



ICT
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PERIODIC REVIEW

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The First Half of August 2014

Highlights

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

- Al-Qaeda appeals to the family of American captive, Warren Weinstein, to put pressure on the American government to meet its demands in exchange for his release. According to the organization, the American government is not interested in a deal and even wants him dead so there are no negotiations underway for his release.
- Sheikh Abu al-Fadl Iyad Ag Ghaly, the leader of Ansar al-Din, calls on Muslims to sanctify war against France and its allies in order to prevent the Crusaders from strengthening their hold on Mali.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) launches a PR campaign against the Yemeni government in the framework of which it claims responsibility for a series of operations that it carried out against Yemeni security forces, especially in Hadramawt Province. The published statements concern the battle between the Yemeni army and members of AQAP.
- Sheikh Ibrahim Sulayman Rubays, the head of AQAP's Shura Council, expresses support for the mujahideen in Iraq against the backdrop of their successful takeover of Mosul and other cities in Iraq. According to him, an immediate end must be placed to the disagreements among the various factions of jihad and they must make efforts to unite.
- Jihadists continue to express divided positions regarding the declaration of the Islamic Caliphate led by Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. At the head of the opposition camp stand Al-Qaeda and the Al-Nusra Front in Syria. Abu Mariyya al-Qahtani, a member of the Shura Council of the Al-Nusra Front, emphasized that that Islamic State is an evil organization and that its Caliphate is neither recognized nor legitimate. At the same time, other jihadist organizations continue to swear allegiance to the Islamic Caliphate, including Ansar al-Khilafa in the Philippines.
- Sheikh Abu Firas al-Suri, the official spokesman of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, clarifies that his organization will establish an Islamic Emirate only after consulting with leaders who have an Islamic orientation, whether from among jihad factions or local leaders. According to him, the organization will continue to embrace jihad.
- Operation 'Protective Edge' continues to provoke reactions of solidarity and identification with

the people of Gaza on the part of global jihad organizations, such as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. At the same time, calls are raised for jihad against Israel and the Jews.

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New Publications

Ideology

- During the first half of August 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Al-Qaeda leadership, Al-Sahab, published an announcement titled, “A Message from Al-Qaeda to the Family of the Prisoner, Warren Weinstein”. Weinstein was an American contractor who was kidnapped in Pakistan by Al-Qaeda in August 2011 and has been held captive ever since. The announcement stated that the US government wants Weinstein dead, is making no serious effort to bring about his release and is not in contact with Al-Qaeda regarding his release. Al-Qaeda is not interested in holding the prisoner but it requires that the Americans meet its demands; therefore, Al-Qaeda is calling on the prisoner’s family to put pressure on the US government in order to prevent Weinstein from dying in captivity where he is completely alone.¹
- Following a long absence since the 2013 French military operation to eradicate terrorist cells in Mali, Sheikh Abu al-Fadl Iyad Ag Ghaly, the leader of Ansar al-Din, appeared in a new propaganda video against France and its allies. In his opening remarks, al-Din expressed a grievance at the tragedy that befell Muslims in Mali in light of French operations in the region. According to him, his organization has been subjected to a distorted and deceptive PR attack. According to him, due to difficulties with its PR system, the organization was prevented from responding to those elements hostile to Ansar al-Din. He emphasized that his organization was making efforts to counter this deceptive PR campaign, to protect Muslims in Mali who are being slaughtered by the Malian army, and to impose shari'a. According to him, there are already signs on the ground of the enemy's defeat as it withdraws from Mali. African forces are now taking their place, hiding being the false name “African Union peacekeepers”. Al-Fadl also emphasized that Muslims must sanctify war against France and its allies, which seek to strengthen the Crusaders' hold over Mali. Finally, he expressed support for the mujahideen in all arenas of jihad: Nigeria, Somalia, Middle Africa, the West, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Islamic Caucasus Emirate, Yemen, Egypt, Iraq and the Levant.²

¹ <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

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



Sheikh Abu al-Fadl Iyad Ag Ghaly

- The Al-Raya jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for messages from Al-Sharia in Libya, published a “clarification regarding receiving help from the infidels” by Sheikh Abu Abdallah al-Libi, most probably a member of the organization’s Sharia Council, against the backdrop of the Libyan parliament’s decision to request international assistance in protecting civilians in Libya.

In the framework of the announcement, al-Libi criticized any call for Western interference in Libya and claimed that all former and current clerics prohibit helping infidels. In addition, al-Libi attacked the United Nations and the Security Council, presented them as bodies controlled by the Jews and Christians, and claimed that they were exploiting the Libyan Parliament in order to fight against the mujahideen under the pretense of fighting terrorism. Al-Libi emphasized that Ansar al-Sharia vehemently opposes democracy, and it is fighting to impose Islamic shari'a and to defend Libya from infidels.

Al-Libi explained that the decision to request assistance from the West, a step taken by General Khalifa Haftar after he failed to defeat the mujahideen, was a step intended to harm Muslims in Libya and to establish a secular-Western regime in the country.

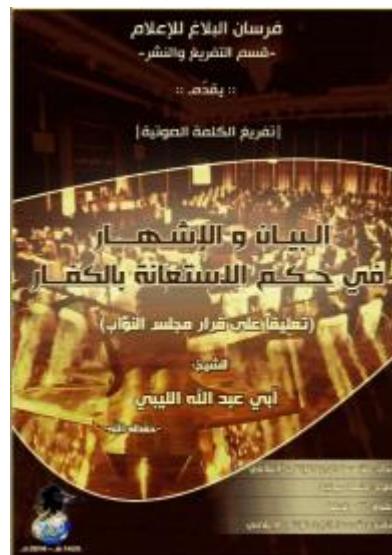
Among the clerics that al-Libi relied on were former clerics, including al-Tabari, al-Qurtubi and Abd al-Latif bin Abd al-Rahman, and Ulama from the Middle Ages, who claimed that infidels may not provide or receive help in Muslim lands. Included among the modern-day clerics were the Egyptian cleric, Ahmad Shakir, who claimed that the rulers of Egypt may not receive any form of assistance from the British as it would constitute an act of heresy, and the Algerian cleric, Al-Bashir al-Ibrahimi, who claimed that one must resist colonial occupiers

and may not form an alliance with them as it would be considered an abandonment of Islam. Other clerics from the Maliki School forbid Muslim Malikis from receive help from infidels against other Muslim regimes.

Al-Libi called on tribal leaders, residents of Libya and Muslims in general to renounce the Libyan Parliament and its decisions. In addition, he called on Muslim clerics to clarify that receiving help from infidels is akin to heresy.

The announcement ended with an appeal to soldiers serving in the “dictator’s army” (referring to Haftar and his forces). Al-Libi called on the soldiers to wake up and defect from the army that is going to bring “the Jews and Christians” into Libya and even destroy the cultural fabric of the country. Al-Libi explained to the soldiers that Ansar al-Sharia prefers that they not fight against the organization but rather join its ranks as part of the war for Islam.³

It should be noted that this ruling contradicts other fatwas that permit the acceptance of assistance from infidels, which were issued by religious authorities such as Sheikh Ibn Baz (1910-1999), Mufti of Saudi Arabia, and Abdullah Azzam (1941-1989), one of the founders of Al-Qaeda.



The banner of the “clarification regarding receiving help from the infidels”

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

- The Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which serves as the voice of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a ninth video titled, “The Virtues of Al-Ansar” (the supporters of Mohammad in Al-Madina and, in the modern context, supporters of jihad fighters) in the framework of the “Good Reminder” series of publications by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nazari, a member of the organization’s Shura Council.⁴

In addition, the media institution published videos titled, “Attention and Obedience” and “Migration and Jihad”, which served as the second and third parts in the series of publications titled, “The Five Recommendations”, also by Sheikh al-Nazari. According to al-Nazari, the commandment to wage jihad is mandatory and, therefore, it is incumbent upon Muslims to move to areas of conflict where war is being waged against enemies of Islam.⁵

The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

- Sheikh Abu Mohammed al-Maqdisi, a Jordanian sheikh and religious adjudicator in the world of jihad, published a religious ruling regarding the question of whether it is permissible to accept help from infidels in order to fight against the Khawarji, the first sect that split from Islam. Today the term is used to describe critics of the Islamic State in order to label them as Muslims who left Islam.

Al-Maqdisi emphasized that he never used the term Khawarji to describe the Islamic State but that members of the organization did admit to him that there were Khawarji among their ranks. Indeed, the current intransient leadership of the IS, represented by al-Adnani, spokesman for the organization, rushed to allow the bloodshed of Muslims and referred to them as infidels – a sin that deserves strong condemnation – but it is meaningless since every organization acts like that. Nevertheless, al-Maqdisi harshly criticized the fact that the IS sends suicide bombers to kill mujahideen from other organizations. Al-Maqdisi noted that there is support in shari'a for the fact that it is permissible, and even worthwhile, to promote cooperation among all of the organizations in the battle against the Syrian regime. However, in order for such an alliance to

⁴ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

be permitted, it must be controlled by Muslims and believers in the Oneness of God; in other words, they are the ones who must reap the fruits of success at the end of struggle, and not the infidels. If there is no choice and the Khawarjis are spilling the pure blood of Muslims, it is permissible to fight back based on the principle of giving help to the oppressed people. Despite these permissions, it is forbidden to cooperate with the infidels whose heresy is obvious to everyone, in order to avoid shaming the religion.⁶

- On August 5, 2014 the Islamic Caucasus Emirate published a video in which Sheikh Abu Mohammad al-Maqdisi expressed support for the activities of the Islamic Caucasus Emirate and its emir, Ali Abu Muhammad. In addition, he expressed sorrow over the death of the former emir of the Caucasus Emirate, Doku Umarov. Finally, he called on fighters of the Caucasus Emirate operating in Syria not to cooperate with the IS.⁷
- Abu Mariyya al-Qahtani, the head of the Shura Council of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, published a message to residents of Al-Sharqiyah. According to him, exposure to radical thought from the schools of the Islamic State is detrimental to the arenas of jihad and detracts from the power of the mujahideen. The establishment of the Islamic Caliphate, led by the IS, constitutes another layer to this inferior way of thinking and is deeply troubling. He added that, thanks to the uprisings by Muslim nations against tyrannical regimes, some Arab regimes have fallen. However, the vacuum created by the regime changes are being filled by members of the IS who are trying to take advantage of the new situation in order to promote their needs at the expense of Muslim lives. He emphasized that his organization is interested in collapsing the national borders that were created in the Sykes-Picot Agreement after World War I, but that it opposes any non-Sunni initiative or plan that serves the enemies of Islam. According to him, IS fighters do damage in the way that they treat fellow Muslims from other jihadist organizations and harm jihad efforts in general, and serve the enemy, including Iran. In light of this, al-Qatani called on residents of Al-Sharqiyah not to be influenced by this way of thinking but rather to focus on efforts to fight against the Syrian regime.⁸

⁶ <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷ <http://vdagestan.com/obrashhenie-shejxa-abu-muxammada-al-makdisi-k-mudzhaxidam-imarata-kavkaz-video.djihad>

⁸ <http://al3aren.com/vb> (Arabic).



Sheikh Abu Mariyya al-Qahtani

- The Islamic Front, a Salafi jihadist organization operating in Syria - the Suqur Al-Sham Brigades, published a statement regarding the IS. According to the statement, anyone affiliated with the IS (referred to in the statement as “Daash” as a derogatory name) who declares allegiance to the organization and refuses to retract it, is a legitimate target for the mujahideen of the Islamic Front. The statement was published on the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum, which is affiliated with the IS, and received furious reactions from visitors to the site.⁹
- Sheikh Abu Basir al-Tartusi, a prominent Salafi-jihadist ideologue operating in Syria, published an article titled, “America and the ‘Daash’ State Group”. In the article, al-Tartusi claimed that the US does not intend to confront the Islamic State but rather to perpetuate the status quo and enable Daash to operate at full power in order to achieve the following goals:
 - To use the organization to fight against Al-Qaeda and its affiliate in Syria, the Al-Nusra Front.
 - To use the organization to fight against jihadist groups and revolutionary groups in Syria that refuse to accept the authority of the United States.
 - To use the organization as a means to control the area after the fall of Assad’s regime, calling this “the American and Israeli desire”.
 - To use the organization to establish a deterrence force for neighboring countries, which would enable more concessions and willingness by countries to accept the dictates of the United States. Iran and Daash have become a deterrent in American policy.
 - To use the organization as an excuse to interfere in Muslim affairs claiming that it is a

⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

war on terrorism.

- To distort the image of Islam in the eyes of the world, especially in the eyes of Westerners.

In light of this, al-Tartusi explained the delayed US response to Daash as a means of preserving its interests in the region.¹⁰

- The Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for AQAP, published a speech by Sheikh Ibrahim Sulayman Rubays, the head of the organization's Shura Council, regarding the series of victories achieved by the IS in Iraq, including the occupation of Mosul. Rubays praised the mujahideen's accomplishments in Iraq and their success in defeating the Iraqi army. Nevertheless, he avoided explicit mention of the name of the organization, "Islamic State", and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. In addition, Rubays called for an end to the existing conflicts among the various jihadist factions and for unity among the ranks in order to push back the enemies and impose shari'a.¹¹



The video banner

- The Al-Battar jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the Islamic State, published an article titled, "The Obligations of the Caliphate" by Sheikh Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Athari, a cleric who supports the organization. The article concerned the obligations of citizens to the Islamic Caliphate and vice versa.¹²

¹⁰ <http://abubaseer.bizland.com> (Arabic).

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

¹² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Oaths of Allegiance and Expressions of Support for the Islamic Caliphate

- The trend of swearing allegiance to, and expressing support for, the Islamic Caliphate and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi continued:
 - The Al-Battar jihadist media institution published a video in which the Ansar Al-Khilafah group in the Philippines swore allegiance to the Islamic State.¹³
 - The Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in the Philippines published on the Al-Wafaa jihadist media institution a new video in which members of the movement swore allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.¹⁴
 - A visitor to the Hanein jihadist media institution published a photograph of a group of young Indian men wearing black shirts bearing the symbol of the IS and expressing support for the organization.¹⁵



Support from India for the Islamic State

Strategy

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum published a list of tips on how to hide from aircraft that are equipped with thermal night vision tools, including: wear insulated clothing (such as firefighter uniforms), hide in tunnels, use camouflage netting and avoid carrying a cellular phone.¹⁶

¹³ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The 13th issue was published of the “Jihadist Encyclopedia”, a series of guidebooks on various topics related to the world of jihad, including religious, cyber and even military content.¹⁷

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published a third and final video titled, “A Journey of Jihad: The Biography of Said Ali al-Shihri”, the deputy leader of AQAP who was killed by an American drone in July 2013.¹⁸



The video banner

- The jihadist organization, “Supporters of the Islamic State in Jerusalem”, published an announcement regarding the death of the engineer, Mahmoud Nayef al-Qarinawi – Abu al-Bura al-Ghazi. Al-Qarinawi, a Palestinian who joined the IS in Syria following a long journey and was killed during an IS military operation in Homs Province.¹⁹
- The “Africa is Muslim” jihadist media institution published a document titled, “Tears for a Mujahid”, which described the life of the martyr, Bashani al-Said Abd al-Rahman, which was written by Abu Obaida al-Jaza'iri from the Islamic Maghreb. The martyr's real name was Bashani al-Said and he was born in 1966 in Jijel Province in Algeria.²⁰

¹⁷ <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰ https://ia801408.us.archive.org/6/items/dam3a_1436/dam3a.pdf

When he saw that the war was escalating in Afghanistan between the Muslims and the Communists, he tried to travel to Afghanistan and join the mujahideen per the call of many religious clerics at that time, led by Abdallah Azzam. However, for various reasons, especially the lack of available funds, he was prevented from going there. Even though al-Said missed the opportunity to travel to Afghanistan, he joined jihad and left his teaching profession when things began to stir in his own country. In 1993, al-Said joined the mujahideen and from then until the day he died he remained loyal to the path of jihad.

Al-Said was a moral, polite and influential man. He always showed respect for people and words are inadequate to describe his high level of morality. Al-Said used to give his fellow mujahideen good and reliable advice, especially during the period when he served as emir. He was known for making his subordinates feel like his friends, and he excelled in formulating complex ideas and advice in a clear manner. Al-Said always helped his comrades and allowed them to sleep while he remained on guard and stayed awake all night. It was important to him to spread knowledge of Islam and to educate Muslims on the spirit of the religion.

Al-Said was killed in 2000. He died as a martyr on jihad soil and left behind a large void among his fellow mujahideen.

Magazines

- Issue no. 66 of *Nawai Afghan Jihad* magazine for August 2104 was published.²¹
- Issue no. 6 of *AZAN* magazine (43 pp.) was published in English by the Taliban in Pakistan.²²

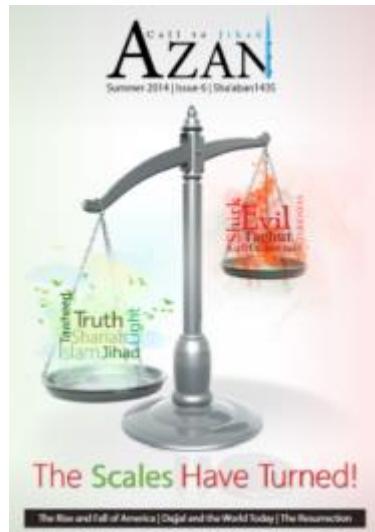
Among the topics covered in the current issue were:

- Traditions regarding the End of Days.
- The decline of the United States.
- Pakistan's double standard and ungrateful policies towards its residents and the mujahideen.
- Indoctrination regarding the importance of fulfilling the commandment to wage jihad against enemies of Islam.

²¹ <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.com/2014/08/blog-post.html>

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

- The democratic system versus the Islamic order.
- Foundations of the Islamic Caliphate.



The banner of the magazine issue

- Issues no. 57-58 of the jihadist periodical, *Al-Waqi*, were published.²³



The banners of the two issues

- Issue no. 6 of the jihadist magazine, *Milat Ibrahim*, was published. The issue focused on slandering democracy.²⁴

²³ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Afghan arena continued to be replete with incidents. The Taliban seemed to be making efforts to maintain its presence in Afghanistan and not create the illusion that new elected president will bring quiet to the country.

On August 5, the most senior American officer ever on Afghan soil was killed. Maj. Gen. Harold Greene was killed when gunmen in Afghan army uniforms opened fire at the military academy in Kabul. 14 other soldiers were injured in the attack, including a senior German officer with the rank of general.²⁵

On August 10, 2014 a car bomb driven by a suicide terrorist exploded next to a NATO convoy in Kabul. At least four people were killed in the attack and 35 others were injured. The spokesman for the Taliban, Zubihullah Mujahid, published an announcement claiming that his organization was responsible for the attack.²⁶ Two days later, another attack took place in eastern Afghanistan: NATO announced that one of its soldiers had been killed but no details were provided regarding the incident or the person that died.²⁷

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published an announcement regarding the large attack that was carried out at the military academy in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. The announcement stated that an Afghani militant had opened fire at the academy and managed to kill many foreign occupiers, including a senior American officer. The Islamic Emirate viewed the operation as a source of pride for the entire Afghan nation and warned all Afghani security personnel fighting against Islam that future attacks such as this one will be coming their way.²⁸

²⁴ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/06/world/asia/afghanistan-attack.html?_r=0 (English).

²⁶ <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/4-afghan-civilians-killed-kabul-suicide-bombing> (English).

²⁷ <http://www.breakingnews.com/item/2014/08/12/nato-soldier-killed-in-attack-in-eastern-afghanist> (English).

²⁸ <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The Junud al-Fida organization, which is affiliated with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, published a video titled, “The Khaybar Operation”.²⁹

The Arabian Peninsula

Clashes between the Yemeni army and AQAP militants continued with even more force during the first half of August, especially in Hadhramaut Province,³⁰ after many militants, including senior members of the organization, fled to Hadhramaut Province from Abyan and Shabwa Provinces following an intensive attack launched by the Yemeni army against AQAP strongholds. Nevertheless, the organization also managed to kill a number of Yemeni soldiers in Hadhramaut Province, most notably the execution of 14 soldiers who were forced off of a bus that was traveling to Sanaa. The massacre received wide media coverage, especially due to the publication of photos on the Internet that showed the soldiers' bodies. As a result, there were calls to fire Yemen's Minister of Defense as well as senior army commanders in Hadhramaut Province, claiming that they did not do their jobs in protecting the soldiers.

According to a Yemeni expert on armed conflict, “the message that Al-Qaeda tried to send with the massacre of the soldiers was to create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation among the ranks of the army in order to prompt some of its soldiers to leave their [army] units in Hadhramaut and prevent military enforcements from coming to the region”. Another expert noted that this pattern of attack was inspired by the Islamic State. According to him, Al-Qaeda in Yemen is trying, in a manner similar to that of the Islamic State, to obtain funds by attacking banks and seizing oil fields, and to obtain weapons by breaking into and seizing control of army and security bases.³¹ Against the backdrop of the security escalation, the President of Yemen, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, held a press conference and called on the Yemeni people to help in the fight against terrorism. In addition, he promised to chase down members of Al-Qaeda and to bring to justice those responsible

²⁹ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁰ <http://goo.gl/mWHWfu>. For example, refer to the attacks on an army base and government institutions, including local banks, in the city of Sayun in May 2014: http://www.yemenfox.net/news_details.php?sid=21727. Also refer to attacks on government institutions and banks in Qattan, in Hadramout Province: <http://www.thesouthasiantimes.info/news-56972-Latest%20News-31.html>

³¹ <http://goo.gl/GejykR>

for the massacre.³²

Meanwhile, heavy clashes continued in northern Yemen between Houthi (a Shi'ite minority in Yemen supported by Iran) forces and their rivals from the Islamic Al-Islah Party, which is affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood. They also continued to strengthen their hold over some areas in the north of Yemen.³³

Nevertheless, the Houthis are not interested in escalating the situation and worsening their relations with the central government in Sana'a in light of the statement by Ali al-Bakhiti, a member of the Houthi political council, according to which the Houthis had relinquished control over the city of Amran, which is located north of the capital city of Sana'a, to the Yemeni government. The statement was made after they took control of the city on July 8, 2014. According to him, the decision to relinquish control of the city was made after the Houthis had managed to purge the city of members of the Islamic Al-Islah Party. Nevertheless, the Houthis continued to carry out human rights violations against the Sunni population in Amran.³⁴

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- During the first half of August 2014, the Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for announcements by AQAP, published the following:
 - Photos of the takeover of the town of Al-Qatn in Hadhramaut Province, including photos of a gunfight with security forces and photos of senior members of the organization, such as Jalal al-Marqishi and Harith Al-Nadhari, as they toured the captured town.³⁵
 - A video documenting an attack on the city of Seiyun in Hadhramaut Province in Yemen, which was carried out on May 23, 2014. The video included an interview with AQAP officer, Jalal al-Marqishi, who noted that the operation was intended as a deterrent to the Yemeni government, which was operating against Muslims in the cities of Shabwa and Abyan in southern Yemen. According to the video, dozens of security personnel belonging to the following groups were killed and injured in the attack: the First Military

³² <http://goo.gl/qFi1Po>

³³ <http://www.alsharq.net.sa/2014/08/14/1203341> (Arabic).

³⁴ <http://goo.gl/jOdjTW>

³⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Region headquarters, National Security, Central Security, Criminal Investigations, General Security, Emergency Police and Traffic Police.³⁶



The burning of police cars in an attack by AQAP in the city of Seiyun

- A video documenting AQAP operations in Yemen and an interview on the subject with field commander, Jalal Bal'idi al-Marqishi.³⁷
- An announcement (no. 80) regarding “the revenge attack on behalf of the [female] prisoners” in which the organization referred to an attack that was carried out on July 4, 2014 at the border crossing in Al-Wadiyah along the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. According to the announcement, the attack began with Grad rocket fire directed at the Saudi border security center, the detonation of a car bomb and the infiltration of six gunmen into the General Investigation headquarters in Sharurah.³⁸
- An announcement (no. 81) titled, “Regarding the American Bombardment of Iraq”. The announcement stated that the Americans have recently sent unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's), or “drones”, to bomb Muslims in Iraq under false pretences; where was the United States when al-Maliki, the former Iraqi Prime Minister, bombed hundreds of thousands of Sunnis in Iraq in Al-Falijah, Diyala and Mosul? This is the hypocrisy of the West, which supports infidels and anyone who opposes Islam under the guise of humanitarian action. Obama's statement regarding the war in Iraq again demonstrated that the Zionist-Crusader enemy is the most dangerous enemy of the Muslim Nation.

³⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic)

³⁷ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

AQAP expressed solidarity with its brothers in Iraq who were hurt in the American bombing and it called on all Islamic groups to help in the war of jihad against the Americans; the organization even offered several security tips on how to deal with drones, such as avoiding large gatherings of jihadists in one place, taking precautions against spies, avoiding using mobile phones and digging trenches to hide in.³⁹

- A collection of photos from a raid that was carried out by the mujahideen in Hadhramaut Province in Yemen.⁴⁰



A photo from a raid that was carried out by the mujahideen in Hadhramaut Province

- The Al-Hussam jihadist media institution, which focuses on events in the arena of jihad in Yemen, published a condemnation of the Yemeni government over its operations against Sunni residents and members of AQAP in Wadi Hadramawt. According to the media institution, the government was spreading lies that the organization had taken full control of Wadi Hadramawt in order to justify its attack on the area. The media institution also published a video in support of AQAP.⁴¹

Ansar al-Sharia

- During the first half of August 2014, Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, published a series of announcements regarding the operations carried out by AQAP militants against Yemeni security forces, including:

³⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁰ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A report on the deaths of five soldiers and the injury of another following an attack by members of Ansar al-Sharia on a security patrol in Ataq in the capital of Shabwa Province in August 2014. The report also stated that all of the group's fighters had returned safely to their homes. The organization emphasized that the attack was part of a series of attacks carried out by the organization in Shabwa Province "in response to the campaign launched by the Yemeni army against Muslims in Abyan and Shabwa for over three months with air cover provided by American drones".⁴²
- A report on the deaths and injuries of Yemeni soldiers during clashes with Ansar al-Sharia militants in Hadhramaut Province.⁴³
- A report regarding the takeover of government residence buildings in Al-Qatan.⁴⁴
- A report regarding the one Yemeni soldier who was killed, and five others who were injured, in an ambush carried out by members of the organization in Shabwa.⁴⁵

Iraq

Following the flight of Christians from Mosul, the month of August in Iraq was marked by the persecution of another minority in the country: the Yazidis. According to a report by the Iraqi Ministry for Human Rights, Islamic State fighters killed approximately 500 Yazidis and captured 300 women in order to sell them as slaves.⁴⁶ Another report stated that approximately 20,000 Yazidis were driven out from the area of Sinjar where they were under siege, to north Kurdistan.⁴⁷

The strengthening of the Islamic State was demonstrated not only by its conquest of new territories and various populations, but economically speaking as well. After it took control of five oil fields and the largest dam in Iraq, members of the Islamic State also managed to get their hands on extensive areas for growing wheat in various provinces in Iraq.⁴⁸

⁴² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁴ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁴⁶ <http://www.shafaaq.com/sh2/index.php/news/kurdistan-news/81343----500---300----.html>

⁴⁷ <http://arabic.cnn.com/middleeast/2014/08/11/yazidi-iraqis-trapped-saved>

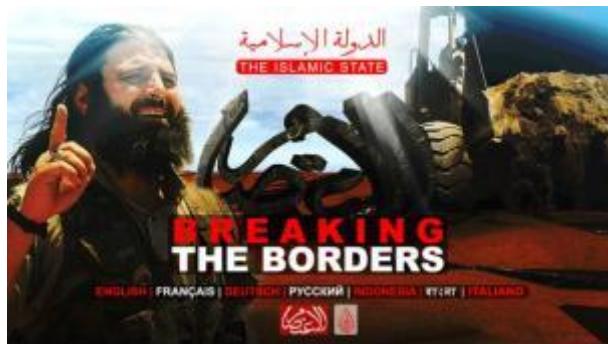
⁴⁸ <http://goo.gl/Gfjlqf>

Despite the strengthening of the organization and the massacres that it carried out, Western intervention in Iraq remained limited at this point: France, for instance, announced its intention to arm Kurdish forces in the country in order to strengthen them against the IS.⁴⁹

In the political arena, Haider al-Abadi was appointed as the Prime Minister of Iraq after his predecessor, Nouri al-Maliki, resigned. So far al-Abadi has received unprecedented support from the United Nations, Western countries and Iran, as well as from the Arab League and Saudi Arabia.⁵⁰

The Islamic State

- The Islamic State continued to disseminate content in various languages via the Al-I'tisam jihadist media institution, including a video titled, “Breaking the Borders” regarding the removal of the Sykes-Picot border between Syria and Iraq, which was translated into seven languages: English, Russian, French, German, Indonesian, Bengali and Italian.⁵¹



The Islamic State disseminated its videos in various languages

- The Al-Hayyat jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the Islamic State, published a video containing blessings and greetings to residents of the Islamic Caliphate in honor of Eid al-Fitr.⁵²

⁴⁹ <http://goo.gl/i6OhBr>

⁵⁰ <http://arabic.cnn.com/middleeast/2014/08/15/iraq-al-maliki-speech>; <http://goo.gl/imXmnM>

⁵¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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



The video banner

- A visitor to the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published a series of nine videos by the Islamic State, documenting life under its rule.⁵³
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum published a message in Arabic and Kurdish from a militant named Abu Bakr al-Kurdi addressed to Muslim residents of Kurdistan. In the framework of the announcement, al-Kurdi called on Muslims in Kurdistan to support the Islamic State and to reject democracy and secular nationalism as proposed by the Kurdish government.⁵⁴
- Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum held discussions on several topics:
 - A discussion regarding the money being held in banks belonging to the IS in Iraq in general, and in Nineveh Province in particular. One visitor claimed that the IS was acting illegally in holding money that belonged to civilians. In response, many visitors accused him of incitement against the IS while others claimed that they need to wait and see since the IS was planning to turn the banks into Islamic banks that do not charge interest.⁵⁵
 - A discussion regarding the rape and capture of Yazidi women who were given to members of the IS. One visitor claimed that the matter needed to be explained and condemned while other visitors claimed that there was no need to discuss the issue as long as the rumors had not yet been confirmed.⁵⁶ On one thread, a visitor claimed that women should not be taken captive who were not involved in the fighting.⁵⁷

The Islamic State – Baghdad

⁵³ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- The Islamic State in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, published an announcement regarding a large terrorist attack that its members carried out in the city. The announcement stated that on August 6, 2014 members of the IS detonated four car bombs in various areas throughout Baghdad, killing and injuring approximately 200 people.⁵⁸
- The Islamic State in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, published an announcement regarding the death of two of its fighters. The announcement stated that the two fighters, Abu Hajir al-Lubnani and Abu Azzam al-Jazrawwi, were killed on August 7, 2014 during an attack against the Iraqi army that included a car bomb explosion at the army's central headquarters.⁵⁹
- A visitor to the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published a report according to which IS fighters killed Fadel Jamil al-Barwari, an officer with the rank of '*'Amid*' (comparable to the rank of Brigadier General in the IDF), in northern Baghdad on August 2, 2014.⁶⁰



Fadel Jamil al-Barwari

The Islamic State - Nineveh Province

- During the first half of August 2014, the Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:
 - An announcement titled, "An attack against the Peshmerga (a term for Kurdish fighters) infidels". The announcement stated that in response to attacks by Kurds, who are bombing Muslims in Mosul, which is under the control of the IS, and collaborating with the Shi'ite regime and Western forces, IS fighters attacked Kurdish militias in Zammar. In the attack, which took place on August 1, 2014, at least 15 Kurds were killed, many

⁵⁸ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

others were injured and many weapons were plundered. The end of the announcement included a list of the 17 areas and sites that were captured by the IS from the Kurds.⁶¹

- A video documenting a tour by IS fighters of areas liberated by the Islamic State.⁶²



The video banner

The Islamic State – Salah A-Din Province

- The PR office of the Islamic State in Salah A-Din Province in Iraq published a video documentary of life in the province under IS rule, and of the PR activities taking place in the province.⁶³



A clip from the video documentary

The Army of the Men of the Naqshbandi Order

⁶¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb>; <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (both in Arabic).

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

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

- The official spokesman for the Army of the Men of the Naqshbandi Order published an announcement in which it denied media reports according to which the organization provides logistical help to armed militias set up by the Iraqi government. In the framework of the announcement, the spokesman claimed that his organization was operating independently and he accused the government of racism and sectarianism.⁶⁴
- The Army of the Men of the Naqshbandi Order published a statement in the framework of which it clarified its positions and views on various issues. The statement included, among other things, a rejection of the Iraqi constitution (which, according to the organization, divides the nation) and veteran politicians, an accusation that the “National Alliance” is subservient to Iran, and a call on Arab and Islamic countries not to cooperate with the Iraqi government.⁶⁵

Ansar al-Islam

- Ansar al-Islam, which operates in Iraq, published a claim of responsibility for the destruction of a convoy of vehicles belonging to the Iraqi army south of Tikrit,⁶⁶ and the downing of a helicopter in Saba' Al Bor.⁶⁷

Al-Sham [The Levant]

According to a report by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), at least 50 jihadists belonging to the Islamic State and the Al-Nusra Front were killed in Qalamoun, north of Damascus. Another loss to the Al-Nusra Front took place in Idlib Province where the Emir of the organization, Ya'qub al-Umar, was killed.⁶⁸

In addition to its clashes with army forces, the IS also faced civilian opposition in the form of a rebellion by members of the Al-Shu'aytat tribe in Deir al-Zour Province in eastern Syria. The revolt, which was quickly suppressed by members of the IS, ended with the Islamic State re-taking control

⁶⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁸ <http://www.dw.de/%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%83-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%84%D9%85%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AA%D9%83%D8%A8%D8%AF-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%B4-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%AE%D9%85%D8%B3%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%B9%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%B1%D8%A7/a-17828044>

*of three villages belonging to the tribe and the execution of many tribal members.*⁶⁹

Meanwhile, the Islamic State managed to take over additional areas. In Aleppo Province, the IS seized control of several small towns from competing organizations as it continued to make its way West.⁷⁰ In Raqqa Province, the IS took control of a Brigade 93 base in an attack that claimed the lives of approximately 30 soldiers.⁷¹

The Lebanese arena also saw incidents. In the beginning of the month, eight Lebanese soldiers were killed in the town of Arsal, which borders Syria. The soldiers were killed in an exchange of gunfire that broke out following the arrest of a person who the army claimed belonged to the Al-Nusra Front.⁷² Another incident took place in Arsal when five Sunni religious clerics were injured when they tried to mediate towards a ceasefire.⁷³

Syria

The Al-Nusra Front in Syria

- During the first half of August 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:
 - An interview with the organization's official spokesman, Abu Firas al-Suri. Among other things, al-Suri referred to the claim that the leader of the organization, Abu Muhammad

⁶⁹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/08/140811_syria_tribal_uprising.shtml (Arabic).

⁷⁰ <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/syria/2014/08/13/%D9%85%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%84%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%B4-%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%84%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9.html>

⁷¹ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/08/07/Monitor-ISIS-storm-Syrian-army-base-in-Raqqa-.html> (English).

⁷² <http://www.dw.de/%D9%85%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84-8-%D8%AC%D9%86%D9%88%D8%AF-%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%85%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7/a-17828539>

⁷³ <http://www.dw.de/%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%88%D8%A5%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D8%AE%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A9-%D8%B1%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86/a-17831948>

al-Julani, had declared an emirate. He explained that al-Julani was not referring to an Islamic Emirate as defined by shari'a but rather to the reorganization of areas that were liberated. According to him, an Islamic Emirate will only be declared following consultation with Islamic-oriented leaders. In addition, al-Suri rebuffed claims that his organization had abandoned the battlefield and noted that the Al-Nusra Front was enforcing shari'a in areas that it liberated based on a document that was published on the matter.⁷⁴

According to information that was published on social networks by jihadist groups, al-Suri was born in 1950 in the suburbs of Damascus. He studied in the military college and was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant. During 1977-1980, he served as a trainer for jihad fighters, and from 1979-1980 he carried out several terrorist attacks against the Syrian regime. In 1980 he emigrated to Jordan, and the next year to Afghanistan where he trained Afghan fighters and Arab fighters who had moved to Afghanistan in order to join the battle against the Former Soviet Union. In 1983 he met Sheikh Abdullah Azzam and Sheikh Osama bin Laden, the founders of Al-Qaeda. He continued to train fighters and gave special courses to train fighters to carry out attacks in India, Indonesia, Burma and Iran. He took part in the conquest of Jalalabad and Khost. Finally, he frequently joined committees tasked with making peace among the radical Afghan factions or Arab jihadist factions. According to the discourse in jihadist Web forums he served as Sheikh Osama bin Laden's deputy and focused efforts on recruiting Pakistanis for jihad. He even managed to establish a new jihadist group named "Jama'at al-Dawla", which served as part of the Lashkar-i-Tayyaba terrorist organization in Kashmir. He later met with Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri and they agreed to work together in the Levant. During the US attack on Afghanistan, he took care of the families of the mujahideen in Pakistan. In 2003 he moved to Yemen and remained there until he returned to the Levant in the beginning of 2013 as a result of the rift between the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State. He tried to make peace between the two organizations along with Sheikh Abu Khalid al-Suri, al-

⁷⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Zawahiri's representative in Syria, but he did not succeed. It also stated that he had joined the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front.⁷⁵



Abu Firas al-Suri

- An announcement regarding the dismissal of one of the group's fighters from its ranks. The announcement stated that Sultan Bin Issa al-Atawi (aka Abu al-Lith al-Tabooki) had conducted himself in a manner inconsistent with the policies of the Al-Nusra Front and that he did not submit to the organization's authority. Therefore, in light of the decision by organization's Shura Council, it was decided to jail al-Atawi for two weeks and to dismiss him from the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front, and it was clarified that he no longer represented the organization; he was not allowed to approach Al-Nusra Front centers and his money was confiscated.⁷⁶
- During the first half of August 2014, the jihadist news agency, Hemm, which tracks developments in Syria in general, and members of the Al-Nusra Front in particular, published the following:
 - A video (no. 91) documenting the Imam Shatibi Institute for Quran Studies, Reading and Writing in Dara'a Province".⁷⁷

The Islamic State – Homs Province

- The Islamic State in Homs Province published a response to claims by the Al-Nusra Front. The announcement stated that the Islamic State welcomed the Al-Nusra Front's willingness to

⁷⁵ <http://justpaste.it/gk1g> (Arabic).

⁷⁶ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁷ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/499631381572751360

resolve the disagreements through a shari'a court after five months of unnecessary stalling by the Al-Nusra Front. Nevertheless, the IS wanted to respond to the Al-Nusra Front's criticism. Among other things, the announcement questioned whether the conflicts were caused by the Islamic State, which is the larger and more established of the organizations, or by the Al-Nusra Front, which it described as a dissident faction. Finally, regarding the claim that the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate was not legal according to shari'a, the announcement stated that no proof of this claim from shari'a has been provided. Regarding the organization's relationship with Al-Qaeda, the announcement stated that the issue begs the question: does the IS belongs to Al-Qaeda or is an allegiance on behalf of IS leaders to Al-Qaeda?⁷⁸

The Islamic State – Al-Baraka Province

- The Islamic State in Al-Hasaka Province (referred to as Al-Baraka Province by IS fighters) published an announcement addressed to residents of the province. In the framework of the announcement, the organization encouraged Sunni Muslims in the province to support the IS, and it called on recruits in Bashar al-Assad's army and supporters of PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) forces to repent soon before it is too late.⁷⁹

The Islamic State – Aleppo Province

- The Islamic State in Aleppo published photographs from preparations for an execution of a man accused of witchcraft in Manbij in northern Aleppo. The photographs show that the execution was carried out in front of a large crowd in the town's central plaza.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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



The execution of a man accused of witchcraft by the Islamic State

The Islamic State – Al-Raqqa Province

- The Islamic State in Al-Raqqa Province published a video documenting the liberation of an area that had been under the control of Division 93.⁸¹

Other Jihadist Organizations

- The Salafi-jihadist umbrella organization, “Ansar al-Din Front”, which was established during the second half of July 2014, published a charter presenting the principles of its ideology.⁸²



The charter banner

Lebanon

- The Islamic State expanded its influence in Lebanon. Members of the organization kidnapped approximately 20 soldiers and security forces in the Lebanese city of Arsal in protest against the

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

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

arrest of Sheikh Ahmed Abu Jum'a, a commander in the Fajr al-Islam Brigades who recently swore allegiance to the Islamic State.⁸³ Until August 15, it was not clear what had happened to the abductees but the Lebanese media reported on secret talks for their release.⁸⁴



A photograph of some of the abductees in Arsal

- The Lebanese sheikh, Ahmed al-Assir, published a statement in which he referred to the Lebanese army as a Crusader army and declared that its dead should not be buried with Muslims. Specifically, al-Assir referred to the collaboration between Hezbollah and the Lebanese army, and presented the army's recent attacks in Arsal as an example of the army's policies against the Sunni population in the country.⁸⁵

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

Operation 'Protective Edge' - the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip – continued but global jihadist organizations played a less dominant role in this battle. In the Sinai Peninsula, on the other hand, friction continued between terrorist organizations and Egyptian security forces.

On August 4, 2014 eleven armed gunmen were killed in gunfire in the Sinai Peninsula. According to a report, Egyptian security forces killed the gunmen and also destroyed vehicles that they claimed belonged to terrorist groups.⁸⁶

⁸³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁴ <http://www.nna-leb.gov.lb/ar/show-news/111149> (Arabic).

⁸⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁶ <http://www.dailynsegypt.com/2014/08/04/11-killed-sinai-raids-military-spokesman> (English).

On August 7, 2014 a gas pipe exploded in Al-Arish in northern Sinai; an unidentified gunmen planted explosive material under the pipe, fled and detonated the device remotely. Egyptian security forces closed the area following the explosion in order to hunt down the terrorist who was suspected to be a member of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, a prominent jihadist organization in the Sinai Peninsula.⁸⁷ On the same day, the Egyptian Prosecutor General announced the arrest of six Egyptians on suspicion that they belonged to Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis.⁸⁸

Operation ‘Protective Edge’

- During Operation ‘Protective Edge’, reactions to the war in Gaza on the part of terrorist organizations affiliated with global jihad were occasionally published. These reactions were mostly characterized by expressions of solidarity and identification with the residents of Gaza, and by calls for action against Israel and the Jews. Such reactions came from the following sources, among others:
 - **The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** published an announcement titled, “The Palestinian Tragedy Shocks all Nations of the World”. In the announcement, the Islamic Emirate accused Israel of intentionally attacking civilians and slaughtering the people of Gaza. In addition, it claimed that the resistance in Gaza had led the IDF to experience many losses, suffer defeat and be forced to retreat from the Gaza Strip. It also stated that, despite America’s support for Israel, most nations of the world – especially Muslim nations – identify with the Palestinians and want to bring an end to the fighting.⁸⁹
 - **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**, which operates in the Sinai Peninsula, claimed responsibility for shooting four Grad rockets at an IDF base in Ketziot on August 1, 2014. The claim of responsibility contained photos of the rocket launches, which were carried out “as an expression of support for the people of Gaza”.⁹⁰
 - The media wing of the **Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem**, which operates in the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula, published a video in the framework of

⁸⁷ <http://thecairopost.com/news/121018/news/gas-pipeline-explosion-for-the-25th-time-in-sinai> (English).

⁸⁸ <http://thecairopost.com/news/121073/news/barakat-orders-arrest-of-6-alleged-ansar-al-sharia-members> (English).

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

⁹⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

which a member of the organization sent a threatening message to Jews and the launch of mortar fire at Israel was documented.⁹¹

- **Al-Salafiyya al-Jihadiyya** in Gaza, which serves as an umbrella organization for several jihadist factions in the Gaza Strip, published an announcement regarding the deaths of three of its members in an Israeli bombing after rockets were launched at Israel. In addition, the organization published obituaries for the deceased in which it included each militant's name, photo and the circumstances of his death.⁹²

In another announcement, the organization claimed responsibility for an ambush on IDF soldiers in eastern Rafah. The announcement stated that five militants had ambushed the soldiers after planting several bombs at the scene and that ten Israeli soldiers had been killed, and over 15 others injured, in the attack.⁹³



The Al-Salafiyya al-Jihadiyya fighters who were killed

- **Jaysh al-Umma**, which operates in the Gaza Strip, published a claim of responsibility for the launch of 107 rockets into Sderot,⁹⁴ and at IDF forces in the Hajar Al-Dik village in

⁹¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Gaza.⁹⁵

- Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum discussed the Islamic State's reaction to events in Palestine. Some of the visitors claimed that the IS avoided publicly supporting Hamas in light of the latter's ties to Iran while others claimed that the IS was already busy enough on several fronts, which prevented it from getting involved in events in Palestine. Another visitor provided excerpts from speeches by Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, the former leader of the organization, which demonstrated the Islamic State's support for the Palestinian issue.⁹⁶

Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis

- Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which operates in the Sinai Peninsula, published a video regarding the bombings carried out by the Egyptian regime in the Sinai Peninsula. The beginning of the video showed a woman whose house was bombed accusing the President of Egypt, al-Sisi, of collaborating with Israel and protecting the Jews. In revenge for the bombing, the organization provided photographs from August 3, 2014 documenting the bombing and destruction of three buildings belonging to the Egyptian Border Guard.⁹⁷

The Maghreb [North Africa]

In light of the worsening security chaos in Libya, UN representative began negotiations to reach a ceasefire between the armed militias operating in the capital city, Tripoli.⁹⁸ It should be noted that a large part of the conflicts taking place in the western part of the country are based on tribal issues, which led Ahmed Gaddaf al-Dam, a senior Libyan government official during Gaddafi's reign, to announce the future establishment of a joint leadership in Libya to be composed of a coalition of the largest tribes in the country.⁹⁹

⁹⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2014/08/11/newsbrief-01 (English).

⁹⁹ <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/north-africa/libya/2014/08/08/%D9%82%D8%B0%D8%A7%D9%81-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%85-%D9%82%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D9%85%D8%B4%D9%83%D9%84%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%86->

Even though the situation in neighboring Tunisia is not as grave, the analyst Nouredine Mbarki warned that the terrorist threat in the country may become more substantial for three reasons: the presence of a jihadist group in Tunisia that has already claimed responsibility for attacks (Ansar al-Sharia), a situation in Libya that enables Tunisian jihadists to find shelter, and the return of Tunisian jihadist fighters from Syria and Iraq.¹⁰⁰ These announcements came against the backdrop of a planned terrorist attack that targeted public officials and institutions that was thwarted by the Tunisian authorities,¹⁰¹ as well as the arrest of a suspected terrorist.¹⁰²

Authorities in Algeria and Morocco also continued to combat terrorism in their countries. In the middle of August, the Algerian army launched an operation to eradicate remaining terrorist enclaves in Tizi Ouzou Province,¹⁰³ and security forces killed two terrorists in Tlemcen Province.¹⁰⁴ In Morocco, authorities arrested a man suspected of recruiting youth to the Al-Nusra Front in Syria¹⁰⁵ and dismantled a network that recruited fighters to the Islamic State.¹⁰⁶

Libya

- The Fursan al-Balagh jihadist media institution published the text from a speech given by Sheikh Abu Abdallah al-Libi from Ansar al Sharia in Libya. Al-Libi began his speech by offering encouragement to the mujahideen and emphasized that their war for the religion was an important, holy war; al-Libi emphasized that the existence of a Muslim group that conducts itself solely according to the ways of God and shari'a is a threat to infidel regimes and, therefore, it is important to remain steadfast and patient. Al-Libi directly addressed Muslims in Libya and explained that the way out of the crisis is to abandon disputes and unite under the banner of Islam while resisting secular and infidel regimes. Al-Libi concluded with an appeal to enemies of the religion and secular groups, which he referred to as the "tails of the Jews and

[%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%84-%D8%AA%D9%82%D9%88%D8%AF-%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A8%D8%A7.html](#) (Arabic).

¹⁰⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2014/08/08/reportage-01 (English).

¹⁰¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2014/08/08/newsbrief-01 (English).

¹⁰² http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2014/08/08/newsbrief-04 (English).

¹⁰³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2014/08/15/newsbrief-03 (English).

¹⁰⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2014/08/14/newsbrief-02 (English).

¹⁰⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/08/04/feature-02 (English).

¹⁰⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2014/08/15/newsbrief-01 (English).

the Christians”, warned them against continuing their war against Islam, and called on them to repent and return to the correct path.¹⁰⁷

Egypt

- A group of militants calling itself the Helwan Brigades published a video in which several gunmen threatened security forces and the Egyptian Ministry of Interior, and declared that they were tired of the peace-seeking approach of the Muslim Brotherhood.¹⁰⁸ The Ministry of Interior reacted to the video and claimed that the group was trying “to spread chaos and intimidate civilians”.¹⁰⁹



The first appearance of the Helwan Brigades

Nigeria

Boko Haram

Boko Haram continued to attack Nigerian security forces as well as the civilian population, especially in northeast Nigeria. During the first half of August 2014, the organization kidnapped dozens of girls and men after it attacked a village in the northeast of the country near the border with Chad.¹¹⁰ Boko Haram has carried out a continuous wave of attacks against the civilian population, the most prominent of which took place in April 2014 with the abduction of 300

¹⁰⁷ <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.dailynsegypt.com/2014/08/30/helwan-brigades-muslim-brotherhood-members-interior-ministry>

¹¹⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/08/boko-haram-nigeria-201481511247502863.html>

schoolgirls. The Nigerian government promised at the time to concentrate its efforts on defeating the organization and bringing back the girls, but to date over 200 girls are still missing and the organization continues to sow fear and terror among residents of northeast Nigeria. The global campaign on social networks for the release of the abducted girls (such as the Twitter hashtag #BringBackOurGirls) did not yield results and was ridiculed by the organization.¹¹¹

Somalia

The Somali arena was quieter than usual as Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, the prominent jihadist organization in Somalia, kept a low profile and did not even carry out small attacks. In contrast, Somali security forces have been fighting against Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in full force.

On August 15, 2014 the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) liberated three villages in the Hiran region in Somalia from Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants as part of its wide-scale operations against the organization with the help of the Ethiopian army.¹¹²

That same day, riots broke out in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. Somali fighters and AMISOM forces participated in the riots against houses storing weapons intended to be used to harm civilians. This operation was carried out as part of the weapons dismantling project being led by the government of Somalia.¹¹³

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- During the first half of August 2014, the Al-Kataib jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published the following:
 - A video titled, “Beyond the Shadows: The Failed French Raid”. The video, which was over 30-minutes long, described the failed attempt by France to rescue the agent, Dennis Alex, in Bulomarer in January 2013, which ended in the execution of the French agent by members of the organization. The video also included interviews with two people who

¹¹¹ <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/missing-nigeria-schoolgirls/nigerias-brutal-islamist-sect-boko-haram-stages-fresh-mass-kidnap-n181571> (English).

¹¹² <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408170006.html> (English).

¹¹³ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408160022.html> (English).

were accused of spying for France and transferring information that lay the foundation for the rescue attempt.¹¹⁴



From left to right: the video banner; a member of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen reconstructing the failed French rescue attempt

- A video documenting two competitions that were held among members of the organization on the topic of Quran memorization.¹¹⁵

The Indian Subcontinent

- The Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum announced that the Indonesian-language Al-Busyro Web forum was accepting questions from forum visitors posed to Sheikh Abu Warda, the leader of the “Mujahideen of Indonesia – Timor” with the goal of getting closer to the Muslim Nation. To this end, they provided a user name and password to the forum.¹¹⁶



The announcement banner

¹¹⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

The West

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamic preacher in England, continued to publish controversial correspondence on his Twitter account. During the first half of August 2014, Choudary focused on various topics, including the rights and obligations of non-Muslim citizens under the rule of the Islamic Caliphate, the law regarding an oath of allegiance to the Islamic Caliphate (in his opinion, a Muslim who believes that the Caliphate is legitimate may swear allegiance to it), and the need to act for the release of his teacher, Sheikh Omar Bakhi, a radical Islamist preacher, from a Lebanese prison. Choudary also posted links to speeches that were delivered at a special festival against democracy that was held in Denmark on August 2, 2014.¹¹⁷



Anjem Choudary @anjemchoudary · Aug 6

The future of Lebanon is implementation of Shari'ah, this could come peacefully by authority being handed to Muslims or via a military coup!



39

16

...

Choudary advises implementing shari'a in Lebanon whether by peaceful means or by military coup

¹¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary> (English).

AN EVENING WITH USTADH ANJEM CHOUDARY

Discussing

**"THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND OBLIGATIONS OF NON-MUSLIMS
LIVING IN THE ISLAMIC STATE (KHILAFAH) IN LIGHT OF RECENT
EVENTS IN IRAQ AND SYRIA"**



**THIS TUESDAY &
SATURDAY @
9:30PM**

PALTALK ROOM :

**'ROAD TO
JANNAH'**

TUESDAY SESSION 1

The contract, duties and the obligations of Non-Muslims living in the Khilafa

SATURDAY SESSION 2

What negates the contract and its consequences. Life and Security under the Shariah

The banner for a series of lectures given by Choudary on the topic of the rights and obligations of non-Muslims living under the rule of the Islamic Caliphate

Miscellaneous

- The Fursan al-Balagh media group published an index (19 pp.) of all jihadist publications by various jihadist organizations during the month of Ramadan in 2014.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁸ <https://alfidaa.info/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.

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