Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The Second Half of September 2015
Highlights

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

- **Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda**, criticizes the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and emphasizes that it is not legally valid and, therefore, Muslims are not obligated to swear allegiance to it. According to him, it is of considerable importance at the present time to unite the ranks of the mujahideen and to exercise caution when declaring *takfir* on Muslims. In addition, he emphasizes the importance of focusing the war effort against the West, especially the United States, Israel, secular Arab regimes, Iran and its allies.

- **Khalid bin ‘Umar Batarfi**, a senior leader of **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula**, praised the wave of knife terrorist attacks by Palestinians against Jews in Israel. He justifies these attacks as a response to Israel’s harsh oppression of the Palestinians and its efforts to Judaize Al-Aqsa Mosque. According to him, it is a religious conflict closely related to the Muslim Nation and in order to free Palestine, they must fight against the Jews, the Christian West (especially the United States), and the Arab regimes surrounding Israel that abandoned the Palestinian problem and are interested in strengthening their relationship with Israel.

- **Yusuf al-Anabi**, a senior leader of **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb**, accuses regimes in North Africa, including Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, of oppressing Muslims interested in implementing shari’a and of collaborating with the enemies of Islam, led by France, against the mujahideen and the Muslim population. In light of this, he appeals to Muslims around the world to wake up and fulfil the commandment to wage jihad as well as wage a public relations campaign denouncing the repressive policies of Western countries. According to him, efforts should be focused on carrying out terrorist attacks on western soil against its capital cities, political and economic institutions, and companies that employ workers of different nationalities around the world.

- The **Islamic State** launches a comprehensive propaganda campaign aimed at discouraging residents from leaving the territories under its control and migrating to Europe. Several videos published by the organization and the media institutions that support it describe such migration...
as prohibited by religious law and explain the hardships facing refugees as well as Western society’s harsh treatment of Muslims.

- **Abu Bakr Shekau**, the leader of the **Islamic State** in East Africa (formerly Boko Haram), denies reports of his death and emphasizes that they were part of the false rumor mill operated by the Nigerian regime. In addition, he clarifies his allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State, and to the Islamic Caliphate.
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International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT)
Additional resources are available on the ICT Website: www.ict.org.il
New Publications

Ideology

- Al-Qaeda’s jihadist media institution, Al-Sahab, published a speech by Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of the organization, which constituted part three in a series of publications titled, “The Islamic Spring”. Al-Zawahiri focused on the conditions necessary for establishing an Islamic Caliphate in accordance with shari’a. In the prologue, he emphasized that the caliphate, which was established by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was established in sin and is not run according to the path of the Prophet Mohammad and, therefore, Muslims are not obligated to swear allegiance to it. He also called for unity among the ranks of Muslims and mujahideen, and for effort to be focused on fighting against the Crusader enemy in the West, Russia, Africa, Asia and especially the United States. According to him, war must also be sanctified against Israel and against the traitorous and secular regimes, Iran and its allies, and the other enemies of Islam. He then dedicated an extensive discussion to the essence of the caliphate from the viewpoint of shari’a, is attributes, how to select the caliph, the attributes of the caliph, etc. Finally, al-Zawahiri explained that the mujahideen must exercise caution in the way that they treat Muslims so as not to rush to classify them as infidels, and to safeguard their property and their lives. Al-Zawahiri extended a personal message to each mujahid asking them to fight only against the enemies of Islam. According to him, there are emirs or commanders that exploit their soldiers for political ends or against the backdrop of rivalry for power and influence: “Only declare takfir on one you are certain is a heretic […].”

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a speech by Khalid bin ‘Umar Batarfi, a senior member of the organization, titled, “Between the Violations of the Jews and the Heroism of the Fedayeen”. Batarfi opened by blessing Muslims in honor of Eid al-Adha in the Muslim world, and then he devoted the majority of his speech to the issue of Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque. According to him, the “Jewish State” or the “tiny state of Israel” systematically oppresses the Palestinians, strives to Judaize Palestine, violates the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and suffocates the Gaza Strip with the cooperation of the Egyptian

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He added that there has recently been an escalation in acts of hostility by Jews against the Palestinians, such as the rise in the number of Jews ascending to Al-Aqsa Mosque or the burning of the Palestinian family. He praised the Palestinian response and the Intifada that was launched against the Jewish provocations. He emphasized that Palestine is a religious issue close to the heart of the Muslim Nation that needs to be resolved. According to him, the establishment of the Jewish State was made possible thanks to the support of the West, which seeks to weaken Islam. Arab regimes, according to him, sold out Palestine a long time ago and are not interested in liberating it from the Jews; rather, they exploit the Palestinian problem to promote their own narrow interests as proven by Israel’s peace agreements with Jordan and Egypt as well as Saudi Arabia’s peace initiative with Israel. According to him, Arab states such as Egypt are protecting Israel’s borders and Hezbollah, which is supported by Iran, is protecting Israel’s northern border. Batarfi emphasized that there are essentially three main enemies that must be fought against: the Jews, the Crusader West led by the United States, and the local regimes that sold out Palestine.

Batarfi noted that the solution for the liberation of Palestine involves fighting on three fronts:

A. Wage jihad against the Jews in Palestine itself while cooperating with other armed Islamic factions fighting against Jews, since Arab regimes have abandoned the Palestinian problem. In light of this, Batarfi called on armed Islamic factions in Palestine to resolve the conflicts between them and to focus on jihad against the Jews in Palestine.

B. Focus efforts on attacking the United States, which is considered Israel’s main supporter in every respect. According to him, history has proven that the US is unable to protect its internal security and its interests around the world. Batarfi noted that by attacking the US, it will be possible to sever its support of Israel.

C. Expose the ugly faces of Arab regimes in public and carry out revolutions against them.

Batarfi also emphasized that support of the mujahideen in Syria is a central stage in the liberation of Palestine and, therefore, they should strive for cooperation and unity among the ranks. He added that the Palestinians understood the bitter reality in which they are forced to live and, therefore, they decided to take matters into their own hands and wage battle against the enemy, but due to the Palestinian Authority’s repressive action, the Palestinians are
prevented from launching mass popular protests. Batarfi emphasized that, despite everything, the Palestinians continue to sacrifice their lives and initiate stabbing, shooting and other attacks against Israel. Finally, he noted that the wave of Palestinian attacks and Palestinian jihad against the Jews in Israel will only increase.²

The banner of Batarfi’s speech

- The Nukhbat al-Fikr jihadist media group, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published the following:
  - A book by Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini that he wrote while imprisoned in a British jail, titled, “The Art of Reading”, in which he discussed the importance of reading and deepening one’s knowledge in various fields, and he emphasized that frequent reading is a tool to gain a wider picture about a certain issue.³
  - A collection titled, “Notable Messages and Advice from Dr. Abdullah Azzam’s Book: Belief and its Impact on the Building of a Generation”, compiled by Sami al-‘Aridi, a senior member of Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council in Syria. The collection included advice from Abdullah Azzam, one of the founders of Al-Qaeda, regarding the importance of the Islamic faith as a central element in education and in the construction of a Muslim identity. According to al-‘Aridi, the removal of radical and distorted interpretations of Islam for the Muslim faith will guarantee the development of a generation that will adhere to the correct faith.⁴

³ http://justpaste.it/nug7
An article titled, “Contaminated/Defective News Depends on its Narrator” by Sheikh Dr. Sami al-‘Aridi, a senior member of Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council in Syria. The article appealed to jihad fighters to ensure the correct and reliable reporting of information related to jihad operations in order to avoid misunderstandings, disagreements and rifts among the ranks of jihad fighters. Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi-jihadist philosopher in Jordan, praised the article in the prologue that he wrote.⁵

- AQAP’s jihadist media institution, Al-Malahim, published a video titled, “Why We Express Interest in Political Culture” in the framework of a series of lectures titled, “Understandings” by Sheikh Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi, a senior member of AQAP who was killed in a drone strike in Yemen in 2015.⁶

- Al-Tahaya jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published the transcript of a 1999 interview that was conducted with Sheikh Abu Mus‘ab al-Suri, a prominent strategist in Al-Qaeda, by the Kuwaiti daily, Al-Rai, and that was recorded onto five audio clips. The interview covered details of al-Suri’s life, his connection to Islamist movements, his thoughts about jihad movements and other issues.⁷

⁶ http://justpaste.it/mafahem9
⁷ https://justpaste.it/ntph
• A writer using the nickname Mus'ab al-Khayr al-Dimashqi published an article titled, “A Message to Muslim Youth”. In the framework of the article, the writer claimed that “enemies of Islam” are trying to influence the youth and divert them from the correct path. In order to overcome this, the writer suggested several steps that young people should take, including learning the proper “aqeeda” (creed), relying on trusted religious scholars, avoiding imitating the infidels, and waging jihad.8

• In addition to the publications that were distributed by the Islamic State’s provincial media institutions, several IS-supporting jihadist media institutions published videos condemning the migration of refugees from IS territories to the West. For instance, the Asawirti Media institution published a video titled, “Refugees, the Caliphate is Preferable to the Crusaders”.9 In addition, the Uyun al-Ummah jihadist media institution published a video titled, “Refugees, to Where? To the Paradise of the Caliphate or the Hell of the West?” Both videos presented the dangers and hardships involved in leaving the Caliphate as compared to the life of pleasure and well-being under IS rule.10

• During the second half of September 2015, the Islamic State’s publishing house, Al-Himma, published several leaflets on the topics of veil wearing,11 the obligation to grow a beard,12 and the laws of purity.13

The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

• Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published a statement criticizing an article that was published in the Islamic State’s English-language magazine, DABIQ, criticizing Ansar al-Sharia in Libya. According to the organization, the article itself was contaminated with distortions of the truth and inaccuracies. For example, the organization refuted the Islamic State’s claim that many Ansar al-Sharia commanders had defected and joined the ranks of the IS.14

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8 https://shamikh1.biz/vb (Arabic).
9 https://archive.org/details/klafa-0011
11 https://archive.org/details/7jab_0
12 https://archive.org/details/Httpsarchive.orgdetailswijoob_lihia
13 https://archive.org/details/sifat_0
Islamic State supporters published various articles on jihadist Web forums and on the Internet regarding Al-Qaeda and its leader. For example, a writer known as Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Muhajer published an article criticizing recent comments made by the leader of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and his opposition to the IS.15 Another article, signed by “Jihadi Media Soldiers” and published by the administrator of the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, known as Anas al-Ansari, included a personal message to al-Zawahiri.16 The writers did express appreciation to al-Zawahiri for his actions over the years in the world of jihad but they also criticized him and Al-Qaeda for the following:

- Their preference for attacks against the distant enemy over the close one (for example, abandoning Egypt to the secular camp);
- Terrorist attacks against the distant enemy and the West did not lead to far-reaching changes compared with those carried out by the Caliphate (the IS caused more American losses than Al-Qaeda did throughout all its years of operation);
- Al-Qaeda does not act against Iran and the Shi’ites;
- Al-Qaeda swore allegiance to Mullah Omar after he was no longer alive.

At the end of the article, the writers advised al-Zawahiri to pass the baton to someone deserving to lead global jihad. In addition, visitors to the forum who responded to the article raised the possibility that al-Zawahiri is being held captive and forced to make these published statements.

The Asawirti Media institution published a video about Al-Qaeda that aimed to present its leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, in a negative night and to claim that Al-Qaeda should be subordinate to the IS and not the other way around. The video reviewed various points made in al-Zawahiri’s speech and presented them as lies. It also presented the Taliban, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, as a movement that has deviated from the straight path.17

A writer who identified with the organization published on social networks 40 reasons that prove AQAP has strayed and is not true to the principles of Islam. For example, the writer noted

15 https://justpaste.it/zwhri
16 https://shamikh1.biz/vb (Arabic).
17 https://archive.org/details/AsawirtiMedia_372
that the organization has no clear agenda, acts against other jihad factions in Yemen, unjustly criticizes the Islamic State, and more.\(^\text{18}\)

**Oaths of Allegiance**

- Jaysh al-Muhajin wal-Ansar published an announcement in which it declared its oath of allegiance to Al-Nusra Front.\(^\text{19}\)
- Katibat al-Tawhid wal-Jihad published an announcement in which it declared its allegiance to Al-Nusra Front. The announcement also called to unite the factions in Syria against the war being waged by the United States and Russia against Muslims.\(^\text{20}\)

**Women and Jihad**

- A female writer calling herself Umm Hazm al-Awlaqiyya published an article containing a collection of advice for women interested in taking part in jihad. In the framework of the article, the writer called on women to maintain their religious devotion, plan their future in the Caliphate, and decide how they can contribute and create a Muslim family that supports jihad.\(^\text{21}\)

**Strategy**

- A writer known as Abu Sulayman al-Adnani published a collection of advice for Muslims interested in performing hijra and joining the IS. For example, al-Adnani warned against making a visa request when one has a beard and against attempting to reach arenas of jihad by crossing the Jordanian or Saudi border.\(^\text{22}\)

**Promoting the Myth of the Martyr**

- The Ibn Taymiyya jihadist media institution, which focuses on reviewing news reports about the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement, published a “Biography of the Martyr, Faiz ‘Inaya, aka Abu

\(^{18}\) [https://justpaste.it/nxpy](https://justpaste.it/nxpy)

\(^{19}\) [https://al-fidaa.com/vb](https://al-fidaa.com/vb) (Arabic).


\(^{21}\) [https://shamikh1.biz/vb](https://shamikh1.biz/vb) (Arabic).

\(^{22}\) [https://justpaste.it/Abosuleman1](https://justpaste.it/Abosuleman1)
Anas”, a Salafi-jihadist operative in the Gaza Strip who was killed by Israel aircraft fire in August 2011 after he launched rockets at Israeli communities. The biography constituted part two in a series of publications titled, “The Martyrs of Shari’a” by a member of the organization.23

- Jund al-Aqsa, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Syria, published a video in memory of Mubarak al-Da’jani (aka Shaqran al-Kuwayti), a member of the organization who carried out a suicide attack using a car bomb against Syrian security forces.24

- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini published an article in memory of Sheikh Abdallah Azzam, one of the founders of Al-Qaeda.25

**Magazines**

- Issue no. 114 of *Al-Somood* magazine was published by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.26

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23 [http://justpaste.it/alsarea002](http://justpaste.it/alsarea002)
24 [https://www.alfidaa.info/vb](https://www.alfidaa.info/vb) (Arabic).
25 [https://www.alfidaa.info/vb](https://www.alfidaa.info/vb) (Arabic).
26 [https://justpaste.it/nww7](https://justpaste.it/nww7)
Issue no. 6 of the magazine, *Dar al-Islam* (57 pp.), was published, in French, by the Islamic State.\(^{27}\)

Issue no. 3 of the magazine, *Konstantiniye* (72 pp.), was published, in Turkish, by the Islamic State.\(^{28}\)

\(^{27}\) [https://ia801506.us.archive.org/33/items/DarAllslam06_20150927](https://ia801506.us.archive.org/33/items/DarAllslam06_20150927)

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The main emphasis during the second half of September was on the capture of the Afghan city of Kunduz by the Taliban in Afghanistan after a prolonged battle against Afghan army forces. In addition, in the framework of the capture of the city, the organization freed its members who were imprisoned in the jail in Kunduz.29 According to a former member of Parliament from Kunduz, the Taliban won the support of the city’s residents who were unhappy with the local government’s corruption.30 Residents reported that the Taliban is recruiting young men from among the city’s residents to its ranks and that it is able to maintain control of the city for a long time thanks to the plunder that it seized during its capture of the city.31 In response to the takeover of the city, Afghan

security forces and NATO forces launched a counter-attack in order to regain control over the city while the United States began aerial bombings of the city.\(^{32}\)

Meanwhile, fighters identified with the IS waged an extensive attack against Afghan police barriers in Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan. As a result, police launched a counter-attack and killed 85 IS fighters.\(^{33}\) Meanwhile, a UN committee published a report according to which the IS increased its influence in Afghanistan at the expense of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The report also stated that 10% of Taliban fighters support the IS.\(^{34}\)

Clashes also continued in Pakistan between the Taliban in Pakistan and Pakistani security forces. On September 18, Taliban fighters attacked a Pakistani Air Force base in Peshawar in western Pakistan.\(^{35}\) In response, the Pakistani army bombed Taliban fighters near the border with Afghanistan, and accused Afghanistan of being involved in the attack against the Air Force base.\(^{36}\)

**The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
  - An announcement by the leader of the organization, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, in honor of Eid al-Adha. In the beginning of the announcement, Mansoor offered condolences to the families of the pilgrims killed in the crane collapse at Al-Haram Mosque in Saudi Arabia and wished a speedy recovery to those who were injured. In addition, he thanked all those who offered condolences over the death of Mullah Omar and helped to keep the organization unified. Later in the announcement, Mansoor explained the Islamic Emirate’s position regarding recent political and jihadist incidents in Afghanistan.\(^{37}\)
  - An announcement regarding the liberation of the city of Kunduz by the organization’s fighters. The announcement was directed at residents of Kunduz and promised them


\(^{33}\)[http://goo.gl/YUSLS2](http://goo.gl/YUSLS2)

\(^{34}\)[http://goo.gl/VV935g](http://goo.gl/VV935g)


that the Islamic Emirate would defend their lives and their property. It also stated that the Islamic Emirate promises to forgive government officials and members of the security forces in Kunduz, and to protect them should they regret their prior actions and relinquish their ties to the Kabul government. At the end of the announcement, the Islamic Emirate called on the Kabul government not to avenge its defeat by carrying out shellings and bombings that will hurt innocent people, and asked it to accept the advancement of the mujahideen.38

- A call on all employees of non-governmental organizations, private companies and media networks to continue with their work as usual. The organization noted that, should they encounter a problem in their work, they must contact the Islamic State’s committee for control and management of non-governmental organizations and private companies in order to help them solve the problem.39

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Islamic State continued their trend of expansion in Yemen against the backdrop of the defeat of Houthi militias, which are supported by Iran, by coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia. During the second half of September, both organizations focused their efforts on attacking Houthis in Yemen. On September 24, for example, a suicide terrorist sent by the IS blew himself up at a Houthi mosque in Sanaa.40

Nevertheless, it seemed that AQAP’s power in Al-Mukala, the capital of Hadramawt Province that it seized control of in April 2015, was on a downward trend as a result of the loss of trust between the organization and Al-Mukala Domestic Council, an organization composed of scholars and public figures that manages welfare services for the local civilian population. The rift between the two began as a result of the latter’s expression of support for President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi against the backdrop of rumors of the Yemeni president’s imminent return and as a result of Al-Qaeda accusations of selling crude oil. In response, the organization accused the council of

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weakening the power of Al-Mukala, which could lead to its capture by the Houthis. Against the backdrop of these mutual accusations, Al-Qaeda refrained from fully retreating from Al-Mukala, contrary to the understanding reached between the organization and the Council regarding the retreat from the city.

Al-Qaeda’s agreement to relinquish control of Al-Mukala to the Council was designed to guarantee the civilian population’s support of its operations, but was also the result of the heavy price that it paid for its control of the city as a result of the increased drone strikes that killed 40 of its fighters, including senior commanders.41

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published the following:
  - A speech titled, “A Message to Members of the Opposition in Yemen”, by Sheikh Khalid bin ‘Umar Batrafi, a senior member of the organization. In his speech, Batrafi praised the success of AQAP fighters in their battle against the Houthis. According to him, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf States are responsible for the increased power of the Houthis and for the current civil war in Yemen. The politicians in Yemen are ingratiating to the United States, and adhering to secularism and democracy, which are opposed to the Islamic religion.42

The banner of the interview with Batrafi

- A condemnation of Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, accusing him of handing over the provinces of Sanaa and Amram to the Houthis in 2014. According to the

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organization, Hadi’s regime bears responsibility for the loss of the land and is unable to
defend it. He added that, instead of ruling in accordance with shari’a, he instilled a
culture of corruption, helped the Christians and collaborated with the United States to
persecute the mujahideen with drone attacks.
The organization published the announcement in response to a statement by “Al-Mukala
Domestic Council”, an organization composed of scholars and public figures that
manages welfare services for the local civilian population in Al-Mukala, that Hadi’s
government is legitimate. Al-Qaeda appealed to the Council not to support Hadi as he is
responsible for the loss of the land and continues to exploit Yemen. In addition, he
responded to the Council’s accusations of selling crude oil, and explained that it was
meant to fund electricity expenses in Hadramawt.\textsuperscript{43}

- Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, published a video documenting battles between
its members and Houthis in Aden.\textsuperscript{44}

\textit{The Islamic State in Hadramawt}

- The Islamic State in Hadramawt Province published a video that included an appeal by one of
the organization’s members in Hadramawt to Muslim refugees in Syria to stop the trend of
migration to the West, and an appeal to those who have migrated to return to Muslim lands.\textsuperscript{45}

- The Islamic State in Sanaa Province claimed responsibility for a suicide attack that one of its
members carried out at a Houthi mosque in Sanaa. According to the organization, the attack
was meant to increase tensions between Sunnis and Shi’ites during Eid al-Adha celebrations.\textsuperscript{46}

\textbf{Iraq}

\textsuperscript{43} https://www.alfidaa.info/vb/; http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2015/9/21/
\textsuperscript{44} https://www.alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).
\textsuperscript{45} https://www.alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).
\textsuperscript{46} http://almawkef.net/2015/09/24/
During the second half of September, clashes continued between the Iraqi army and Shi’ite militias, and the IS in Al-Anbar Province, especially near the city of Al-Ramadi. On the one hand, the IS continued to carry out attacks against Iraqi security forces in Al-Anbar, including an attack against an Iraqi army stronghold in eastern Al-Ramadi.47 In addition, the organization carried out a suicide attack at a hospital in eastern Fallujah, which led to deaths among Iraqi security forces and Shi’ite militias.48 In addition, IS fighters attacked an Iraqi army convoy near the border crossing with Jordan in Al-Anbar Province. IS fighters also continued to carry out attacks outside of Al-Anbar, especially in Baghdad.49

On the other hand, Iraqi security forces continued to attack IS targets in eastern Al-Ramadi.50 In addition, in a meeting between a US Army forces commander and the Iraqi Defense Minister, the latter stated that the Iraqi army was preparing to liberate the city of Al-Ramadi.51 In addition, Iraq formally announced that it would coordinate with Iran and Russia in the battle against the IS.52

The Islamic State – Al-Furat Province

• The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Furat Province published the following:
  o A video titled, “Messages from Muslims to Those who Moved to the Lands of the Infidels”. The video showed a preacher at one of the mosques in the province who criticized the departure of Muslims from Islamic lands to those of the infidels, and claimed that such a move should be called “displacement” and not “hijra”. The preacher presented the suggestion to absorb refugees from Syria in the West as an attempt to empty Syria of its residents and leave the country to the Alawites and Druze. In the second part of the video, interviews were conducted with residents of the province who

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47 http://goo.gl/4H9UjP
48 http://goo.gl/9QEkfW
49 http://goo.gl/hoaMy5
tried to dissuade Muslims in the West from living there while presenting Western society as corrupt and inferior.\textsuperscript{53}

\textit{The Islamic State – Baghdad Province}

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Baghdad Province published the following:
  - A video titled, “Flames of Explosive Devices”. The first part of the video documented the Shi’ite dominance in the Iraqi capital, while the voice of Abu Mus’ab al-Zarqawi could be heard in the background discussing the Shi’ite threat to Baghdad. The second part of the video, which was titled “The Punishment”, documented a series of attacks using explosive devices and car bombs that were carried out against Shi’ite militia sites in Baghdad.\textsuperscript{54}

![Explosions targeting Shi’ite militias light up the sky over Baghdad](image)

\textit{The Islamic State – Nineveh Province}

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:
  - A video titled, “Glory of the Caliphate or the Lowliness of the West” – a propaganda video designed to prevent residents living under IS rule from leaving to Europe. In the video, local residents were interviewed about the many drawbacks to living in Europe for Muslims, especially Islamophobia. In addition, the video included an interview with a

\textsuperscript{53} https://archive.org/details/lag2en-0021
\textsuperscript{54} https://ia601300.us.archive.org/26/items/Flames01_201509/Flames01.mp4

International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT)
Additional resources are available on the ICT Website: www.ict.org.il
fighter of French origin who moved to the Caliphate and described Europe for refugees as “an imagine paradise”.  

- A filmed review regarding “ribat” activities in various areas, including Bartalla, Talkif and Tarjala.
- A filmed review regarding the execution of a man accused of blasphemy against god. The man was beheaded in front of a large crowd of men and children.

![An execution in Nineveh Province](image1)

- A filmed review regarding the resolution of conflicts between parents and their children by the Islamic Police. In the framework of the conflict resolution, a rebellious son was brought in for an inquiry along with his father and, after receiving an explanation of his obligation to honor his parents, the son kissed his father’s head and asked for forgiveness.

![Conflict resolution between parents and their children by the Islamic Police](image2)

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55 [https://archive.org/details/dofj00](https://archive.org/details/dofj00)
57 [http://goo.gl/vzXtEm](http://goo.gl/vzXtEm)
58 [http://goo.gl/6a9REh](http://goo.gl/6a9REh)
o A filmed review regarding an attack against Peshmerga forces in Jabal Bashiqa. The review documented rocket fire at Peshmerga forces posts in the area.59

o Filmed reviews regarding the marking of Eid al-Adha in the province. One video was dedicated to marking the holiday in the organizations “ribat” fronts, and two other reviews were dedicated to holiday celebrations and the slaughter of sheep in the city of Mosul.60

o Filmed reviews regarding the sheep and cattle market in the city of Mosul, as well as the nuts and candy markets.61

The Islamic State – Al-Janub Province

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

  o A video titled, “A Warning to Refugees about the Crusader Scam”. In the video, an IS fighter claimed that the war against the West and the infidels is a religious war, and that the only reason that Western countries invite refugees to stay in their lands is because they want to convert their religion and steer them off the path of Islam.62

  o A statistical review of attacks that were carried out in the province during August-September, divided into shellings, assassinations, ambushes and the destruction of targets, alongside a review of the results and plunder.63

  o Filmed reviews regarding mortar bomb fire at Iraqi army posts in Zoba’. One filmed review documented fire directed at army forces using a 23 mm. sniper rifle.64

  o Filmed reviews regarding various topics, including the activities of clothing markets, date harvest, and the preparation of food for “ribat” fighters at the front.65

The Islamic State – Al-Anbar Province

59 https://archive.org/details/shsahu13
60 http://justpaste.it/nyra; http://justpaste.it/nyrw; http://goo.gl/CAings
62 https://isdarat.ws/25288
63 https://isdarat.ws/25462
64 https://isdarat.ws/25842; https://isdarat.ws/25929
• The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Anbar Province published the following:
  o A video regarding an attack against an Iraqi army post near the “imagined border” with Jordan. The attack included rifle, sub-machine gun and RPG fire directed at the post. The end of the video documented the site after IS fighters seized control of it and took loot.\(^66\)
  Another filmed review reported the explosion of two other guard stations on the border facing Jordan.\(^67\)
  o A video regarding an attack against an Iraqi army post near the border with Saudi Arabia. After heavy fire and the dispatch of a suicide terrorist in an explosives-ridden car, the fighters besieged the post and completely destroyed it.\(^68\)

  An IS attack against an Iraqi army post along the border with Saudi Arabia

  o A filmed review regarding the publication of IS learning materials in the province. In addition to history, geography and English books, prominent among the book titles was “Jihadist Education – for grades 4-5”.\(^69\)
  o A filmed review regarding the destruction of a burial structure in the city of Hit, which is considered forbidden in Salafist Islam, which prohibits visiting graves.\(^70\)
  o Filmed reviews regarding a dawah meeting that was held in honor of Eid al-Adha, as well as another dawah meeting in the city of Kabisa. Both children and adults were present at these meetings, and gifts were distributed to participants.\(^71\)

\(^{66}\) [https://isdarat.ws/26332]
\(^{67}\) [https://isdarat.ws/26041]
\(^{68}\) [https://isdarat.ws/26026]
\(^{69}\) [https://isdarat.ws/27394]
\(^{70}\) [https://isdarat.ws/27474]
A filmed review regarding the distribution of zakat food items to the needy in the city of Ramadi.72

The Islamic State – Kirkuk Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Kirkuk Province published the following:
  - Filmed reviews regarding the battle between the IS and Popular Mobilization Forces in the Allas and Ajil oilfields. The IS attack included the use of small arms and RPGs.73

The battle against Popular Mobilization Forces in Allas and Ajil

- A video and filmed review regarding the training of the 19th cycle of fighters at the Sheikh Abu Umar al-Baghdadi camp. The publications demonstrated that the fighters underwent training in physical fitness, various weapons and grenade launching. The video emphasized that, in addition to this training, classes on sharia and Islamic jurisprudence were also held in the camp.74

A new cycle of fighters training at the Abu Umar al-Baghdadi camp

72 https://isdarat.ws/26092
74 https://isdarat.ws/26457; https://isdarat.ws/26101
Filmed reviews and videos regarding the Eid al-Adha holiday atmosphere under the Caliphate in the province. The publications review prayers in mosques, the traditional slaughter of animals, activities in the markets and children’s games in parks. In one of the videos, IS fighters blessed the residents in honor of the holiday and praised the “life of peace and security” under IS rule.

A filmed review regarding “hisba” (the body responsible for maintaining public order and morality) activities, which includes the supervision and inspection of goods, the flattening of prominent graves (which are forbidden according to Salafist Islam), and the destruction of cigarette stands.

Filmed reviews regarding civil topics, including brick production in a factory, the planting of potatoes in Hawija, and the repair of roads and a water pipe by the “Services Center” in the province.

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**The Islamic State – Saladin Province**

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Saladin Province published the following:
  - A video titled, “Will you exchange that which is better for that which is worse?” The video showed IS fighters and a sheikh who sought to dissuade Muslims living under IS rule from trying to migrate to the West as refugees. The video – which included photos of the difficult life led by refugees in the West – explained that migration to “infidel lands” is strictly prohibited, as compared to migration to IS territory, which is considered an obligation. In addition, Muslims were warned against migrating to Europe or the West lest they eventually be forced to convert to Christianity there. The video ended by presenting the IS as a state that provides a happy life of employment and welfare, as opposed to a state of death and poverty as it is falsely presented in the media.

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75 [https://isdarat.ws/27472](https://isdarat.ws/27472); [https://isdarat.ws/26311](https://isdarat.ws/26311); [https://isdarat.ws/26219](https://isdarat.ws/26219)
76 [https://isdarat.ws/26096](https://isdarat.ws/26096)
77 [https://isdarat.ws/25881](https://isdarat.ws/25881); [https://isdarat.ws/26191](https://isdarat.ws/26191); [https://isdarat.ws/25878](https://isdarat.ws/25878)
78 [https://isdarat.ws/25286](https://isdarat.ws/25286)
Propaganda against the migration of refugees from IS territories to Europe

- The fourth video in a series of videos titled, “As One Body”, which included messages of encouragement for IS fighters in Sinai Province. The video showed an unidentified fighter who called on IS fighters in Sinai to continue their war against the Egyptian army and their struggle against the tyrant. Another message was directed at the Egyptian people themselves, on whom he called to join the ranks of the IS in Sinai.\(^79\) The second part of the video documented the executions of four members of the Shi’ite Popular Mobilization Forces (a report as well as a filmed review).\(^80\)
- A collection of filmed reviews regarding battles in various areas of the province, especially west of the city of Baiji and the city of Saramaa.\(^81\)
- A filmed review regarding fire directed at Iraqi army posts, including mortar bombs, locally made rockets, and 57 mm. and 22 mm. cannons.\(^82\)
- A video regarding the Eid al-Adha holiday atmosphere in the province, including a review of prayers and sermons in mosques, traditional animal slaughter, and the distribution of meat to residents.\(^83\)

The Islamic State – Al-Faluja Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Faluja Province published the following:
  - A propaganda video that included a warning to refugees against migrating to “the lands of the infidels”. The video – which opened with media clips documenting violent incidents against Muslim refugees in Europe as well as migrants who drowned trying to get there – included street interviews with residents who renounced the idea of

\(^{79}\) [https://isdarat.ws/26267](https://isdarat.ws/26267)
\(^{80}\) [https://isdarat.ws/26198](https://isdarat.ws/26198)
\(^{82}\) [https://isdarat.ws/27357](https://isdarat.ws/27357)
\(^{83}\) [https://isdarat.ws/26318](https://isdarat.ws/26318)
migrating to countries that are not under Islamic rule. In addition, the video presented foreign fighters as “role models” expressing the true “hijra” – to the IS and not away from it. The prohibition against moving to “lands of the infidels” was supported by a quote from the hadith according to which the Prophet Muhammad renounced all Muslims who lived among the infidels.\(^84\)

- A filmed review regarding the renovation of a children’s hospital that was damaged in bombing by the “Crusader-Safavid Coalition”.\(^85\)
- A filmed review regarding the cutting off of a man’s hand who was accused of theft. The punishment was carried out at one of the Islamic State’s media points in front of a crowd of men and children.\(^86\)
- A filmed review regarding the launch of (seemingly locally produced) Al-Fath and al-Qa'qa’ rockets at Iraqi army and Popular Mobilization Forces posts, as well as 120 mm. mortar bombs and 22 mm. cannon shells.\(^87\)
- A filmed review regarding the activities of one of the Islamic State’s sniper units in the province. The snipers were documented operating in both mountainous and urban areas as well as shooting at an Iraqi army post and one of its soldiers.\(^88\)
- Filmed reviews regarding civilian issues such as sewing schools, smithies and a park in honor of Eid al-Adha.\(^89\)

**The Islamic State – Dijla Province**

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Dijla Province published the following:
  - Another video regarding Muslims who find refuge in “the lands of the infidels” and live there. The video reviewed the hardships faced by refugees who migrate to the West, especially the danger posed to them by missionary organizations and churches that try to convert Muslims to Christianity. In addition, in the framework of the video, interviews

\(^84\) [https://isdarat.ws/25392](https://isdarat.ws/25392)  
\(^85\) [https://isdarat.ws/25697](https://isdarat.ws/25697)  
\(^86\) [https://isdarat.ws/25702](https://isdarat.ws/25702)  
\(^87\) [https://isdarat.ws/25877](https://isdarat.ws/25877)  
\(^88\) [https://isdarat.ws/26040](https://isdarat.ws/26040)  
were conducted with residents living in the Islamic State who noted that they would rather die with honor under the Islamic Caliphate then in the land of the “tyrants”.

- Videos and filmed reviews regarding various civilian issues, such as bakery activities in Al-Qayyara, the holiday atmosphere on Ein al-Adha, the repair of underground communication lines, the operation of water infrastructure, the activities of the Office of Inspection and Monitoring in the town of Al-Zab, and the regulation of traffic by the Traffic Police in Qayyara.

The Islamic State – Al-Jazira Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Jazira Province published the following:
  - A propaganda video aimed at preventing the migration of refugees to the West. Similar to other videos that were published by various IS provinces, this video also reviewed the dangers facing refugees who try to migrate to the West. Fighters from Dagestan, Uzbekistan and Turkey appeared in the video and explained to Muslims living under “infidel rule” that they must move to the Islamic State in order to properly comply with the laws of their religion, and that the infidels in the West are not interested in the well-being of the refugees. The video also included testimonies by refugees who arrived in Tal Afar after their houses were bombed by coalition forces. The migrants who were interviewed praised IS fighters for taking pity on them, helping them and providing them with financial support.
  - Filmed reviews regarding IS battles in the area of Mount Sinjar. The attacks against Peshmerga and PKK forces included the launch of mortar bombs, Katyusha rockets, RPG and T-55 tank shellings, as well as 57 mm. cannon fire at their posts.

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90 https://isdarat.ws/25479
92 https://isdarat.ws/25475
Battles between Kurdish militias and the IS in the area of Mount Sinjar

- Filmed reviews regarding holiday prayer and animal slaughter in honor of Eid al-Adha in Tall Abta. Other reviews covered the purchase of animals and the distribution of meat and zakat to the needy. 94
- A filmed review regarding the destruction of prominent graves in the area of Qayrawan. 95
- Filmed reviews regarding civilian issues, such as the building of a soccer field and a mosque in the complex of a hospital in the city of Tal Afar. 96

Al-Sham [The Levant]
The month of September was marked by a trend of increased Russian presence in Syria, specifically a rise in the number of Russian aircraft in the country. 97 In addition, there were reports that Russia had begun to carry out air strikes in Syria, especially in Homs. 98 Despite increased Russian involvement, Vladimir Putin hurried to declare that his country was not currently planning to send in ground forces to join the battle in the field. 99

Meanwhile, battles continued throughout Syria. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that a coalition of Islamist factions attacked Al-Fu’ah-Kafriya in Idlib Province, two Shi’ite towns that were seized by the Syrian regime and placed under siege for about one year. It is worth noting that according to one report, one of those killed in these battles was Abu al-Hassan al-

95 https://isdarat.ws/25687
97 http://goo.gl/p7Megf
98 http://goo.gl/gpXPeC
99 http://goo.gl/DDvhkc
Tunisi, a prominent Al-Nusra Front commander who had served as one of Osama bin Laden’s assistants.\(^\text{100}\) It was also reported that battles were renewed between Syrian rebels and the IS in Mare’, which is located in Aleppo.\(^\text{101}\)

In the political realm, senior American and western officials revealed that US Secretary of State, John Kerry, planned to submit a new initiative to achieve a political resolution in Syria. According to reports, this initiative will include Russia and Saudi Arabia, as well as countries such as Turkey and Qatar that support Syrian opposition organizations.\(^\text{102}\)

**Al-Nusra Front**

- Abu Firas, a member of the Shura Council of Al-Nusra Front, renewed verbal attacks against Syrian factions in general, and against Ahrar al-Sham in particular. In an article that he published, he accused Ahrar al-Sham of collaborating with infidel countries and helping them in the battle in Syria. In response to previous criticism of remarks made by another member of Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council, Abu Abdullah al-Shami, Abu Firas added that al-Shami supported the publication of his (Abu Firas) first article, which criticized Ahrar al-Sham, but that he spoke out against it after it was published.\(^\text{103}\)

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah al-Bayda, published several videos:
  - A video describing the frontlines of Al-Nusra Front against the Alawite regime and the PKK.\(^\text{104}\)
  - A video describing an attack carried out by PKK fighters against the mujahideen and Muslims on the only supply route to the city of Aleppo.\(^\text{105}\)
  - A video describing an attack by Al-Nusra Front against Shi’ite militias in Al Fu’ah, in Idlib

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\(^{100}\) [http://www.alnwrasnews.com/arab/16062.html](http://www.alnwrasnews.com/arab/16062.html)

\(^{101}\) [http://goo.gl/YptxE3](http://goo.gl/YptxE3)

\(^{102}\) [http://goo.gl/eNkIkf](http://goo.gl/eNkIkf)

\(^{103}\) [https://justpaste.it/AboFiras](https://justpaste.it/AboFiras)

\(^{104}\) [http://jihadology.net/2015/09/25/new-video-message-from-jabhat-al-nu%E1%B9%A3rah-front-lines-of-the-mujahidin-upon-the-pkk-and-the-nu%E1%B9%A3ayri-army-during-id-al-a%E1%B8%8D%E1%B8%A5a/(English).](http://jihadology.net/2015/09/25/new-video-message-from-jabhat-al-nu%E1%B9%A3rah-front-lines-of-the-mujahidin-upon-the-pkk-and-the-nu%E1%B9%A3ayri-army-during-id-al_a%E1%B8%8D%E1%B8%A5a/(English).)

Province, using various types of heavy weapons.  

- During the second half of September 2015, the Twitter account, “Strategic Affairs”, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published several tweets, including:
  - Reference to the fact that Al-Ghouta is the first mission in the Syrian war and called for victory there, under the hastag: #العربية_تستطيع_الجهات.
  - Reference to the fact that the planes of the international alliance had bombed Al-Nusra Front strongholds for the first time, while Russian planes began bombing the Free Syrian Army although both called to fight against the IS, under the hashtag: #روسيا_تقصف_سوريا.

**The Islamic State – Al-Baraka Province**

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Baraka (formerly Al-Hasaka) Province published the following:
  - A video titled, “Advice for Refugees Migrating to the Lands of the Infidels”. In the video, resident and IS fighters were interviewed, and praised life under the IS and criticized migration to the lands of the infidels, similar to messages sent in videos from Iraqi provinces.
  - A video regarding an attack by IS forces against a convoy of Syrian regime forces that advanced towards the town of Tall Brak. The attack ended with the Islamic State’s successful prevention of the convoy from reaching the town, and with their seizure of the supply trucks that were in the convoy.
  - A video titled, “Discouraging Collaborators 2”, which documented the execution and beheading of two people presented as agents of the Syrian regime. The video included
the recorded confession of one of the accused who told how he passed information to an agent in the “civil defense” and warned others not to act like him.\footnote{https://isdarat.ws/26481}

- A filmed review regarding the execution of a man accused of scorning God’s name and showing contempt for fasting and prayer.\footnote{https://isdarat.ws/26083}

- Filmed reviews regarding civilian matters, such as the start of the school year in the province\footnote{https://isdarat.ws/27397} and camel herding.\footnote{https://isdarat.ws/25922}

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

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Khayr (formerly Deir Ezzor) Province published the following:

  - A video titled, “Victory from Allah and Close Conquest 2” regarding the “Missile Battalion Liberation” in the area of the military airport in Deir Ezzor. The attack included intelligence gathering using a multicopter drone (airborne camera), artillery fire, the launch of mortar bombs to “soften targets”, and the dispatch of two suicide terrorists in explosives-laden vehicles (it should be noted that the fighters were accompanied by a military team that was responsible for evacuating the injured).\footnote{https://isdarat.ws/25641} In addition, filmed reviews were published regarding the battalion’s liberation, ammunition and weapons that were plundered, and the “ribat” of the fighters there.\footnote{https://isdarat.ws/26084; https://isdarat.ws/26094}

  - A video titled, “The Camps of Failure” that reviewed the situation of Muslim refugees in Syria. The video opened with a review of the Islamic “Golden Age” when Muslims ruled over large parts of the world, with emphasis on the difference between those days and the current situation in which many Muslim refugees throw themselves at the gates of the “people of the cross”. As with other videos on the topic, this video also included a call on Muslim refugees to return to live in the territories where shari’a is implemented,
and it emphasized that it is better to die as a Muslim martyr in the IS than to die a meaningless death on the way to the “lands of the infidel”.  

- A filmed review regarding the Institute for the “Cubs of the Caliphate” (the term used for children under IS rule), including photos showing children as they read the Quran.

**The Islamic State – Al-Raqqa Province**

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Raqqa Province published the following:
  - Another video condemning the migration of refugees to places outside IS territory, similar to videos published in other provinces.
  - A filmed review regarding the reconciliation between two sub-tribes in the province that was held under the auspices of the IS.
  - A filmed review regarding the activities of the Islamic court and the Islamic Traffic Police.
  - Videos and filmed reviews regarding civilian issues in the city of Raqqa, including: the holiday atmosphere and prayers, market activities, construction, and the activities of hospitals and medical labs in the city.

**The Islamic State – Aleppo**

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Aleppo published the following:
  - A video titled, “Messages from the Land of Islam to the Fighters in Al-Sham”, in which two fighters addressed groups of fighters in Syria and called on their members to perform “hijra”, move to the lands of the Caliphate where shari’a is implemented and join the ranks of the IS.

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117 https://isdarat.ws/25293
118 https://isdarat.ws/25888
119 https://archive.org/details/nzo7-0001
120 http://goo.gl/QsutIm
121 http://goo.gl/OFHwMe; http://isdarat.sd/25837
122 http://isdarat.sd
123 https://archive.org/details/rsa3el-099
o A video titled, “Holiday of the Mujahid”, which showed an IS fighter returning home from the front where he meets his young son and prepares for the holiday. The video showed the father and son spending time together in a mosque and buying a toy gun for the toddler.\textsuperscript{124}

![Showing the life of an IS fighter returning home from the front](image)

o A filmed review titled, “Message of Blood”, which documented the execution of two people accused of spying.\textsuperscript{125}

o A filmed review regarding battles over Al-Kweris Airport. The review documented an attack against Syrian army posts in the airport that included mortar bombs and tank fire.\textsuperscript{126}

o Filmed reviews regarding dawah activities in the areas of Al-Gahndoura and Al-Faruq Dam, and in the city of Bza’a.\textsuperscript{127}

o Filmed reviews regarding various civilian issues, such as: honey production in Manbij, grape growing in Jarabulus, activities in the industrial area and candy shops in Al-Bab, the operation of the water pumping station, and more.\textsuperscript{128}

\textit{The Islamic State – Homs Province}

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Homs Province published the following:
  - Filmed reviews regarding battles in the area of the Jazal village and Al-Bir al-Asfar.\textsuperscript{129}

\textsuperscript{124} https://vimeo.com/140775607
\textsuperscript{125} http://goo.gl/wcfz4H
\textsuperscript{126} http://goo.gl/JqRIWp
\textsuperscript{127} http://isdarat.sd
\textsuperscript{128} http://isdarat.sd

International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT)
Additional resources are available on the ICT Website: www.ict.org.il
- A filmed review regarding “hisbah” activities in the province, including providing reminders for prayers in the mosque, monitoring the cleanliness and prices of restaurants, and delivering lashes to a man who had accused modest women of adultery.\(^{130}\)
- A filmed review regarding a shari’a course for teachers in the city of Palmyra.\(^{131}\)

**The Islamic State – Damascus**

- The jihadist media institution of the IS, Al-Furat, published a video in French that documented a suicide attack Abu ‘Abd al-Rahman al-Faransi, a French-born member of the organization, against a Shi’ite village in northern Homs.\(^{132}\)

The photos showed a group of Christian men facing a member of the organization as he read aloud a document detailing the conditions of *dhimmitude* (non-Muslims living in an Islamic country) for Christians living under IS rule. The contract – which contained 13 clauses – detailed the following conditions and prohibitions, among others: it is forbidden to establish monasteries and churches, to carry weapons and to sell alcohol or pork. In addition, it mentioned the obligation of Christians to pay “jizya” (per capita tax) and to conceal their religious ceremonies.\(^{133}\)

![Reading of the contract by the IS to Christians in Al-Qaryatayn](http://goo.gl/RNgyuP)

130 [http://goo.gl/sPBcpX](http://goo.gl/sPBcpX)
132 [https://archive.org/details/EtJeMeSuisHate](https://archive.org/details/EtJeMeSuisHate)
133 [http://goo.gl/2Zw3Tv](http://goo.gl/2Zw3Tv)
• A filmed review regarding the execution of two people in the city of Al-Qaryatayn who were accused of collaborating with the Syrian regime.134
• A filmed review regarding battles in Al-Qadam District in Damascus according to which IS fighters seized control over part of the neighborhood. According to media sources, the neighbourhood was also under siege by Bashar al-Assad’s forces, leaving the 400 families in the neighbourhood between the hammer of the IS and the anvil of the Syrian regime.135
• Filmed reviews regarding education and indoctrination such as “courses for repentance” in Al-Qaryatayn136 and school activities in the city of Al-Hajar al-Aswad.137

An IS school – “I fear no infidel – I am on my way to Allah”

• Filmed reviews regarding various civilian issues, such as: quizzes for children, agricultural farm activities, a poultry farm, and the Eid al-Adha atmosphere in the province. Most of the reviews dealt with the cities of Al-Qaryatayn and Al-Hajar al-Aswad.138

**Ahl al-’Ilm in Al-Sham League**

• The Ahl al-’Ilm in Al-Sham League, an umbrella organization of religious sages in Syria who support Jaysh al-Fatah (an umbrella organization composed of jihadist factions led by Al-Nusra Front), published an announcement about a conference to be held regarding the siege imposed...
on the village of Al-Zabadani by Alawite army forces. According to the league, jihadist factions are holding talks with Iranian forces regarding the lifting of the siege on the above-mentioned village that began two-and-a-half months ago, affecting approximately 5,000 people. In light of this tragedy, the league ruled that all jihadist groups in Syria must act quickly in order to save the residents of the village from the Alawites. It also emphasized that, due to the siege, the mujahideen in Syria (including Jaysh al-Fatah) must invade Alawite settlements and villages, and bomb Syrian regime forces in Damascus and other areas.\footnote{\url{https://www.alfidaa.info/vb} (Arabic).}

**Ahrar al-Sham**

- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a senior leader of the Salafi-jihadist movement, published an announcement in which he congratulated the new leader of Ahrar al-Sham, Abu Yahia al-Hamawi. In addition, in the framework of the announcement, he criticized remarks made by Abu Firas, a member of Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council, accusing Ahrar al-Sham of betrayal and of collaborating with the infidels.\footnote{\url{https://justpaste.it/katada2}}
- In his first speech since being selected to lead the organization, the leader of Ahrar al-Sham, Abu Yahia al-Hamawi, vowed to crush the planned Russian involvement in Syria. Al-Hamawi also claimed that victory would come through unity and cooperation between military factions and Syrian revolutionary groups.\footnote{http://islammemo.cc/vedio-images/vedio/2015/09/18/263755.html}

**Ajnad Al-Sham**

- The umbrella organization, Fath al-Sham, which includes several jihadist organizations, including Ajnad al-Sham and Aknaf Bait al-Maqdis, published an announcement regarding the launch of battles in Quneitra. The purpose of the battles was to liberate several places in the area in order to open the road to the besieged residents in western Ghouta.\footnote{http://ajnadasham.com/?p=2662}
Lebanon

*The Abdullah Azzam Brigades*

- Al-Azwawi jihadist media institution, which serves the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, published greetings from the leader of the organization, Siraj al-Din Zurayqat, in 2014 in honor of the end of a military training course at the organization’s military camp in Al-Qalamoun Mountains.  

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

*The Islamic State in Sinai Province*

- The IS in Sinai Province (formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis) published the following:
  - A video documenting a series of military activities against Egyptian security forces in the Sinai Peninsula. At the end of the video, a member of the organization threatened to continue attacks against the Egyptian army.  
  - A report detailing the organization’s military activities during August-September 2015. For example, the organization mentioned the planting of a roadside bomb, the launch of over twelve 107 mm. Katyusha rockets, various weapons fire, assassinations of Egyptian security forces, etc.  
  - An appeal to tribes residing in Sinai to pay attention to the Egyptian army’s crimes, including killing residents, stealing their property, humiliating them, collaborating with the enemies of Islam in the West, and defending the Jews. According to the organization, the mujahideen are the ones defending the lives of Sinai residents with complete dedication and determination, as well as defending their honor and the honor of Islam.  

‘Umar Hadid Brigade in Jerusalem

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144 [https://shamikh1.biz/vb](https://shamikh1.biz/vb) (Arabic).
145 [https://archive.org/details/7sad_11_sinai](https://archive.org/details/7sad_11_sinai)
• The ‘Umar Hadid Brigade in Jerusalem, a Salafi-jihadist group in the Gaza Strip, claimed responsibility for the launch of a Grad rocket towards the city of Ashkelon on September 18, 2015 in revenge for the Jews’ desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque, their harassment of Palestinians living in Israel and their part in the shelling of Muslims in Sinai. In addition, the group asked Hamas to release the Salafist prisoners being held in Gaza prisons and to return the weapons that were taken by members of the organization.\(^{147}\)

Israel

• Several jihadist writers published articles regarding the arrest of Iman Kanju, an Israeli-Arab female resident of Shfar’am, who was arrested for attempting to join the IS in Syria. The writers praised Iman for trying to join the IS and for going out to defend Islam.\(^{148}\) Other visitors accused Turkey of extraditing Kanju to Israel.\(^{149}\)

The Maghreb [North Africa]

Libya remained a war-torn country this month, with many groups taking part in the fighting spanning across multiple locations. In eastern Libya, Khalifa Haftar focused efforts on the city of Benghazi. On September 19, he declared a new campaign called “Al-Hatf” (“Doom”) aimed at liberating the city from the control of radical groups.\(^{150}\) In Tripoli, which is in western Libya, clashes and disagreements were reported between various groups in the Libya Dawn coalition.\(^{151}\) In Kufra, which is located in the southeast part of the country, it was reported that dozens of people were killed in gun battles between local residents, and the Toubou tribe and the Justice and Equality Movement (a Sudanese opposition group), which tried to attack the city.\(^{152}\) It is important to note that difficulties also continued in the political arena in Libya - despite attempts by UN Envoy to

\(^{147}\) https://www.alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).

\(^{148}\) https://shamikh1.biz/vb (Arabic).

\(^{149}\) https://shamikh1.biz/vb (Arabic).


\(^{151}\) http://www.worldakhbar.com/maghreb/libya/36747.html

\(^{152}\) http://goo.gl/8rYI6g
Libya, Bernardino León, a unity government has not been reached between the various sides of the conflict.\textsuperscript{153}

Meanwhile, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco continued to take steps to prevent terrorist attacks. In Tunisia, it was reported that 110 people were expelled from the army and security forces due to their possible link with terrorist groups, and Tunisia declared that it would join the coalition against the IS and examine how it could contribute in this context.\textsuperscript{154} In Algeria, the head of the intelligence services was replaced,\textsuperscript{155} and Morocco strengthened its cooperation with France in the war on terrorism against the backdrop of the French President’s visit to the country.\textsuperscript{156}

\textbf{Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb}

- Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published the following:
  - An audio clip titled, “A Call to Revitalize Eid al-Adha” by Sheikh 'Ubayda Yusuf al-'Inabi, the head of the Council of Notables in the organization. In addition to an explanation about the significance of the Eid al-Adha holiday and its sources according to Islamic interpretation, al-'Inabi criticized the regimes serving in North Africa. He admonished the King of Morocco for establishing an alliance with France, which was designed to maintain his throne, and for making it possible for Jews and Christians to meddle in Morocco’s internal affairs while repressing Muslim youth due to their devotion to Islam. He also accused the Algerian regime of collaborating with the French government against its Muslim residents and against Islam. According to him, the Tunisian people are also suffering oppression due to the persecutory policies of the secular regime that sees fit to cooperate with France. According to him, the Christian West has also been interfering in Libya’s affairs since the fall of Gaddafi’s regime. According to him, Mali is under occupation by the Crusader army, Mauritania is being deceived by the Christian West, Egypt is waging a war against Islam as are the regimes in Somalia, Yemen, Syria,
Iraq, Balochistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Burma, the Caucasus and other Muslim countries. He noted that in Palestine, Al-Aqsa Mosque is in danger due to the actions of “the apes and pigs” – a derogatory term for Jews – in the region and he praised the Palestinian popular protest against Israel.

Following these accusations, al-‘Inabi appealed to Muslims around the world to regain their composure in the face of the Crusader-Jewish campaign against Islam and defend it against its enemies by waging jihad as well as a PR campaign against the dangers facing Muslim lands and the risk posed to the future of Muslims in the world due to the oppressive policies of Western countries. He emphasized that the hardest blow for the Christian West would be a strike against its territories, its capitals, its cities, its political and financial institutions, and companies that employ workers of different nationalities around the world.  

The banner of Sheikh ‘Ubayda Yusuf al-‘Inabi’s speech

- Blessings in honor of Eid al-Adha by Abu al-Hasan Rashid al-Bulaydi, the head of the organization’s religious council, and his reference to the importance of the holiday.  

Algeria

- A jihadist group called “Protectors of the Salafi Da’wa” published an oath of allegiance to the leader of the IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The group – which operates in western Algeria under the

158 https://www.alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).
command of Abu Ja'far al-Afghani – was declared part of AQIM in December 2013 and operated under its supervision until it declared its change of allegiance to the IS.\textsuperscript{159}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{image.png}
\caption{Additional exchanges of loyalty from AQIM to the IS in Algeria}
\end{figure}

\section*{Libya
\textit{Ansar al-Sharia in Libya}}

- Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published the following:
  
  - A denial of any connection between Ansar al-Sharia and the “apostate Tripoli government”. The announcement was published against the backdrop of accusations levelled against the organization in issue no. 11 of \textit{DABIQ}, the Islamic State’s online magazine. The announcement emphasized that Ansar al-Sharia renounces democracy and strives to implement shari’a in Libya through jihad. In addition, the organization refuted an announcement according to which some of its commanders in Sirte had sworn allegiance to the IS.\textsuperscript{160}
  
  - An announcement of support for the women of Al-Aqsa against the backdrop of the death of Hadeel al-Hashlamoun, a young Palestinian woman who was shot in clashes with IDF forces. In the announcement, Ansar al-Sharia promised the people of Palestine that their land would eventually be liberated from the “squalor and the filth” of the Jews who only manage to persevere thanks to the protection afforded to it by the tyrant Arab regimes.\textsuperscript{161}

\bibliography{references}

\textsuperscript{159} https://archive.org/details/bia2015; https://justpaste.it/ntsf
\textsuperscript{160} https://twitter.com/LabidiRami/status/647140935093092352; http://www.libyaakhbar.com/libya-news/105704
\textsuperscript{161} https://twitter.com/sadalslam1/status/648930605883916289
A filmed review regarding a rocket that was fired at a tank belonging to Khalifa Haftar’s forces in Benghazi.  

Filmed reviews regarding a variety of issues: the distribution of food and sheep in honor of Eid al-Adha, weapons and ammunition that were plundered in battles waged by the organization in Benghazi, and the supervision of Quran classes for children.

A poster calling on doctors to join the ranks of the organization and not to abandon the wounded in need of medical attention.

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**The Islamic State – Barqa Province**

- The IS in Barqa Province published the following:
  - A video including messages from members of the organization in Sabri and al-Lithi districts in Benghazi. The video showed fighters of various origins, including Mauritania and Sudan, who called on Muslims around the world to join the ranks of the IS and perform ‘hijra’ to Libya. In addition, the video included threats against Khalifa Haftar’s forces and the Libya Dawn militia.
  - Filmed reviews regarding various civilian issues, such as: bakery activities in Derna, the running of the livestock market and the bricks factory in Harawa.
The Islamic State – Tripoli

- The IS in Tripoli published the following:
  - A video titled, “Help for the Prisoners”, which showed four IS fighters who embarked on a mission to free prisoners from the Mitiga Prison in the capital of Tripoli. The beginning of the video documented the oath of allegiance taken by the fighters to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and their vow to free the prisoners, alongside additional calls for jihad and threats against the Libyan Parliament and Haftar’s national army. According to media sources, the attack was carried out on Friday, September 16, and the attackers managed to penetrate the jail cells and pass grenades and guns until they were neutralized by security forces.\(^{167}\)
  - Filmed reviews regarding civilian issues in the city of Sirte (mosques and prayers in the city, Eid al-Adha preparations, the fish market, etc.).\(^ {168}\)

The Mujahideen Council of Derna

- The Mujahideen Council of Derna published a video documenting the inauguration of the “Martyrs of Derna” Hospital. In the beginning of the video, the narrator noted that in addition to the organization’s military activities, it is also investing effort in building infrastructure for the civilian population, including strengthening the health system. Later in the video, staff at the new hospital were interviewed about the medical equipment and health services that the hospital intends to provide for the residents of Derna. Some residents of Derna were also interviewed on the matter and expressed great satisfaction with the opening of the new hospital.\(^ {169}\)

Tunisia

- Al-Sumud jihadist media institution published an article containing threats against the secular camp in Tunisia. In the article, the author accused al-Zawahiri of incompetence that led Tunisia

\(^{167}\) https://ia801305.us.archive.org/11/items/assra-001/assra-1.mp4;
\(^{169}\) http://isdarat.sd
\(^{169}\) https://www.alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).
into the hands of the secular camp or elements associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, such as Rached Ghannouchi. The writer vowed that the Islamic regime would reach Tunisia from Libya and that the borders between the two countries would be erased just like the border between Syria and Iraq.  

**Somalia**

During the second half of September, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen fighters managed to seize control of the town of Janale in southern Somalia following clashes with security forces and African Union forces operating in the country. In addition, Al-Shabab gunmen detonated a car bomb at the Presidential Palace in the capital of Somalia, Mogadishu. In addition, Al-Shabab fighters ambushed Kenyan soldiers next to Somalia’s border with Kenya, killing ten soldiers.

**Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen**

- Al-Kataib jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published a video describing the raid carried out by members of the organization against a base belonging to Borondi African Union soldiers in the city of Leego, in Lower Shabelle region.

**Nigeria**

**The Islamic State in East Africa**

- The Islamic State in East Africa (formerly Boko Haram) published the following:
  
  - An audio clip by Abu Bakr Shekau, the leader of the organization, in both Arabic and Hausa. In the clip, Shekau denied rumors of his death and emphasized that they were just another lie by the Nigerian army and President Muhamadu Buhari. Shekau also ridiculed the efforts of the Nigerian regime to defeat the organization and emphasized that they are doomed to fail. Shekau also emphasized his loyalty to Abu Bakr al-

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170 [https://justpaste.it/ntbn](https://justpaste.it/ntbn)
171 [http://goo.gl/T03B1w](http://goo.gl/T03B1w)
172 [https://twitter.com/shahaadanews/status/644711590265233410](https://twitter.com/shahaadanews/status/644711590265233410)
173 [http://goo.gl/JMPnIA](http://goo.gl/JMPnIA)
174 [https://twitter.com/shahaadanews/status/645528850290581504](https://twitter.com/shahaadanews/status/645528850290581504)
175 [https://www.alfidaa.info/vb](https://www.alfidaa.info/vb) (Arabic).
Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic Caliphate, and blessed members of the IS in Yemen.\textsuperscript{176}

- A video showing a mass prayer service in honor of Eid al-Adha. During the celebrations, several members of the organization were interviewed about the holiday and the importance of fulfilling the obligation to wage jihad against the enemies of Islam.\textsuperscript{177}

- A member of the organization emphasizing the importance of fulfilling the obligation to wage jihad

**The Indian Subcontinent**

- The Indonesian media group, Sawt al-Jihad Nusantara, which belongs to Al-Qaeda’s Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF), called for the execution of terrorist attacks against the Evangelical Church of Indonesia. This came against the backdrop of clashes between church members and Muslims in Tolikara, in eastern Indonesia, during Eid al-Adha celebrations when a Muslim prayer room was burned.\textsuperscript{178}

- The Bengali media group, Ansar Allah Bangla, denied any connection to a hit list of writers and bloggers that was attributed to it and to the GIMF. The group emphasized that its official announcements are only published on the Shumukh al-Islam and Al-Fida jihadist Web forums and on its official Twitter accounts.\textsuperscript{179}

**China**

\textsuperscript{176} https://shamikh1.biz/vb (Arabic).
\textsuperscript{177} https://archive.org/details/EidWestAfrica
\textsuperscript{178} https://www.alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).
\textsuperscript{179} https://www.alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).
• The Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) announced that it was going to start serving as the official media institution of the Turkistan Islamic Party, a Salafi-jihadist organization composed of members of the Uighur minority in western China that operates against the Chinese regime and helps Al-Nusra Front in Syria to fight against the Bashar al-Assad regime. It also stated that the organization’s official announcements would only be published on the Shumukh al-Islam and Al-Fida jihadist Web forums and its official Twitter accounts.¹⁸⁰

The announcement banner

The Caucasus

• The media wing of the Islamic State in the Caucasus published a video titled, “Blessings from the Mujahideen” showing a dozen IS commanders responsible for various regions of the Caucasus sending blessings to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and to IS mujahideen in the Caucasus and in general.¹⁸¹

Blessings to Islamic State mujahideen from the Caucasus Province

¹⁸⁰ https://www.alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).
¹⁸¹ https://ia801306.us.archive.org/29/items/RRoEVXHRU/tahiyya.mp4
**Miscellaneous**

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a collection of publications regarding electronic security and cyber activity for IS supporters, including: a course on computer and smartphone security, a simultaneous tweet on ten Twitter accounts, the use of encrypted email, a security report about “Windows 10”, and more.\(^{182}\) Another writer published a method to take control of Twitter accounts in order to support the IS through the creation of a fake email account and password retrieval.\(^{183}\)

\(^{182}\) [https://shamikh1.biz/vb](https://shamikh1.biz/vb) (Arabic).

\(^{183}\) [https://shamikh1.biz/vb](https://shamikh1.biz/vb) (Arabic).
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