



ICT
International Institute
for Counter-Terrorism
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ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group **PERIODIC REVIEW**

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites The Second Half of February 2015

Highlights

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

- **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen**, Al-Qaeda's branch in Somalia, calls on "lone wolves" to attack commercial centers in the West, especially in the US, Canada and Britain. In his opinion, the attack carried out by its members on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi in 2013 should serve as a guideline for global jihad activists.
- The **Islamic State** threatens the Jordanian authorities not to take part in the fighting and not to help international coalition forces in attacking the organization; otherwise the Jordanian army will pay a heavy price and will be forced to cope with rising terrorism in the Jordanian Kingdom, like the terrorism befalling Syria and Egypt.
- The **Islamic State** threatens the Kurds not to help in the battle being waged against the organization by international coalition forces. To make its message clear, the organization shows prisoners from the Kurdish Peshmerga forces in cages, who are later executed.
- The leader of the **Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Struggle** (formerly Boko Haram), Abubakar Shekau, warns that elections in Nigeria will not pass peacefully. In addition, he attacks the leaders of Nigeria's neighboring countries who take part in the battle against the organization, calls on Muslims in Nigeria to support his organization, and warns that the supporters of Barack Obama and François Hollande will be considered enemies and "sold in the market as slaves".

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New Publications

Ideology

- The Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad Salafi-jihadist Web site, which was established by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi –founder of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan - published the following:
 - A statement by Omar Mahmud Othman, known as Abu Qatada al-Filistini and affiliated with the Salafi-jihadist movement, in which he claimed that the start of the rebellion in Syria was spontaneous and naïve, and that it was not built on a solid foundation, just like the Palestinian uprising against the Jews. He added that many people had come to Syria to fight against the regime but since they were not organized, they could not deal with the pain for long and did not manage to cope with internal crises – they did not persevere. In addition, he claimed that when internal criticisms began, some of the fighters could not handle it and, in light of this, the rebellion was weakened. He downplayed the importance of the number of the organization’s fighters and equipment, and emphasized that it is more important not to have infidel Muslims among its fighters.¹
 - An article by Abu Qatada al-Filistini in which he drew attention to the need to perform a balanced examination of the principle of *takfir* (labeling Muslims as infidels). According to him, the exaggerated use of the principle in the current era is resulting in civil war.²
 - An article by ‘Abd al-Rahman al-Tunisi, a member of the Web site’s Shura Council, in which he criticized Sheikh Ahmad bin ‘Umar al-Hazim, a Saudi cleric, for his tendency to make exaggerated use of the principle of *takfir* and his deficient understanding of several religious legal issues.³
 - An article by Abu al-Izz al-Najdi, a member of the Web site’s Shari’a Council, in which he warned the Islamic State (IS) of an impending attack by Shi’ites, Iraqi forces and international forces in Mosul in April, and called on them to move their wives and children away from the arena of fighting in order to protect the dignity of Muslims and

¹ <https://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=27021501> (Arabic).

² <http://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=20021502> (Arabic).

³ <http://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=20021503> (Arabic).

their wives; because the IS harmed Yazidi women, it is likely that the Yazidis will want to take revenge on the Muslim women who they will capture. He added that even though he is not a proponent of the IS, he is giving them this advice because he wants to preserve the honor of Muslim women in general, and it is the responsibility of the IS to protect them.⁴

- A visitor to the Al-Minbar al-'lami al-Jihadi jihadist Web forum published an article that discussed whether burning should be used as a method of execution according to Islamic law. Based on verses from the Quran and excerpts from the Hadith, the visitor concluded that burning is permitted in order to inflict “eye for an eye” punishment (in other words, to burn a person who burned innocent people), and in light of the tradition according to which the Companions of the Prophet set people on fire as punishment in certain cases.⁵
- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published a collection of publications titled, “The Legacy of Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nadhari: An Archive of All Materials by the Mujahid Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nadhari”. The collection included articles, video clips, audio clips and other materials by al-Nadhari, a member of the organization’s Shura Council who was killed in a drone strike in Yemen in February 2015.⁶



The publication banner

The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

- The Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad Salafi-jihadist Web site published an article by Omar Mahmoud

⁴ <http://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=19021501> (Arabic).

⁵ <https://www.mnbr.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Othman, known as Abu Qatada al-Filistini and affiliated with the Salafi-jihadist movement. In the article, he referred to a statement made by an IS fighter who said that “if the messenger of Allah was to appear today, he would become a supporter of the Islamic State”, and claimed that this statement shows the organization’s pride and sins. He added that the IS had accused Al-Nusra Front of heresy based on false conclusions, and claimed that the statement about Allah’s messenger was false and constituted heresy. He also claimed that IS members were even worse than the Kharijites since the Kharijites were a truth-speaking people while IS members are impure and liars. He added that al-Baghdadi diminishes the value of the caliphate and allows the blood of rival mujahideen to be spilled, especially the blood of those who refuse to swear allegiance to “his false caliphate”. He added that al-Baghdadi intended to say that anyone belonging to the Islamic State is a Muslim while anyone who opposes the organization is an infidel.⁷

Strategy

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen – Al-Qaeda’s branch in Somalia, Al-Kataib, published a video that called on lone wolves to attack commercial centers in Canada, the US and Britain. In the video, a masked speaker with a British accent called for attacks on specific commercial centers in these countries. The rest of the video showed graphic photos from the attack that Al-Shabab carried out at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi in 2013. After he accused Kenyan forces in Somalia of harming Somali Muslims, the speaker ended the video with a more general call on Muslims in the West to attack shopping centers.⁸

⁷ <https://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=18021502> (Arabic).

⁸ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The publication banner

- A visitor to the Al-Minbar jihadist Web forum, which is affiliated with the IS, published information regarding four American bases scattered throughout the UAE in the Gulf as well as several strategic ports in the region as potential targets for terrorist attacks. The information included photos of the bases on Google Earth, the number of soldiers serving at each base, weapons, types of aircraft, etc. For example, the visitor included information on the Al Dhafra Air Base and the Abu Dhabi Base as well as the Port of Jebel Ali, which is considered the largest port in the Middle East and is located 35 kilometers southwest of Dubai. According to the visitor, “the port contains 550 companies from 120 countries and is most often used as a base for American Crusader warships”. The port also contains a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier and “American Crusader warfare groups”.⁹



**From left to right: A photo showing the location of another naval base called Fujairah Naval Base;
The Al Dhafra Air Base**

⁹ <https://www.mnbr.info/vb> (Arabic)

For more detail, see: JWMG Team, (is this a magazine article or book? If article, shouldn't it be italicized?) "Threats to attack American and French bases and ports in the Persian Gulf", February 23, 2015. <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1350/Threats-to-attack-American-and-French-bases>

- Discussions held by visitors to the Al-Minbar al-I'lami al-Jihadi jihadist Web forum:
 - A discussion regarding the use of driverless explosive-ridden cars. One visitor referred to an old video that documented how Ansar al-Islam in Iraq had produced a remote-controlled car bomb. Visitors agreed that there should be workshops on how to produce such cars and noted that time and resources should be dedicated to this topic.¹⁰
 - A proposed plan of attack against Eilat and other cities in Israel by training “sleeper cells” in the “border countries” surrounding Israel. According to the plan, which was proposed by one visitor to the forum, a cell in Aqaba will wait for a window of opportunity to carry out a bombing attack at the border crossing in Eilat and to launch rockets at the city from the mountains of Aqaba and Sinai. After forces then penetrate Eilat, sleeper cells in Tabuk in Saudi Arabia, and Ma’an in Jordan will be activated. Explosives will then be placed to prevent the advancement of army forces, and additional cells in the Saudi Arabian cities of Sakaka, Turaif and ‘Ar’ar will be activated. In the final stage, Islamic State convoys will enter Eilat in order to help in the “slaughter of its residents”, and from there will continue to Be’er Sheva and Jerusalem. The visitor received blessings and appreciation from the other visitors for his proposed plan.¹¹



A proposed attack by the IS against Eilat and other cities in Israel

¹⁰ <https://www.mnbr.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹ <https://www.mnbr.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A prominent writer on social networks and jihadist Web forums known as “Sheikh Husayn bin Mahmud” published an article titled, “The Media War against the Islamic State”. According to him, the media war being waged today against the Islamic State is an evil war that tarnishes the image of the organization more than all of the media wars that have been waged throughout history. According to him, the Western media war against Communism during the Cold War, the media war against the mujahideen in Afghanistan during the 1980’s, and other media wars were miniscule compared to the one being waged against the IS. This is due to several factors, including the global media coordination that exists thanks to the joint work room shared by media channels with the goal of reaching as wide of an audience as possible. Another factor is the demonization of the IS by highlighting its negative image as a result of the beheadings and other execution methods carried out by members of the IS. Another factor is the changing of the curriculum in Arab countries such as Egypt, which was helped by “Jewish experts” to exclude Islamic content and convert them to a Western outlook and terms such as freedom of expression, religious coexistence, etc., in order to create antagonism against the organization. Another factor is the feeding of lies about the IS to the public.

Later in the article, the author discussed ways in which the IS could deal with the media war being waged against it: become close to other jihadist organization including Al-Qaeda; re-examine the issues causing disagreements such as the issue of *takfir*; establish an official communication channel to be responsible for transmitting content to Muslim and non-Muslim audiences; intensify PR efforts against the enemy in the realm of psychological warfare; have the IS spokesperson communicate on the level of the Muslim public by using a more simple and clear vocabulary that can be understood by all; focus efforts on creating a popular support base of Muslims and non-Muslims living under IS rule; focus efforts on winning the support of Sunni Kurds and persuading them to live under IS rule rather than under secular rule; sow discord among Persians and Shi’ite Arabs that will cause them to fight against one another; focus PR efforts on economic and social issues in addition to legal issues; send preachers to Muslim populations in neighbouring countries in order to build infrastructure and a popular support base in preparation for IS expansion; and more.

In conclusion, the author emphasized that the IS must make the world aware that it has become an independent state that rules over approximately 12 million people and has a strong, high-

quality military. According to him, the IS today is being forced to fight against many enemies due to its declaration of the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate whose geographic borders are expanding at the expense of its enemies' territory. This trend of expansion is awakening fear among its enemies due to the historical memory of Islamic conquests that took place during the Arab empire in the seventh century when the Arabs conquered the Arabian Peninsula, North Africa and other territory, and during the Ottoman period when the Turks conquered Constantinople.¹²

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The Sawt al-Islam jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, published a video titled, “Lovers of Paradise – Part 14”.¹³



The video banner

Magazines

- Issue no. 107 of the magazine, *Al-Somood*, which is affiliated with the Taliban in Afghanistan, was published. The magazine issue covered various topics, including: an article praising the attack on the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine offices, a review of the situation in Afghanistan during January 2015, an official announcement by the organization denying rumors of negotiations with the government in Kabul, a column on the subject of the laws of jihad, and a statistical

¹² <http://justpaste.it/jn8q>

¹³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

report on the operations carried out by the organization during January 2015, divided by province.¹⁴

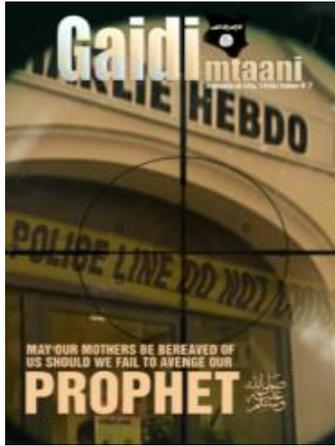


Issue no. 107 of *Al-Somood* magazine

- Issue no. 7 of the magazine, *Gaidi Mtaani*, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen (Al-Qaeda's branch in Somalia) and printed in both English and Swahili, was published. The issue opened with praise for those who carried out the attacks in Paris to avenge the insult to the Prophet Mohammad, and included articles regarding the importance of fulfilling jihad, a jihad fighter's impressions of the crimes committed by the Somali government against its Muslim residents, criticism of the Kenyan government, encouragement for attacks against malls in the West such as the Westgate attack in 2013, and more.¹⁵

¹⁴ <https://ia902602.us.archive.org/29/items/alsmod107/107.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The issue banner

- A new group called Al-Mujahiroun (“The Emigrants”), which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Somalia, published the first issue of a new, English-language magazine called *Amka*. In the introduction to the issue, the magazine’s editor emphasized that, contrary to claims made by enemies of Islam, jihad in East Africa is expanding and absorbing many new supporters and volunteers. Among the topics covered in the issue: praise for the attacks on the satirical French magazine, *Charlie Hebdo*, in revenge for its disrespect of the Prophet Mohammad; the death of Al-Shabab leader, Mukhtar Abu Zubayr; the importance of fulfilling the commandment to wage jihad; the importance of emigrating to East Africa from Tanzania and Kenya, for example, to the arena of jihad in Somalia in order to fight against the Somali regime; the oath of allegiance to Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri taken by Muslim immigrants who leave East Africa for the arena of jihad in Somalia; and more.¹⁶

It can be assumed that the publication of this new magazine points to a hidden competition between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and the IS in attempt to prove that Al-Shabab serves as a compelling force for foreign volunteers to its ranks. Moreover, these volunteers are presented as recognizing the authority of Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri and swearing allegiance to him. This stands in contrast to the increasing trend of jihad activists who swear allegiance to Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the IS. In any event, this can be seen as an attempt to recruit Muslims from East Africa to the ranks of Al-Shabab.

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



From left to right: the logo of Al-Mujahiroun; the banner of the first issue of *Amka*

- Issue no. 63 of the periodical, *Al-Waqi'*, was published. The issue included short biographical details about senior Al-Qaeda commanders who died as martyrs, including Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, one of Al-Qaeda's founders, Sheikh Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, founder of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, and others.¹⁷



The issue banner

¹⁷ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A translation into Indonesian of issue no. 7 of the Islamic State’s magazine, *DABIQ*, was published.¹⁸



The banner of the Indonesian translation of issue no. 7 of *DABIQ* magazine

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

During the second half of February 2015, terrorist groups in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region engaged in intense and complex attacks.

On February 17, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a group which split from the Pakistani Taliban in August, claimed responsibility for an attack that killed eight people, injured several others and damaged several vehicles.¹⁹ The attack was implemented by a suicide bomber from the terrorist group who prematurely detonated his device outside of a police station in Lahore.²⁰ On February 18, a suicide bomber from the Pakistani Taliban detonated an explosive device outside of a Shi’ite mosque on the outskirts of Islamabad, killing at least three people and wounding two others.²¹ On February 22, an eight-year-old boy was killed and six others were wounded when a car bomb was set off in the market street of the capital of Balochistan Province of Pakistan.²² On February 24, a bicycle bomb was set off in Chaman, Balochistan, leading to the death of one person, injuries to several to others, and the destruction of multiple vehicles.²³ No group claimed responsibility for the attacks in Chaman. In reaction to the attack by the Pakistani Taliban on a school in Peshawar that killed 150

¹⁸ <http://www.shoutussalam.org/2015/02/terjemah-dabiq-7-dari-kemunafikan-menuju-kemurtadan/>

¹⁹ <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/02/17/asia/pakistan-violence> (English).

²⁰ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-31500803> (English).

²¹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/19/world/asia/pakistani-taliban-kill-3-in-suicide-attack-at-shiite-mosque.html> (English).

²² <http://nation.com.pk/national/23-Feb-2015/car-bomb-kills-8-year-old-boy-in-chaman> (English).

²³ <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/02/24/national/blast-in-chaman-kills-one-wounds-8> (English).

students and teachers, and due to their inability to penetrate terrorist networks, the Pakistani government ordered every citizen with a mobile phone to get fingerprinted, thus ensuring that every SIM card matches the owner of the phone.²⁴ In a positive development, the Pakistani government captured one of the militants linked to the Peshawar school assault on February 23.²⁵ On February 17, four terrorists from the Taliban in Afghanistan, dressed as Afghan police officers, were waved through a preliminary checkpoint at the police headquarters for the Logar Province in central Afghanistan before detonating their explosives and killing at least 20 police officers.²⁶ On February 24, 30 Afghan Hazaras, who are mostly Shia Muslims, were kidnapped in the Zabul Province of southeastern Afghanistan.²⁷ On February 26, a suicide bomber detonated a car bomb in Kabul near the Iranian embassy, purportedly in an attempt to harm a convoy of American troops.²⁸ On a different note, rumors began to circulate in February that the Taliban in Afghanistan was preparing to negotiate with the Afghan government.²⁹

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
 - A denial of media reports regarding peace talks between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the US in Qatar. According to the Emirate, Afghanistan is still considered occupied territory due to the presence of thousands of foreign troops in the country. In addition, it accused the Afghan government of creating a secret security contract with the US, corruption, encouraging non-Islamic activities, and placing pressure on foreign forces to remain in Afghanistan.³⁰

²⁴ http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/pakistanis-face-a-deadline-surrender-fingerprints-or-give-up-cellphone/2015/02/23/de995a88-b932-11e4-bc30-a4e75503948a_story.html (English).

²⁵ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-31592325> (English).

²⁶ http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/18/world/asia/taliban-attack-afghanistan.html?_r=0

²⁷ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-31600476> (English).

²⁸ <http://www.ibtimes.com/taliban-claims-responsibility-blast-near-iranian-embassy-kabul-attack-kills-least-one-1828926> (English).

²⁹ <http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/02/19/afghanistan-pakistan-taliban-idINKBN0LN09Z20150219> (English).

³⁰ <http://shahamat-english.com/english/index.php/paighamooona/53140-reports-about-peace-talks-with-america-in-qatar-area-baseless> (English).

- A video documenting a battle between Taliban-Afghanistan militants and Afghan security forces in Dangam, which is located in Kunar Province.³¹

The Arabian Peninsula

During the second half of February, the civil war in Yemen continued even as the warring parties attempted to negotiate an end to the fighting. On February 16, militias loyal to President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi captured key areas of the city of Aden.³² On February 20, the feuding parties in Yemen agreed to form a transitional council as a means of finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.³³ On February 24, gunmen kidnapped a French woman and her driver in Sanaa.³⁴ A report by the United Nations also found ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh to have amassed anywhere from \$32 to \$60 billion during his rule and to have supported the takeover of Sanaa by Houthi rebels.³⁵ Finally, a drone strike on February 28 by the United States killed four suspected Al-Qaeda militants in the southern province of Shabwa.³⁶

Iraq

The IS in Iraq continued to suffer blows on several fronts. Against the backdrop of preparations for an extensive military operation in Mosul, and a result of air strikes by coalition forces, IS fighters retreated from Al-Qayara Base, one of the organization's most important military positions in Mosul. According to reports, over 25 people were killed and dozens more were injured in the attacks.³⁷ A similar retreat was reported in Saladin Province, north of Baghdad.³⁸ Meanwhile, in Al-Baghdadi District, in Al-Anbar Province, the Iraqi army together with the Popular Mobilization

³¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³² <http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-forces-loyal-to-president-seize-parts-of-yemen-economic-hub/2646538.html> (English).

³³ <http://www.voanews.com/content/un-yemen-parties-agree-on-transitional-council/2651820.html> (English).

³⁴ <http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-gunmen-kidnap-french-woman-yemni-driver-in-sanaa/2657080.html> (English).

³⁵ <http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-un-experts-say-yemen-ex-president-colluded-with-rebels/2658353.html> (English).

³⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/28/us-yemen-attack-us-idUSKBN0LW0B320150228> (English).

³⁷ <http://goo.gl/0yCymI>

³⁸ <http://goo.gl/C0pqjd>

Forces managed to liberate many towns and villages from the hands of the organization.³⁹ In addition, the Kurdish Peshmerga militia claimed that its fighters had killed 50 Islamic State militants in northwest Iraq, many of whom were foreign fighters.⁴⁰

Despite the battle against it, the IS was not deterred from carrying out attacks on the civilian population. According to reports from Saladin Province, IS militants kidnapped over 100 tribesman residing northeast of Tikrit⁴¹ and reports from Al-Baghdadi District claimed that nearly 50 Iraqi civilians were burned alive.⁴² In addition to attacks on civilians, the organization continued to attack antiquities⁴³ and historical sites such as the Omar Bin Al Khattab Mosque, the oldest mosque in Al-Anbar.⁴⁴

Meanwhile, foreign aid continued to reach Iraq. The Pentagon announced that the US would supply Iraq with weapons ahead of the attack on Mosul,⁴⁵ the German Consulate announced Germany's support for the Peshmerga forces in Kurdistan,⁴⁶ and New Zealand⁴⁷ and Belgium⁴⁸ announced that they would send forces to help train the Iraqi army.

The Islamic State – Nineveh Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “Blood of Jihad 4” regarding a course offered by the organization on several topics. According to the video, the course included physical training (scaling down buildings, crushing tiles with a headbutt), shari’a training (laws of jihad, praise for martyrdom) and military training, scanning the area with weapons, using camouflage, etc.). The video ended with an oath of allegiance by fighters to the leader of the IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.⁴⁹

³⁹ <http://www.alaan.tv/news/world-news/125106/iraqi-army-control-baghdadi-town>

⁴⁰ <http://www.tahrirnews.com/news/details.php?ID=362361>

⁴¹ <http://www.elbilad.net/article/detail?id=32136>

⁴² <http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2015/02/17/664278.html> (Arabic).

⁴³ <http://goo.gl/EI8V3f>

⁴⁴ <http://goo.gl/1fWzXU>

⁴⁵ <http://www.tahrirnews.com/news/details.php?ID=364462>

⁴⁶ <http://www.albawabhnews.com/1127273>

⁴⁷ <http://goo.gl/orct7N>

⁴⁸ <http://goo.gl/o2kk9S>

⁴⁹ https://archive.org/details/blood_4

- A video that showed members of Al-Hisba (the Islamic institution responsible for maintaining public order) shattering and destroying statues in the museum in Nineveh (the capital of the Assyrian Empire). In the introduction to the video, a member of the organization explained that Islam commands the destruction of statues that that ancients served instead of Allah.⁵⁰



IS activists smashing statues at the museum in Nineveh Province

- A filmed review of the cleaning and maintenance of roads in Mosul⁵¹ and of one of the bridges in the city.⁵²

The Islamic State – Al-Furat Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Furat Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Abu al-Walid Raid: The Expulsion of Sykes Picot Sentry”. The video documented the raid IS fighters on Iraqi security forces on the Iraq-Syria border.⁵³
 - A video containing a eulogy by a bereaved father for his son who was an IS fighter. The father expressed hope that his son would be accepted by God as a martyr.⁵⁴

The Islamic State – Northern Baghdad

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Northern Baghdad published the following:
 - A video documenting IS fighters seizing control of an Iraqi post and purging it of Iraqi security forces.⁵⁵

⁵⁰ https://archive.org/details/Ameron_ma3rof

⁵¹ <https://isdarat.org/7280> (Arabic).

⁵² <https://isdarat.org/9505> (Arabic).

⁵³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

The Islamic State – Al-Anbar Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Anbar Province published the following:
 - Two videos titled, “Aspects of Conquests in Al-Baghdadi Region”.⁵⁶

The Islamic State – Kirkuk Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Kirkuk Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Tourism of My Nation Is Jihad For The Sake Of Allah”. The video showed the way of life of fighters in the province as they boated, fished, cooked and sang together. One fighter described the lives of caliphate fighters as “a life of happiness in this world that leads to a life of happiness in the next world”.⁵⁷



IS fighters spending time together in Kirkuk Province

- A video about a night raid on a post belonging to the Kurdish Peshmerga militia. The video showed fighters wandering through the corpses of soldiers, confirming the death of those left alive and collecting the spoils, including weapons and vehicles.⁵⁸
- A video documenting the execution of Kurdish Peshmerga fighters by the IS. A Kurdish spokesman for the IS threatened Kurdish leaders, Talabani and Barzani, that the IS would harm the Kurds if they continued their fight against the IS. Later, Kurdish captives were interviewed inside cages where they were placed as a result of their erroneous

⁵⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ <https://isdarat.org/7140> (Arabic).

⁵⁸ <https://goo.gl/gb0NrD>

decision to fight against the IS. Some of them criticized Kurdish leaders for fighting against the organization and for their reliance on help from the Jews and Christians in the battle.

The next scene in the video followed a convoy of vehicles carrying the Kurdish captives dressed in red uniforms, in front of residents cheering over their capture. Finally, the video showed the execution of the Kurdish fighters and included their personal details.⁵⁹



Kurdish Peshmerga fighters in cages

The Islamic State – Saladin Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Saladin Province published the following:
 - A filmed review of a suicide attack against Iraqi army forces near the city of Samarra. The attack was carried out by a militant of Moroccan origin named Abu al-Miqdad al-Maghribi using a truck laden with 7.5 tons of explosive material. The review did not provide information about the number of those killed or injured in the attack.⁶⁰
 - A filmed review of the execution of four people who were accused of spying. The review, which included the photos of names of the prisoners, presented them as “a spy cell of the special security forces”. The four were shot to death.⁶¹

⁵⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁰ <https://isdarat.org/7278> (Arabic).

⁶¹ <https://isdarat.org/7281> (Arabic).



The execution of a group of men who were accused of spying

The Islamic State – Diyala Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Diyala Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “A Message to Khorasan Province” in which the spokesman for a group of masked militants sent a message blessing the mujahideen in Khorasan for the oath of allegiance that they made to the leader of the IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.⁶²
 - A filmed review of attacks against Iraqi army forces in the province. The review showed the use of an armored bulldozer to open pathways, a tank laden with explosive material driven by a suicide terrorist, and the firing of mortars at the troops. In the attack, military vehicles were taken as loot.⁶³
 - A filmed review of the repossession of the property of apostates and those who violated their “repentance”. Among the assets reposessed were houses and sheep that belonged to residents of Diyala Province who fled from the organization.⁶⁴



“Confiscated” – confiscation of property by the IS in Diyala Province

⁶² <https://isdarat.org/7311> (Arabic).

⁶³ <https://isdarat.org/7077>(Arabic).

⁶⁴ <https://isdarat.org/7121> (Arabic).

- A report (no. 4) listing all of the military operations – 141 in total – that were carried out by members of the organization in Diyala Province between January 22, 2015 – February 19, 2015. For example, it noted an explosion of a bomb under the house of a senior officer in the armed wing of the Shi’ite Badr militia, the killing of senior Iraqi security forces, and more.⁶⁵

The Islamic State – Al-Janub Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Janub Province published the following:
 - A video about an attack against an Iraqi military and Shi’ite militia post in Zawba’. The attack included observing the target and then penetrating the post. After killing the soldiers at the post and those who tried to flee, the militants set the post on fire and displayed the weapons that it seized as loot.⁶⁶



Weapons seized as loot in an attack on an army post in Zawba’

- A filmed review of the firing of 17 Furqan missiles at a police station in the city of Amiriyah Fallujah.⁶⁷

The Islamic State – Al-Fallujah Province

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

⁶⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁶ <https://isdarat.org/7064> (Arabic).

⁶⁷ <https://isdarat.org/7100> (Arabic).

- A video documenting the installation of lampposts in the streets and markets in Al-Fallujah Province.⁶⁸

The Islamic State – Al-Jazira Province

- The IS declared the establishment of a new province in Iraq called Al-Jazira Province, which includes several areas in northwest Iraq, such as Sinjar and Tel Afar. The announcement explained that the province would join the previous provinces that were established in which shari’a was already implemented.⁶⁹

The Islamic State – Al-Dijla Province

- On February 19, 2015 the IS declared the establishment of a new province in Iraq called Al-Dijla Province. According to the organization, the province is meant to include the following areas: Hammam al-‘Alii, Al-Zab, Al-Shirqat, Al-Qyara, Al-Khidr and more.⁷⁰



The territory marked in black is Al-Dijla Province

⁶⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁹ <https://justpaste.it/jh6t> (Arabic).

⁷⁰ http://manbar.me/digla_bayan (Arabic).

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Syria

As in Iraq, the IS continued to terrorize civilians in Syria and to kidnap minorities. During an attack on Assyrian villages in northeast Syria, the organization kidnapped 220 Christian residents.⁷¹ Human rights activists expressed their concern that the fate of the captives could be similar to that of the group of Coptic Christians who were kidnapped by the organization in Libya.⁷² Despite the kidnappings in the province, Kurdish fighters managed to force IS fighters to flee from Tall Hamis, one of the organization's main strongholds in Al-Hasaka Province.⁷³

Battles also continued outside of Al-Hasaka Province between other organizations. In western Aleppo, battles between Al-Nusra Front and the Hazzm Movement led to the deaths of 18 fighters,⁷⁴ and Hezbollah fighters as well as regime forces were killed and injured in Damascus apparently as a result of an accidental bombing by the Syrian Air Force.⁷⁵

In the political arena, Syrian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned of the consequences of "military adventures" in Syria and stated that it was still possible to reach a peace agreement with Damascus.⁷⁶ National Security Advisor to US President Barack Obama, Susan Rice, also expressed the United States' support for a political solution in Syria.⁷⁷

Al-Nusra Front

- During the second half of February 2015, the jihadist media institution of Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah al-Bayda, published the following:
 - A filmed interview with a Syrian soldier about the battles that took place between members of the organization and Syrian security forces at the Abu al-Zuhur Air Base in Idlib. According to the soldier, Al-Nusra Front is not a terrorist organization and the

⁷¹ <http://goo.gl/xXBcqt>

⁷² <http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2015/02/25/668516.html> (Arabic).

⁷³ <http://goo.gl/zr0066>

⁷⁴ <http://goo.gl/naj4tn>

⁷⁵ <http://www.aremnews.com/politics/arab-politics/221310>

⁷⁶ <http://goo.gl/7rCOMO>

⁷⁷ <http://www.vetogate.com/1492755>

attempt to portray it in that light is fraudulent.⁷⁸

- A filmed review of Al-Nusra Front fighters shooting down a helicopter above the Abu al-Zuhur Air Base in Idlib.⁷⁹
- A video of the battles that took place between Al-Nusra Front fighters and Syrian security forces in Aleppo.⁸⁰
- A filmed interview with residents of the Hardatnin village after they returned to the village following the withdrawal of Syrian army troops from the area. The residents expressed joy over the retreat of Syrian soldiers and the arrival of Al-Nusra Front forces to the area.⁸¹
- A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack that was carried out by an Al-Nusra Front fighter at the Al-Mustaqbal checkpoint south of Damascus. According to the organization, the target was a first line of defense for Iran's supporters of the grave of Zaynab, daughter of the founder of the Shi'a, Imam Ali. As a result of the attack, ten regime forces were killed and dozens more were injured.⁸²
- A video documenting factories in southeast Malah and military posts in the village of Handarat after they were abandoned when Al-Nusra Front fighters entered the area.⁸³
- An announcement accusing members of the Hazzm Movement of sabotaging and interfering with the battle against the Assad regime by waging war against Al-Nusra Front and other jihadist organizations. According to Al-Nusra Front, the Hazzm Movement's crimes include the kidnapping of jihadists and continuous incitement against the organization. Al-Nusra Front added that it had appealed to Al-Jabha al-Shamiyya, a coalition of rebel organization of which the Hazzm Movement is also a member, with a request to release its members who were kidnapped by the Hazzm Movement, and on February 24, 2015 an agreement was reached for their release. However, in the end the agreement was not honored as the Hazzm Movement executed

⁷⁸ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁸⁰ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸² <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

the Al-Nusra Front prisoners. In light of this incident, Al-Nusra Front clarified that it considers the Hazzm Movement to be a legitimate target of attack and that it would not accept any resolution agreement with the organization. Finally, Al-Nusra Front called on Al-Jabha al-Shamiyya to dismantle all Hazzm headquarters and end its support for the organization since Al-Nusra Front intends to avenge the crimes committed by the Hazzm Movement.⁸⁴

- A filmed interview with activists in a cell tied to the Hazzm Movement, a moderate opposition party that received support from Qatar, in which they admitted to attacking an Al-Nusra Front checkpoint in Maarrat al-Nu'man. Later in the video, members of the cell appealed to members of the Hazzm Movement to cease their hostile acts against Al-Nusra Front.⁸⁵
- A message to residents of the town of Atarib that the battle being waged in their area has nothing to do with the residents. According to Al-Nusra Front, Hazzm Movement fighters had kidnapped Al-Nusra Front fighters and were hiding in the town. Therefore, the battle there is focused only on Hazzm Movement fighters. In addition, Al-Nusra Front asked the town's residents to keep their distance from Hazzm Movement fighters and to remove them from the town.⁸⁶

The Islamic State – Al-Raqqah Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Raqqah Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “Al-Faruq Institute for Lion Cubs”, which documented a training camp for youth and young children in which they learn the “principles of jihad” and methods “to fight the infidels”. One of those in charge of the institute explained that the youth and children there are the children of both Syrian local fighters and foreign fighters, and that their initial training lasts four months. He also expressed hope that the current generation will be the one to liberate Al-Aqsa Mosque and conquer Rome. The video later showed the youth themselves as they recited verses from the Quran, held a joint

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

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

⁸⁶ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

prayer session, responded to questions about Islamic law, and partook in a communal meal.⁸⁷



Teaching the principles of jihad to children in Al-Raqqa Province

- A filmed review of traffic police activities in the eastern part of the province. The review showed that the traffic police manage the traffic on the roads, monitor the drivers, and hold driving courses that issue drivers licenses to those who pass.⁸⁸



The IS in Al-Raqqa Province issues driver's licenses

- Filmed interviews with IS fighters on the front lines. The video opened with criticism by one of the fighters against the international coalition forces that are engaged in battle against the organization. Other fighters noted that Muslim nations are under attack by coalition forces, and that the battle against Islam and Muslims is destined to fail while an

⁸⁷ <https://isdarat.org/7346> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <https://isdarat.org/7283> (Arabic).

IS victory is guaranteed. Another fighter threatened the Kurdish Peshmerga forces that they will pay a heavy price for fighting against the organization.⁸⁹

The Islamic State – Aleppo

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Aleppo published the following:
 - A video documenting testimonies by fighters who had previously belonged to various organizations and factions opposed to the IS but had “repented”. The fighters – who had belonged to Liwa al-Islam, Al-Nusra Front, Abu Ammara Brigades and Ahrar al-Sham – explained that the factions they had belonged to had distorted the image of the IS and presented its members as Kharijites. The video showed the fighters who “repented” participating in a shari’a course aimed at “refuting the lies, untruths and slander directed at the Islamic State”.⁹⁰
 - A filmed review of the PR stands operated by the organization in the province. The photos showed residents approaching one of the stands in order to receive a copy of IS publications and videos.⁹¹
 - A filmed review of two men accused of theft getting their hands cut off in the city of Dar al-Fath.⁹²
 - A filmed review of a show of force by members of the organization in the province. According to the militants, the IS will continue to spread and will reach Rome.⁹³

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 titled, “The Sniper from Al-Khayr Province”. The video included footage of assassinations carried out by an IS militant using a Dragunov sniper rifle. The footage

⁸⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁰ <https://isdarat.org/7323> (Arabic).

⁹¹ <https://isdarat.org/7029> (Arabic).

⁹² <https://isdarat.org/7104>(Arabic).

⁹³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

was accompanied by heroic Islamic music and effects that gave the video the impression of a computer game.⁹⁴

- A filmed review documenting the daily life of members of the Al-Sheitat tribe: at work in the butcher shop, shopping in the supermarket, building, etc.⁹⁵ The review joins a video by one member of the tribe in which he declared his “repentance” and praised the mercifulness of the IS towards him in the past.⁹⁶ It should be noted that the IS slaughtered approximately 700 members of the tribe in August 2014 after its members dared to oppose the organization.⁹⁷
- A video documenting the destruction of a tomb from the Sufi Al-Rifai’a order from 1973. IS militants emphasized the importance of the tomb’s destruction claiming that it a polytheistic and Pagan symbol.⁹⁸

The Islamic State – Al-Baraka (Al-Hasaka) Province

- The IS in Al-Hasaka Province (referred to as Al-Baraka Province by members of the organization), published a filmed review documenting a meeting between IS militants and members of the Al-Bu Shaykh tribe. According to the review, members of the Islamic State’s “Public Relations Office” in the province were hosted by tribal dignitaries in order to explain to them the significance of the term “the oneness of God” and in order to accept their oath of allegiance to the Caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.⁹⁹

The Islamic State – Damascus

- According to a filmed review by the IS in Damascus, the organization is holding screenings of videos that it produced, including a video of the burning of the Jordanian pilot, Muaz al-Kasasbeh.¹⁰⁰ Other filmed reviews from the province had to do with paving roads¹⁰¹ and

⁹⁴ <https://isdarat.org/7356> (Arabic).

⁹⁵ <https://isdarat.org/9529> (Arabic).

⁹⁶ <https://isdarat.org/7308> (Arabic).

⁹⁷ <http://goo.gl/r1nZqo>

⁹⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁹ <https://isdarat.org/7101> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁰ <https://isdarat.org/7113> (Arabic).

¹⁰¹ <https://isdarat.org/9510> (Arabic).

painting walls black in southern Damascus in the framework of renovating the city.¹⁰² Another video documented the capture of Jabal Dukua in eastern Al-Ghawta.¹⁰³

Jordan

The Islamic State

- The jihadist media institution of the IS, Al-'Itisam, published a video in which one of its members threatened the Jordanian authorities and King Abdullah of Jordan not to take part in the war against the IS and to end its cooperation with coalition forces. According to the IS militant, if Jordan continues its aggressive policies against the organization, its army will pay a heavy price and will be forced to cope with a wave of terrorism in the Jordanian Kingdom similar to that facing the Egyptian and Syrian armies. The militant also addressed the Banu Husayn tribe and other Jordanian tribes to defect from the Jordanian army “for fear” of being slaughtered like Iraqi army soldiers.¹⁰⁴



An IS militant threatening Jordan

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

During the second half of February 2015, the Egyptian government took the fight to Islamic terrorists in the Sinai Peninsula.

¹⁰² <https://isdarat.org/7125> (Arabic).

¹⁰³ <http://justpaste.it/jn8q> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

On February 16, six militants were killed in an attempt to attack a security checkpoint in Rafah.¹⁰⁵ The men were driving in a car when they were shot. According to *The Cairo Post*, the highest security alert was announced in case of retribution after Egyptian planes struck Islamic State targets in Libya. On February 17, Ibrahim Mahlab, the Prime Minister of Egypt, announced that he was setting up a committee to study the issue of banning or removing Web sites linked to terrorism.¹⁰⁶ And on February 21, Egypt's top prosecutor imposed a media gag order on a case involving 213 suspected members of Wilayat Sinai, previously known as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis.

On February 25, Egyptian security forces killed thirteen alleged militants and arrested others in airstrikes that were carried out as part of a coordinated security operation in northern Sinai. The militants that were killed and arrested were presumed to be members of Wilayat Sinai.¹⁰⁷ On the same day, an Egyptian businessman was purportedly taken hostage.¹⁰⁸ And on February 28, an Egyptian court declared Hamas to be a terrorist organization.¹⁰⁹ The Egyptian government also reported that it had killed 172 militants in security operations carried out during the month of February.¹¹⁰

The Islamic State in Sinai Province (formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis)

- During the second half of February 2015, the media wing of the IS in Sinai Province (formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis) published the following:
 - A filmed review of the organization's tracking of the "apostate army". The photos showed IS militants observing Egyptian army posts from inside cars and on horseback, or holding guns and RPG launchers in order to push back the army troops.¹¹¹
 - Footage of a patrol among area residents.¹¹²

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.thecairopost.com/news/137718/news/6-gunmen-killed-in-north-sinai-security-on-high-alert-in-sallum> (English).

¹⁰⁶ <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/123290/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-to-block-websites-linked-to-terrorism.aspx> (English).

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.thecairopost.com/news/138970/news/13-militants-killed-in-army-chase-and-airstrikes-in-north-sinai> (English).

¹⁰⁸ <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0LU07W20150226> (English).

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/02/28/world/middleeast/ap-ml-egypt-hamas.html> (English).

¹¹⁰ <http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-army-172-sinai-militants-killed-february-161037221.html> (English).

¹¹¹ <https://isdarat.org/9523> (Arabic).

¹¹² <https://isdarat.org/7094> (Arabic).



The subtitles in the photo read: “Islamic State soldiers in Sinai Province bringing joy to Muslim children”

- A report detailing all of the military operations carried out by IS members during January and February.¹¹³

The Maghreb [North Africa]

At least 45 people were killed and over 70 were injured when a car bomb exploded in the city of Al-Qubba in Eastern Lybia, in an attack against the city’s security administration and a gasoline distribution station.¹¹⁴ Connected with this attack were the explosions of a government building in the city of Sirte¹¹⁵ and of the Iranian consul’s residence in the capital city Tyre, in which no casualties were incurred.¹¹⁶ There are those who claim that the security situation in the country is getting worse, also due to the fact that Libya is still under an arms embargo, which hinders the Libyan army’s ability to cope with the Islamic State’s expanding circle of influence.¹¹⁷

In the political context, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi called on the UN to publicize a decision that would enable forging a coalition that would fight against terrorist elements in Libya.¹¹⁸ El-Sisi’s declaration arrived when in the background the Egyptian Foreign Ministry announced an

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

¹¹⁴ <http://goo.gl/sroh0w> (Arabic).

¹¹⁵ <http://goo.gl/xNf5mI> (Arabic).

¹¹⁶ <http://goo.gl/IJzj3d> (Arabic).

¹¹⁷ <http://goo.gl/1gzIFv> (Arabic).

¹¹⁸ <http://www.alriyadh.com/1022933> (Arabic).

emergency meeting with for the purpose of discussing methods of dealing with terror in Libya.¹¹⁹ It should be noted that Italy – being extremely afraid of the threat crossing its borders – also called for NATO’s intervention in Libya.¹²⁰

Throughout Tunisia there was also an increase in acts of terror. In an attack carried out in the notorious Jebel Chambi region four security forces were killed, and that occurred at the same time as an attack on villages in the Kef Governorate in north western Tunis, with the goal of acquiring food and provisions for the activists.¹²¹ The increase in attacks in Tunis led to a protest against terror¹²² alongside increased surveillance of associations that supported terror,¹²³ the dismantlement of a 13 member terror cell in the Kasserine Governorate,¹²⁴ and France’s declaration of its willingness to assist Tunis in the matter.¹²⁵ In the meantime, the Moroccan and Algerian authorities continue to take measures against terror organizations: in Morocco, a former Spanish soldier was sentenced to eight years in prison after being convicted of establishing a network that planned attacks,¹²⁶ and Algeria hosted an international conference on drying up sources of funding for terror and on making ransom payments illegal.¹²⁷

The Islamic State in Tripoli

- The Islamic State in Tripoli published the following:
 - A video clip titled “Convoys of Martyrs 1” - a video documenting the final will and testament of two suicide bombers who carried out an attack in the Corinthia Hotel in Tripoli on January 29, 2015: Abu Sulayman al-Sudani, and Abu Ibrahim al-Tunisi. During the clip al-Sudani sent a threatening message to the “secular government in Tubruq” and to the security forces, as he vowed they would be attacked with car bombs. In addition,

¹¹⁹ <http://goo.gl/ZRDYiu> (Arabic).

¹²⁰ <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/libya-faces-isis-crisis-italy-wants-nato-intervention-n306896> (English).

¹²¹ <http://goo.gl/xilWMg> (Arabic).

¹²² <http://goo.gl/kABam7> (Arabic).

¹²³ <http://goo.gl/kABam7> (Arabic).

¹²⁴ <http://goo.gl/v0mGvG> (Arabic).

¹²⁵ <http://goo.gl/SymbK9> (Arabic).

¹²⁶ <http://goo.gl/KR727R> (Arabic).

¹²⁷ <http://goo.gl/tOZJpH> (Arabic).

al-Sudani called upon Muslims in Libya and Sudan to join the ranks of the Islamic State. Al-Tunisi also transmitted threatening messages to the “tyrants ruling Arab countries” and called upon them to repent.¹²⁸



Publication of the last will and testament of the terrorists responsible for the Corinthia Hotel attack in Tripoli

- A video clip titled “Message to the Brothers of Tawhid”. The video shows a masked Saudi Arabian activist named Abu Ali al-Jazrawi, sitting on a beach and speaking in defence of the General Khalifa Hiftar, and debasing the non-violent protests that take place in Arab countries. While quoting verses from the Koran, al-Jazrawi calls for the use of force, and states that the Islamic State will continue to battle until shari'a is enforced in Libya. He calls for activists from Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Egypt and Sudan to come to Libya and join the ranks of the organization.¹²⁹

The Islamic State in Barqa Province

- The Islamic State in Barqa published the following:
 - A video clip titled “A Message to the Tyrannical Army 1”, depicting three masked activists in the area of combat in the city of Bengazi. In the video, one of the activists sent a threatening message to Khalifa Hiftar’s army, promising to use car bombs and gun silencers. At the same time he calls upon muhajireen – foreign fighters – to come to Libya in order to live in and fight for the Islamic State. The video ends with footage

¹²⁸ <https://archive.org/details/Tripoli.Kwafel.AI.Estshhadien.1> (Arabic).

¹²⁹ <https://archive.org/details/TRABLS> (Arabic).

documenting the killing of “tyrannical soldiers” by gunfire from a moving vehicle, in a style reminiscent of similar acts documented in other videos published by the Islamic State in Iraq.¹³⁰

- Video coverage of the actions of the Islamic police force and the offices of al-Hesbah, and Islamic body responsible for the protection of public morality and order, and which is involved in the confiscation of cigarettes and the destruction of musical instruments.¹³¹



Members of “al-Hesbah” in Libya destroying instruments

Nigeria

On February 16th, the Nigerian military stated that it had recaptured Monguno, a city of about 100,000 in northeast Nigeria, from Boko Haram.¹³² On February 17th, the commander of American Special Forces operations in Africa said that the United States would share intelligence and equipment with its allies in the fight against Boko Haram.¹³³ On the same day, three bombings were carried out across Nigeria. In Biu, in northeastern Borno State, suicide bombers killed 12 people. According to local media, two suicide bombers riding a three-wheeled vehicle were stopped at an entry checkpoint, where they dismounted their vehicle and detonated their explosives. Purportedly, 17 militants were later killed. Another attack occurred in Yobe State and police say a

¹³⁰ <https://www.alfarouch.com/?p=2463> (Arabic).

¹³¹ <https://isdarat.org/7114> (Arabic).

¹³² <http://www.voanews.com/content/nigeria-town-recaptured-from-boko-haram/2645870.html> (English).

¹³³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/18/us-nigeria-violence-usa-idUSKBN0LLOW320150218> (English).

suicide bomber detonated himself at a restaurant, killing three people and wounding 12. Meanwhile, explosions occurred at a political rally for the opposition in the southeastern Rivers state.¹³⁴ On February 19th, the Nigerian government claimed that it had carried out airstrikes against Boko Haram training camps and that it had killed more than 300 militants and taken back 11 villages since February 16th.¹³⁵ On February 20th, Boko Haram militants purportedly killed 21 people near the northern Nigerian village of Chibok, the same village where the terrorist organization kidnapped 200 schoolgirls in April 2014.¹³⁶ On February 21st, the Nigerian military stated that it had retaken the town of Baga from Boko Haram. Baga was previously the site of a Boko Haram massacre earlier in the year, with an estimate of 2,000 people killed.¹³⁷ On February 22nd, a young girl, described as being no older than 8, detonated an explosive device at a checkpoint in a market in northeastern Nigeria, killing herself and five others.¹³⁸ On February 24th, armed men kidnapped an American missionary in the Kogi state. It was unclear if the kidnapping had anything to do with Boko Haram.¹³⁹ On the same day, Chadian forces claimed to have killed 207 militants from Boko Haram, with only one Chadian soldier dying and nine wounded in a clash with the terrorist group.¹⁴⁰ On February 26th, in northeastern Nigeria, a suicide bomber detonated a bomb at a bus station killing at least 17 people. Also, in Jos, in central Nigeria three bombs thrown from a car killed 15 people at a bus station and the university.¹⁴¹ On February 27th, Boko Haram militants killed dozens of traders in a market town in Mainok, in Borno State. At the end of February, Operation Flintlock took place, where American Special Forces helped train Chadian soldiers and

¹³⁴ <http://www.voanews.com/content/boko-haram-militants-burn-northeast-nigeria-town/2647271.html> (English).

¹³⁵ <http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-military-nigeria-warplanes-bomb-boko-haram-forest-training-camps/2650499.html> (English).

¹³⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/20/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0LO1LH20150220> (English).

¹³⁷ <http://www.voanews.com/content/boko-haram-attacks-island-on-niger-side-of-lake-chad/2653111.html> (English).

¹³⁸ <http://www.voanews.com/content/nigerian-suicide-bombing-by-girl-kills-5/2653987.html> (English).

¹³⁹ <http://time.com/3721063/american-missionary-kidnapping-nigeria/> (English).

¹⁴⁰ <http://www.voanews.com/content/chadian-army-soldiers-kill-207-boko-haram-militants/2658025.html> (English).

¹⁴¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31650463> (English).

other neighboring countries to fight Boko Haram.¹⁴²

Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Struggle (“Jamaat Ansar al-Sunnah” - formerly Boko Haram)

- The media institution Al-Urwa al-Wuthqa, affiliated with the organization Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Struggle (the former Boko Haram), published the following:
 - A recorded speech made by the head of the organization, Abubakar Shekau, titled "A message to the leaders of the disbelievers". In the course of his speech – which he made in Arabic and the Hausa language – Shekau threatened leaders of countries adjacent to Nigeria who participate in the struggle against the organization. At the end of his speech Shekau calls on Muslims in the country to support his organization and warns that the supporters of Barak Obama and François Hollande will be considered enemies, and "will be sold as slaves in the market places".¹⁴³



Footage from the video

- A video titled "Refusers of Injustice". In the video - which is distinguished in its high quality and precise production – and attack by the organization against military positions in Maiduguri and Baga in the Borno State in northeast Nigeria are documented. The

¹⁴² <http://www.stripes.com/news/us-kicks-off-operation-flintlock-amid-regional-tensions-1.329725> (English).

¹⁴³ <https://www.mnbr.info/vb/showthread.php?t=82408> (Arabic).
<http://goo.gl/Accx7s> (English).

video ends with quotes from Sheikh Abu Yusuf Muhammad bin Yusuf, the previous Emir of Boko Haram.¹⁴⁴

Vanguard for the Protection of Muslims in Black Lands (“Jama’at Ansar al-Muslimin fi Bilad al-Sudan”)

- The media institution Al-Hedaya, which operates on behalf of the group "Vanguard for the Protection of Muslims in Black Lands", published the principles of faith that characterize the group. The organization's goal is to cause the downfall of the Nigerian government and to implement shari'a law in Nigeria. However, unlike the Boko Haram organization, this group maintains the view that harming innocent Muslims is to be avoided.¹⁴⁵



The front page of the publication

Somalia

In the second half of February 2015 Al-Shabaab continued to harass the Somali government with continued attacks as well as terrorize the populace. Although the terrorist group has lost ground to the Somali government and African Union troops it still has the ability to carry out sophisticated attacks in Mogadishu.

¹⁴⁴ <https://ia902600.us.archive.org/34/items/SlagveldMaidugriFinal/Slagveld%20maidugri%20final.mp4>

¹⁴⁵ <http://justpaste.it/MethaqAnsaru> (Arabic).

On February 16th, militants from Al-Shabaab killed four airport workers in a drive-by shooting in the capital city of Mogadishu in a neighborhood near the airport.¹⁴⁶ On February 20th, militants from Al-Shabaab detonated explosives twice at the Central Hotel in Mogadishu, killing at least 25 and wounding the Deputy Prime Minister and the Transportation and Aviation Minister.¹⁴⁷ On February 21st, Al-Shabaab released a video where it threatened to attack the Mall of America in Minnesota, in the United States. However, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security issued a joint statement that they were not "aware of any specific, credible plot against the Mall of America or any other domestic commercial shopping center."¹⁴⁸ On February 26th, Al-Shabaab militants fired mortars at the presidential palace in Mogadishu. However, there were no reports of casualties.¹⁴⁹ On February 28th, Al-Shabaab militants detonated a car bomb in Mogadishu targeting the police. Two police officers were injured according to a spokesman from the terrorist organization.¹⁵⁰

The Caucasus

In the second half of February unrest in the North Caucasus continued to simmer. However, there is very little public information available about terror attacks in the region, especially in English.

Although the conflict in the North Caucasus has been raging since 2007 it seems to be waning in intensity. According to a study done by Kavkazky Uzel, a group which monitors the situation in the North Caucasus and provides daily and annual reports, the number of casualties in 2014 was 525, compared to 986 in 2013.¹⁵¹

Finally, opposition leader Boris Nemstov was killed in Moscow on February 27th. Anzor Gubashev and Zaur Dadayev, both from the North Caucasus, were arrested for the murder of Nemstov, although little information was released about the two men.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/16/us-somalia-security-idUSKBNOLK1HG20150216> (English).

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.voanews.com/content/militants-attack-mogadishu-hotel-casualties-feared/2651534.html> (English).

¹⁴⁸ <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/02/21/us/al-shabaab-calls-for-mall-attacks/> (English).

¹⁴⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/26/us-somalia-security-idUSKBNOLU19G20150226> (English).

¹⁵⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/28/us-somalia-security-idUSKBNOLW0SB20150228> (English).

¹⁵¹ <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/article.php?id=516142> (English).

¹⁵² <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-31693234> (English).

Iran

- The Al-Farouq media institution, acting on behalf of Ansar al-Furqan, a Salafi Jihad organization active in Balochistan, published a video titled "This is what we have prepared for you, the Safavid's of Iran", using an insulting name for the Empire established by the Shiite Iranian dynasty in the 16th century. The video begins with footage of training the organization members undergo. Afterwards, an organization spokesman clarifies that the organization is fighting a fierce battle against the Iranian regime and its security forces. According to the spokesman, Iran is considered to be an enemy Muslim nation, and intends to conquer Mecca and Medina.¹⁵³



The organization's spokesman explains that the organization's goal is to battle the Iranian regime

The West

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, who preaches radical Islamism in English, continues to publicize his controversial messages in his Twitter account. During the second half of January, 2015, Choudary publicized various tweets, such as: condemning Western society for permitting alcohol, homosexual relations, pornography, bribery, and more; condemning the United States for the persecution of Muslims, occupying Muslim lands, and murder of Muslims with drones; blaming Britain for racism against Britains; a call for joining the protest demanding the release of Sheikh Umar Bakri, Choudary's teacher, from prison in Lebanon, and more.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic).

¹⁵⁴ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/> (English).



Anjem Choudary
@anjemchoudary



 Follow

If the US are not at war with Islam why do they support all the States fighting against Muslims like Burma, India, China, Russia, etc etc...

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