

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The Second Half of April 2016

Highlights

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

- **The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan** threatens to attack media representatives in the country if they continue their trend of exclusion and distortion when it comes to news concerning the Emirate. According to the Emirate, the continuing trend of making defamatory statements about the organization should not be ignored and demands an appropriate response. In addition, the Emirate threatens to attack the Afghan regime, claiming that it is working for the United States.
- **Ahrar al-Sham** publishes a statement criticizing the renewed peace talks in Geneva between Syrian rebel factions and the Syrian regime. The organization claims that the ceasefire agreement was breached by Assad's security forces and Iran, that Russia continues to act for the sake of strengthening the Syrian regime, and that the latter continued to adhere to the military option. Therefore, the negotiations are inherently wrong and all factions of the Syrian revolution must adhere to the continuation of the armed revolution against the Syrian regime.
- **The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna** announces that the city has been purified of the remains of the previous regime, especially IS fighters. According to the statement, the liberation of the city heralds the beginning of a new phase; namely, its rebuilding and the investment of efforts in maintaining stability and security in the region. In addition, the Council threatens that any future cooperation by residents of the city with General Haftar's regime will warrant a severe response.
- **Ansar al-Islam in Bangladesh, Al-Qaeda's branch in the Indian Subcontinent**, continues its series of assassinations in Bangladesh. The organization claims responsibility for the assassinations of Xulhaz Mannan and Samir Mahbub Tonoy, claiming that the two were working to promote homosexual relations in Bangladesh with American and Indian help since 1998.

Table of Contents

Highlights	2
New Publications	5
Ideology	5
The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State	7
Women and Jihad.....	7
Oaths of Allegiance to the Islamic State	8
Strategy.....	9
Promoting the Myth of the Martyr.....	10
Magazines	10
Reports from the Field	13
Afghanistan-Pakistan.....	13
The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan	14
The Arabian Peninsula.....	16
Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.....	17
Other Jihadist Organizations	17
Iraq.....	18
The Islamic State.....	19
Al-Sham [The Levant]	21
Syria	22
Ahrar al-Sham	23
Ansar al-Din Front.....	24
The Islamic Turkestan Party in Al-Sham	25
Al-Muhajirun.....	25
Al-Fustat Army.....	26
The Islamic State.....	27
The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula	31
Africa.....	31
The Maghreb	31

Algeria.....	32
The Islamic State.....	32
Libya.....	32
The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna	32
The Islamic State.....	33
Tunisia	33
The ‘Uqba Ibn Nafi Battalion	33
Somalia	34
Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.....	34
The Philippines	35
The Indian Subcontinent	35
Ansar al-Islam in Bangladesh.....	35
The Islamic State.....	36

New Publications

Ideology

- The Nukhbat al-Fitr jihadist media group, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published the following:
 - An article titled, “The Muslim Brotherhood and the Spread of Shi’a: Rashid al-Ghanushi as a Test Case” by Khamis bin ‘Ali al-Majiri al-Tunisi. In the article, the writer accused al-Ghanushi, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Tunisia, of forming an alliance with Shi’ite Iran and of serving as a gateway to the conversion of Sunni society to Shi’a Islam.¹



The article banner

- Collections of essays by several prominent Salafi-jihadist philosophers, such as Abu Qatada al-Filastini, who resides in Jordan; Sheikh Osama bin Laden, the former leader of Al-Qaeda; Atiyyat Allah, a former prominent leader of Al-Qaeda; Abu Muhammad al-Julani, the leader of Al-Nusra Front; Ibrahim al-Rubaysh, the former mufti of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Abu al-Walid al-Ansari; Abu Muhmmad al-Maqdisi, who resides in Jordan; Abu ‘Abdallah al-Shami, a senior Al-Nusra Front leader; Harith bin Ghazi al-Nidhari, a former senior AQAP leader; Iyad Qunaybi, who is jailed in a Jordanian prison; Abu Mus’ab al-Suri, a senior Al-Qaeda strategist; Khalid Batarfi, a senior AQAP leader; Adam Gadan, a former senior Al-Qaeda leader; Abdllah Azzam, an Al-Qaeda founder; and more.

¹ https://twitter.com/ALNOKBAH_8/status/721420813937876992



From left to right: the banners of the collection of publications by Attiyat Allah al-Libi, Adam Gadan, Abu 'Abdallah al-Shami and Iyad Qunaybi

- Al-Tahaya jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published the following:
 - Correspondence between Sheikh Majid al-Majid, the leader of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades in Al-Sham (a Salafi-jihadist organization in Lebanon) who died in captivity in Lebanon in 2014, and Sheikh 'Attiyat Allah al-Libi, a senior Al-Qaeda leader who was killed in 2011.²
 - The transcript of a speech by Abu Qatada al-Filastini, a senior Salafi-jihadist philosopher in Jordan, about the book, "Slaughter of the Heritage in Contemporary Arab Culture" by Georges Tarabichi (1939-2016), a Syrian Marxist author and philosopher. The book emphasized the importance of preserving Arabic culture and its rejuvenation in the face of Western attempts to undermine it.³
- Al-Istiqama jihadist media institution published an article titled, "Globalization of Jihad". by Sheikh Abu Ja'far al-Iraqi.⁴
- "Al-Himmah Library" jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the IS and involved in distributing pamphlets and publications on the topic of religion, published a book titled, "Issues and Laws Regarding Prayer and Fasting".⁵

² <https://twitter.com/tayaha8/status/722120301157425152>

³ <https://twitter.com/tayaha8/status/725961829940355074>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/istiqama3/status/723628797002657792>

⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/40955>

- There was a noticeably growing trend of translating IS publications into various languages, including Albanian and Indonesian. Among the translated publications were videos that were published by the IS in Al-Anbar Province and articles from the organization’s online magazine, *Dabiq*.⁶

The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

- A visitor named Abu Muhammad al-Nasari published an article through Al-Nusra al-Maqdisiyya jihadist media institution criticizing Al-Qaeda in Syria and Yemen. Al-Nasari claimed that Al-Qaeda tends to establish ties with local forces (such as Ahrar al-Sham in Syria or the “National Resistance” in Yemen) who later turn against it, which is one of the sources of its continued failure. The writer also criticized Al-Qaeda for being more focused on theory than on action, he claimed that it was light years away from the IS, and he called on its members not to believe their leaders.⁷

Women and Jihad

- The Hafidat Aisha jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the IS and covers issues concerning Islam and women, published an article titled, “Where has the Shame Gone?” by an author named Al-Jumuh al-Maqdisiyya. In the framework of the article, the author reviewed the women’s liberation movement in the Arab world while blaming the West, as well as several individuals in the Arab world, for causing promiscuity and changing the image of a woman in Muslim society from that of a modest woman whose honor is internal to an extroverted and exposed woman who shed her hijab. In the article, the woman’s liberation movement was presented as part of the “Crusader plan” to harm the fabric of Muslim society, a movement that can only be countered by providing a woman with self-confidence, emotional backing and material support, as well as making sure that one of the men in her family is present to guide her in terms of her morality and behavior. The second part of the article addressed women

⁶ <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

⁷ <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

themselves and provided historical examples in praise of modest women, from Aisha, the wife of the Prophet Muhammad, to women in Victorian times.⁸



An article praising the modesty of women in the Islamic State

Oaths of Allegiance to the Islamic State

- A group of jihadists affiliated with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Ranao, in the Philippines, swore allegiance to the IS and to its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.⁹



Jihadist fighters in the Philippines who swore allegiance to the IS at a training camp

⁸ <https://justpaste.it/tiq6>

⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/41303>

Strategy

- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist web forum held a discussion regarding the A'maq news agency's application for the Android operating system. The visitors shared links to download the application and recommended using VPN software when using the application. In addition, one of the visitors warned that the application creates a file in the phone's memory that includes photos and videos that could be considered "incriminating evidence in the infidel countries battling against Muslims".¹⁰
- A writer known as "a Yemenite proud to be a Muslim" published a collection of tips for IS supporters on social networks in general, and on Twitter in particular. In the framework of the publication, the writer warned the organization's online supporters about users who seem to express support for Islam but who really belong to the "Crusaders and tyrants". The writer explained that supporters must safeguard themselves from these users who operate in cyberspace, and try to incite and sow conflict among IS supporters. In addition, the writer recommended that supporters share and spread the Islamic State's messages and publications, and not get dragged into useless arguments that will lead to a waste of precious time.¹¹
- A visitor called Mu'awiyya al-Sayberi published an article about the various methods and measures taken to spy on and track residents. The writer explained that certain countries employ official bodies to perform this surveillance (for instance, the American NSA or China's Electronic Warfare Unit) while other countries, including Arab states, use the services of civilian companies to carry it out. The companies mentioned in the article include Blue Coat, whose technology – according to the writer – was used by the regime to track the opposition in the country, and Gamma, which cooperated with Egyptian security forces.¹²
- A writer known as "Khalifate [sic] Tiger published an instructional video about encryption. In the framework of the video, he explained how to use the gpg4usb software to encrypt messages.¹³

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

¹¹ <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

¹² <https://justpaste.it/tiaf>

¹³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNNmr3SoDck>

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- Al-Fursan jihadist media institution published two biographies about two fighters belonging to the Taliban in Pakistan (parts 2-3) in the framework of a series of publications titled, “Khurasan’s Martyrs”.¹⁴



The banners of the videos

Magazines

- Issue no. 10 of the magazine, *Al-Masra*, was published by AQAP. Among the topics included in this issue: news from the arenas of jihad in which Al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan operate; a status report on the situation in the field in Hadramawt Province, which has been under AQAP control for about one year; an article criticizing Ethiopia for joining the African Union Force; words of supports for the Taliban against detractors from the IS; and more.¹⁵



The banner of the issue of *Al-Masra*

¹⁴ <https://justpaste.it/tcg1>; <https://justpaste.it/ttj0>

¹⁵ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Issues no. 27-28 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the IS. The issues reviewed the various arenas of jihad in which IS fighters operate and their battles.¹⁶



The banners of the issues and an infographic report detailing how many planes were shot down and destroyed by IS fighters

- The Islamic State published issue no. 9 of the magazine, *Dar al-Islam*, in French. Among the topics discussed in the current issue: the terrorist attacks in Brussels (in the airport and metro station in March 2016); the organization’s recent achievements in various battles; the personal story of a martyr’s recruitment to the organization; instructions on computer security; an analysis of the organization by terrorism researcher, Scott Atran; a series of photos documenting life under IS rule; and more.¹⁷

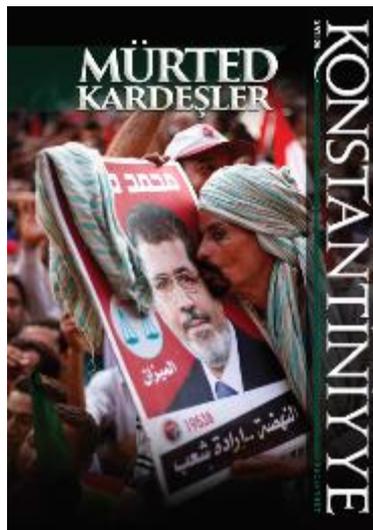


The banner of the issue of *Dar al-Islam*

¹⁶ <https://ia601504.us.archive.org/21/items/Naba27>

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

- Issue no. 6 of the Turkish-language magazine, *Konstantinople*, was published by the IS. Among the topics covered in the current issue: the recent terrorist attacks in Brussels; an article criticizing the Turkish army; an article criticizing the Muslim Brotherhood, with emphasis on the Egyptian branch, and accusing it of joining forces with Sunni enemies of Islam, such as Shi'ite Iran, Coptic Christians in Egypt, and others; an article regarding the importance of parking for fighters in school areas as a strategic place that should serve as a base for launching raids and attacks on the enemy.¹⁸



The banner of the issue of *Konstantinople*

- Issue no. 19 of the magazine, *Turkistan al-Islamiyya*, was published by the Turkistan Islamic Party, a Salafi-jihadist organization composed of members of Uigurean origin and an ally of Al-Qaeda. Among the topics covered in this issue: the doctrine of the organization; an article criticizing Russia for its involvement in Syria; encouragement for Muslims to emigrate to the arena of jihad in Syria in order to fulfil the commandment of jihad; biographies of martyrs who fought in the organization's ranks; reference to the oppressive policies of the Sunni regime towards its Muslim citizens; emphasis on the obligation to liberate eastern Turkistan from China and the aspiration towards establishing independent Islamic rule in this region.¹⁹

¹⁸ <https://ia601505.us.archive.org/14/items/Konstantiniyye6>

¹⁹ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).



The front and back banners of the issue of *Turkistan al-Islamiyya*

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

During the second half of April, attacks by the Taliban in Afghanistan continued all the more forcefully against security and government forces in the framework of the “Spring Offensive” that was declared on April 12, in which the organization vowed to increase its attacks. In this context, clashes continued between Taliban fighters and Afghan security forces near the city of Kunduz with each side claiming achievements.²⁰ Meanwhile, in Kabul, Taliban fighters detonated a car bomb next to a security office,²¹ which killed 60 people and injured over 300 more. It was the largest attack by the Taliban in Kabul since the declaration of the “Spring Offensive”.²² Meanwhile, a delegation from the Taliban in Afghanistan arrived in Pakistan and met with Pakistani and Chinese representatives in preparation for renewed peace talks between the organization and the Kabul government.²³ However, representatives from the Kabul government were not in attendance. A senior Taliban member who was interviewed against the backdrop of the meeting claimed that, as far as the organization was concerned, the participation of the Afghan government in peace talks

²⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/afghanistan-kunduz-fighting-160417131804792.html> (English).

²¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/afghanistan-large-explosion-heard-kabul-160419043655563.html> (English).

²² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/death-toll-doubles-huge-bomb-attack-kabul-160420093808072.html> (English).

²³ <http://goo.gl/73Qlsh>

*does not matter since it is already making achievements in the framework of the “Spring Offensive”.*²⁴

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
 - An announcement by the Emirate’s Committee of Cultural Affairs for all of the media outlets, and for media chiefs and media protection committees in Afghanistan. The announcement stated that the media must avoid biased reporting and negative coverage of jihad since it is the religious obligation of every Muslim. The announcement added that if a media outlet has a specific reason not to support the mujahideen, it must at least not oppose them and must not spread biased reports and news on behalf of the enemy. According to the announcement, publications against the mujahideen will force them to counteract the channels of propaganda working on behalf of the enemy. Later in the announcement, the organization accused the media of not reporting the advancement and successful operations of the mujahideen in the provinces of northern Afghanistan and the Kabul area, and of avoiding publishing declarations by Islamic Emirate spokesmen. The end of the announcement stated that the media must share all of the news coming from the enemy with the Emirate and must ask the organization for its opinion on those news items in order to avoid publishing lies.²⁵
 - An announcement by the spokesman for the Islamic Emirate in response to the statements made by Afghan President , Ashraf Ghani, to the Parliament regarding jihad and the mujahideen. In the announcement, the organization criticized Ghani’s statements and claimed that he and the Prime Minister serve as puppets for the infidel American invaders of Afghanistan to fight against Islam and the Muslim Nation. The announcement further described the war taking place in Afghanistan as a war between Christianity and Islam, and gave examples of similar wars from the past. In addition, the organization threatened that the Kabul government that is cooperating with the

²⁴<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/taliban-dont-care-kabul-attends-peace-talks-160426172437435.html> (English).

²⁵<http://shahamat-english.com/notice-to-all-media-chiefs-and-media-protection-committees-in-afghanistan> (English).

invaders will have to answer for the crimes that it carried out, and for committing treason, sooner or later. The end of the announcement stated that the organization was confident of victory since victory always comes to the believers and not to the infidels.²⁶

- A message of condolences over the death of the writer, teacher and jihad activist, Abdullah Gul Rayyan Sahib, as a result of a long battle with cancer. In the announcement, the organization praised Sahib's contributions to cultural and academic matters, and his role in jihad against the American occupation.²⁷
- An announcement regarding the intention of the government, led by Ashraf Ghani, to execute prisoners. According to the announcement, this intention shows the Afghan President's desire to test his power against defenceless prisoners and has no legitimate basis since these political prisoners were sentenced to death by the most corrupt court in the world. The announcement also stated that the prisoners who were sentenced to death were mostly poor people who could not afford to bribe their prosecutors. The announcement added that if the government in Kabul decides to commit the crime of executing prisoners, the Islamic Emirate will respond and make them pay for their crimes. The organization added that - so far - it has not judged its prisoner harshly, including foreign citizens and Kabul regime soldiers, but it threatened that this would change if political prisoners are executed by the government in Kabul. At the end of the announcement, the government called on international human rights organizations and independent media channels not to be indifferent to the matter and to act to prevent the executions.²⁸
- The second part of a video about the conquest of the city of Marjah, in Helmand Province, by the mujahideen.²⁹
- A one-hour and eight-minute long video regarding the jihad situation in Sar-e-Pol Province. The video showed attacks by the mujahideen against the enemy in Sar e-Bol,

²⁶<http://shahamat-english.com/remarks-by-spokesman-of-islamic-emirate-concerning-latest-speech-by-ashraf-ghani> (English).

²⁷<http://shahamat-english.com/message-of-condolence-by-islamic-emirate-concerning-the-passing-away-of-engineer-abdullah-gul-rayyan/> (English).

²⁸<http://shahamat-english.com/statement-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-intent-of-executing-prisoners-by-the-ghani-administration/> (English).

²⁹<http://shahamat-english.com/al-amarah-studio-presents-conquest-of-marjah-part-2> (English).

from the planning and execution of the attacks to the mujahideen's return to their base. The video also showed the enemy captives captured by the mujahideen as well as residents talking about the situation in the province.³⁰

- Three videos documenting short interviews with residents of the Emirate in which they criticized the West in the framework of a series of publications titled, "Understand the Enemy!".³¹

The Arabian Peninsula

The second half of April marked a significant negative turning point for AQAP. Arab coalition forces, led by Saudi Arabia, registered a shining victory over the organization when they entered the city of Mukala, considered an AQAP stronghold, and re-captured it. Approximately 2,000 Yemeni and Emirate soldiers spread out in the city, and sized the airport and seaport. In effect, it also marked a turning point in the Arab coalition's strategy, which focused its attacks mainly against Houthi militias. The loss of Mukala was a strategic blow to the organization since it is an important strategic location point in the Islamic Emirate that was supposed to be built in southern Yemen.³² It should be noted that reports in the Saudi media about the takeover were characterized by disinformation designed to aggrandize the achievement, such as a report on the killing of a large number of the organization's fighters. In actuality, AQAP fighters expected the attack and began to retreat from the city ahead of time.³³ This is also based on the organization's official statement that the retreat from Mukala was a strategic move intended to protect its residents.

Alongside this dramatic development, the organization managed to inflict casualties among Yemeni security forces in the city of Zinjibar, in Abyan Province, after a car bomb exploded near them. As a result of the attack and battles in the area, Yemeni army forces loyal to 'Abd Rabo Mansur Hadi retreated but they later returned to the city, this time with backup from Apache helicopters belonging to coalition forces. Four soldiers and 25 AQAP fighters were killed in the

³⁰ <http://alemara.org/?p=19918>

³¹ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

³² <http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/04/arab-coalition-enters-aqap-stronghold-in-port-city-of-mukalla-yemen.php> (English).

³³ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/war-in-yemen-takes-a-major-turn-with-offensive-against-al-qaeda/2016/04/24/b8e73a3e-0a2c-11e6-bc53-db634ca94a2a_story.html (English).

battles. Battles were also fought in the city of Taiz when coalition forces bombarded a group of Shi'ite militia forces.³⁴

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- An announcement titled, “A Message to our People in the Hadramawt Region about the Recent Brutal Military Campaign”. The organization congratulated the residents of Hadramawt for their firm steadfastness in the face of US aggression over recent days and during the last year since AQAP forces managed to expel Houthi militias from the province. The organization emphasized that the capture of Hadramawt Province from the Houthis and its success in resisting enemy aggression was mainly possible due to residents’ cooperation and religious clerics’ support for the organization in the province. According to AQAP, its members invested great effort to rehabilitate the infrastructure and civilian institutions for the residents’ welfare, but most of it was destroyed as a result of US air strikes. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on followers not to believe the enemy’s media smear campaign and to continue to display willpower to face the enemy.³⁵
- Al-Athir news agency, which reviews the activities of Ansar al-Sharia in Yemen, an affiliate of AQAP, published a video documenting activities to rehabilitate the dam in Abyan Province.³⁶

Other Jihadist Organizations

- The arrest of Saudi cleric, ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Tarifi, by Saudi authorities during the second half of April 2016 ignited a lively dialogue among Saudi visitors to social networks. The discourse was characterized by criticism over the arrest and many visitors condemned the incident, especially with the hashtag [اعتقال_الشيخ_عبدالعزيز_الطريفي](#) # (arrest of Sheikh ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Tarifi). The central assumption was that al-Tarifi’s arrest was carried out against the backdrop of a review that he wrote on his Twitter account (which had approximately 890,000 followers - <https://twitter.com/abdulaziztarefe>) criticizing the Saudi regime. In his criticism, he wrote that Saudi leaders believe that by relinquishing some of their religious principles they can appease

³⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/arabic/2016/4/24//القاعدة-عناصر-وانسحاب-المكلا-ويدخل-اليمني-يدخل> (Arabic).

³⁵ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁶ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

the infidels and stop their pressure. However, with each concession a new pressure is added, and so on and so forth. It should be noted that the sheikh was arrested on the eve of the visit by US President Barack Obama to Saudi Arabia.

In any event, Al-Qaeda and Al-Nusra Front fighters exploited this discourse to disparage the Saudi regime and to prove the persecution and silencing of religious sages. For example, Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a senior Salafi-jihadist philosopher in Jordan who supports Al-Qaeda, criticized the arrest and admonished the Saudi regime (his tweet was deleted a short while after this criticism).³⁷



Sheikh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tarifi

Iraq

During the second half of April, clashes continued between the IS, and Iraqi security forces and Shi'ite militias. On the one hand, the IS – which was starting to lose control in several areas – increased its terrorist attacks against the Shi'ite population and Iraqi security forces. For instance, a suicide terrorist blew himself up inside a Shi'ite mosque in southwest Baghdad, killing nine people.³⁸ In addition, IS fighters detonated two car bombs against security forces in different areas of Baghdad.³⁹ In addition, a suicide terrorist blew himself up in a market in Baghdad, killing seven civilians.⁴⁰ Meanwhile, the Iraqi army warned residents against returning to the city of Al-Ramadi

³⁷ <https://justpaste.it/tkzy>

³⁸ <http://en.alalam.ir/news/1810881> (English).

³⁹ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/baghdad-iraq-car-bomb-double-suicide-attack-dead-a6998026.html> (English).

⁴⁰ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/04/25/Suicide-bomber-kills-seven-in-Baghdad-market-officials-.html> (English).

after 12 residents were killed by mines that were planted by IS fighters in the city's buildings and streets.⁴¹

Meanwhile, the Iraqi army continued its operation to conquer Nineveh Province and the city of Mosul. In this framework, the army – with aerial help from coalition forces – advanced significantly and conquered another village in Nineveh Province. This was the fourth village that was conquered since the start of the operation to liberate Nineveh Province.⁴² Meanwhile, Ashton Carter arrived in Iraq in order to discuss the reinforcements that the US will send to Iraqi forces in order to help them conquer Mosul. According to Carter, 200 additional soldiers and several helicopters will be sent to help Iraqi security forces.⁴³ In this context, US President Barack Obama said that Iraqi security forces were expected to liberate the city of Mosul from the IS by the end of 2016.⁴⁴

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Iraq published a wide range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
 - A. Battles and Military Deployments:
 - Various provinces: Filmed reviews and videos regarding battles in Al-Khalediyya and Al-Karma (*Fallujah*),⁴⁵ an attack against PLF and army posts near the Ajeel and Allas oilfields (*Kirkuk*),⁴⁶ battles between the IS and the Iraqi army along the Haditha-Beiji road (*Saladdin*),⁴⁷ attacks against Iraqi army posts near Lake Tharthar (*Saladdin*),⁴⁸ battles in the area of Makhmur (*Dijla*),⁴⁹ the launch of mortar bombs at Kurdish forces

⁴¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/civilians-warned-returning-iraq-ramadi-160424150550375.html>

⁴² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-makhmour-idUSKCN0XO24E> (English).

⁴³ <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/ash-carter-iraq-isis-mosul-iraqi-us-troops/> (English).

⁴⁴ <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/apr/19/obama-iraq-retake-mosul-isis-end-year/> (English).

⁴⁵ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29632>

⁴⁶ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29568>; <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30254>

⁴⁷ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29433>

⁴⁸ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29663>; <https://goo.gl/nx32jn>

⁴⁹ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30125>

west of the city of Sinjar (*Al-Jazira*),⁵⁰ and a review of the “air defense” battery in Al-Janub Province.⁵¹

B. Executions:

- *Fallujah Province*: A video titled, “Where will you Escape?” which documented the executions of eight people accused of spying for the Iraqi regime. The video showed their confessions, in which they admitted to giving information to the police about IS meeting points, the numbers of IS fighters and their weapons storage locations. The accused were shot to death, beheaded and killed with explosives.⁵²
- *Al-Jazira Province*: A filmed review regarding the execution of a person accused of having homosexual relations in the city of Tal Afar. The man was thrown to his death from a tall building in front of a crowd of onlookers.⁵³ In addition, in the village of Al-Mujamma'at, in Saladdin Province, a man accused of witchcraft was executed.⁵⁴



A man accused of homosexual relations was thrown off of a tall building

C. Civilian Matters:

- *Al-Furat Province*: A filmed review regarding activities by the Zakat Center (the body responsible for distributing money and goods to poor and

⁵⁰ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30153>

⁵¹ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30086>

⁵² <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29450>

⁵³ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29547>

⁵⁴ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29541>

displaced families in the province. Another filmed review regarding the distribution of zakat was published by Al-Jazira Province.⁵⁵

- Dijla Province: A filmed review regarding the Anas bin Malek Institute for Shari'a Science, one of the organization's training institutes. The photos showed the students at the institute during training, mealtime, leading tours, studying shari'a and reading the Quran.⁵⁶
- Diyala Province: A filmed review regarding the activities of the "Prisoners and Martyrs Authority", which distributes food baskets and electrical appliances to the families of prisoners and martyrs.⁵⁷
- Various provinces: Filmed reviews regarding agriculture and crops (*Kirkuk and Al-Anbar*),⁵⁸ road construction and maintenance by the Services Center in Mosul (*Nineveh*),⁵⁹ the presentation of life in the village located west of the city of Hawija (*Kirkuk*),⁶⁰ the destruction of cigarettes (*Nineveh*),⁶¹ the making of jewellery and gold crafting in the city of Mosul (*Nineveh*),⁶² and the presentation of routine life in the city of Albukamal (*Al-Furat*).⁶³

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Despite declarations regarding a ceasefire, the battles in Syria continued. During the second half of April, battles were reported between regime forces and opposition forces, especially in northern Syria (Aleppo and Al-Qamishli).⁶⁴ For instance, dozens of civilians were killed in air strikes in areas

⁵⁵ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29602>; <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29866>

⁵⁶ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29553>

⁵⁷ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29363>

⁵⁸ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29802>; <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30182>

⁵⁹ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29829>

⁶⁰ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29841>

⁶¹ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29881>

⁶² <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30229>

⁶³ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30025>

⁶⁴ <http://www.elwatannews.com/news/details/1104095>; <http://goo.gl/2wdUwR>; <http://goo.gl/DZ15wP>

under the control of opposition forces near Damascus and Aleppo,⁶⁵ which led to the displacement of many people who fled the area.⁶⁶

In the political arena, UN Ambassador to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, had a hard time hiding his despair, and appealed to Russia and the US for help in the hopes of saving the political process.⁶⁷ Indeed, the Kremlin released a statement according to which the two presidents agreed in a telephone conversation to support the partial truce in Syria,⁶⁸ which was declared in Damascus, eastern Ghouta and Latakia.⁶⁹ Even Obama himself announced an increase in the number of military instructors in Syria and explained that it would be a mistake to send ground forces to fight in the field.⁷⁰

The month was also marked by increasing Turkish involvement in Syria. Among other things, it was reported that Turkey made an agreement with the US in which it approved the deployment of anti-missile batteries along the Syrian border⁷¹ and even arrested eight suspected IS members along that same border.⁷² Turkey's retaliations against the organization came against the backdrop of rockets from Syria that fell in the Turkish city of Kilis in an incident that killed one person and injured 26 others.⁷³

Syria

Al-Nusra Front

- Al-Nusra Front published an announcement regarding the death of the emir of the Islamic State in the northern suburb of Homs, known as Rafed Taha, and his attendant, Aber Al-Aswad, in an attack by the organization. In the announcement, the organization threatened that its members were willing to sacrifice everything in order to restore the rights of residents and prevent

⁶⁵ http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/04/160423_syria_killing_strikes_rebels (English).

⁶⁶ <http://goo.gl/l8A1tm>

⁶⁷ <http://goo.gl/PSDKQT>

⁶⁸ http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/04/160418_syria_talks_postponed (Arabic).

⁶⁹ http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/04/160430_syria_partial_truce (Arabic).

⁷⁰ http://www.bbc.com/arabic/worldnews/2016/04/160424_obama_syria_military_personnel(Arabic);

<http://www.albayan.ae/one-world/arabs/2016-04-25-1.2625945>

⁷¹ http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/04/160426_turkey_us_rocket_system_deployment (Arabic).

⁷² <http://goo.gl/NvnmZw>

⁷³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/rockets-syria-strike-turkey-kilis-160424172703622.html> (English).

aggression towards the weak. In addition, the organization advised supporters of Rafeed Taha to repent since the organization prefers repentance over killing.⁷⁴

Ahrar al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the indirect negotiations that took place with the Syrian regime in Geneva. In the beginning of the announcement, the organization claimed that its representative did not take part in the talks in Geneva, but that it was ready to positively consider any initiative that would defend the principles of the Syrian revolution and the Syrian people. The announcement went on to criticize representatives of the Syrian opposition in the negotiations because they were disconnected from the military situation in the field. The organization added that while Russia tries to score victories for the Syrian regime, and Syria and Iran violate the truce agreement, the insistence on continuing negotiations misrepresents the truth and does not serve its purpose. The announcement also stated that the decision to return to negotiations despite increased attacks on civilian areas only widens the gap between the committee participating in the negotiations and the reality on the ground. Later in the announcement, the organization claimed that the Syrian regime continued to work solely for a military solution and refused to heed calls by the Syrian opposition to lift the siege on the liberated areas and free the detainees. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on all factions of the Syrian revolution to adhere to the principles of the revolution and noted that one of the important principles of the revolution was to topple the Syrian regime.⁷⁵
 - An announcement regarding the declarations made by the head of the Syrian regime's delegation to the negotiations, Bashar al-Jaafari. In the beginning of the announcement, the organization claimed that the attempt to achieve a political solution with the Syrian regime was a waste of time and an abandonment of Syrian lives. The organization also added that the shari'a source of authority is the internal Syrian source of authority

⁷⁴ https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cg_6IXkWYAAKiaB.jpg

⁷⁵ https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CgLm-xEWIAAy9_f.jpg

represented by the muftis, as opposed to what al-Jaafari claimed when he said that the movement's shari'a source of authority was Saudi Arabia, represented by Abdullah Al-Mohaisany. The announcement also stated that the real terrorism was that of the Syrian regime, the militias that help it and the Islamic State, which serves the Syrian regime. The end of the announcement stated that the organization was fighting every kind of terrorism in Syria, and emphasized that Ahrar al-Sham did not belong to any other organization, not even to Al-Qaeda.⁷⁶

- An announcement regarding recent events in Al-Ghouta, against the backdrop of battles in the area between Jaysh al-Fatah and Jaysh al-Islam. In the announcement, the organization claimed that it did not take part in the battles for either side and it demanded an immediate end to these battles. The announcement also stated that the sides must publish an announcement according to which they agree to arbitration by an independent shari'a court in order to resolve the issues between them. In addition, the organization recommended that both sides release prisoners and return outposts, and urged them to ease the crisis and prevent it from spreading to other areas. At the end of the announcement, the organization offered to participate in every step that would advance these goals.⁷⁷
- An announcement regarding the joining of the Haritan Brigades to Ahrar al-Sham. The announcement also stated that the organization was committed to continuing jihad until the goals of the revolution are achieved.⁷⁸
- A message of condolences to the staff of Al-Quds Hospital in Aleppo over the deaths of several staff members as a result of the bombing of the hospital by the Alawite regime.⁷⁹

Ansar al-Din Front

- The Ansar al-Din Front published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the appointment of a new leader - Abu Muhammad Al-Baydaw - to the Sham al-Islam movement by the organization's Shura Council. According

⁷⁶ <http://goo.gl/NXpwm6>

⁷⁷ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ChKSw-NUUAATsvP.jpg>

⁷⁸ <http://goo.gl/0OZDif>

⁷⁹ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ChNHznDWIAEweIH.jpg>

to the announcement, the appointment was made against the backdrop of the resignation of the organization's previous leader, who also served as deputy leader of Ansar al-Din, for health reasons.⁸⁰

- A third video (approximately 10 minutes long) showing the training undertaken by members of the organization.⁸¹

The Islamic Turkestan Party in Al-Sham

- The Islamic Turkestan Party in Al-Sham published the following:
 - Two videos documenting the liberation of the city of Mansurah Grain Silos⁸² and the city of Khirbat al-Naqus.⁸³

Al-Muhajirun

- Al-Muhajirun, an independent Salafi-jihadist faction in Syria, published the following:
 - A video of a sermon given by 'Abd al-Razzq al-Mahdi, a senior Salafi-jihadist sage in Syria, titled, "Unity under the Leadership of the Sages". Al-Mahdi emphasized the importance of the role of Muslim sages in guiding the Muslim Nation and its leaders. He emphasized that these sages must disseminate among Muslims the importance of the principle of jihad, especially in the Syrian arena. He noted that, as a result of the civil war in Syria, many sages fled Syria to Jordan and other neighboring countries, leaving behind a large religious legal void. However, the group of sages to which he belongs decided to fill that void, give religious legal guidance to the Syrian rebels, and unite their ranks.⁸⁴
 - A video documenting humanitarian activities carried out among the civilian population by members of the organization, such as slaughtering cattle and distributing the meat to residents. The video included clips of songs by fighters criticizing the IS and the fighters' battles against the Syrian regime. Later in the video, a member of the organization named 'Aisha al-Yamani was interviewed. In the interview, he emphasized the

⁸⁰ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cgg9bNJUMAABT-p.jpg>

⁸¹ <http://youtube.com/watch?v=cRO50s3SOXA>

⁸² <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸³ <https://almuhajirunblog.wordpress.com/>

⁸⁴ <https://almuhajirunblog.wordpress.com/>

importance of fulfilling jihad and strengthened the morale of the fighters in light of Russian intervention in Syria.⁸⁵

Al-Fustat Army

- Al-Fustat Army, a Salafi-jihadist organization that was established at the end of March 2016 in eastern Al-Ghouta and is composed of Al-Nusra Front, Ahrar al-Sham and Falr al-Umma, published the following:
 - A report regarding the success of Al-Fustat Army and Faylak al-Rahman in freeing two of their members from captivity by Syrian security forces. This followed a prisoner exchange deal that was brokered between the two sides.⁸⁶



Al-Fustat Army celebrations in honor of the release of prisoners from captivity by Syrian security forces

- A flyer denouncing the false media campaign being waged by enemies of the organization. One flyer read: “Despite all attempts to mislead you, your decision is to remain firm”. Another flyer praised the fulfilment of jihad among the organization’s ranks. One flyer stated that “Al-Ghouta is waiting for you, mujahid. Make the right decision, show initiative and join Al-Fustat Army”.⁸⁷

⁸⁵ <https://almuhajirunblog.wordpress.com/>

⁸⁶ https://twitter.com/fustat_official/status/721319842431811584

⁸⁷ <https://twitter.com/FustatOfficial>



The flyers handed out to Syrian residents by Al-Fustat Army

The Islamic State

- The A'maq news agency, which is affiliated with the Islamic State, published the following:
 - An announcement according to which a Syrian pilot, a native of Hama who answers to the name Azzam Eid, was captured by members of the organization after his plane crashed east of Damascus.⁸⁸ Arab and Western media reports did not yet know the fate of the pilot and if he was, indeed, being held by the organization.
 - A video documenting the launch of missiles towards three Turkish army tanks along the Syria-Turkey border. According to the title of the video, the tanks were destroyed.⁸⁹
- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Syria published a wide range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
 - A. Battles and Military Deployments:
 - Aleppo Province: A filmed review of an attack that was carried out by the organization against the Sahawat in the area of Kafr Ghan (not far from

⁸⁸ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29773>

⁸⁹ https://archive.org/details/psanif_mail_33

the border with Turkey),⁹⁰ and the takeover of several areas east of the town of Khanaser.⁹¹ The organization also published an announcement regarding an attack on the city of Mare', which is located in northern Aleppo and was described as "a Sahawat stronghold", that lasted four hours. According to the announcement, the attack included the use of two suicide terrorists in explosives-laden vehicles who blew themselves up, killing and injuring many people.⁹²

- Hama Province: A video titled, "Kill Them – They are Slaves of the Pagans". In the framework of the video, several of the organization's battles against the Syrian army in various areas of the country were documented. The video included images from a multicopter drone that were taken for the purpose of gathering intelligence ahead of the attack against Al-Kayyara checkpoint in Huwaysis, as well as a photo of one of the soldiers who were captured, and the weapons and supplies that were taken as plunder.⁹³
- Homs Province: An announcement regarding the killing of 15 Syrian army soldiers in the framework of the army's failed attempt to prevent the advancement of IS forces in eastern Palmyra. According to the announcement, two BMP vehicles and a bulldozer were also destroyed in the battles.⁹⁴
- Various provinces: Filmed reviews and videos regarding the prevention of the Syrian army's advancement in Deir Ezzor (*Al-Khayr*),⁹⁵ clashes with the Syrian army east of Palmyra (*Homs*),⁹⁶ anti-aircraft fire directed at coalition forces' planes (*Aleppo*),⁹⁷ a suicide attack by a fighter of

⁹⁰ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29417>

⁹¹ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29500>

⁹² <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29579>

⁹³ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2j0zqDZPrZHR1Brd3FSS3FZbHM/view>

⁹⁴ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29935>

⁹⁵ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29721>

⁹⁶ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29971>

⁹⁷ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30038>

Turkestan origin against the Sahawat in Tall Sha'ir (*Aleppo*),⁹⁸ and an announcement regarding the downing of a MiG 23 aircraft belonging to the Syrian army (*Damascus*).⁹⁹

B. Executions:

- Raqqaqah Province: A filmed review regarding the execution of people accused of spying for coalition forces. The video showed the photos and names of the two individuals who were shot to death and crucified in the town square as an example for all to see.¹⁰⁰

C. Civilian Issues:

- Raqqaqah Province: A video titled, “Allah will Enrich You out of His Bounty”, which showed life in the organization’s stronghold in Syria in terms of trade and economy. In the framework of the video – which included interviews with professionals and merchants – an attempt was made to dispel claims of soaring prices in the territories under IS control, and it presented activities in the markets as well as “good and plentiful” merchandise despite coalitions forces attacks.¹⁰¹



Display of activities in the “Caliphate” markets in an attempt to dispel claims of economic difficulties

⁹⁸ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30231>

⁹⁹ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29739>

¹⁰⁰ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30069>

¹⁰¹ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/30205>

- Hamat Province: A filmed review regarding the placement of banners regarding religion and dawah, and the repair of roads and sidewalks by the “Ministry of Services” in the province.¹⁰²
- Various Provinces: Filmed reviews regarding the collection of zakat payments and their distribution to the needy (*Raqqah*),¹⁰³ the renovation and restoration of the city of Mayadin¹⁰⁴ and activities by the Ministry of Agriculture in working, irrigating and spraying the fields (*Raqqah*).¹⁰⁵

D. Propaganda and PR:

- Al-Khayr Province: A video encouraging recruitment, in which an older and a younger person appeared. The older man - Abu Duaa al-Maghribi, 74 - spoke of how he went from Morocco to Syria and felt as if his youth was restored with his arrival to the “land of jihad”, and he rebuked Muslims younger than him for not yet joining jihad among the ranks of the IS. In contrast, the video showed a younger man - Abu Hamza al-Shami, 15 – who carried out a suicide attack using a car bomb.¹⁰⁶



An aging Moroccan fighter encouraging enlistment to the IS

¹⁰² <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29734>

¹⁰³ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29840>

¹⁰⁴ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29990>

¹⁰⁵ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29865>

¹⁰⁶ <http://dabiq.cf/29952>

- Damascus Province: A filmed review regarding the “repentance” of several Al-Nusra Front members who surrendered to the IS in southern Damascus.¹⁰⁷

The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

- The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for an attack against an Egyptian tank and soldiers in southern Rafah.¹⁰⁸
 - A collection of photos documenting an attack against Egyptian vehicles and soldiers, and the slaughter of a “spy” who, according to the organization, worked for the Israeli Mossad.¹⁰⁹
 - A claim of responsibility for the killing of ten Egyptian soldiers and police officers in Sheikh Zuweid and the international Rafah-Arish road.¹¹⁰

Africa

The Maghreb

In Libya, the national unity government led by Fayez al-Sarraj, began to formulate a “national strategy” to fight against the IS, especially in the city of Sirte, which serves as an IS stronghold.¹¹¹ In eastern Libya, it was reported that the IS had retreated from the city of Derna,¹¹² and that the commander of the Libyan Petroleum Facilities (PFG), Ibrahim Jadhraan, was wounded in battle against IS forces in the same area.¹¹³

In Tunisia, counter-terrorism efforts continued with the extradition of dozens of terrorism suspects from Libya, the arrests of six people who swore allegiance to the IS and the capture of five other people suspected of having ties to the Ben Gardane attacks that took place in March 2016.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁷ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29778>

¹⁰⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/41158>

¹⁰⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/41237>

¹¹⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/41411>

¹¹¹ <http://goo.gl/JjNlyv>

¹¹² <http://goo.gl/hZWJxu>

¹¹³ <http://www.middle-east-online.com/?id=223143>

¹¹⁴ <http://goo.gl/FayvOT>; <http://goo.gl/2O0Y27>

*In light of the multiple arrests and restrictions in the country, dozens of organizations and associations in the country called for respecting human rights and refraining from violating them in the framework of counter-terrorism efforts.*¹¹⁵

Several arrests and assassinations were also reported in Morocco and Algeria. Moroccan authorities reported the dismantling of an IS-supporting terrorist cell composed of three members that operated in northeast Morocco,¹¹⁶ as well as the extradition from Spain of a suspected terrorist who was arrested in Melilla in 2013.¹¹⁷ Meanwhile, in Algeria, the arrest of five terrorists east of the capital was reported, as well as the assassination of five gunmen in Skikda.¹¹⁸

Algeria

The Islamic State

- The “Algeria Province” of the Islamic State published a claim of responsibility for detonating explosive devices against an Algerian army patrol in Jijel, in which four soldiers were killed.¹¹⁹

Libya

The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna

- The jihadist media institution of the Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna, Al-Sabeel, published the following:
 - Words of praise for the liberation of the city of Derna. According to the organization, thanks to the efforts of its residents, sages and its fighters, the organization purified Derna of the presence of IS fighters. Now it can proceed to the next stage, which is to rebuild the city and invest efforts in maintaining stability and security.¹²⁰ In addition, a propaganda video in praise of the liberation was published.¹²¹ In response to the publication, a visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum claimed that no battles

¹¹⁵ <http://goo.gl/RonINx>

¹¹⁶ <http://goo.gl/zqXhvK>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.hespress.com/faits-divers/303144.html>

¹¹⁸ <http://goo.gl/o33gLf>; <http://goo.gl/Pmz4Js>

¹¹⁹ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29948>

¹²⁰ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²¹ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

actually took place between the Shura Council and IS fighters, and that the IS deliberately withdrew its forces from Derna.¹²²

- A call on residents in Derna not to be captivated by General Haftar's regime since he and the IS are two sides of the same coin. In other words, any cooperation with the two will cause harm in the end since it means helping despotic regimes.¹²³
- A call on residents of Derna to undertake the re-building of the city, including infrastructure, residences and more, after they were badly damaged in the battles that took place in the city. The organization emphasized that its current goal is to ensure residents' security.¹²⁴
- A threat that anyone who dares to kill, kidnap or threaten the residents of Derna will be held accountable.¹²⁵

The Islamic State

- The IS in Tripoli Province published the following:
 - A filmed review of the organization's attack against Battalion 28 of the Libya Dawn militia, with emphasis on the weapons and supplies that were taken as plunder.¹²⁶
 - A filmed review regarding the distribution of zakat via money and goods to the needy in the city of Sirte.¹²⁷
- The IS in Barqa Province published the following:
 - A filmed review of an attack against Sahawat forces in Al-Hila, which included the use of two suicide terrorists of Libyan and Sudanese origin.¹²⁸

Tunisia

The 'Uqba Ibn Nafi Battalion

- The Uqba bin Nafi Battalion on the Land of Tunisia, which is affiliated with AQIM, published a eulogy in memory of a group of jihad fighters who were killed by Algerian security forces in the

¹²² <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

¹²³ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁴ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁵ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁶ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29662>

¹²⁷ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29886>

¹²⁸ <http://dabiq16june16.ga/29733>

area of Wadi Suf, which is located in Algeria near the border with Tunisia. According to the organization, those fighters showed bravery by declaring war against the allies of the Crusader France, namely Tunisia and Algeria, and wanted to help fight against these tyrants. Later in the announcement, the organization threatened Tunisia and Algeria, and vowed to avenge the deaths of its fighters.¹²⁹

Somalia

During the second half of April, clashes continued between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and security forces and the African Union Force operating in Somalia. On the one hand, Al-Shabab fighters continued to carry out attacks against security forces and government targets, especially in Mogadishu. For instance, Al-Shabab fighters attempted to assassinate a senior director of Mogadishu's northern region but only ended up injuring his driver and guards.¹³⁰ On the other hand, Somali forces – aided by the African Union Force – managed to recapture the city of Galcad in Galdugud Province.¹³¹

Meanwhile, it seemed that the organization encountered competition over terrorist attacks in Somalia when, according to reports, IS fighters managed to detonate an explosive device against the African Union Force in the suburbs of Mogadishu.¹³²

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- The Shahaada jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published an announcement according to which the organization attacked a base belonging to Somali security forces near the city of Baidoa, in southwest Somalia. According to the announcement, the attack led to the retreat of Somali security forces from the base. According to the governor of Bay and Bakool Provinces, over 15 Somali soldiers were killed in the attack, and military vehicles, weapons and ammunition were taken as plunder.¹³³

¹²⁹ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹³⁰ <http://goo.gl/vYFg8S>

¹³¹ <http://www.africanews.com/2016/04/30/au-somali-forces-capture-key-town-in-central-somalia/> (English).

¹³² <http://www.ibtimes.com/isis-somalia-islamic-state-claims-first-ever-attack-mogadishu-while-courting-al-2359373> (English).

¹³³ <https://justpaste.it/baidoa>

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published an announcement according to which it managed to reach a three-month ceasefire between warring tribes in the city of Janale, in Lower Shabelle Province in southern Somalia. According to the announcement, the organization succeeded in resolving the above-mentioned conflict between the tribes three years ago but the invasion of cities in the region by African Union force and government militias reignited the struggle between the tribes.¹³⁴

The Philippines

- Several jihadist Web forums and blogs published a photo showing two men presented as IS fighters who downed a Philippine army drone.¹³⁵



The downing of an army drone by the IS in the Philippines

The Indian Subcontinent

Ansar al-Islam in Bangladesh

- Ansar al-Islam in Bangladesh, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, claimed responsibility for the assassination of Xulhaz Mannan and Samir Mahbub Tonoy. This was due to the promotion of homosexual relations in Bangladesh since 1998 with American and

¹³⁴ <http://jihadology.net/2016/04/28/new-statement-from-%E1%B8%A5arakat-al-shabab-al-mujahidin-convened-a-reconciliation-meeting-between-opposing-tribes-in-lower-shebelle-province/> (English).

¹³⁵ <http://kabarduniamiliter.blogspot.com/2016/04/is-juga-tembak-jatuh-drone-filipina.html>

Indian assistance. According to the organization, Xulhaz served as the director of “a cult composed of homosexuals and lesbians” while Tonoy was a prominent activist in this cult.¹³⁶ The organization also published a video on the topic.¹³⁷



The banner of the video regarding the assassination of Xulhaz Mannan and Samir Mahbub Tonoy

The Islamic State

- The IS claimed responsibility for the assassination of a university lecturer in the city of Rajshahi in Bangladesh, claiming that he preached heresy.¹³⁸ In addition, the IS claimed responsibility for the assassination of a Hindu civilian in Bangladesh, claiming that he cursed the Prophet Muhammad.¹³⁹

¹³⁶ <https://justpaste.it/verify-Ansar-Al-Islam>

¹³⁷ <https://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

¹³⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/category/وكالة-الانباء-الاسلامية-حق/page/89> (Arabic).

¹³⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/41805>

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.

[Click here for a list of online JWMG publications](#)

For tailored research please contact us at JWMG@ict.org.il.

International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT)
Additional resources are available on the ICT Website: www.ict.org.il