



ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group **PERIODIC REVIEW**

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites The First Half of October 2014

Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the first half of October 2014. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Against the backdrop of an attack by coalition forces, led by the United States, against the Islamic State, the jihadist discourse denouncing the participating countries increases. Several members of the organization threaten to attack Western targets, including those of the United States and Britain. Sheikh Abu Ubayda Yusuf al-Inabi, as senior member of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and other jihad leaders express solidarity with the mujahideen being attacked by coalition forces in Iraq and Syria, and call on Muslims to oppose these forces.
- Meanwhile, the Islamic State continues its psychological warfare against the West through documentation of the emotional and property damage caused to Muslim residents in the region, and through a plea by captive British journalist, John Cantlie, to Western countries, especially the United States, to end their hopeless war against the mujahideen.

Table of Contents

Highlights	2
New Publications	5
Ideology	5
Oaths of Allegiance to the Islamic State	6
Fatwas	6
Strategy	8
Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets	9
Promoting the Myth of the Martyr	10
Magazines	12
Reports from the Field	14
Afghanistan-Pakistan	14
The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan	15
The Arabian Peninsula	16
Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula	16
Iraq	17
The Islamic State	19
The Islamic State - Nineveh Province	20
The Islamic State – Al-Farat Province	21
The Islamic State – Kirkuk Province	22
The Islamic State - Baghdad	22
The Islamic State – Al-Janub Province	23
The Islamic State – Al-Anbar Province	23
The Islamic State – Saladin Province	24
The Islamic State – Diyala Province	25
Al-Sham [The Levant]	25
Syria	27
The Al-Nusra Front in Syria	27
The Islamic State – Al-Raqqah Province	28
The Islamic State – Aleppo Province	29

The Islamic State – Homs Province	29
The Islamic State - Deir Ezzor Province	29
Other jihadist organizations	31
Lebanon	32
The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon.....	32
The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip	32
Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis.....	33
Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem	33
The Maghreb [North Africa]	33
Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb	35
Libya.....	35
Nigeria	36
Somalia	37
Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.....	38
The West.....	39
Miscellaneous	41

New Publications

Ideology

- The Al-Battar jihadist media institution, which publishes materials for the Islamic State, published a propaganda video against the Saudi regime titled, “The Demonic Alliance between the Tyrants of the Arabian Peninsula and America”. The video accused the Saudi regime of violating sacred principles of Islam in allowing foreign fighters into the territory of the Arabian Peninsula when the Prophet Mohammad forbade it, and of betraying the Muslim Nation by providing help to Western forces, led by the United States, against jihad fighters and Muslim civilians on Muslim lands.¹
- The Al-’Itisam jihadist media institution, which serves the “Islamic Caliphate”, published two propaganda videos in the framework of a series of publications titled, “Message from a Mujahid”. In the videos, two members of the organization were interviewed - one named Abu Said al-Britani² and the other named Abu Umar al-Ansari - and they praised the organization as well as the fulfillment of the commandment for jihad.³ In the first video, which was published in English, Abu Said described British soldiers as cowards; otherwise they would fight the Islamic State face to face and not from the air. Abu Said then called on Muslims in Britain to make Hijrah (immigrate) to the Islamic Caliphate and, if that is not possible, he encouraged Muslims in the Kingdom to strike terror in the hearts of the infidels in the West.⁴



From left to right: Abu Umar al-Ansari, Abu Said al-Britani

¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=17809>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJLexGtLI0> (Arabic).

- The Nukhbat al-Fikr media group, which is affiliated with the Al-Tahaya jihadist media group, published an essay titled, “Words of Grace Clarifying the Meaning of the Caliphate: Questions and Answers regarding the Caliphate” (50 pp) by Muhammad bin Salih al-Muhajir. The essay was composed in a question and answer format regarding the essence of the caliphate institution, the conditions for its establishment, the difference between an emirate and a caliphate, the conditions for selecting a caliph, etc.⁵
- The Abtalul Islam jihadist media institution published an article titled, “Khurasani Clarifications for the Faith of the Islamic State” (45 pp) by Sheikh Abu Yazid Abd al-Qahir al-Khurasani, a former member of the Taliban in Pakistan who swore allegiance to the Islamic State in the beginning of July 2014. The article listed the organization’s principles of faith, including the obligation to destroy monuments that damage the principle of the Oneness of God such as the tombs of saints, the view of Shi’ites as an infidel ethnic group, permission to kill those involved in witchcraft, the view of shari’a as the only binding law, the obligation to honor the Prophet, etc.⁶

Oaths of Allegiance to the Islamic State

- Several senior members of the Taliban in Pakistan swore allegiance to the Islamic State, including the spokesman of the organization.⁷

Fatwas

- The jihadist Web portal, Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, which was established by Sheikh Abu Mohammed al-Maqdisi – the father of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan - published several fatwas during the first half of October 2014:
 - Sheikh Abu Mohammed al-Maqdisi responded to a jihadist group operating in the Philippines that asked if it was obligated to pledge allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State. Al-Maqdisi responded that there is no obligation to pledge allegiance to al-Baghdadi or any other jihadist emir since they have no real

⁵ https://twitter.com/nukhba_alfeker/status/517468925987016705 (Arabic).

⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic); <https://twitter.com/abtalulislam/status/519533065946017792>

⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

presence in the Philippines and cannot provide the Muslims there with the rights that a leader is expected to provide. Al-Maqdisi even emphasized that an oath of allegiance from afar could even have negative implications such as sowing rifts and division among the local jihadist fighters. He added that all of the objectives for which the emirate was established must be fulfilled and only afterwards can a caliphate be seriously discussed.⁸

- Sheikh Abu al-Ezz al-Najdi, a Salafi-jihadist philosopher, was asked if it is permitted to blow up stores that sell items contrary to Islam, such as music albums and cigarettes. According to his response it is forbidden to blow up these stores. Many of those people who visit these stores are Muslims who deviated off the straight path; they must be brought back to Islam but it is forbidden to blow up these places and harm them since doing so would constitute a greater sin than selling obscene products.⁹
- Another question addressed to Sheikh Abu al-Ezz al-Najdi concerned the dilemma of a man in Iraq who expressed an interest in fighting against the infidels and the Americans. According to the questioner, the Islamic State is an organization like any other and not really an 'Islamic Caliphate' as it calls itself. However, the other organizations in Iraq are small and weak. Therefore, is it permissible to fight among the ranks of the Islamic State?

Al-Najdi responded that if a person can guarantee ahead of time that he has no intention of taking part in the killing of Muslims and in the acts of heresy carried out by the Islamic State, then there is nothing to prevent him from helping the organization. It should be noted that permission was given to help fight in the field against the infidels and the Crusaders, not to kill innocent Muslims who are simply opposed to the Islamic State; this remark is based on past experience in which various groups joined the IS and began to behave in its evil ways. Therefore, it is better to help other organizations whose ways are purer than those of the Islamic State; but if there is no other choice, then it is permitted to fight alongside the Islamic State.¹⁰

⁸ http://tawhed.ws/FAQ/display_question?qid=8359 (Arabic).

⁹ http://tawhed.ws/FAQ/display_question?qid=2434 (Arabic).

¹⁰ http://tawhed.ws/FAQ/display_question?qid=8341 (Arabic).

Strategy

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a strategic analysis by an analyst and writer named Khalid Gharib, who is seemingly close to jihad causes, of the Islamic State's response to the military attacks by coalition forces in Iraq and Syria. According to him, the organization itself doubled its force since the start of the coalition attacks against it. "Since the start of the aerial attacks, the State has changed its tactic and accelerated many of its operations and [the rate of] its movements in order to seize control of dozens of Kurdish villages along the Syria-Turkey border until its recent arrival to Kobani, considered to be the final stronghold of concentrated Kurdish forces supported by the air by the coalition [...]." The visitor added that the organization achieved a number of simultaneous victories in Iraq against Iraqi forces and Shi'ite militias, especially those belonging to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, led by Qassem Suleimani. In the Al-Anbar region, several Iraqi units were taken by surprise by the continuing war of attrition against Peshmerga forces in several places.

According to the visitor, the organization's policies caused confusion and several mistakes among coalition forces, which mistakenly attacked concentrations of Iraqi army forces. "The most important strategic move was that the [Islamic] State drew the planes to several areas of friction between it and the Peshmerga army, leaving a small number of soldiers to occupy the coalition forces while it destroyed several villages on the other side of the Turkey-Syria border...this caused the coalition to comply with the Kurds and with a surprising change in strategy [...] which led to confusion [...]" At the end of the analysis, the visitor emphasized that, so far, the Islamic State has enjoyed a series of military victories in the field while the continued campaign against the organization weakens the economic and political power of the countries participating in the coalition, which will not be able to continue this campaign over time and in this manner.¹¹

- The administrator of the Al-Minbar Web forum published an article titled, "Tips and Guidelines in the Presence of Aircraft". The article presented various ways to protect against spy and intelligence gathering planes, which is especially relevant now in light of the attack by the

¹¹ <https://justpaste.it/heku>; <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

United States and its allies against the mujahideen in Syria and Iraq. The advice given in the article focused on the use of cellular phones which, according to the author of the article, serve as the main reason for arrests and assassinations.¹²

- The Dabiq jihadist media institution, which publishes materials concerning the Islamic State, published a video titled, “Lone Wolf, Do Not Hesitate”. The video encouraged individual attacks in the West as part of the global jihad campaign against enemies of Islam.¹³



The video banner

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- Part 15 of the “Jihadist Encyclopedia”, a collection of articles and guidebooks designed to train mujahideen, was published. Among the topics included in the new publication: wireless explosions, silencers and guidebooks on kidnapping.¹⁴
- A visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami Web forum published a guidebook on the forum’s military section titled, “Common Mistakes When Using Mines”, designed to provide guidance on the correct use of mines.¹⁵
- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a collection of guidebooks focused on the use of light and heavy weaponry such as missiles, etc.¹⁶

¹² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁴ <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵ <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published the biography of a martyr named Alaa al-Din al-Idrisi, a member of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). According to the visitor, the details of the biography were written in coordination with the Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, the voice of AQAP. According to the biography, al-Idrisi, who was born in Sana'a, was imprisoned in a Yemeni jail for four years for his involvement in the attempted assassination of the President of Yemen, Abd Rabu Mansur Hadis. Al-Idrisi was killed by drone fire while taking injured comrades to get medical treatment.¹⁷



Alaa al-Din al-Idrisi

- The Islamic State began publishing a series of videos titled, “Meeting with a Martyr”. The first video in the series was published by the organization’s media wing in Raqqa Province in Syria, and included an interview with the martyr, Abu Muhammad Tibiyya. In the framework of the interview, Tibiyya told of the Islamic State’s takeover of a Division 17 base of the Syrian army. He also encouraged the mujahideen and Muslims in Syria in general to join the organization and swear allegiance to it. The video did not address the circumstances of Tibiyya’s death.¹⁸

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

¹⁸ <https://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).



“Meeting with a Martyr”

- The Al-Isabah jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for official announcements by Ansar Tawhid fi Bilad al-Hind (“Supporters of Monotheism in the Land of India”), a Salafi-jihadist organization operating in the Indian Subcontinent that swore allegiance to the Islamic State, published a video in Urdu with an English translation titled, “The Last Will and Testament of the Martyr, Anwar Husayn aka Abu Said al-Hindi”. The video opened with a short biography of al-Hindi’s life. He was born in India and moved to Dubai in order to support his family. From there, he moved to Afghanistan and underwent military training for one year. He was described as a man endowed with morality and a desire to help the less fortunate and the weak. Later in the video, al-Hindi was seen sitting on the ground holding a weapon and appealing to young Muslims around the world to fulfil the commandment for jihad and go to regions of conflict where there is a need to help oppressed Muslims. He noted that there are religious scholars who are giving mistaken advice to Muslims and, therefore, it is better to avoid contact with them and to live a correct life based solely on the Quran and on Muslim tradition. Later in the video, one of al-Hindi’s comrades said that al-Hindi had been killed during clashes with Indian security forces.¹⁹

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



Abu Said al-Hindi

Magazines

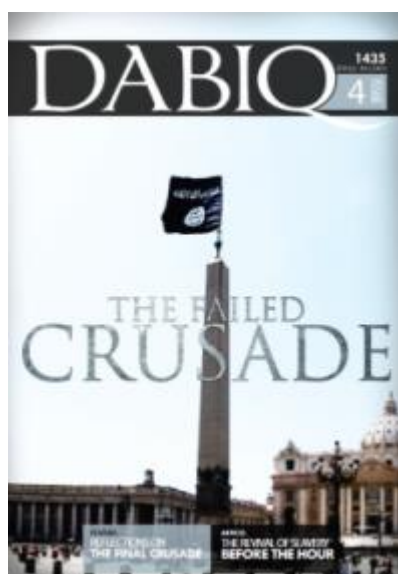
- The Taliban in Afghanistan published issue no. 102 of “*Al-Sumood*” magazine. The magazine’s articles covered various topics, including: a speech by the organization’s spiritual leader, Mullah Omar, in honor of Eid al-Adha, as well as an analysis of the speech; a strategic article regarding how to cope with challenges in Afghanistan following the departure of the American occupier; details of an operation that was carried out against a convoy of foreign forces in Kabul on September 16; and a statistical report about the operations carried out by the organization during the month of September.²⁰



The magazine banner

²⁰ <http://www.shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The Islamic State published the fourth issue (56 pp) of “*Dabiq*” magazine in English. The issue was mainly dedicated to psychological warfare against the coalition’s war effort against the organization. Other topics were centered around two new provinces that were seized by the organization – Al-Falujah and Al-Furat; the pledge of allegiance by Ansar al-Din in Iraq to the Islamic State; military operations by members of the organization against Iraqi and Kurdish security forces and other enemies; civilian activities for the residents of the various provinces; apocalyptic traditions regarding the fateful war against the Crusader forces; a letter written by Jewish-American journalist, Steven Sotloff, to his mother shortly before he was executed; an article by captive British journalist, John Cantlie; and more.²¹



The magazine banner

- The Islamic State published issue no. 14 of “*Al-Naba*”, a bi-weekly newsletter published on Mondays and Wednesdays that provides news about the organization in Iraq and Syria. Among the updates included in the newsletter: suicide attacks carried out using car bombs, the

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

assassination of senior police and security officers in Iraq, sniper fire at soldiers, the launch of rockets at army forces, and the destruction of military vehicles and observation towers.²²



The newsletter banner

- Issue no. 60 of the jihadist periodical, “*Al-Waqi*”, was published.²³



The periodical banner

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The security situation in Afghanistan continued to be turbulent shortly after the election of the new President, Ashraf Ghani. Against the backdrop of talk with the Americans regarding the future of the county, the Taliban tried to create as much commotion as possible and to convey a strong stance.

On October 10, 2014 seven people were killed in a double suicide attack carried out by the Taliban in Afghanistan. Two suicide terrorists belonging to the organization blew themselves up

²² <https://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

²³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

*separately alongside two military vehicles in the capital city of Kabul the day after the Afghan government signed a deal with the United States and NATO to leave foreign troops in the country. The spokesman for the Taliban, Zubihullah Mujahid, harshly criticized the Afghan regime and claimed that supporters of the agreement will be remembered in the pages of history as slaves to foreign powers.*²⁴

*The Islamic State's influence was seen in Pakistan for the first time: On October 15, 2014 six senior members of the Taliban in Pakistan, including the organization's spokesman, announced that they had sworn allegiance to the Islamic State and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The oath of allegiance to the IS comes at the expense of the six men's loyalty to the leadership of the Taliban in Afghanistan, led by Mullah Mohammed Omar.*²⁵

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- Mullah Omar, the leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, published a statement in honor of Eid al-Adha. In the framework of his statement, Mullah Omar blessed the nation and the Afghani mujahideen, and praised them for their efforts that led to the removal of the American occupation. In addressing the mujahideen themselves, Mullah Omar called on them to maintain unity among the ranks and good relations with the population around them in order to retain popular support for jihad. Mullah Omar ended the statement with a call to support the needy and the families of martyrs, but not before he praised the Palestinian people for their opposition to the Zionist forces and denounced the repeated American intervention in various places throughout the Islamic world.²⁶
- The Al-Emara jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the official announcements of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, published a video titled, "Halmund Waves". The first part of the video documented the organization's military operations against Western forces stationed in the Halmund region. The second part of the video showed photos and short biographies of the organization's leaders who were killed. The last part of the video

²⁴ <http://af.reuters.com/article/idAFKCN0HQ2WN20141001>

²⁵ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2793622/the-growing-influence-isis-reaches-pakistan-taliban-leaders-pledge-allegiance-brutal-jihadist-group.html> (English).

²⁶ www.hanAyn.info/vb (Arabic).

included interviews with several suicide terrorists and documented attacks that were carried out against residences and vehicles belonging to Afghan security forces.²⁷

The Arabian Peninsula

Yemen continued to experience a rising wave of violence and civil war following armed conflicts between members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Houthi militia fighters. This rivalry became particularly sharp after Houthis took control of the capital city of Sana'a. On October 9, 2014 Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, claimed responsibility for a suicide attack against a concentration of Houthis in Sana'a, which killed 51 people and injured 140 others.²⁸ Meanwhile, it became apparent that the threat posed by the Houthis was contributing to an increase in Al-Qaeda's power base due to the concern shared by Sunni tribes of an increase in Houthi power. The Madhaj tribe, which is considered the third largest tribe in Yemen, signed an agreement with Al-Qaeda in order to curb the power of the Houthis.²⁹ Al-Qaeda continued to carry out a series of attacks against security forces in the war-torn country, especially in Hadramawt Province.³⁰ It seems that it will take a long time for the Yemeni regime to successfully restore order and security, if it will be able to do so at all.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- The Al-Malahem jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with AQAP, published a new video in the series titled, "From the Field", which documented a simultaneous attack against several military posts in Mayfa'a District, in Shabwa Province, in Yemen. The beginning of the video showed the planning of the attack as well as excerpts from statements made by several fighters who took part in the operations. Almost all of the operations were carried out through shooting attacks, which led to the death and injury of approximately 50 soldiers, the destruction and burning of several military sites and vehicles, and the plunder

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

²⁸ <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/arabic/2014/10/10/اليمن-الاثنين-استثنائية-بشأن-اليمن> (Arabic).

²⁹ <http://www.yemensaeed.com/news20251.html> (Arabic).

³⁰ <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/yemen/2014/10/11/اليمن-القاعدة-تضرب-من-جديد-في-حضر موت> (Arabic).

of small arms and ammunition.³¹ Another video in the same series documented an ambush that was planned by AQAP fighters against Yemeni military forces in Hadramawt Province.³²

Iraq

Western attacks against the Islamic State in Iraq continued. In addition to the United States, other countries taking part in the attacks include France,³³ Holland,³⁴ Germany³⁵ and Britain,³⁶ which is also helping to train Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Erbil.³⁷

Despite the Western attacks, the IS has been successful in carrying out attacks, including in the capital of Baghdad. 25 people were killed in a series of blasts using car bombs in the Kazimiyah, Habibiya and Sadr City neighborhoods.³⁸ These attacks took place against the backdrop of the strengthening of the organization as a result of its seizure of American weapons, including Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, and its occupation of Hit District³⁹ from which the Iraqi army retreated.⁴⁰ According to a UN report, the occupation of the city of Hit in Al-Anbar province led to the displacement of 180,000 people.⁴¹ Indeed, despite the difficulty in providing accurate estimates regarding the number of refugees, it suggests that over one-third of displaced persons in Iraq came

³¹ <http://www.shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic); https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FP-p_J3dEMc

³² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³³ <http://alhayat.com/Articles/4920395> (Arabic).

³⁴ <http://www.menara.ma/ar/2014/10/06/1391709-%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B9-%D9%85%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A5%D9%8116-%D9%87%D9%88%D9%84%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%82-%D9%81%D9%88%D9%82-%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B7%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82.html> (Arabic).

³⁵ <http://www.shafaag.com/sh2/index.php/news/iraq-news/84523-2014-10-06-19-18-20.html> (Arabic).

³⁶ <http://www.iraqhurr.org/archive/news/20141001/1093/1093.html?id=26615446> (Arabic).

³⁷ <http://alhayat.com/Articles/5017114/> (Arabic).

³⁸ <http://www.dw.de/%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82-%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%B4-%D9%8A%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%B1-%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%AA/a-17994287>

³⁹ <http://www.aljarida.com/news/index/2012688664/> (Arabic).

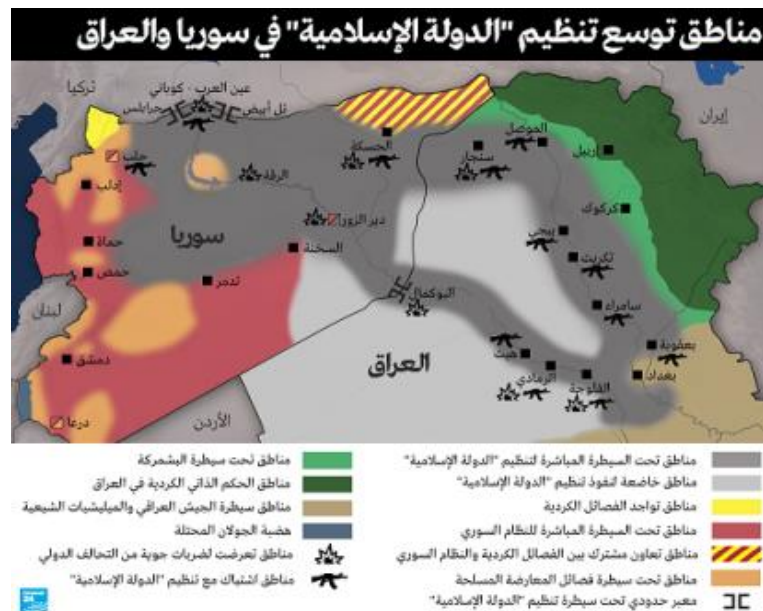
⁴⁰ <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/92e17d47-89e3-424f-bf47-cb7f189e691e> (Arabic).

⁴¹ <http://www.skynewsarabia.com/web/article/694762/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82-%D9%81%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%93%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81-%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%AA>

from Al-Anbar Province.⁴²

Meanwhile, IS attacks against the Shi'ite sector did not go unanswered. According to a report by Amnesty, Shi'ite Iraqi militias kidnapped and killed dozens of Sunni civilians in recent months. In addition, the report claimed that these militias receive support and protection from the Iraqi government.⁴³

- A visitor to the Al-Minbar Al-Alami Al-Jihadi jihadist Web forum published a recent map showing the Islamic State's control in Syria and Iraq (the map was originally published on the France24 television station, in Arabic). The map legend according to the colors that appear from top to bottom and from right to left: areas under the direct control of the IS, areas under the influence of the IS, areas where Kurdish factions are present, areas under the direct control of the Syrian regime, areas of cooperation between Kurdish factions and the Syrian regime, areas under the control of armed opposition forces, land passage under the control of the IS, areas under the control of Peshmerga forces (Kurdish fighters), autonomous Kurdish areas in Iraq, areas under the control of the Iraqi military and Shi'ite militias, the occupied Golan Heights, areas that suffered aerial attacks by the international alliance, areas of conflict with the IS.⁴⁴



⁴² <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/investigations/90e78a89-33af-49fe-b839-c7612fa5bb6f> (Arabic).

⁴³ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/10/141013_shia_killing_iraq_sunni (Arabic).

⁴⁴ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

The Islamic State

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic State, Al-Furqan, published a video titled, “Another Message to America and its Allies”.⁴⁵
- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic State, Al-Furqan, published a video titled, “Lend Me Your Ears - Messages from the British Detainee John Cantlie – Chapter 3”. In the current chapter, Cantlie referred to the increasing power of the Islamic State and emphasized that the efforts of the coalition, led by the United States, to damage the organization’s power are doomed to fail. He added that it would be better to end the war against Muslims since it is a war that the West cannot win.⁴⁶



The video banner

- Several visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum sympathized with the IS for the prisoner exchange deal that it brokered with Turkey. In exchange for the release of Turkish diplomats who the organization captured in Iraqi territory, Turkey released 180 jihad fighters who were being held in custody. According to reports, the released jihad fighters included relatives of Abu Bakr al-Iraqi, a senior member of the IS who was killed in Syria in December 2013.⁴⁷ Several jihad fighters noted on social networks that Turkey will suffer a severe blow. For example, one jihad fighter said: “Tell Erdogan that there are hundreds of Turkish mujahideen in

⁴⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

the Islamic State. They promised you explosives and car bombs.” Another jihad fighter noted that Erdogan was worse than Obama and that most people are aware of that.⁴⁸

- Supporters of the IS established a site that assembles all of the Islamic State’s publications since its declaration of the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate: <http://dawla-is.appspot.com>.⁴⁹

The Islamic State - Nineveh Province

- During the first half of October 2014, the media branch of the Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:
 - A video review of a battle that was waged between the IS and Kurdish Peshmerga forces in the Bashiqa region in Mosul District. According to the text attached to the photos, the IS fighters managed to kill 15 members of the Kurdish forces, capture three others who were later executed, and destroy many vehicles in the battle.⁵⁰
 - A video titled, “Blood of Jihad 1”, which showed a training camp named after Sheikh Abu Azzam al-Ansari that was established in the province. According to the video, the camp included a three-part training course in the first cycle: physical training and hand-to-hand combat, instruction on the use of weapons and shari’a studies, with an emphasis on the values of jihad and shahada (martyrdom).⁵¹



Physical training in an Islamic State training camp in Nineveh Province

⁴⁸ <https://twitter.com/alhoms5/status/517769105441820672/photo/1>

⁴⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁰ www.hanAyn.info/vb (Arabic).

⁵¹ <https://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3Vlat8Ljq4>

- A sermon by a member of the organization in honor of Eid al-Adha in Mosul in praise of IS fighters' strong stance in the face of death from attacks by coalition forces.⁵²



The sermon banner

The Islamic State – Al-Farat Province

- The communications office of Al-Farat Province covered a conference that was held in the province under the heading, “The Tribes of Iraq and Al-Sham in Support of the Islamic State”. The text that accompanied the photos explained that in light of “the evil Crusader campaign”, Sunni tribal leaders in Iraq and Al-Sham decided to swear allegiance to the Islamic State. Attached to the photos was a list of over 20 tribes that carried out the oath of allegiance. This coverage was carried out as a show of force in the face of coalition attacks against the organization.⁵³



Tribal leaders swearing allegiance to the Islamic State in Al-Farat Province

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

⁵³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb>; <http://www.hanAyn.info/vb> (both in Arabic).

The Islamic State – Kirkuk Province

- During the first half of October 2014, the media wing of the Islamic State in Kirkuk Province published the following:
 - Photos of the bodies of Kurdish fighters who were killed by IS fighters in Kirkuk Province.⁵⁴
 - A filmed documentary from the end of a fighter training course in the “Sheikh Abu Umar al-Baghdadi” training camp.⁵⁵



The Islamic State - Baghdad

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Baghdad published several claims of responsibility for attacks that were carried out in the heart of the Iraqi capital:
 - Two attacks against concentrations of Iraqi security forces in the heart of Baghdad on October 11, 2014. The first attack was carried out in the Shuala District by a fighter known as Abu al-Walid al-Ansari, and the second attack was carried out in the Kazimiyah District by a fighter known as Abu al-Zubayr al-Ansari. According to the statement, the attacks killed and injured over 200 people as the terrorists managed to detonate explosives of 600 grams and 200 grams, respectively.⁵⁶

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

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

⁵⁶ <https://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- An attack that was carried out using an explosive belt detonated by a fighter known as Umar al-Shami and directed against Iraqi Council of Ministers forces. According to the statement, the attack killed and injured over 70 people.⁵⁷

The Islamic State – Al-Janub Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Janub Province published a video regarding “The Department for Research and Development”, which was opened in the province. In the first part of the video, a speaker with his face blurred discussed the opening of the department approximately half a year earlier and stated that, at first, weapons production was based on restoring used weapons seized from enemy forces, such as mortar bombs or SPG-9 guns. In addition, the speaker mentioned the use of pipes to manufacture weapons and conduct firing trials in order to check the level of accuracy. In the second part of the video, some of the weapons manufactured by the department were shown.⁵⁸



The manufacturing of weapons at the Islamic State’s Department for Research and Development

The Islamic State – Al-Anbar Province

- During the first half of October 2014, the media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Anbar Province published the following:
 - A statement titled, “Operation to Purge the Safayid (Shi’ite) Base in Hit and its Surroundings”. According to the statement, despite the fact that they were under aerial fire, members of the organization managed to besiege the base while drawing

⁵⁷ <https://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁸ <http://www.hanAyn.info/vb> (Arabic); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ugOVeGnkgI>

encouragement from the killing of the Al-Anbar Police Commander, Ahmad Saddam al-Dulaymi. Finally, after some of the buildings went up in flames, the soldiers fled from the base and enabled the IS fighters to take control of the base and the road connecting it to Baghdad. The statement did not mention how many soldiers were killed in the operation.⁵⁹

- A video regarding the downing of an American unmanned aerial vehicle in Al-Ramadi. The video showed several people next to the remains of the aircraft that, according to them, was used by the United States as a spy tool and was downed by a rocket.⁶⁰



The remains of an American aircraft in Al-Ramadi

The Islamic State – Saladin Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Saladin Province referred to the downing of two Iraqi military helicopters in the city of Baiji in the northern part of the province. It documented the launch of a thermal rocket that brought down the helicopter, as well as photos of the pilot who was killed and the supplies that were plundered after the operation.⁶¹ In addition, the province published several photos of a member of the organization of Indonesian origin named Handhala al-Indonesi who carried out a suicide attack against Iraqi security forces at the entrance to Spyker base next to Baiji.⁶²

⁵⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁰ <https://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶¹ <https://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



Left to right: A suicide terrorist named Handhala al-Indonesi; the launch of a rocket at an Iraqi military helicopter

The Islamic State – Diyala Province

- The IS in Diyala Province published three short reports concerning operations carried out by its members in the province. The first – a suicide attack using a car bomb carried out by Abu Sara al-Almani at a Peshmerga (Kurdish fighters) building, which destroyed the building and killed and injured dozens of Kurds; the second – a suicide attack using a car bomb carried out by Abu Mohammed al-Jazrawi at two adjacent Peshmerga headquarters, which destroyed the buildings and killed and injured dozens of Kurds; and the third – a suicide attack using an explosives belt carried out by Abu Torrab al-Turki at an assembly of Peshmerga forces, which killed and injured dozens of Kurds.⁶³
- A visitor to the Al-Minbar Al-Alami Al-Jihadi jihadist Web forum published a report concerning the intention of Kurdish militias to attack members of the IS in Ayn Al-Islam. According to the visitor, the intelligence information is 100% reliable. According to the report, the Kurds were planning to hoist IS flags in areas currently under Kurdish control after planting many mines and booby traps in the areas; IS members would think that the organization has taken control over the area, approach the place where the flags were hoisted, and be killed.⁶⁴

Al-Sham [The Levant]

⁶³ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁴ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

In the beginning of October the city of Kobane continued to serve as a focal point of friction between IS forces and Kurdish YPG militias,⁶⁵ against the backdrop of attacks by Western forces in the area⁶⁶ that, according to a report by the Pentagon, led to the death of hundreds of IS fighters.⁶⁷ The situation in the city led the President of Turkey, Ahmet Davutoğlu, to announce the opening of the border with Turkey to Syrian refugees but not to Kurdish fighters or citizens of other countries.⁶⁸

In addition to Western attacks, the crisis in Syria has brought with it a wave of diplomatic announcements. The Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia and Germany made a statement in which they emphasized that Bashar al-Assad had lost his legitimacy as part of any future solution for Syria,⁶⁹ France called on Turkey to open its borders and help the Kurdish fighters against the IS,⁷⁰ and even Iran warned Turkey against military intervention in Syria.⁷¹

-
- ⁶⁵ <http://www.alwafd.org/%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%80%D9%8A/749675-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D9%8A%D8%B5%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%86-%D9%87%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%85%D9%8B%D8%A7-%D8%AC%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8B%D8%A7-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%83%D9%88%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A/>
- ⁶⁶ <http://elbadil.com/2014/10/04/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D8%B4%D9%86-%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%AC%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A3%D8%B7%D8%B1/>
- ⁶⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/15/us-mideast-crisis-usa-pentagon-idUSKCN0I42EY20141015> (English).
- ⁶⁸ <http://www.businessinsider.com/afp-turkey-says-only-syrian-refugees-can-cross-border-to-kobane-2014-10> (English).
- ⁶⁹ <http://24.ae/article/110345/%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%82-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%A3%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A5%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%AF-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7.aspx>
- ⁶⁹ <http://www.masralarabia.com/%D8%B4%D8%A6%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9/380945-%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%88-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D9%84%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%AD-%D8%AD%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%87%D8%A7-%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7>
- ⁷⁰ <http://www.masralarabia.com/%D8%B4%D8%A6%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9/380945-%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%88-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D9%84%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%AD-%D8%AD%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%87%D8%A7-%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7>
- ⁷¹ <http://www.misrday.com/Arabs-world/1632832.html>

Meanwhile, the Syrian Air Force increased its attacks in Idlib and Hama Provinces in northern Syria, in central Syria,⁷² in Homs⁷³ and near the capital of Damascus in an attack that killed at least 25 people.⁷⁴

Syria

The Al-Nusra Front in Syria

- During the first half of October 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah al-Bayda, published the following:
 - A statement regarding the launch of a campaign in Eastern Ghouta in cooperation with Jund Dimashq and other factions. According to the statement, the purpose of the campaign is to liberate important and crucial sites from the Syrian army.⁷⁵
 - A report detailing the organization's activities in September 2014.⁷⁶



The banner of the report detailing the organization's activities in September 2014

- A video and series of photos posted to its Twitter account documenting the liberation of

⁷²<http://24.ae/article/110354/%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D9%83%D8%AB%D9%81-%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%87-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%B4%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%88%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AF.aspx>

⁷³<http://alhayat.com/Articles/4954492/-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%B5%D8%AF---%D8%AB%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%87%D9%85-%D8%AB%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AB%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%B7%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%81-%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%B5>

⁷⁴<http://www.alhurra.com/content/syria-airstrike-al-assad/259593.html>

⁷⁵<https://al3aren.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁶https://twitter.com/S_H_MM/status/520921815678717952

a strategic point called Tel al-Hara in Quneitra.⁷⁷



A clip from the video documenting the liberation of Tel al-Hara in Quneitra

The Islamic State – Al-Raqqah Province

- During the first half of October 2014, the media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Raqqah Province published the following:
 - Photos and a video documenting the takeover of a roadblock by Ayn al-Arab, which was under Kurdish control, by members of the organization, their advancement towards the city, and their battle with YPG Kurdish militias.⁷⁸



Clips from the takeover of a roadblock by Ayn al-Arab by IS fighters

- A video regarding Eid al-Adha celebrations in the province. Among other things, the video showed excerpts from prayer at a mosque, interviews with residents of the

⁷⁷ https://twitter.com/JnDar3a_2/status/520082456025006080

⁷⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> ; <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (both in Arabic).

province who sent their blessings to the mujahideen, the distribution of gifts and food to children and a sheep-slaughtering ceremony as a sacrifice in honor of the holiday.⁷⁹

The Islamic State – Aleppo Province

- During the first half of October 2014, the media wing of the Islamic State in Aleppo Province published the following:
 - A filmed review of its troops' advancement towards the city of Ayn al-Arab (Kobane), in northern Syria near the border with Turkey. The text that accompanied the photos explained that the organization managed to take control of the eastern and southern entrances to the city. The photos themselves showed the corpses of PKK soldiers who were killed, graves near the city that were destroyed as they claimed they were used for paganism, and a map showing the organization's points of control near the city.⁸⁰
 - A video that showed dozens of fighters belonging to Ahrar al-Sham, a jihadist group operating in Syria and opposed to the IS, leaving the organization and joining the ranks of the IS.⁸¹
 - Photos documenting the destruction caused by a bombing in Manbij carried out by coalition forces.⁸²

The Islamic State – Homs Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Homs Province published a video documenting the destruction caused to the area as a result of aerial attacks by coalition forces. According to the video, civilians and mujahideen were killed in the air strike.⁸³

The Islamic State - Deir Ezzor Province

⁷⁹ <http://akhbardawlatalislam.wordpress.com/2014/10/06/%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B6%D8%AD%D9%89-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%82%D8%A9/>

⁸⁰ <http://www.hanAyn.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- During the first half of October 2014, the media wing of the Islamic State in Deir Ezzor Province (referred to as Al-Khayr Province by members of the organization), published the following:
 - A video about a battle that took place in Saker near the capital of the province. According to the video, IS fighters managed to repel the advancement of Syrian army commando soldiers towards Deir Ezzor through gunfire. In addition to showing the shooting itself, the video showed the defacement of the bodies of soldiers who were killed as well as photos of martyrs who were killed in action, including two foreign fighters from France and Turkey.⁸⁴



IS fighters shooting at Syrian army forces near the capital of Deir Ezzor Province

- A video covering the Crusader attack against the organization.⁸⁵
- A group of photos documenting demonstrations held by residents of the province against attacks by coalition forces.⁸⁶



A photo from a demonstration held by residents of the province against attacks by coalition forces

⁸⁴ <http://www.hanAyn.info/vb> (Arabic); https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NR1vE_vJzZk

⁸⁵ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Other jihadist organizations

- The Islamic Front published an announcement in which it denied news reports according to which the organization stopped fighting against the Islamic State. According to the announcement, over 1,000 Islamic Front soldiers were blocking their attacks in Aleppo and that it was a duty to fight against its members as they are Kharijites (the first sect in Islam to leave Islam and adhere to violence as a tool for spreading its faith).⁸⁷
- A new jihadist group called Ansar, which was established in Al-Ghouta in Syria, swore allegiance to the IS and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and even published a video confirming this on Al-Jazeera.⁸⁸
- The Ansar Al-Sunnah jihadist organization, which is active in Syria, published a video showing the explosion of a Syrian army tank by members of the organization. According to the statement that accompanied the video, the blast was carried out using an American TOW missile.⁸⁹
- The Green Battalion (Al-Katiba al-Khadra) swore allegiance to “Jaish al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar”, both of which are Salafi-jihadist organizations in Syria. The combining of forces serves to strengthen the Salafi-jihadist umbrella organization in Syria, Ansar al-Din, and to unite other organizations under it such as Fajr al-Sham.⁹⁰



A clip from the video showing the oath of allegiance

⁸⁷ <http://www.muslm.org/vb/showthread.php?538440-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B1%D8%B3%D9%85%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%A8%D9%87%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%B6-%D8%B9%D9%82%D8%AF-%D8%A3%D9%8A-%D9%87%D8%AF%D9%86%D8%A9-%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9>

⁸⁸ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb>

⁸⁹ <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁰ <https://twitter.com/shaaml/status/518121696436695042>

Lebanon

The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon

- The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon published a video titled, “Raid in Revenge for Our Brothers, the Refugees Whose Tents Were Burned in Arasal”, which documented a raid on a Hezbollah post in the Britel region in eastern Lebanon. According to the announcement, Al-Nusra Front fighters killed 11 Hezbollah fighters, plundered weapons and ammunition, and returned home with only one dead and one wounded.⁹¹

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

Clashes continued in the Sinai Peninsula with even greater vigor between Egyptian security forces and jihad fighters. The Egyptian army attacked Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, a jihadist organization active in Sinai, which returned fire.

On October 2, 2014 Egyptian security forces announced that the army had killed several members of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, including Mohammed Abu Shatiya, who was responsible for the kidnapping of seven Egyptian soldiers last year.⁹² One week later, Egyptian security forces announced the killing of 17 more militants from the organization.⁹³ On October 11, 2014 an Egyptian army spokesman announced that the army had killed a senior member of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis. According to the announcement, Shehata Farahan, who had been involved in attempted attacks against Egyptian security forces, was killed in the northern Sinai Peninsula.⁹⁴

On October 6, 2014 Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis released a video showing five captive civilians, at least two of whom were executed. The captives were forced to read a declaration in which they admitted to having spied for Israel. The credibility of the video is still unknown, as is the fate of the captives.⁹⁵

⁹¹ <http://al3aren.com/vb> (Arabic); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNRwOyjdEL8>

⁹² <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/02/us-egypt-security-ansar-idUSKCN0HR1J620141002> (English).

⁹³ <http://thecairopost.com/news/126596/news/17-militants-killed-in-north-sinai> (English).

⁹⁴ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/10/11/Egypt-says-kills-senior-member-of-Ansar-Bayt-al-Maqdis.html> (English).

⁹⁵ <http://thecairopost.com/news/126502/news/abm-kills-two-more-captives-in-new-video> (English).

Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis

- In honor of Eid al-Adha, Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis published a video titled, “They are the Enemy – Beware of Them – Part 2”. The video documented an attack that members of the organization carried out against Egyptian security forces.⁹⁶
- A new jihadist Web forum affiliated with Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis was opened. The forum is called Rijal Misr “People of Egypt” and its Web address is: <http://www.egypt-man.net/vb>. The forum also has a Web site at <http://www.egypt-man.net> that provides news updates about jihad in the Sinai region.⁹⁷

Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem

- The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem published an announcement (no. 51) in which it declared its support for the IS in light of the Crusader attack against it. In the framework of the announcement, members of the organization called on all Muslims to help the IS in any way possible, condemned the “cowardly attacks” by the United States and its allies, and accused Arab regimes of “collaboration”. The announcement ended with a message of encouragement for IS fighters and a call for patience in the face of the current test.⁹⁸

The Maghreb [North Africa]

Despite General Khalifa Haftar’s promise to continue efforts to defeat terrorism in eastern Libya,⁹⁹ the city of Benghazi continued to serve as a focus of unrest and violence. Among the

⁹⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁸ <http://blog.amin.org/sky2018/2014/10/14/%E2%80%8F-%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%84%D8%B3-%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7/%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%B1-%D9%8A%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%87%D8%AF-%D8%A8%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B5%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7.aspx>

incidents that took place in the city: the explosion of a car bomb that killed one person,¹⁰⁰ an exchange of gunfire that led to the death of dozens of people,¹⁰¹ the death of two security officers in the city,¹⁰² and the explosion of a structure that was used by security forces during Gaddafi's time.¹⁰³ Meanwhile, a wave of violence also continued in western Libya, especially in the city of Kikla where battles took place between forces from the Islamic militia, Fajr Libya ("Libya Dawn"), and one of its rivals, the militia of the city of Zintan.¹⁰⁴

In the face of the chaos prevailing in Tunisia, Libya intensified precautions in the framework of its battle against the terrorism threat. Among the steps that were taken: the arrest of 12 terrorism suspects,¹⁰⁵ the dismantling of several terrorist cells¹⁰⁶ (including a cell that was planning an attack against political figures),¹⁰⁷ the opening of a trial against 600 defendants charged with terrorism,¹⁰⁸ and even the removal of a television program accused of "glorifying terrorism".¹⁰⁹

In Algeria, the army increased its operations against Jund al-Khalifa and destroyed the site where French hostage, Hervé Gourdel, was executed at the end of September.¹¹⁰ In addition to

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.france24.com/ar/20141011-%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%8A-%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%81%D8%AE%D8%AE%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%86%D9%81-%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86/>

¹⁰¹ <http://www.alhurra.com/content/libya-violence-seven-killed-army-/259156.html>;
<http://www.rassd.com/22-116965.htm>

¹⁰² <http://www.alwafd.org/%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%80%D9%8A/750268-%D9%85%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84-%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A8%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%8A>

¹⁰³ <http://elbadil.com/2014/10/06/%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%82%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%82-%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AD%D8%AF-%D8%A3%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%B2%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%B0%D8%A7%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%81/>

¹⁰⁴ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/13/world/middleeast/libya-islamist-militants-battle-rival-militias.html?_r=0 (English).

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.skynewsarabia.com/web/article/695056/>

¹⁰⁶ <http://arabic.rt.com/news/761473-%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%83%D9%8A%D9%83-3-%D8%A3%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D8%A5%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3-%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%A9/>

¹⁰⁷ <http://magharebia.com/ar/articles/awi/features/2014/10/15/feature-01> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁸ <http://arabic.rt.com/news/760987-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3-%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%83%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A8/>

¹⁰⁹ http://www.masrawy.com/News/News_PublicAffairs/details/2014/10/8/361957

¹¹⁰ <http://www.radioalgerie.dz/news/ar/article/20141010/16065.html>

military operations, a senior official in the Algerian army announced preparations for an extensive military operation whose goal is to “eliminate terrorism once and for all” in the country.¹¹¹

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- The Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which serves as the official voice of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published an audio recording of a speech titled, “The Holiday...and the Tragedies of the Nation of the Oneness of God” by Sheikh Abu Ubayda Yusuf al-Inabi, a senior member of the organization. In the beginning of his speech, al-Inabi noted that the Muslim Nation is under a vicious and sustained attack, and expressed solidarity with Muslims being attacked by coalition forces in Iraq and Syria and by Israel in the Gaza Strip. According to him, the mujahideen are concentrating their efforts on defending the Muslim Nation and have proved to have the upper hand. Finally, he called on Muslims to help defend Muslim lands and blessed them in honor of Ein al-Adha.¹¹²



Sheikh Abu Ubayda Yusuf al-Inabi

Libya

- Ansar al-Sharia published a filmed review of its troops’ advancement towards Benina in the city of Benghazi, and of the launch of Grad rockets at General Khalifa Haftar’s forces.¹¹³

¹¹¹ <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=231834>

¹¹² <https://twitter.com/Andalus/status/519402937421144064>. <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹³ <http://www.hanAyn.info/vb> (Arabic).



The launch of Grad rockets at Haftar's forces

- The Al-Raya jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Ansar al-Sharia, published a video in which it documented the operations that the organization carried out against Libyan army forces led by General Khalifa Haftar. Among the operations: mortar bomb fire at concentrations of army troops and the destruction of military vehicles. The video ended with a threatening message from several masked Ansar al-Sharia militants against Muhammad Hijazi, the official spokesman for the Libyan army in Benghazi.¹¹⁴



Shooting by members of Ansar al-Sharia against Libyan army forces

Nigeria

As a result of rumors spread by Nigerian security forces that Abubakar Shekau, the leader of

¹¹⁴ <http://akhbardawlatislam.wordpress.com/2014/10/15/%D9%85%D8%A4%D8%B3%D8%B3%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AC-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A-%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%AF%D9%85-%D9%85/>

Boko Haram, had died, Shekau made a recorded speech denying the claim. He noted in the video that was still alive and running an “Islamic Caliphate State” in the cities subject to his authority.¹¹⁵

Meanwhile, Nigeria and its neighbors tried to weaken the organization’s power base and to fight against it effectively. In a summit meeting that was held with Nigeria and its neighboring countries in Niamey, the capital of Niger, in the beginning of October it was decided to speed up the establishment of a regional force to fight against the organization and remain stationed along the borders until the end of November 2014. It was agreed that this force would include 700 soldiers from Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon.¹¹⁶ Despite the organization’s success in sowing fear and death in the region, it is also suffering losses. In the beginning of October 2014, Cameroon’s security forces managed to free 27 kidnapped girls who were being held by Boko Haram, including Chinese laborers and the Prime Minister’s wife.¹¹⁷ The Nigerian army also managed to kill dozens of Boko Haram gunmen in the northeast part of the country.¹¹⁸

Somalia

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen continued to show signs of weakness after the killing of its leader, Godane, in a US air strike. The latest period was characterized by relative quiet as Al-Shabab did not carry out any attacks; however, it now seems that Al-Shabab has experienced greater significant deterioration, and the organization’s power has weakened even further in the face of Somali security forces.

On October 5, 2014 Somali soldiers, aided by African Union forces, successfully re-captured the city of Barawa from the hands of Al-Shabab. Barawa was the largest city to be held by Al-Shabab and is located approximately 200 kilometers south of the capital of Mogadishu. Special Forces are guarding the city and carefully scouring homes for members of Al-Shabab. It should be

¹¹⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/international/2014/10/2/-ز-عيم-بوكو-حرام-أنا-حي-وأدير-دولة-الخلافة-عيم-بوكو> (Arabic).

¹¹⁶ <http://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/539509>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.elaph.com/Web/News/2014/10/948339.html>

¹¹⁸ <http://www.raialyoum.com/?p=162313>

*noted that residents of Barawa have not seen signs of regime or security forces for many years.*¹¹⁹

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- During the first half of October 2014, the Al-Kataib jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published the following:
 - A video in Arabic and English titled, “Then Fight the Leaders of Disbelief – The United Nations Compound Attack”. The first part of the video included a long introduction about the replacement of the President of Somalia in September 2012 and the new regime’s battle against the mujahideen, supported by the United States and the United Nations. The second part of the video documented an attack that Al-Shabab carried out against a UNDP building in Mogadishu in June 2013. The attack was documented using animation and photos: a car bomb explosion at the entrance to the building, an exchange of gunfire between Al-Shabab fighters and the forces at the building, the stationing of guards at the entrances in order to avoid a counter-attack by the “Crusaders”, and then a search of the buildings and the killing of anyone who was found. According to the video, the operation ended with the death of over 23 “apostates” (referring to members of the Somali regime) and 17 “Crusaders”, as well as the injury of over 30 others. The video ended with a series of slides dedicated to the martyrs who were killed in the operation.¹²⁰

¹¹⁹ http://article.wn.com/view/2014/10/05/African_UnionBacked_Somali_Forces_Capture_alShabaab_Stronghold; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/10/african-union-forces-take-al-shabab-held-town-20141067859915965.html>

¹²⁰ <http://www.shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

- A report detailing all of the organization's terrorist operations during September-October 2014, including an attack against Kenyan security forces, the assassination of Somali security officers, and more.¹²¹

The West

- The Al-Hayat Media Center, which is affiliated with the Islamic State, published a video with the Quranic title, "Wait. We Are Also Waiting". The video documented threatening messages sent by several foreign fighters in Dabiq, Syria, a small town of great importance in the apocalyptic battles according to Muslim tradition. Among the fighters: a British fighter named Abu Abdullah who threatened to kill Western soldiers and promised that the black flag will be displayed on the White House in America; a French fighter known as Abd al-Wadud who threatened the President of France, François Hollande; and a German fighter known as Abu Dauoud who called on Muslims in Germany, Austria and Switzerland to join the Islamic State.¹²²

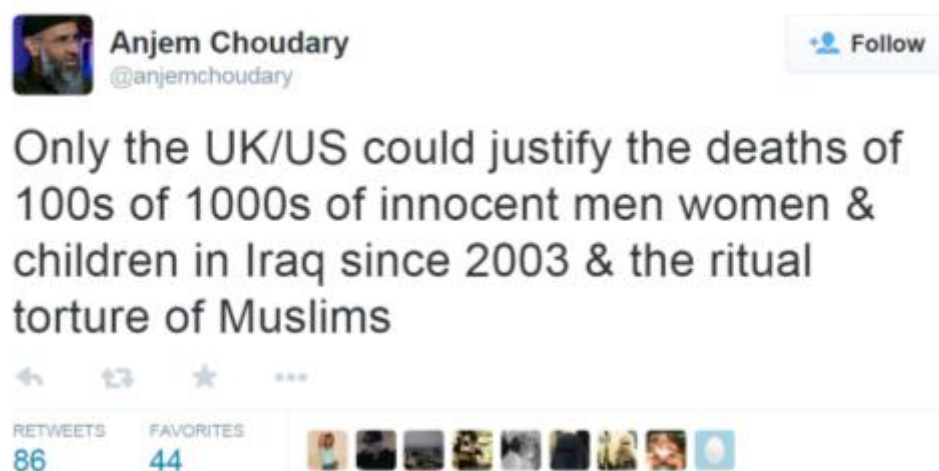
¹²¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²² <https://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic);
https://ia801509.us.archive.org/3/items/wait_we_are_also_waiting/wait_we_are_also_waiting.mp4



Threats against the West by foreign fighters in the ranks of the IS in Dabiq

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamic preacher in England, continued to publish controversial correspondence on his Twitter account. During the first half of October 2014, Choudary posted several tweets (see examples below), including a justification of the Islamic faith and sharia rule over other forms of government, praise for the establishment of the Islamic State, criticism of British polices towards Muslims both inside and outside the country, and more.¹²³



- Discourse regarding the detention of Sheikh Anjem Choudary by the British authorities...¹²⁴

¹²³ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary>

¹²⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Miscellaneous

- The Jamaia Hafsa jihadist Web forum, which publishes propaganda materials in Urdu, published a translation in Urdu and English of a video titled, “Drum of Bullets – Part I”.¹²⁵



The video banner

¹²⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

ABOUT THE ICT

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

ABOUT THE JIHADI MONITORING GROUP

The Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG) is a specialized research and analysis team at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT). Composed of researchers fluent in Arabic, the JWMG monitors websites that support and serve the Global Jihad organizations. The unique characteristic of JWMG publications is the team's integration of diverse materials from a wide variety of Arabic sources. JWMG connects each source to larger trends, providing a complete understanding of events on both a local and a global scale.

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

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