamic State in West Africa

- The Islamic State in West Africa (formerly Boko Haram) published a video titled, “The Knights of Africa”. The video documented an attack carried out by members of the organization against two Nigerian army posts and the loot plundered as a result of the attack. In the video, one militant emphasized that the organization was involved in an intransigent war against the infidel Nigerian army and that it had succeeded in causing the latter to suffer heavy losses.²⁴⁷

Somalia

During the first half of August, clashes continued between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and security forces and African Union forces operating in the region. On the one hand, Al-Shabab gunmen killed an Interpol officer in Mogadishu and attacked security forces militias in the city. In addition, Al-Shabab militants assassinated senior Somali government official, Hasan Sheikh, in the city of Janale in Lower Shabelle region.²⁴⁸ On the other hand, in the framework of the battle being waged by security forces together with African Union forces against Al-Shabab, the former managed to seize control of several key areas in Hiiraan Province, in southern Somalia, on August 7.²⁴⁹

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- The jihadist media institution of **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen** in Somalia, Al-Kataib, published the following:

²⁴⁶ <https://twitter.com/islamgond1/status/629281863287357440>

²⁴⁷ <https://archive.org/details/fursanafrica>

²⁴⁸ <http://shahaada.com/?p=110>

²⁴⁹ <http://www.intelligencebriefs.com/somali-nisa-and-amisom-troops-thwart-al-shabaab-attack> (English).

- A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack against Ethiopian security forces in Somalia.²⁵⁰
- A video calling on Muslims to move to Somalia in order to wage jihad against the infidels in the region.²⁵¹
- A visitor to the Al-Fida jihadist Web forum announced the re-opening of the Shahaada news agency's Web site, which focuses on news regarding Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, at the following address: <http://shahaada.com>.²⁵²



The logo of the Shahaada news agency

- **Al-Muhajirun in East Africa**, an organization affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published an announcement clarifying that members of the organization have no connection to the Salafi-jihadist sheikh, **Anjem Choudary**, who operates in Britain. This contradicts claims made in recent months to the contrary.²⁵³

The Indian Subcontinent

- The Global Media Front published an announcement (translated into Arabic) by **Abdallah Ashraf**, mufti and spokesman for Ansar al-Islam, Al-Qaeda's branch in the Indian Subcontinent in Bangladesh, in which he claimed responsibility for the assassination of a Bangladeshi blogger named Niloy Neel Chatterjee for insulting the Prophet Mohammad.²⁵⁴ Another announcement

²⁵⁰ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵² <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵⁴ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

also published by the Global Media Front praised the perpetrators of the attack on Niloy Neel Chatterjee.²⁵⁵



The announcement banner

The West

- Al-Malahem jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the official messages of **AQAP**, published a video titled, “But If You Return We Will Return: Commentary on Charlie Hebdo's Decision to Stop Publishing Offensive Cartoons”. Khalid Batarfi, an expert on explosives in AQAP, began his speech by quoting a verse from the Quran calling for the death of anyone who insults Islam. According to Batarfi, the verse proves that it is incumbent on all Muslims to fight the infidels who defile the places holy to Muslims. He went on to praise the Kouachi brothers for the terrorist attack that they carried out at the offices of the French satirical magazine, *Charlie Hebdo*, in the beginning of January 2015. He also called on Muslims living in the US, France and “infidel countries” to carry out “lone wolf” attacks in response to these countries’ attacks on Islam and its sacred values in the name of freedom of opinion and expression. According to him, “individual jihad” attacks were, and still are, considered to be “strategic weapon” that successfully breaks enemy strongholds time and again. The recent operation by brother Muhammad bin ‘Abd al-‘Aziz on the American home front is clear proof of this. If Western government are unable to protect their military bases on their own territory then how can they protect their citizens who insult Islam and mock the prophets? Can the US,

²⁵⁵ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Britain or France protect their economic interests? In the name of Allah, they cannot [...]".Batarfi mocked Western intelligence agencies for their inability to investigate these individual attackers, and he accused them – especially the US – of attacking Islam, desecrating Muslim holy places, supporting the Jewish State and supporting the infidel regimes in the Middle East. He emphasized that the US is the greatest infidel, and encourages evil and corruption. Finally, Batarfi called on Muslims in the West, whom he described as “heroes of individual jihad”, to show courage, choose the targets of their attacks with the help of the organization’s magazine, *INSPIRE*, which is published in English, and attack the enemy on their own land. He emphasized that Western nations and their governments will not enjoy security until Muslim enjoy security. He concluded with the words: “Oh, Charlie Hebdo magazine, if you Return We Will Return”.²⁵⁶



The video banner

Miscellaneous

- A Web site was launched that gathers materials having to do with Dr. Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, a Salafi-jihadist philosopher in Britain who supports Al-Qaeda, at the following address:

<http://drhanilibrary.webatu.com>.²⁵⁷

²⁵⁶ <http://justpaste.it/willreturn>

²⁵⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/Jundallah1436>

ABOUT THE ICT

Founded in 1996, the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is one of the leading academic institutes for counter-terrorism in the world, facilitating international cooperation in the global struggle against terrorism. ICT is an independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability and risk assessment, intelligence analysis and national security and defense policy. ICT is a non-profit organization located at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel which relies exclusively on private donations and revenue from events, projects and programs.

ABOUT THE JIHADI MONITORING GROUP

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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