



ICT
International Institute
for Counter-Terrorism
With the Support of Keren Daniel

ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group **PERIODIC REVIEW**

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The Second Half of July 2015

Highlights

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

- **The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (Taliban in Afghanistan)** officially announces the death of **Mullah Omar**, the leader of the Emirate, from an illness. Following his death, many jihadist leaders and organization eulogize him. In addition, the Emirate announces the appointment of his deputy, **Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor**, as the new leader of the Emirate.
- **Islamic State** fighters from Turkestan call on Muslim residents of Turkestan to emigrate from their homeland and join the Islamic Caliphate under the leadership of Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The organization also calls on Turkestani Al-Nusra Front fighters in Syria to defect and join the Islamic State.
- **Sheikh Abu 'Ubatdha Ahmad 'Umar**, the leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, releases his first message since being appointed to the role, regarding his organization's resolve in the fight against the Crusader conspiracy to weaken Islam and to steal the natural treasures of Muslim lands. In light of this, he calls on tribes in Somalia to help wage jihad against the enemies of Islam and he calls on Muslims in Kenya to join jihad as well. According to him, his organization is ready and willing to absorb into its ranks Muslims from East Africa, including Ethiopia, Djibouti, Uganda and Central Africa, due to their persecution at the hands of the local regimes. In addition, he announces the establishment of a new army unit called the "Sheikh Mukhtar Abu Zubayr Brigade" to help in the battle against enemies of Islam.
- **Ajnad Misr** declares the renewal of jihad operations in the Egyptian arena and threatens to intensify terrorist attacks against Egyptian security forces.

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New Publications

Ideology

- The publishing house of the Islamic State, Al-Himma, published several flyers detailing the tenets of the organization, including a manifesto titled, “This is Our Faith and This is Our Methodology”,¹ “Laws of Swearing Allegiance to the Caliphate”,² “The Legitimacy to Destroy Scared Tombs”,³ an explanation of the prohibition against building on top of graves,⁴ and proof of the obligation to hide a woman’s face.⁵
- Al-Malahem jihadist media institution, which serves a platform for the official announcements of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a video titled, “And He Takes Among You Martyrs – Part 7”. The video justified the war of jihad against enemies of Islam, and celebrated the value of the sacrifice of the individual and dying a martyr’s death for Allah’s sake. The video included a biography of one of organization’s martyrs, and interviews with senior members of the organization about him and about the importance of continuing the battle against the United States.⁶

In addition, Al-Malahem published a video titled, “Understanding the Implementation of Shari’a” by Sheikh Abu Basir Nasir al-Wahishi, the former leader of the organization.⁷
- Al-Nukhba al-‘Ilamiyya jihadist media institution, which supports Al-Qaeda, published an anthology of jihadist publications by proponents and leaders of the organization.⁸

¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

² <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <https://archive.org/details/Shar7Sdour>

⁵ https://archive.org/details/Str_wajh_mar2ah

⁶ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸ <http://justpaste.it/mhbv> (Arabic).



The anthology banner

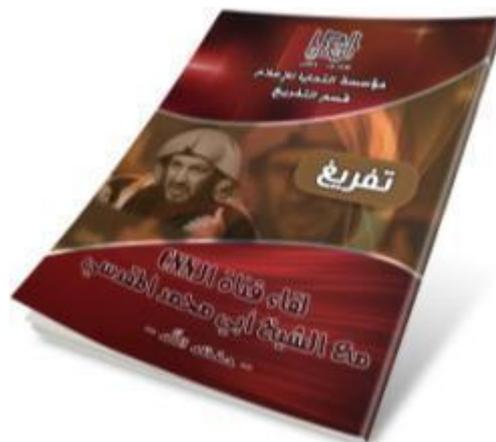
- The Nukhbat al-Fikr jihadist media institution published the following:
 - An article titled, “People of Al-Sham, listen to the wise man, Abu Mus’ab al-Suri: A response to political articles” by Sheikh Sami al-‘Aridi, a member of the Shura Council of Al-Nusra Front in Syria.⁹
 - A booklet by Dr. Muzahir al-Uways, a Salafi-jihadist proponent in Syria, regarding the significance of the term ‘jihad’ as limited to a specific region versus global jihad. Sheikh ‘Umar al-Hadushi, a Moroccan Salafi-jihadist proponent, wrote the foreword to the book.¹⁰

The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

- Al-Tahaya jihadist media institution, which supports Al-Qaeda, published the transcript of an interview that was given by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a leading Salafi-jihadist proponent who supports Al-Qaeda, to the American network, CNN, in Arabic at the end of May 2015. Al-Maqdisi was interviewed about his ties to the Al-Qaeda leadership and his position regarding the Islamic State. During the interview, al-Maqdisi acknowledged that he personally knew senior Al-Qaeda leaders, Ayman al-Zawahiri and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and that even though he never swore allegiance to the organization, he maintained trusting and friendly relationships with senior Al-Qaeda leaders and even taught shari’a at the organization’s institutions before the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan. In addition, he claimed that the

⁹ <https://justpaste.it/mmvf> (Arabic).
¹⁰ <https://justpaste.it/mp2j> (Arabic).

world does not distinguish between the Islamic State and other organizations taking part in the Syrian revolution and is, in his opinion, doing an injustice to Islam and the mujahideen. During the interview, he emphasized that the Islamic State is killing indiscriminately, including Muslims and the mujahideen, and therefore treating Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi like al-Zarqawi does an injustice to the latter. In this context, al-Maqdisi added that he condemns the killing of civilians and claimed that he tried in the past to intervene for the release of Western civilians who had come to help Muslims in Syria. Later in the interview, when he was asked about his position vis-à-vis the Islamic State, he responded that he had differences of opinion with the organization because its extremism and deviations from the righteous path do an injustice to Islam and jihad. In this context, he added that he believes the Islamic State has destroyed any chance of establishing cooperative relationships with any jihadist organization, including Al-Qaeda, inside Syria or beyond, since the organization's aspiration is to destroy all other jihadist movements in every place that it reaches, creating a civil war among Muslims on all fronts. At the end of the interview, al-Maqdisi warned Muslims living in the West against joining the Islamic State.¹¹



The banner of the transcript of the interview with al-Maqdisi

- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement, wrote a letter to the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, on the anniversary of the latter's declaration of the Caliphate. In the letter, al-Filistini called on al-Baghdadi to assess the damage

¹¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb>; <https://al-aren.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

that has been caused to Muslims and the mujahideen since his declaration of the Caliphate. In addition, he emphasized that the source of his disagreement with the Islamic State stemmed from the fact that the organization hastily accuses people of heresy based solely on suspicions and allows Muslims to be killed. He also added that this disagreement between him and the Islamic State worsened against the backdrop of the declaration of the Caliphate, which was done without consultation with senior leaders of the jihadist movement and was based on the Islamic State's declaration that it was the one and only Muslim organization and, therefore, all other groups had to swear allegiance to it.¹²

- Jihad fighters from Al-Nusra Front and Ahrar al-Sham who emigrated to the arena of jihad in Syria published an announcement titled, "From the Migrants of Al-Sham Regarding Al-Baghdadi's Group", in which they emphasized that they were determined to defend the Syrian people from the aggression of the Islamic State, which is committing crimes against the civilian population and creating a rift among the Muslim population.¹³
- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda, Nukhbat al-Fikr, published the following:
 - An article titled, "Sex, and Not Lewd Relations, are Pure and Not Sinful" by Sheikh Abdallah bin Ahmad bin al-Husayni, a Salafi jihadist cleric and a former of the Edicts Committee of the Salafi-jihadist Web portal, Minbar al-Tawhid wal-Jihad. In the article, the writer criticized the Islamic State's interpretation concerning sexual relations with the wives of Muslims who are deemed heretics.¹⁴
 - An article by Harith bin Ghazi al-Nidhari, a member of the Shura Council of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, who was killed in the first half of 2015, in which he criticized the Islamic State for its tendency to hastily declare *takfir* on Muslims who do not share its opinion.¹⁵
- A visitor to the Al-Fidaa jihadist media institution, which supports Al-Qaeda, published a link to a pamphlet that was distributed in Libyan cities under the titled, "The New Kharijites", which was written by the Al-Raid Libyan research center. The pamphlet portrayed the Islamic State in

¹² <https://al-aren.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

¹⁴ <http://justpaste.it/mff7> (Arabic).

¹⁵ <http://justpaste.it/mkpp> (Arabic).

a negative light. For example, it accused the Islamic State of spilling Muslim blood, declaring *takfir* on Muslims who do not agree with its way of thinking, maintaining ties to foreign intelligence agencies, and more.¹⁶



The pamphlet banner

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Nusra Front, Al-Basira, published a video titled, “So the Way of the Criminals Will Become Clear” in which Sheikh Abu Hadija al-Muhajir, a member of the organization, emphasized that it was incumbent upon all Muslims to fight against the Islamic State if the latter attacks them since it would be considered self-defense. He added that Islamic State fighters should be viewed as an active partner of the global campaign being waged by the West, and led by the United States, against the mujahideen and jihad, thereby adding to its sins. Other members of the organization described the war crimes being committed by Islamic State fighters against Muslim civilians in Syria.¹⁷

Oath of Allegiance to the Islamic State

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

¹⁷ http://justpaste.it/Waletastabin_1 (Arabic).

- Al-Ghurabaa Brigade, a jihadist group operating in the city of Constantine in northeast Algeria, published an oath of allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. It should be noted that this group previously belonged to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).¹⁸
- The Jundallah jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the Islamic Uzbekistan Movement, published a video documenting operations by its members in the field as well as their declared oath of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic Caliphate.¹⁹

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A visitor to the Shmukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum described to other forum visitors several ways to conceal an IP address, such as through TOR software. Among other things, the visitor warned against using VPN because if it is disconnected the user’s real IP address will be exposed on Twitter.²⁰
- A writer known as Eliyas al-Jazrawi published articles under the title, “Electronic Welfare Series”. Article no. 4 in the series, for example, included a detailed technical explanation about radars, and stressed that an understanding of the radar apparatus would help “to monitor enemy planes before they enter the air space of Muslim countries”. In the framework of the article, the writer provided explanations about, among other things, electromagnetic waves, modulation and the duplexer circuit.²¹ Article no. 5 in the series dealt with the jamming of satellite broadcasts in order to block channels belonging to “media tyrants” that harm Islam.²²

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

The Death of Mullah Omar – Emir of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published an official announcement of the death of Mullah Omar due to illness without mentioning the date of his death. The announcement was made

¹⁸ <https://soundcloud.com/ntheer/sets/mp3> (Arabic).

¹⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

²¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

²² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

after Afghan authorities announced that he had died two years ago in a hospital in Pakistan. The announcement stated that Mullah Omar had led the organization since its establishment in the 1990's and that he had not left Afghanistan for 14 years, not even to go to Pakistan. The announcement also stated the need to continue on his path and stressed organization's commitment to shari'a.²³

Following Mullah Omar's death, a long line of jihadist leaders and organizations eulogized him. Sheikh Abdullah al-Muhaysini, a Saudi cleric affiliated with Al-Nusra Front in Syria, eulogized Mullah Omar. He claimed that Mullah Omar taught that shari'a policy requires adherence to principles and sacrifice, and that Muslim rule can only be established through jihad and not through democracy or another secular regime. He added that Mullah Omar left behind Taliban fighters to continue along his path and called on them to follow his successor, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor.²⁴ The Riyah al-'Ilamiyya jihadist media institution, which belongs to a Salafi-jihadist media organization in the Gaza Strip called "The Lions' Den of the Mujahideen", also published a eulogy praising Mullah Omar.²⁵

Magazines

- The fifth issue of the Islamic State's online magazine, Dar al-Islam, was published in French. Among the topics covered in the issue: the presentation of Al-Nusra Front and Ahrar al-Sham as apostates, a review of the Islamic State's health services, a clarification of the necessary precautions to take when waging jihad in a foreign country as well as a list of recommended sites to attack (including tourist centers, supermarkets and synagogues), and an article regarding the return of slavery under Islam as one of the signs of the apocalypse.²⁶



²³ <http://shahamat-arabic.com/?p=5046>

²⁴ <https://al-aren.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

²⁶ <https://ia800509.us.archive.org/28/items/620islam%205.pdf> (French).

The fifth issue of Dar al-Islam

- The Islamic State’s jihadist media institution, Al-Hayyat, published the second issue of the Turkish magazine, *Constantinople*, which is published by the Islamic State.²⁷



The issue banner

- The second issue of the magazine, *Amka*, was published. The magazine is published in English by the group Al-Muhajirun, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Somalia. The magazine covers the arena of jihad in East Africa, especially Somalia.²⁸

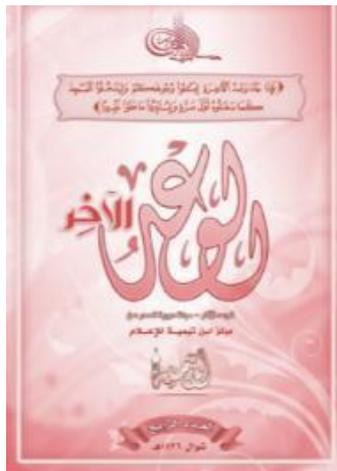
²⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Turkish).

²⁸ <https://archive.org/details/AmkaMagazine2> (English).



The issue banner

- The Ibn Taymiyya Center, which focuses on coverage of the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement, published issue no. 4 of the magazine, Al-Wa'd al-Akhir.²⁹



The issue banner

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

During the second half of July 2015, clashes continued between the Taliban in Afghanistan and army

²⁹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

forces, with most of the clashes taking place in Faryab Province in northern Afghanistan.³⁰

Towards the end of the month, Afghan authorities announced that the leader of the Taliban, Mullah Omar, had died two years ago from an illness at a hospital in Pakistan. The Taliban in Afghanistan confirmed the announcement and declared the appointment of Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor as Mullah Omar's replacement.³¹ The organization's change in leadership led to internal disagreements and to the temporary postponement of the peace talks that were held in Pakistan between the Taliban in Afghanistan and the Afghan government.³²

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Shura Council of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published an announcement regarding the appointment of the organization's new emir, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor, Mullah Omar's former deputy, who had already been serving as leader for several years. The end of the announcement called on Muslims in general, and Islamic Emirate jihad fighters in particular, to obey the new leader.³³
- On the official Web site of the Taliban in Afghanistan, senior Taliban leader, Mullah Abdul Qayyum Zakir, denied rumors according to which he was at odds with the new Emir of the Faithful, Sheikh Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor. The announcement also stated that he would continue to serve the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.³⁴
- A supporter of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan reported on Al-Fidaa jihadist Web forum that the leader of the Islamic State in Logar Province in Afghanistan, Saad Emarati, had fled with his fighters from the province following an attack by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. According to the supporter, Emarati shaved his beard and hair in order to hide from the mujahideen.

³⁰ <http://goo.gl/7a26DT>

³¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/taliban-elects-leader-mullah-akhtar-mansoor-mullah-omar-150730115835426.html>

³² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/afghan-peace-talks-hold-taliban-turmoil-mullah-omar-150731023149422.html>

³³ <http://shahamat-arabic.com/?p=5059> (Arabic).

³⁴ <http://www.shahamat-arabic.com/archives/5099> (Arabic).

Finally, the latter was able to seize control over the entire Logar Province and expel all Islamic State fighters from the province.³⁵

The Taliban in Pakistan

- The Taliban in Pakistan claimed responsibility for the assassination of four Pakistani intelligence agents.³⁶

The Arabian Peninsula

*The civil war in Yemen continued to claim many victims and contributed to instability in the country. Government forces loyal to exiled President 'Abd Rabu Mansur Hadi and coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia managed to make significant achievements during the second half of July 2015 after supplanting the Houthis in Aden and other areas. Nevertheless, the Houthis apparently continued to maintain their power and attack their enemies, as they did with the shelling of Aden two days after it was liberated.*³⁷

*Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which is interested in expanding its power against the backdrop of the civil war in Yemen, demonstrated a willingness to maintain good relations with the tribes in order not to detract from its power. For example, after extended negotiations with the Civil Council in Hadramawt Province, the organization agreed to gradually withdraw from Al-Mukala, which is located in the center of the province, as a result of complaints from tribesmen about the increased number of aerial attacks by American drones in the area due to the presence of AQAP fighters. Nevertheless, this agreement seemed to raise internal controversy among the ranks of AQAP.*³⁸

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

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

³⁷ <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/yemen/2015/07/22/-اليمن-اخبار-عن-اوامر-بانسحاب-قيادات-الحوثي-من-ادين> (Arabic).

³⁸ <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2015/7/17/اليمن-القاعدة-يستعد-لانسحاب-تدريجي-من-المكلا> (Arabic).

the Eyes of Al-Qaeda". The writer criticized the program that was broadcast by the Qatari satellite channel, Al-Jazeera, about a spy planted among the ranks of AQAP by the United States. For example, the writer placed the narrative of the spy in a false and unreliable light, and emphasized that all spies are characterized by a weak character and a loose connection to Islam. The writer went on to accuse Al-Jazeera of collaborating with the persecutory policies of the Obama administration against the mujahideen for its willingness to air such programs. Finally, the writer emphasized that the United States continues to be considered the number one enemy of the mujahideen and efforts must be concentrated on attacks against the United States, and he called on all Al-Qaeda branches to attack American interests.⁴³

Iraq

The second half of July 2015 began with a car bomb explosion by the Islamic State at a market in the Shi'ite city of Khan Bani Saad in Diyala Province. The attack claimed the lives of over 115 Shi'ite Muslims who were celebrating the end of the Ramadan fast. Three days of mourning were declared in the province and Eid al-Fitr celebrations were canceled.⁴⁴ Meanwhile, clashes continued between the Iraqi army and Shi'ite militias against the Islamic State in Al-Anbar Province, as the Iraqi army commenced an attack that it had announced at the start of July with the goal of pushing the Islamic State out of the province.⁴⁵ Among the local accomplishments of the Iraqi army in Al-Anbar Province during the second half of July was its re-takeover of Anbar University, which is located in the city of Al-Ramadi⁴⁶ and had served as a base for Islamic State fighters,⁴⁷ and the disconnection of the Islamic State's main supply line in Fallujah.⁴⁸ Despite these achievements, the army suffered heavy losses as a result of a series of attacks carried out against it by the Islamic State with its

⁴³ <https://justpaste.it/mozm>

⁴⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/car-bomb-kills-dozens-iraqi-capital-150717191744020.html> (English).

⁴⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/anbar-offensive-starts-multiple-iraqi-bomb-blasts-isil-150721232849708.html> (English).

⁴⁶ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/07/26/Iraqi-forces-clash-with-ISIS-militants-at-Anbar-University.html> (English).

⁴⁷ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-33669345>

⁴⁸ <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/20072015> (English).

*advancement in Al-Anbar Province.*⁴⁹

*Meanwhile, United States Secretary of Defense, Ashton Carter, visited Iraq in order to receive an evaluation of the situation in light of the Iraqi army's attack against the Islamic State in Al-Anbar Province.*⁵⁰ *During his meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister, Haider al-Abadi, Carter emphasized the need for Iraqi ground forces trained by the United States to combat the Islamic State. According to the Pentagon spokesperson, the Iraqi government claimed that the Shi'ite militias would not be involved in the fight against the Islamic State to liberate Al-Ramadi.*⁵¹

The Islamic State

- Al-Furat jihadist media institution published a video in Russian titled, "A Message from Baiji to the Lions of the Caliphate in Kavkaz Province". Ahmad Medinsky, a Daegestani preacher who joined the IS in Iraq, praised supporters of the organization in the Caucasus and noted that they serve as an example for IS fighters in Syria and Iraq since they were endowed with patience and devotion to the spread of Islam despite the difficulties.⁵²
- Al-Furat jihadist media institution published a video in Russian titled, "A Message to Our People in Kyrgyzstan". In the video, a Kyrgyz –speaking IS fighter (with Russian subtitles) appealed to Muslims in Kyrgyzstan to emigrate from their homelands to the arenas of jihad in Syria and Iraq in order to join the IS. According to him, many Muslims today are leaving for the territory of the Islamic Caliphate in order to preserve their religion and protect it from its enemies. He added that Jews and Christians around the world have united in order to oppress Muslims and to sever the basis of their identity from the religion of Islam.⁵³

⁴⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/iraq-forces-suffer-casualties-advance-anbar-150724131600351.html> (English).

⁵⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/defence-secretary-carter-surprise-trip-iraq-150723092107679.html> (English).

⁵¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-usa-carter-idUSKCNOPX0NQ20150723> (English).

⁵² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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



An Islamic State fighter appeals to Muslims in Kyrgyzstan to emigrate from their homeland and join the IS

The Islamic State – Baghdad

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Baghdad published the following:
 - A video titled, “Abu al-Hawraa – Morality and Modesty”. The video showed a terrorist who later carried out a suicide attack at an Iraqi army checkpoint in Aden Square in the capital of Baghdad.⁵⁴
 - A claim of responsibility for the detonation an explosives-ridden car parked at the headquarters of the Shi’ite organization, Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq. According to the announcement, 25 people were killed and injured in the explosion. In the same announcement, it was reported that another car bomb exploded among a gathering of Popular Mobilization Forces, injuring approximately 40 people, including one of the organization’s commanders, Akram Jaber.⁵⁵

The Islamic State – Saladin Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Saladin Province published the following:
 - A filmed review of a new sniper training cycle in the province. The photos showed approximately 10 fighters during training with Dragunov sniper rifles and theoretical studies on the subject of marksmanship.⁵⁶

The Islamic State – Al-Anbar Province

⁵⁴ <http://goo.gl/A7VnZl>

⁵⁵ https://twitter.com/response_404/status/623893039459663872

⁵⁶ <http://goo.gl/5A5bHG>

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Anbar Province published the following:
 - A video documenting a suicide attack that was carried out by Abu Waliyah al-Faransi in Al-Nakhib, using an explosives-laden armored vehicle aimed at Popular Mobilization Forces and the Iraqi army.⁵⁷

The Islamic State – Nineveh Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:
 - A video about the execution of a man in Mosul who was accused of killing his mother and three sisters. The video explained that the suspect first spread rumors according to which the IS was responsible for the murders but thanks to an investigation by the Islamic State’s legal authorities (which included gathering testimony and collecting fingerprints from the weapon), the true identity of the killer was revealed. The accused was executed with the shotgun that he had used as the murder weapon.⁵⁸
 - A video documenting the training and operations of the organization’s snipers in the province. The video, which opened with an oath of allegiance by the snipers to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, showed the snipers’ training in the forest and assassinations of Kurdish Peshmerga forces by the snipers.⁵⁹ The video was also translated into Bosnian.



An Islamic State sniper in Nineveh Province

- A video documenting the atmosphere surrounding Eid al-Fitr in the province, including shopping in the markets, public prayers, children’s activities in the parks and restaurant

⁵⁷ http://isdarattv.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_60.html

⁵⁸ <http://goo.gl/jrXBu1>

⁵⁹ <http://goo.gl/5Ph3Om>

activities. The video also included interviews with residents who expressed satisfaction with life under the Islamic State.⁶⁰

- A filed review of the amputation of hands of two men who were accused of theft,⁶¹ and beheading as punishment for Hirabah crimes (crimes like murder or rape that violate the public peace).⁶²



Amputation of hands of thieves in Nineveh Province

The Islamic State – Al-Furat Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Furat Province published the following:
 - A video about the “repentance” of a group of former members of the army, police, Sahawat and at least one fighter from Al-Nusra Front in Syria. According to the explanation provided by the director of the “Ministry of Repentance” in Al-Furat Province, those who repent take a course on shari’a and weekly exams after which they receive an official certificate on the completion of their “repentance”.⁶³ The video was also translated into Bosnian.⁶⁴
 - A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack that was carried out against an Iraqi army convoy west of the city of Haditha. According to the announcement, a terrorist of Libyan

⁶⁰ https://archive.org/details/eid_ninawa

⁶¹ <http://goo.gl/WYJhFU>

⁶² http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_91.html

⁶³ <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2zf5ze>

⁶⁴ <https://esdarat.tv/21597>

nationality blew himself up by driving an explosives-laden car into the convoy in order to prevent it from leaving and breaking the Islamic State's siege on Haditha.⁶⁵

The Islamic State – Al-Janub Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Janub Province published the following:
 - A video documenting an attack against Iraqi army forces in Zoba' using small arms, mortar bombs, RPG, RCLR (recoilless rifles) and SPG9 (anti-tank) fire.⁶⁶
 - A monthly statistical review of the attacks that were carried out in the province during the month of Ramadan (June-July 2015), divided into shellings, assassinations, ambushes, invasions and target explosions, alongside a description of the results of the attacks and the plunder taken.⁶⁷

The Islamic State – Al-Faluja Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Faluja Province published the following:
 - A video about activities by Hisba (an Islamic group responsible for maintaining public order and morality) officials in the province. The video documented the confiscation and destruction of cigarettes and hookahs, along with an explanation of the prohibition against smoking given to the Muslims who were present at the time.⁶⁸



The burning of cigarettes and hookahs in Al-Faluja Province

⁶⁵ <https://twitter.com/ibrahimalrawi8/status/627183393529331712>

⁶⁶ <https://archive.org/details/Rad31>

⁶⁷ https://ia801308.us.archive.org/12/items/JStatisticsRamadan_201507/J_Statistics_Ramadan.mp4

⁶⁸ https://archive.org/details/Watawasou_04

- A video about Eid al-Fitr celebrations in the province. The video documented prayers and sermons in mosques, as well as street interviews with residents and the distribution of meat in honor of the holiday.⁶⁹
- A video about the bombings carried out by coalition forces in the center of Faluja. The video included photos of the bombings themselves as well as documentation of the killed and injured in hospitals.⁷⁰

The Islamic State – Dijla Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Dijla Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “Cubs of the Caliphate”, which documented the routine of children and youth in a training camp run by the IS. The activities in the training camp included lessons on shari’a and hadith (Muslim tradition), prayers, physical education and weapons training. A large part of the video was dedicated to threats made by the children against the West, and promises to capture Rome, destroy the Crusaders and capture the women there.⁷¹



Threats against the West made by children in Dijla Province

- A video documenting the execution of several members of the Popular Mobilization Forces. Before they were executed, the captives provided filmed confessions in which they stated their names, admitted to having planned to join the Popular Mobilization

⁶⁹ <http://goo.gl/wO7Z13>

⁷⁰ https://archive.org/details/ksf_atthalf_assfwi_asslibi_ala_mrkz_alfilloja_alfilloja

⁷¹ <https://archive.org/details/aashbaal.alkilafa-1>

Forces, and warned others not to join the group as doing so constitute a death sentence.⁷²

The Islamic State – Kirkuk Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Kirkuk Province published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for an attack that was carried out by a suicide terrorist of Lebanese origin against Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq forces (a Shi'ite organization) in Tuz Khormato, using an explosives belt. According to the claim of responsibility, after the initial explosion - as rescue forces gathered to treat the wounded – a bomb attached to a motorcycle exploded, killing and injuring over 60 people in total.⁷³

The Islamic State – Diyala Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Diyala Province published the following:
 - A filmed review titled, “Blacksmith and Development Workshop in Diyala Province”. The photos showed the cutting and welding of pipes and metal parts.⁷⁴

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Turkish involvement in the front against the Islamic State is growing. During the second half of July 2015, it was reported that the Turkish Air Force had carried out a series of new air strikes against IS forces in Syria,⁷⁵ and that the Turkish authorities had arrested 500 people who tried to cross the border into Syria.⁷⁶ Despite these efforts, the Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu emphasized that his country does not intend to send ground forces to Syria.⁷⁷

In addition to Britain’s announcement that its planes were participating in aerial strikes in Syria,⁷⁸ American strikes also continued in that arena. Although most of the attacks were aimed at Islamic

⁷² <http://goo.gl/aUAF8S>

⁷³ <http://goo.gl/RAhyAg>

⁷⁴ <http://goo.gl/MzqBDw>

⁷⁵ <http://goo.gl/wbJ5hs>

⁷⁶ <http://goo.gl/G2LLw5>

⁷⁷ <http://goo.gl/OJ22wY>

⁷⁸ <https://goo.gl/OFwHNP>

*State targets, the emir of the Khorasan group, Muhsin al-Fadhli, was killed in one of the attacks, according to a report by senior American officials.*⁷⁹

*In the political realm, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Mualllem announced in front of the UN envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, that his country supports Putin's initiative to eliminate terrorism.*⁸⁰ *This announcement came at the same time as a speech by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad regarding the need to combat terrorism before a political solution is achieved and regarding the shortage of manpower in the Syrian army.*⁸¹

Syria

Al-Nusra Front

- During the second half of July 2015, the jihadist media institution of Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah al-Bayda, published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the cooperation of the “Al-Farka 30” group with American planes in order to attack Al-Nusra Front camps. According to the announcement, the United States added Al-Nusra Front to the list of terrorist organizations while ignoring the crimes being committed by the Syrian regime against the Syrian people. The announcement also added that the United States has tried over the last two years to extend its reach to Syria but since it did not succeed in doing so, it began to train forces, which it refers to as “the moderate opposition”, by the CIA. According to the announcement, several days earlier, one such group called “Al-Farka 30” entered Syria after completing the US training program. In light of this, Al-Nusra Front stopped several members of this group. During its investigation, the organization found that there was cooperation and coordination between the “Al-Farka 30” group and coalition air forces that helped the group to bomb Al-Nusra Front camps, which killed and injured members of the organization. The end of the announcement stated that Al-Nusra Front warned the group's soldiers against continuing to cooperate with the Americans, and called on them to return to the correct path and join jihad in Syria against the regime. The

⁷⁹ <http://goo.gl/qLmK76>

⁸⁰ <https://goo.gl/pbV9EF>

⁸¹ <http://goo.gl/S9aFsm>

organization also called on jihadist factions to condemn their enemies, including the Alawites, Khawarijis and American agents who want to destroy jihad and the Syrian revolution.⁸²

- A video documenting the battles at the Al-Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp.⁸³
- An announcement by the Saraya al-Mi'ad Shura Council and its emir, Abu Muhammad al-Shami, that they had joined Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria.⁸⁴
- The Jihad Preachers Center, which is affiliated with Al-Nusra Front, published a video documenting a battle between jihad fighters and Syrian security forces in the city of Al-Zabadani in the suburbs of Damascus.⁸⁵ In addition, the center published an announcement about the completion of the first cycle of graduates, who deepened their knowledge of shari'a and underwent military training at the Ashbal al-Sham ("Lion Cubs of Al-Aqsa") training camp.⁸⁶



Photo of children from the completion of the first cycle of graduates at the Ashbal al-Sham training camp

⁸² <https://al-aren.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

⁸⁵ <https://twitter.com/islamgond1/status/629281863287357440>;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=761wsYnKgg0>

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

- Al-Fustat jihadist media institution published an announcement that it would return to publishing materials by Al-Manara Al-Bayda jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Nusra Front.⁸⁷

Jaysh al-Fath

- Jaysh al-Fath, an umbrella organization composed of Salafi-jihadist factions led by Al-Nusra Front, published the following:
 - An announcement calling on fighters affiliated with the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade to surrender themselves and their weapons to one of Jaysh al-Fath's nearby centers. The announcement was made against the backdrop of the battle between Jaysh al-Fath and the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade and a request by several members of the group to defect to Jaysh al-Fath in order to gain its protection. The announcement added that whomever surrenders himself will receive security from Jaysh al-Fath while those who do not stop killing Muslims and accusing them of heresy will be fought by the organization. The end of the announcement stated that it did not apply to the 13 commanders of the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade.⁸⁸
 - An announcement on the organization's Twitter account about its attack on army posts belonging to the Syrian regime and its allies in Kafarya and Al Fu'ah, in response to the systematic murder of the Syrian people being carried out by the regime. The announcement also stated that this attack was carried out in revenge for the siege imposed by the regime on the residents of Al-Zabadani. In addition, it stated that approximately 4,000 Syrian regime fighters and their allies were located in Kafarya and Al Fu'ah, and that they had in their possession heavy weaponry that had been used by the regime against civilians. According to the announcement, this proves that the Syrian regime has military forces in these Syrian cities even though the regime denies it. Finally, the announcement stated that the organization has no intention of harming civilians during the battles in these cities and that it will do everything in its power to protect them.⁸⁹

⁸⁷ <https://al-aren.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <https://al-aren.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁹ <https://twitter.com/alsdq1/status/624292169965281281>

- An announcement on the organization’s Twitter account regarding the expansion of its circle of assault to Al-Qarhada and the surrounding areas in response to an attack by the Syrian regime and Hezbollah in the area. In addition, the announcement called on residents of Al-Zabadani to persevere and stay strong.⁹⁰

The Islamic State – Aleppo

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Aleppo published the following:
 - A video titled, “A Message to the People of Turkestan” in which several fighters from Turkestan addressed their fellow countrymen in their language. At the head of the group appeared a fighter who called himself Abu Suhayb al-Muhajer, who called on Muslims in his country to perform “hijra” and join the Caliphate. In addition, al-Muhajer called on Turkestan fighters in Al-Nusra Front to defect and join the Islamic State.⁹¹ Another fighter delivered a message regarding fighters being held in prisons in Turkestan and expressed hope for their release. It should be noted that included among the fighters who appeared in the video was Sheikh Muhammad Amin al-Turkestani, an elderly fighter of Turkestan origin to whom a video was dedicated in May 2015.



A message from Aleppo Province to Turkestan

- A video titled, “This is Our Holiday” documenting Eid al-Fitr celebrations in the province. In addition to showing prayers in mosques and markets, the video included street

⁹⁰ <https://twitter.com/alsdq1/status/625351739030548481>

⁹¹ <https://archive.org/details/Turkiistan-1>

interviews with residents, fighters and children who made an effort to refute claims that people living under Islamic State rule were living under “pressure, misery and despair”.⁹²

- A filmed review of a parade held by the Fighters Training Institute in the city of Al-Bab. During the parade, various weapons in the institute’s possession were displayed. According to the writing on the vehicles, the institute belongs to the Al-Qa’qa’ Brigade.⁹³
- A video regarding the Islamic State’s Department of Dawah and Mosques in the province. According to the speaker in the video, dawah activities entail the explanation of religious laws, courses and the strengthening of faith among residents, IS fighters and commanders. Dawah activities themselves include giving reminders about religious laws (purity, prayer, fasting, growing a beard, etc.), and posting signs on the subject of faith and the commandments. In addition, the department runs religious institutes for women and provides courses for Kurds and Turkmen with the goal of explaining to these communities the principles behind the “true creed”. Additional activities include children’s Quran lessons, quizzes, mobile dawah convoys, and the establishment of Islamic public libraries. Mosque activities entail work on a catalog of mosques according to size and activities, the appointment of a suitable imam for each mosque, the destruction of buildings considered “heretic innovations”, the establishment of new mosques, and the maintenance of old mosques.⁹⁴



Activities by the Department of Dawah and Mosques in Aleppo

⁹² <http://goo.gl/CsdUkL>

⁹³ <http://goo.gl/UOquJR>

⁹⁴ <http://goo.gl/b5dQ5D>

The Islamic State – Homs Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Homs Province published the following:
 - A video about the execution of a Syrian army captain who was captured in an ambush organized by the IS at the Al-Bosaryi checkpoint along the Damascus-Palmyra road. After documenting the chain of events that led to his capture, the captain was executed by a boy who slit his throat and decapitated him.⁹⁵ According to news sources, the execution was carried out at the Western Al-Hayr Palace in Homs Province.⁹⁶



A child executing a Syrian army captain in Homs Province

- A video about the marking of Eid al-Fitr among the organization’s fighters stationed at positions in the province. The video showed the fighters blessing one another in honor of the holiday, singing together, handing out presents and listening to a sermon meant to lift their spirits. Several fighters appeared at the end of the video and sent blessings to all Muslims in honor of the holiday, including an English-speaking fighter with a British accent.⁹⁷

The Islamic State – Damascus

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

⁹⁵ <http://goo.gl/PHu92o>

⁹⁶ <http://goo.gl/W2v4BR>

⁹⁷ <http://goo.gl/KxxK5A>

- A filmed review of the firing of 170 mm Katyusha rockets at Lebanese army forces in the town of Al-Qa', which is West of Qalamun.⁹⁸
- A claim of responsibility for the bombing of a workshop for the manufacture of explosives and mortars belonging to the Ababil Huran militia in southern Damascus. According to the statement, the workshop contained approximately 100 mortar bombs and explosive devices that were intended to be used against the Islamic State.⁹⁹
- A filmed review of plastic fuel production in southern Damascus.¹⁰⁰

The Islamic State – Al-Raqqa Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Raqqa Province published the following:
 - A video about a dawah meeting for adults and children that was held in the city of Raqqa. The meeting – which was attended by dozens to hundreds of participants – included social activities, the recitation of Islamic song lyrics and Quran verses, and religious speeches directed against leaders of Western countries, among others.¹⁰¹
 - A claim of responsibility for two suicide attacks that were carried out by a Syrian and Tunisian fighter at a checkpoint and headquarters belonging to PKK forces in the area of Tall Khanzir. According to the statement, dozens of people were killed and injured in the attack.¹⁰²
 - A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack that was carried out by a Tunisian fighter against a PKK checkpoint in the area of Saluk.¹⁰³
 - A video about Eid al-Fitr celebrations in the city of Raqqa. The video documented fairs that were held in honor of the holiday and the distribution of presents, as well as street interviews with residents who expressed satisfaction with the holiday under the Islamic

⁹⁸ <http://justpaste.it/esthdaf>

⁹⁹ <https://twitter.com/cabyac3/status/623530553892044800>

¹⁰⁰ <http://goo.gl/Y1BRJc>

¹⁰¹ <https://archive.org/details/uraqaa>

¹⁰² <https://twitter.com/baqiaisis/status/625740913336135685>

¹⁰³ <https://twitter.com/tyinftgrd/status/621777535920005120>

State. The video ended with a group song that included songs praising the leader of the organization, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.¹⁰⁴



Youth singing a song of praise to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and asking to become martyrs

- A filmed review about various civil issues throughout the province, such as: agriculture and camel raising,¹⁰⁵ dental clinic activities,¹⁰⁶ swimming pool activities,¹⁰⁷ the distribution of zakat in kind,¹⁰⁸ and repair and cleaning work in the cities of Raqqah and Tabqa.¹⁰⁹
- A notice posted on social networks attributed to the Islamic State’s “General Security Center” in Raqqah Province. According to the notice, stores that use Satellite Internet must remove the WIFI routers and restrict the network to the store only.¹¹⁰ Visitors who discussed the issue explained that it was a move designed to increase the Islamic State’s Internet supervision and restrict its use in order to prevent the spreading of criticism of the organization.

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:

¹⁰⁴ https://archive.org/details/3eid_raqqah-1

¹⁰⁵ http://justpaste.it/zer_gar; <http://www.csnw.tk/2015/07/016.html>

¹⁰⁶ <http://justpaste.it/asn-raq>

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.csnw.tk/2015/07/18.html>

¹⁰⁸ <http://goo.gl/zY8XLp>

¹⁰⁹ https://justpaste.it/khad_gar

¹¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/falconfire55288/status/622854572814544896>

- A video about Eid al-Fitr celebrations in the province. In addition to prayers in mosques, the video documented the distribution of presents to children and park activities. The video ended with members of the organization directing threats and criticism at Western forces in the framework of the public holiday festivities.¹¹¹
- A video regarding Ribat during the month of Ramadan. The video showed fighters spread out among several Caliphate posts in order to defend it. In addition, the video included a message calling on all Muslims who until now have avoided jihad to join the ranks of the mujahideen.¹¹²

Ajnad Al-Sham

- The Islamic Union of Ajnad al-Sham published an announcement regarding the failed assassination attempt of one of the organization's leaders, Muhammad al-Bashash Abu Khalid, in the eastern Syrian city of Al-Ghouta. According to the announcement, the sheikh's escorts discovered an explosive device underneath his car and called for the organization's engineering unit, which managed to disable the device. The announcement also stated that the organization's security department would cooperate with the police in order to investigate the incident.¹¹³
- An announcement was published on Ajnad al-Sham's official Web site according to which the organization, together with 16 other organizations including Ahrar al-Sham and Jaysh al-Islam, has decided to renounce the Supreme Military Council of the Free Syrian Army, which belongs to the coalition. According to the announcement, these organizations believe the council is an attempt to fan the flames of the internal disagreements and conflicts that serve the interests of the enemies of revolution. The end of the announcement stated that there is a need for reform in the institutions of the organizations taking part in the Syrian revolution in the framework of comprehensive activities that will serve the interests of the revolution and not allow the blood of the Syrian people to be spilled.¹¹⁴

¹¹¹ <http://goo.gl/7re0e3>

¹¹² http://isdarattv.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_85.html

¹¹³ <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2080>

¹¹⁴ <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=1960>

Ahrar Al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published a video titled, “Al-Shumukh Military Camps – Al-Nafir Cycle 8” documenting the military training undergone by the organization’s fighters in an urban area, the operation of security units, and more.¹¹⁵



Members of Ahrar al-Sham undergoing training

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

- The Ibn Taymiyya Center, which focuses on coverage of the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement, published a condemnation of “ Hamas’s continued attacks against the Salafists in Gaza”.¹¹⁶

Sheikh ‘Umar Hadid Brigade

- The Sheikh ‘Umar Hadid Brigade, a Salafi-jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip, claimed responsibility for shooting two rockets at the city of Ashkelon, and claimed that they struck “the Jewish electric company in the occupied city of Ashkelon”.¹¹⁷

Liwa al-Tawhid

¹¹⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-T8Slw44f48>; <http://ahraralsham.net/?p=9264>

¹¹⁶ <https://dump.to/cZc>

¹¹⁷ <http://justpaste.it/asqlan6>

- Al-Buraq jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Nasir Salah al-Din Brigade (Liwa al-Tawhid), published a video about the organization’s dawah and humanitarian activities for the civilian population in the Gaza Strip. In addition, the video showed military exercises by members of the organization.¹¹⁸

The Salafi Nation Army in Jerusalem

- Al-Raya jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Salafi Nation Army in Jerusalem, published the following:
 - A condemnation of the car explosion carried out by the “Palestinian Resistance” in the Sheikh Ridhwan neighbourhood in northern Gaza. According to the organization, this activity serves the Zionist army at a time when everyone should unite around jihad and focus on the Zionist enemy.¹¹⁹
 - A collection of tweets by Abu Hafs al-Maqdisi, the leader of the organization, regarding the need to end the conflicts among the various jihad factions in Syria in order to prevent a descent into civil war and in order to win the jihad battle against the Syrian regime.¹²⁰

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

- The Islamic State in Sinai Province (formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis) published a report detailing all of the military operations that its members carried out during the month of Ramadan (June-July 2015).¹²¹

The Maghreb [North Africa]

Spokesmen for the Libyan National Army, led by General Khalifa Haftar, reported that fighter planes

¹¹⁸ www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cg156gezRQA

¹¹⁹ <http://linkis.com/justpaste.it/5N2iW>

¹²⁰ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic); <http://justpaste.it/Mujahideenofal-Sham>

¹²¹ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic)

had attacked two ships near Benghazi carrying “fighters, weapons and ammunition to support terrorism”, according to the announcement.¹²² Security chaos continued to reign throughout the rest of the country. A wave of kidnappings of foreigners (from India, Italy and several African countries) was reported in central Libya¹²³ in the area of Sirte, and in Sabha - in the southern part of the country – it was reported that at least 40 people were killed in battles between the Tubu and Touareg tribes.¹²⁴

In Tunisia, the Parliament approved a counter-terrorism law that permits, among other things, execution for certain terrorism-related crimes. This step coincided with the extension of the state of emergency in the country for two more months, and with the suspension of activities for 80 associations suspected of ties to terrorism.¹²⁵

In Algeria, terrorism struck a hard blow with the deaths of 14 Algeria soldiers in an ambush carried out by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in Aïn Defla Province, according to the organization.¹²⁶ It can be assumed that this attack was one of the topics of conversation at the international counter-terrorism conference that was held in the capital of Algiers, which was attended by representatives of over 50 countries.¹²⁷

In Morocco, counter-terrorism operations continued with the discovery of an IS-supporting terror cell that operated in several cities throughout the country,¹²⁸ as well as the declaration by the King regarding Morocco’s commitment to fighting terrorism.¹²⁹

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which belongs to AQIM, published a claim of responsibility for an attack against Algerian army forces in Aïn Defla Province in western Algeria. According to the announcement, the attackers ambushed the soldiers, killed 14 of them, plundered weapons and supplies, and returned unharmed. It also stated that the attack served as the proper

¹²² <http://goo.gl/IWBorY>

¹²³ <http://goo.gl/Al2RwS>; <http://goo.gl/yE70DP>; <http://goo.gl/XtNqw4>

¹²⁴ <http://goo.gl/3GpeUL>

¹²⁵ <http://goo.gl/9oxRMf>; <http://goo.gl/JddEI2>

¹²⁶ <http://middle-east-online.com/?id=204147>

¹²⁷ <http://www.echoroukonline.com/ara/articles/249673.html>

¹²⁸ <http://goo.gl/KOLDKE>

¹²⁹ <http://goo.gl/zb2r09>

response to the claim made by the Chief of Staff of the Algerian army that “the mujahideen have been uprooted and eliminated”.¹³⁰

Algeria

- The Ajnad al-Khilafa bi-Ifriqiya (“Soldiers of the Caliphate in Africa”) jihadist media institution published a collection of photos the organization’s fighters in Algeria enjoying time on the beach and fishing.¹³¹

Tunisia

- Al-Zawrra jihadist media institution published an article by a Tunisian writer about women who were arrested and died in prison in Tunisia. In the article, the writer criticized the Tunisian security agencies, which it described as the “Army of Satan”, and called for revenge for the women who were harmed as a result of their arrests by the regime. The call for revenge was directed at, among others, the mujahideen in Libya whom the writer encouraged to cross the border and join the mujahideen in Tunisia in order to avenge those women.¹³²

Libya

Ansar al-Sharia in Libya

- Al-Raya jihadist media institution, which belongs to Ansar al-Sharia in Libya, published the following:
 - A video titled, “Repulsion of Aggression”, which reviewed military activities by members of the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, an umbrella organization made up of several Salafi-jihadist organizations, led by Ansar al-Sharia, against General Haftar’s forces.¹³³
 - A filmed review about the enforcement of Hudud penalties by Ansar al-Sharia in Benghazi. The photos showed three people dressed in orange clothing who received

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

¹³¹ <http://www.morageb.org/?p=508>

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

¹³³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

lashes and “repented”. It should be noted that the photos themselves did not detail the transgression for which the criminals received lashes but according to the discourse on social networks, the publication of the photos was in response to claims that Ansar al-Sharia does not enforce the laws of God on Earth as does the Islamic State.¹³⁴



Ansar al-Sharia in Libya uses visual images that mimic the Islamic State

- A filmed review about the shooting of Grad rockets at General Khalifa Haftar’s forces in Derna by Ansar al-Sharia’s artillery battery.¹³⁵
- Photos of a sniper rifle produced by the Talut Institute, a company that develops weapons for Ansar al-Sharia. According to the text that accompanied the photos, the barrel diameter of the rifle is 12.5 mm. and the rifle’s range reaches 3.5 kilometers.¹³⁶
- A video titled, “A Child’s Smile Campaign – Part 2”, which reviewed the organization’s activities for needy children, including the distribution of clothing items.¹³⁷
- The radio station of Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published a series of recorded classes on “Loyalty and Disavowal” – an Islamic principal according to which believers must demonstrate loyalty to one another and absolutely renounce anyone who is not Muslim or deviates from the principles of Islam.¹³⁸

¹³⁴ https://twitter.com/LUQ_HAS/status/625809040342429696

¹³⁵ <https://twitter.com/fahdrad/status/622717937955270656>

¹³⁶ https://twitter.com/LUQ_HAS/status/626746344976318465

¹³⁷ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹³⁸ <https://twitter.com/AtherMadina/status/625081480788738048>

Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries

- Al-Bayyina jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, an umbrella organization made up of several Salafi-jihadist organizations led by Ansar al-Sharia in Libya, published on its Twitter account photos documenting a breach of the military police carried out by its members.¹³⁹



Documentation of members of the organization breaching the military police

The Islamic State – Barqa Province

- The IS in Barqa Province published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for the takeover of a military checkpoint on the road between Tubruq and Ajdabiya. The announcement stated that soldiers at the checkpoint were killed, and ammunition and vehicles were taken as plunder.¹⁴⁰
 - Photographs of three foreigners who were taken captive by the organization and presented as “Crusaders” of Egyptian, Ghanaian and Nigerian origin.¹⁴¹
 - A filmed review about an exchange of fire with Sahawat forces in the city of Derna.¹⁴² Another filmed review showed Sahawat forces who were killed in the city.¹⁴³

¹³⁹ <https://twitter.com/albainahmedai/status/622624607896530944>

¹⁴⁰ <https://twitter.com/Zomorood/status/627240192945090564>

¹⁴¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁴² <http://justpaste.it/sahewatdarna>

¹⁴³ <https://twitter.com/Barqawi19/status/626315965425414144>

- A filmed review about the takeover of a “strategic structure” in the city of Benghazi. The video showed photos from the planning stage of the operation as well as photos of the security forces who were killed.¹⁴⁴
- A filmed review about the release of a group of Egyptian workers who, according to the Islamic State, were captured by highway robbers in the city of Nofaliya. The photos presented IS fighters as the workers’ saviors who rescued them from road gangs, returned their money that was stolen from them, and showed them the “truth about the mujahideen”.¹⁴⁵
- Filmed reviews concerning the city of Harawa, approximately 50 kilometers east of the city of Sirte, regarding the distribution of zakat, Eid al-Fitr celebrations, the destruction of cigarettes, and the arrest of a thief.¹⁴⁶

The Islamic State – Tripoli

- The IS in Tripoli published the following:
 - A video titled, “Messages from Sirte” in which several IS fighters threatened General Khalifa Haftar, whom they described as a “dictator”. Among the fighters who appeared in the video was an Egyptian called Abu Hamza al-Misri, who praised IS fighters in various provinces and called on all those who until now have avoided jihad to take action and join the Islamic State.¹⁴⁷
 - A filmed review regarding the conversion to Islam underwent by several Christians in the city of Sirte.¹⁴⁸
- A writer known as Abu Bakr al-Barqawi published an article praising the success of two IS fighters who managed to penetrate the Military College of Misrata and destroy 13 planes. In

¹⁴⁴ http://i-libya.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_10.html

¹⁴⁵ http://i-libya.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_22.html

¹⁴⁶ <https://twitter.com/aboabda27982475/status/622496294989340672>

https://twitter.com/almow7d_bellah/status/622829416373166080

<https://twitter.com/tyinftgrd/status/624580703712251904>

http://i-libya.blogspot.co.il/2015/07/blog-post_30.html

¹⁴⁷ http://i-libya.blogspot.co.il/2015/07/blog-post_85.html

¹⁴⁸ http://i-libya.blogspot.com/2015/07/blog-post_86.html

particular, the writer praised the ability of the fighters to penetrate across enemy lines, which testifies to the operational sophistication acquired by the IS in Libya.¹⁴⁹

Mali

Al-Murabitun – Al-Qaeda in West Africa

- Al-Rabat jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Murabitun – Al-Qaeda in West Africa, published a statement from July 21, 2015 in which members of the organization swore to abide by the commands of Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda. It also stated that the organization seeks to concentrate its efforts on expelling the Crusader enemy from the region, and that it does not recognize the legitimacy of the existence of the IS led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He added that the organization’s Shura Council had appointed Sheikh Khalid Abu al-‘Abbas as the leader of the organization. Finally, the organization called on tribes in northern Mali to unite and act with force against the “French occupier and its collaborators, and kill them”.¹⁵⁰



The statement published by Al-Murabitun – Al-Qaeda in West Africa

¹⁴⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

Egypt

Ajnad Misr

- The jihadist media institution of Ajnad Misr, Al-Kinana, published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for an explosion at Roxy Square in Cairo, in which several police officers were injured.¹⁵¹
 - An article by ‘Abd al-Rahman Osama, a member of the organization, about the organization’s renewed jihad operations against Egyptian security forces in the Egyptian arena. According to him, the recent change made by the Egyptian Interior Ministry stemmed from the Ministry’s inability to cope with the wave of terrorist attacks carried out by the organization in Cairo. According to him, Egyptian authorities managed to kill several members of the organization, including its leader, Majd al-Din al-Misri, but he vowed that the organization would continue to strive to carry out attacks against Egyptian security forces.¹⁵²
 - An announcement in which the organization denied reports that were published in the Egyptian press according to which two of the organization’s fighters were killed in Egypt.¹⁵³

Al-Murabitun

- A visitor to Al-Fida jihadist Web forum published a link to an audio clip from a new, unknown Salafi-jihadist organization called Al-Murabitun, led by a former Egyptian army commander named Hisham al-‘Ashmawi (aka Abu ‘Umar al-Muhajir). The organization itself seemingly supports Al-Qaeda. In the audio clip, al-Muhajir called on young Egyptians to join the war of jihad against the Egyptian security forces and vowed to intensify its attacks against the latter in the Sinai Peninsula.¹⁵⁴

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

¹⁵² <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

¹⁵⁴ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



Abu 'Umar al-Muhajir, the leader of Al-Murabitun

Nigeria

The Islamic State in West Africa

- The Islamic State in West Africa (formerly Boko Haram) published a video documenting celebrations held by members of the organization in honor of Eid al-Fitr, in which they emphasized the importance of obeying the commandment to wage jihad against the enemies of Islam, and explained that the organization would continue its activities despite attempts by its enemies to sow a rift among its ranks.¹⁵⁵

Somalia

During the second half of July 2015, terrorist attacks by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen continued against government personnel and security forces in Somalia. On July 25, the organization carried out two terrorist attacks in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, which killed a member of Parliament and a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office.¹⁵⁶ In addition, the organization carried out a car bombing the following day at the Jazeera Hotel in the capital of Mogadishu next to Somalia's International Airport where politicians and diplomats tended to stay. Most of the casualties were members of the security forces.¹⁵⁷ Meanwhile, the African Union force launched a military operation against Al-Shabab fighters in southern Somalia.¹⁵⁸ In the framework of the operation, the African Union force worked together with Somali security forces to seize control of the strategic city of

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

¹⁵⁶ <http://goo.gl/vJapWi>

¹⁵⁷ <http://goo.gl/2vnDBo>

¹⁵⁸ <http://goo.gl/scVwLJ>

*Bartira in southwest Somalia.*¹⁵⁹ *In addition, four Al-Shabab fighters were killed in an attack by US planes in Somalia, including the planner of the terrorist attack at Garissa University in Kenya.*¹⁶⁰

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Somalia, Al-Kataib, published the following:
 - A video in Arabic and English documenting members of the organization setting up an ambush of enemy forces in Lamu Province, and justifying the continuation of the armed struggle against enemies of the organization.¹⁶¹
 - Greetings in honor of Eid al-Fitr festivities from Sheikh Abu ‘Ubayda Ahmad ‘Umar, the leader of the organization. In addition to holiday greetings, ‘Umar expressed satisfaction with the failure of the “Crusader conspiracies against the Islamic provinces” in Somalia. According to him, Al-Shabab fighters are currently being forced to cope with Crusader military operations, intelligence efforts and espionage aimed at gathering information in order to assassinate its fighters. According to him, his fighters are battling a new kind of colonialism that seeks to steal the natural treasures of Muslim lands. ‘Umar emphasized that due to the organized Crusader attack, Al-Shabab’s Islamic provinces are concentrating their efforts on educating Muslims about the blessings of shari’a, spreading Islam and helping the oppressed. In addition, he called on tribes to take part in jihad against the enemies of Islam through manpower, funding and any other means. He also praised the attack that was carried out by Al-Shabab fighters at the University of Garissa.
- Later in the announcement, ‘Umar announced the establishment of a new military unit called the Mukhtar Abu al-Zubayr Battalion, which joined the fight against the enemies of Islam. In conclusion, ‘Umar appealed to Muslims in Kenya to also join jihad, and he vowed to help them in light of their oppression and persecution by the Kenyan regime

¹⁵⁹ <http://goo.gl/xcuYhC>

¹⁶⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/kenya-claims-garissa-mastermind-dead-drone-strike-150716135037207.html> (English).

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

and promised to act to free their land. ‘Umar noted that the gates are open to Muslims in East Africa, especially in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Uganda and Central Africa in light of the oppression that they suffer in their own lands, and he called on them to join jihad. He even expressed solidarity with Muslims in Burma due to their persecution by the regime, and explained that the only solution to their problem was to join jihad.¹⁶² This was ‘Umar’s first announcement since becoming the leader of Al-Shabab in September 2014 following the death of his predecessor.



The publication banner

- A video in honor of the month-long Ramadan fast, which documented the destruction of a Kenyan army convoy. In the video, an Al-Shabab fighter made threats against Kenya.¹⁶³
- A video titled, “Except Those Who Repent Before You, Overpower Them”. The video warned the African countries participating in the war against Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen that if they change their ways and lay down their weapons they will be forgiven by Al-Shabab for their actions and will not be harmed. The video included an interview with several former Kenyan army soldiers who laid down their arms and decided to join the movement.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶² <http://justpaste.it/meuy>

¹⁶³ <https://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁶⁴ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

- The fourth video in a series titled, “There is No Protection Other Than Belief or Security”, which showed Al-Shabab fighters in the area of Lamo, in Kenya.¹⁶⁵
- An announcement that was published in Arabic and English regarding the battle in Lego, accompanied by photos from the battle in which over 80 soldiers from Burundi – which took part in the African Union forces fighting in Somalia - were killed. According to the announcement, Al-Shabab fighters seized light and heavy weaponry during the battle as well as stockpiles of ammunition of military equipment.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁵ <http://shahaada.com/?p=18>

¹⁶⁶ <http://shahaada.com/?p=54>

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