

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The Second Half of July 2014

Highlights

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

- The wave of condemnation continues from Al-Qaeda activists and their supporters against the declaration of the Islamic Caliphate and members of the Islamic State, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Sheikh Abu Mundhir al-Shanqiti al-Shanqiti, a prominent jihadist cleric, points out the problems involved in the declaration of an Islamic Caliphate based on shari'a. In contrast, members of the Islamic State continue to justify the establishment of the caliphate. In addition, various jihadist organizations continue to swear allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.
- The Islamic State continues its efforts to recruit operatives among Muslims in Kazakhstan and Indonesia.
- A new Salafi jihadist organization in Syria is established. The organization, called the "Ansar al-Din Front", serves as an umbrella organization composed of: the Sham al-Islam Movement, the Army of Emigrants and Supporters (Jaysh al-Mujahidin wal-Ansar), the Fajr al-Sham al-Islamiyya movement and the Green Battalion. The establishment of the new organization receives condemnation from members of the Islamic State.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claims responsibility for an attack on an army drone base in the city of Seiyun. A video is published describing the modus operandi of the attack.
- Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis in the Environs of Jerusalem publishes a video in which it explains the modus operandi of the terrorist attack that its members carried out against southern Israel on August 18, 2011.
- A new jihadist media institution called Al-Husam was created in order to focus on developments and events in the arena of jihad in Yemen.

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New Publications

Ideology

- During the second half of July 2014, the Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published the following:
 - A video titled, “Days with the Imam – Part 6”. The video included an interview with Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, regarding the character and life of Sheikh Osama bin Laden, the former leader of Al-Qaeda who was killed in 2012.¹



Banner of the video transcription

- The Nukhbat al-Ilam al-Jihadi jihadist media organization published a new series of publications titled, “The Enlightenment”. The first part of the series dealt with “Attributes of the Mujahideen” by Sheikh Dr. Sami al-Aridi, a member of the Shura Council of the Al-Nusra Front.²



The banner of the new publication series

¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

² <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

- The Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which serves as the voice of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published several videos (no. 1-9) by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nazari, a senior member of the organization, in the framework of a series of publications titled, “The Good Reminder”. The series was composed of lessons on religion and Islamic law. The ninth lesson, for example, provided evidence from holy Islamic sources that Muslim believers are stronger and more exalted than the infidels.³
- The Al-Hayat jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the Islamic State, published a recruitment video titled, “Those who were Faithful to God”. The video focused on a group of foreign fighters from Kazakhstan who joined the ranks of the organization. In the video, the fighters emphasized the importance of fulfilling the obligation to wage jihad alongside the organization.⁴



The video banner

- The Al-Hayat jihadist media institution published another recruitment video in Indonesian titled, “Join the Ranks”. The video was created specifically for the Indonesian community in order to encourage Indonesian Muslims to become jihad fighters and join the fighting in Syria.⁵



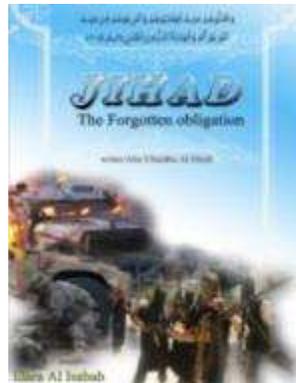
From left to right: a group of Indonesian fighters imploring Muslims to join jihad; the video banner

³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <https://twitter.com/E3tsm/status/489479207660318720>

⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://al-mustaqbal.net/al-hayat-media-center-merilis-nasihat-mujahidin-asal-indonesia-untuk-berhijrah-ke-bumi-syam/>

- The jihadist media institution of Ansar-ul-Tawhid, Al-Isabah, published a pamphlet (39 pp.) in English titled, “JIHAD: The Forgotten Obligation” by Ubaidha al Hindi. The pamphlet encouraged and justified jihad attacks against enemies of Islam.⁶



The pamphlet banner

The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published a pamphlet containing a collection of responses to questions posed by Turkish jihadists. The responses were provided by Sheikh Atiyyat Allah al-Libi, a senior ideologue in Al-Qaeda who was killed in August 2011 by an American drone. The pamphlet itself mainly focused on the issue of *takfir* (the practice of one Muslim declaring another Muslim an unbeliever). Al-Libi warned the jihadists not to rush to declare takfir on other Muslims but rather to give considerable thought to the issue.⁷

The pamphlet was first published in July 2012 but its re-distribution on several jihadist Web forums indicated two things: first, the elevated status that al-Libi enjoys among the mujahideen and the importance ascribed to his word; and second, an effort to present the Islamic State as an organization that behaves recklessly, without exercising good judgement and without relying on Islam’s holy texts in its classification of many Muslims as infidels.

- Sheikh Mariyya al-Qahtani, a member of the Shura Council of the Al-Nusra Front, published an article titled, “The Nation between Zubari in Al-Sham and Zubari in Algeria”. According to al-Qahtani, the situation in Syria today is similar to the situation in Algeria during the 1990’s. Just

⁶ <http://aimp.bugs3.com/jihad-the-forgotten-obligation/>

⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

as the Islamic State is indiscriminately slaughtering Muslims, including women and children, and fighting against jihadists from other organizations and groups in Syria solely because they don't agree with the Islamic State's worldview, so too did several jihadist organizations in Algeria kill innocent Muslims, deepening the rift among jihadists during the 1990's. Al-Qahtani called upon the mujahideen to take this issue seriously and not join the ranks of the Islamic State. According to him, Abu Musa'ab al-Suri, a prominent ideologue in Al-Qaeda, has extensively discussed the great damage caused by several jihadist groups in Algeria to the jihad efforts against the regime by turning their weapons against their fellow fighters and the civilian population. According to him, the continued seeping of the Islamic State's ideology into the minds of other Muslims, and the strengthening of the organization, will eventually destroy jihad efforts against the enemies of Islam. At the end of the article, al-Qahtani again called on Muslims to wake up and not lend a hand to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and his band of murderers.⁸

- Visitors to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum, led by one of the forum users, began a thread in which they mocked the religious edicts published by the Islamic State. The thread opened with a report according to which the Islamic State (referred to in the thread as a "terrorist organization") is seizing control of entire areas and preventing residents from leaving and entering the area without approval, and are publishing ridiculous religious rulings, including: the fast of an individual who does not like the Islamic State is unacceptable; the encouragement of women to perform "sexual jihad" for IS fighters; whoever uses the term, "Daash" will be punished with 70 lashes; it is forbidden to eat salad since the cucumber and tomato represent male and female, and must not meet on the same plate.⁹
- The Salafi-jihadist Web portal, Minbar Al-Tawheed Wal-Jihad, led by Sheikh Mohammad al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, noted that he was surprised at the accusations made by the Al-Ghuraba jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the IS, that he is silencing people like Sheikh Abu Mundhir al-Shanqiti al-Shanqiti, a prominent sheikh and religious adjudicator in the jihad world. The background to these allegations was provided in a statement published by al-Shanqiti in which he stated that he has no connection to a document from February 2014 expressing support for the IS, which was

⁸ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

allegedly signed by him and other jihadist clerics. In light of this, al-Shanqiti decided to publish his response to these allegations on July 30, 2014 on the Minbar Al-Tawheed Wal-Jihad jihadist Web portal.

Al-Shanqiti clarified that he was the one who asked to publish the statement on the Minbar Al-Tawheed Wal-Jihad jihadist Web portal, according to his personal discretion and not under duress from anyone. Al-Shanqiti emphasized that he has no idea who published the announcement in his name claiming that he belonged to a media institution that supports the IS; it took him time to respond and publish a denial since he was offline for a while and had no idea that someone had published a statement in his name. Al-Shanqiti explained that he does not accuse anyone of forging the document but he himself has nothing to do with it and the administrators of the Al-Ghuraba jihadist media institution must check their sources before they publish statements – there is no shame in admitting to a mistake. If the Al-Ghuraba jihadist media institution somehow received confirmation of the document signed by al-Shanqiti, then it is fake. Even if the person who forged the document did so in order to promote the IS, which he supports, he is not allowed to publish lies and fabricated documents.

Finally, al-Shanqiti demanded that the administrators of the Al-Ghuraba jihadist media institution apologize to the Minbar Al-Tawheed Wal-Jihad jihadist Web portal, and especially to Sheikh Abu Mohammad al-Maqdisi, which published the statement in his name; the statement of denial was published off of the portal platform, initiated by al-Shanqiti, and there is no reason to complain to the administrators of the portal.¹⁰

- Sheikh Abu Mundhir al-Shanqiti published an article titled, “The Placement of the Caliphate on the Scales in Matters of Shari’a”, in which he discussed the conditions acceptable for the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate. According to him, it is problematic that the IS considers itself to be the only legitimate organization in the Muslim world. He wondered if the reason why the organization did not consult with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan when it declared the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate “was because it does not consider it to be a legitimate emirate”. And if the IS does consider the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to be a legitimate emirate, then what is the rationale behind revoking its legitimacy and telling its supporters,

¹⁰ <http://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=30071401>

‘swear allegiance to me?’¹¹

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic State, Al-Furqan, published a propaganda video titled, “the Caliphate upon the methodology of the Prophet” referring to the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate as the fulfilment of God’s promise to his Muslim believers.¹²



The video banner

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum published an unsigned statement from “the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan”. In the beginning of the statement, the anonymous author praised IS jihad fighters and then criticized Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi and Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini, who had expressed their strong reservations about the IS and its activities. The statement ended with several messages, including a call on members of the Al-Nusra Front, led by Abu Muhammad al-Julani, to leave the organization and swear allegiance to the IS. In addition, it explained that the statement was published anonymously for security reasons despite the fact that the majority of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan supports the IS.¹³
- The Fursan al-Balagh jihadist media group published a collection of poems (129 pp.) in praise of the Islamic Caliphate and members of the Islamic State. The collection was written by a jihadist writer and poet named Ahlam al-Nasr.¹⁴
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum published photographs of a demonstration held in support of the Islamic Caliphate that was held in an unknown location in Germany.

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

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

¹³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

According to the writer, police forces clashed with the IS supporters using clubs and pepper gas. Most of the demonstrators were recent converts to Islam.¹⁵



A demonstration in Germany in support of the Islamic Caliphate

Oaths of Allegiance to the Islamic State

- The trend of swearing allegiance to, and expressing support for, the Islamic State and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi continued:
 - Jama'at al-I'tisam bil-Quran wal-Sunna (the group of adherents to the Quran and Sunnah in Sudan), a Salafist group in the Sudan, expressed support for the Islamic Caliphate and willingness to support it: “We see in this event a great opportunity to unite Muslims and to strengthen their ranks in the battle against their enemies [...]”.¹⁶
 - Hummat al-Dawa al-Salafiyya, a Salafi-jihadist group in the Maghreb, published a video in which its members announced their oath of allegiance to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).¹⁷

Strategy

- The jihadist media institution of AQIM, Al-Malahim, published the fifth video in a series titled, “Deterrence of Aggression”. The video described the plan of attack that was carried out by members of the organization against a drone base in the city of Seiyun, in central Yemen, on June 26, 2014.¹⁸

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

¹⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://justpaste.it/gd124>

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

¹⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

- Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis, a Salafi-jihadist organization operating in the Sinai Peninsula, published a video titled, “Al-Furqan Battle”, in which it described the terrorist attack in southern Israel that was carried out on August 18, 2011. The video opened with a dedication to the people of Gaza and to (female) prisoners in Israeli jails. The operation’s stages, design and execution were presented by a spokesman for the organization whose face was blurred and by a militant who took part in the attack, named Abu Mus'ab. The video also included the last will and testament of the militants who were killed in the attack as well as detailed information regarding the course of the operation itself.¹⁹



The video banner

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum published on the forum’s military section a guidebook explaining which raw materials are needed to create explosive material. The guidebook included 14 files and a video.²⁰
- The administrator of the Al-Minbar jihadist Web forum published a book titled, “The Study of Military Topography”. It also stated that the book was taught in Islamic State camps.²¹

¹⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The Global Jihadist Media Front jihadist media institution published a video documenting a meeting with a suicide bomber named Moner Muhammad Abu-Salha (aka Abu Hurayra al-Amriki), who carried out an attack in Syria using an explosives-laden truck in May 2014. In the video, Abu-Salha talked about his life as a Muslim in the United States and about his decision to wage jihad. The video ended with threatening messages directed at Barack Obama, Bashar al-Assad and Israel, as well as a photograph of the attack itself.²²



Abu-Salha in a message threatening the infidels

- The Dagestan Province in the Caucasus published a video in memory of Sheikh Doku Umarov, the former Emir of the Islamic Caucasus Emirate who is thought to have been killed in the beginning of 2014.²³



Sheikh Doku Umarov

- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution launched a series of publications in Urdu titled, “Jihadi Memories”, dedicated to the memory of senior commanders in the Taliban in Pakistan. The first

²¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

²³ https://twitter.com/VDagestan_Ar/status/491034022739730432 (Arabic).

video was dedicated in memory of Muhammad Ayub and the second video was dedicated in memory of Ahmad Khan Hijazi.²⁴



Promos to the videos

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem, a Salafi-jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip, published a eulogy (no. 48) in memory of Abd Allah al-Farra, a member of the organization. According to the announcement, al-Farra was killed in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip as a result of shooting by IDF aircraft while he prepared for an ambush.²⁵



The banner launched in memory of the terrorist, al-Farra

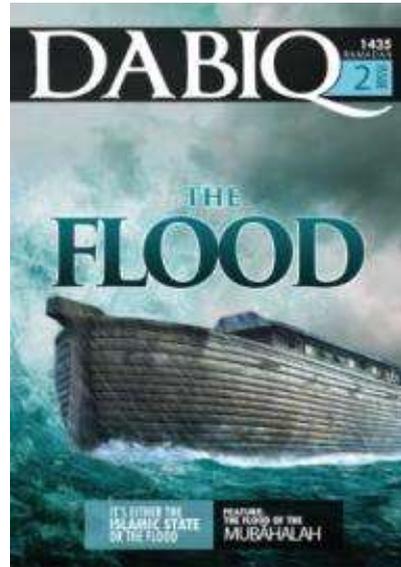
Magazines

- The Islamic Caliphate published the second edition of its periodical, *Dabiq*, which included articles on the following topics:
 - A plea to Muslims to move to the territory of the Islamic Caliphate and to swear allegiance to it. Any Muslim who are unable to do so should record himself swearing allegiance to the Caliphate and circulate it on the Internet.
 - Justification points intended to defend the ways of the Islamic State while making a comparison to the Biblical story of Noah and the Flood.
 - The struggle in the Kurdish organization, PKK.

²⁴ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

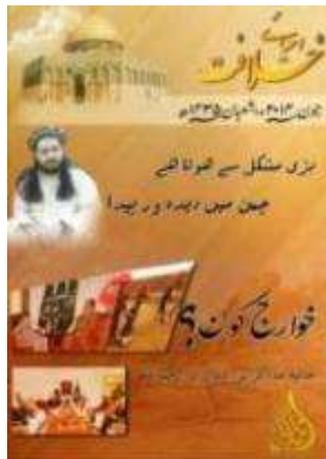
²⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Documentation of the Tombs of Saints and mausoleums in Nineveh Province in Iraq as they serve as a symbol of heresy.
- Arguments against condemnation of the Islamic State and the Islamic Caliphate.
- Documentation of the application of shari'a by members of the organization.



The banner of the magazine edition

- The jihadist media institution of the Taliban in Pakistan, Umar, published the eight edition of the jihadist magazine, *Ihya*, in Urdu.²⁶



²⁶ <http://www.ihyaekhilafat.com/ihyaekhilafat-8.html>

The banner of the magazine edition

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda, Al-Sahab, published the first edition of a new monthly periodical called *Al-Nafir*. In the preface, the editor of the periodical explained that the oath of allegiance is, first and foremost, given to Mullah Omar, leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan and Emir of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and to the Al-Qaeda leadership. He then expressed solidarity with, and empathy for the pain of, persecuted Muslims around the world. He promised to help them and to fight the regimes collaborating with the enemies of Islam. In addition, he sent a message of support to the mujahideen fighting in Chechnya, Somalia, eastern Turkistan and other arenas of jihad.²⁷



The logo of the *Al-Nafir* periodical

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, clashes continued between the Taliban and US forces, which have claimed and continues to claim many victims.

On July 16, 2014 an American drone attacked a hiding place for militants in northwest Pakistan. 13 people were killed in the attack. Pakistan's Foreign Minister condemned the attack and said that it was a violation of the sovereignty of his country.²⁸

On July 22, 2014 a Taliban suicide bomber blew himself up outside of the International Airport in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. Three foreign advisors and one Afghani translator were killed in the attack. Zabihullah Mujahid, Spokesman for the Taliban, claimed responsibility for the

²⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁸ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/12/pakistan-us-drone-strikes>

attack a short while after it was carried out.²⁹

On July 29, 2014 Hashmat Karzai, the powerful cousin of the President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, was killed along with his bodyguard in a suicide attack that took place at his estate in Kandahar. Karzai played an important role in mediating between the tribes in Kandahar and was known as an associate of the leading candidate for the Presidency, Ashraf Ghani.³⁰

The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan

- The Emir of the Faithful, Mullah Omar, published a greeting for the holiday of Eid al-Fitr. In the speech, Mullah Omar called on Muslim soldiers and police officers everywhere not to serve the interests of the occupiers and the invaders of their lands, but rather to take the correct path and join jihad. In addition, Mullah Omar called on religious leaders to properly educate the youth in order to prevent them from being brainwashed by the enemy. He also explained that the policy of the Islamic Emirate must be to welcome with open arms those who return from the enemy side and repent. Mullah Omar went on to criticize what, in his opinion, was the mock process of elections currently being conducted according to American interests, and he emphasized that the war in Afghanistan will only end once all of the invaders retreat from the country and are replaced by an independent Islamic regime.³¹

The Arabian Peninsula

The President of Yemen, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, announced that his country has been waging an uncompromising war against Al-Qaeda since May 2014 and he promised to eradicate the presence of the organization from Yemen. In light of this, he declared that Yemen intended to expand its military operation in Shabwa and Abyan in southern Yemen, which are considered to be Al-Qaeda strongholds.³² Despite this, it seems that Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has continued to maintain its power, an impression made even stronger in light of its efforts to impose shari'a in Hadhramaut Province and in light of AQAP's intention to declare the province to be an

²⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/22/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKBN0FROBH20140722>

³⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/29/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKBN0FYOLR20140729>

³¹ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

³² <http://www.albawabhnews.com/703224>

Emirate.³³ Operations also continued against Yemeni security forces. On July 20, 2014 several AQAP militants attacked soldiers' residences in Abyan Province and detonated a car bomb. As a result, two soldiers and ten jihadists were killed.³⁴

At the same time, the declaration of the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate by the IS received supportive reactions in Yemen as well. The Yemeni Salafist sheikh, Abd ak-Majid al-Hathari al-Rimi, appealed to members of Ansar al-Sharia in Yemen, an affiliate of AQAP, to show support for the new caliphate and pleaded with them to help members of the Islamic State.³⁵

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- During the second half of July 2014, the jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahim, published the following:
 - An announcement titled, “Attack against a drone base in Seiyun”, which is in central Yemen. The announcement stated that the attack took place on June 26, 2014 in response to the aggression by the US and the Yemeni regime, which supports it; namely, drone strikes. In the operation, the headquarters from which the drones are dispatched was attacked using a car bomb driven by a suicide terrorist. In addition, the watch tower in the airport and the central building of the drone headquarters were attacked.³⁶
 - A video documenting an attack by members of the organization against the Intelligence headquarters of the Yemen army in Lahij Province. Sheikh Abu Huraira Qasim al-Rimi, a member of the organization’s Shura Council, explained and justified the attack against Yemeni army forces.³⁷
 - A video documenting raids carried out by members of the organization on checkpoints set up by Yemeni security forces in Hadhramaut Province.³⁸
 - An announcement and video regarding an operation it referred to as “revenge of the [female] prisoners in Sharurah, a province in southern Saudi Arabia”. The announcement

³³ <http://www.aawsat.net/2014/07/article55334563>

³⁴ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/07/27/2-Yemen-soldiers-10-Qaeda-dead-in-car-bomb-attacks-.html> (English).

³⁵ <http://www.yafa-news.net/archives/109159>

³⁶ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

stated that in response to the nefarious actions of the Saudi regime, which works against Muslims, jails Muslims without cause, and allows American planes to operate on Saudi soil, the organization carried out an attack on July 7, 2014. The attack began with Grad rocket fire launched at the Saudi border guard center. The militants then detonated a car bomb at the entrance to the building after Yemeni forces gathered there. Finally, the mujahideen broke into the building and seized control of it.³⁹



The video banner

- Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, published a report including all of the military operations that were carried out in Lahij Province during the month of Ramadan.⁴⁰



The banner of the report

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum posted photos to the forum of written propaganda material being distributed by AQAP members to residents throughout Yemen.⁴¹

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

⁴⁰ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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



A photograph of AQAP propaganda material

- A new jihadist media organization called Al-Husam was established. In its opening remarks, the media institution expressed solidarity with AQAP fighters in light of the difficult war that they are waging against Yemeni security forces and the false propaganda campaign being waged against the organization by the media. Against this backdrop, the media institution noted that it is dedicated to providing publicity for the mujahideen in the Arabian Peninsula. In addition, the Al-Husam media institution emphasized that it is not bound by, and does not belong to, any organization or group, and that its founders sanctify the principle of the oneness of Allah. Finally, the media institution called on its readers to support the mujahideen in the Arabian Peninsula.⁴²



The logo of the Al-Husam jihadist media institution

Iraq

At the end of June, the United Nations published a summary report regarding the number of people killed and injured in Iraq during the first half of 2014. According to the report, 11,665 people were injured in Iraq during this period and at least 5,576 civilians were killed – a terrifying number

⁴² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

but lower than the 7,800 civilians who were killed during the same period last year. In addition, the report referred to the flagrant human rights violations carried out by members of the IS, including mass executions, the murder of children, and acts of rape and kidnapping.⁴³

The ones to most recently feel the impact of the Islamic State were the Christian residents of Mosul, the capital of Nineveh Province, which the organization took control of in mid-July. According to reports, hundreds of Christian civilians fled the city⁴⁴ after they were forced to choose between paying “jizya” (a per capita tax levied on Christians and Jews), converting to Islam or death.⁴⁵ The difficult situation of Christians in Mosul led Christian religious clergy around the world to call for immediate assistance for them and warned of “a humanitarian, cultural and historical disaster”.⁴⁶ The economic dimension of the Christian abandonment of Mosul is also worth noting – the Arabic letter, “N” (“Nasara” – Christians) and written on the houses left behind and they were marked as the “property of the Islamic State”.⁴⁷

The Kurdish population in the country were concerned by the situation in Mosul. Peshmerga forces were sent to the communities bordering Mosul where the Christian population found shelter – such as Qaraqosh – in order to stave off the advancement of Islamic State fighters,⁴⁸ and to train Kurdish women who expressed a willingness to enter the battlefield.⁴⁹ The action on the ground was accompanied by a warning from Masrour Barzani, head of the Kurdish region's National Security Council, that without the help of Western countries the Iraqi army will not be able to prevent a disaster at the hands of the Islamic State.⁵⁰

The Islamic State

- During the second half of July 2014, the Al-Hayat jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the Islamic State, published additional videos (no. 6-8) in a series of publications titled, “Mujatweets Episodes”. The videos focused on the daily routine of IS militants, their

⁴³ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/07/140718_iraq_un_death_toll.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁴ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/07/140721_iraq_mosul_christians.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁵ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/07/140718_iraq_isis_mosul_christians.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁶ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/07/140720_iraq_christians.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁷ <http://www.ahewar.org/news/s.news.asp?nid=1739517>

⁴⁸ <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/7/22/fleeing-christiansiniraqtakerefugewithkurds.html>

⁴⁹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/07/140715_kurdistan_female_fighters.shtml (Arabic).

⁵⁰ <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/07/20/uk-iraq-security-kurds-idUKKBN0FP06620140720> (Arabic).

interactions with residents, and more.⁵¹

The Islamic State – Baghdad

- The Islamic State in Baghdad published a claim of responsibility for a suicide attack that was carried out by an IS operative named Abu Bakr al-Ustrali ("the Australian") at a Shi'ite mosque in Shorja, in the capital of Baghdad. According to the claim of responsibility, the terrorist used an explosives belt, killing and injuring over 90 people.⁵²

The Islamic State – Salah al-Din Province

- The Islamic State in Salah al-Din Province reported that it carried out an attack at an American base. According to the announcement, the Iraqi army, in cooperation with American and Iranian intelligence agencies, repeatedly attacks Muslims in the country, specifically with drones. In response, ten Islamic State fighters attacked the Speicher Air Force Base in northwest Tikrit. Dozens of officers and soldiers were killed in the attack. The operation began with a suicide attack and continued with the full seizure of the base's airport. Many planes were burned and destroyed, and two helicopters were shot down.⁵³

The Islamic State – Mosul

- The Islamic State in Mosul published an announcement regarding various "abayas" (traditional Arabic clothing for men and women, a type of cloak). The announcement stated that women had been seen dressed in abayas that do not meet the laws of shari'a and, therefore, clarification was being provided: it is forbidden to purchase and wear tight, transparent or adorned abayas. It also noted that these instructions must be followed within five days, after which they will monitor and confiscate as needed.⁵⁴

⁵¹ <https://twitter.com/E3tsm/status/490481489151160320> (Arabic).;
<https://twitter.com/E3tsm/status/492845803992395776> (Arabic).

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

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

⁵⁴ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Several visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum held a discussion regarding the imposition of the “jizya” tax on Christian residents of Mosul. One of the visitors claimed that, despite the slander being spread by the Western media, the amount determined for the tax was fairly modest and amounted to \$80-100 per family per year, and whoever is unable to pay is exempt from the tax. In contrast, another visitor refused to welcome the move and claimed that it was a mistake to impose “jizya” at a time when the situation in Iraq is so sensitive.⁵⁵
- Several visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum held a lively discussion regarding the confiscation of homes belonging to Christian residents of Mosul by members of the IS after it took control of the city. Several visitors claimed that even though Christians persecuted and harmed Muslims throughout history, their property should not be confiscated without grounds in shari’a. Some of them added that such a step is liable to cause the masses to loathe the IS and to act against it. In contrast, other visitors claimed that since the Christians abandoned these homes, they automatically became the property of the Islamic State.⁵⁶

The Islamic State – Nineveh Province

- During the second half of July 2014, the Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for the destruction of a convoy of vehicles belonging to the Iraqi army on July 13, 2014. According to the announcement, many vehicles were destroyed or damaged and 68 people were killed in the attack that was carried out on the Rabiaa-Sinjar Road.⁵⁷
 - An announcement titled, “A denial of reports regarding the expulsion of our Sunni Kurdish brothers”. The announcement stated that various parties are interested in tarnishing the image of the IS and spreading rumors that the IS expelled the Kurds from Nineveh Province. There is no basis to this rumor since the Sunni Kurds are the brothers of IS fighters.⁵⁸

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

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

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

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

- Photographs of PR centers that were set up throughout Mosul in which IS propaganda materials were distributed to residents, and IS dawah and other videos were screened.⁵⁹



The distribution of IS propaganda material in Mosul

- A series of photographs from training centers in Nineveh Province. The photographs showed that the training included shari'a and faith instruction, physical training, night training, instruction on the use of various weapons, and ended with the deployment of graduates to various arenas of battle.⁶⁰



The training of IS operatives in Nineveh Province

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum raised a discussion regarding the importance of popular support for the Islamic State. Specifically, the visitor referred to the destruction of the graves that was carried out by members of the organization, including the grave of the biblical prophet, Jonah, in an operation that caused alienation among the population towards the Islamic State. The visitor recommended imposing religious laws gradually in order to enable the

⁵⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

population to get used to the change. Nevertheless, many other visitors claimed that the IS was justified and that there is nothing wrong with destroying “polytheistic” graves.⁶¹ It should be noted that the need to explain the destruction of the graves led one of the Islamic State’s media institutions, Al-Battar, to publish a newsletter containing quotations from the Hadith and references to events in Muslim history that justify the destruction of graves.⁶²

Ansar al-Islam

- Ansar al-Islam published a claim of responsibility for the destruction of a convoy of vehicles belonging to the Iraqi army on July 24, 2014. The announcement stated that the operation was carried out south of Tikrit using of a large number of explosives, but did not mention the number of casualties in the attack.⁶³

Army of the Men of the Naqshbandi Order

- Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi, the official spokesman for the Army of the Men of the Naqshbandi Order, published an announcement in which he denied the organization’s involvement in the expulsion of various population groups in Iraq, hinting at the expulsion of Christians from Mosul. In the framework of the announcement, al-Ayyubi presented the Army of the Men of the Naqshbandi Order as a pluralistic organization that accepts all Iraqi people without religious discrimination.⁶⁴

Al-Sham [The Levant]

*In the framework of the swearing-in ceremony for the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, to another seven-year term, he gave a speech in which he criticized those countries that aided terrorism and threatened that they would pay a heavy price. In addition, al-Assad presented his plan for the immediate future: an uncompromising war on terrorism on the one hand, and the granting of amnesty to anyone who returns from the terrorist side.*⁶⁵

⁶¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁶³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁶⁵ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/07/140717_syria_assad_oath.shtml (Arabic).

Meanwhile, certain areas in Syria continued to change hands between the Islamic State and the regime. For instance, the IS seized control of the Sha'ir gas field in Homs Province on July 17 (after it killed 270 soldiers and personnel at the scene),⁶⁶ just to lose it again to the Syrian army ten days later.⁶⁷ On July 27, the IS lost control of a Syrian army site in Al-Hasaka Province in northeast Syria after it seized control of a Division 17 military site in Al-Raqqa Province a day earlier and killed dozens of its soldiers.⁶⁸

Nevertheless, despite the frequent exchange of control, according to estimates by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) the IS now controls over 35% of Syrian territory.⁶⁹

The month of July in the region was marked by the Islamic State's positioning of itself along the Lebanese border,⁷⁰ a move that not only aroused the concern of the country's Christian residents,⁷¹ but also led to comments by the head of the Progressive Socialist Party in Lebanon, Walid Jumblatt, and the Deputy Secretary-General of Hezbollah, Naim Qassem, who claimed that Hezbollah had managed to thwart the establishment of an Islamic Emirate by the IS in Lebanon.⁷²

Syria

The Al-Nusra Front in Syria

- During the second half of July 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:
 - A video titled, "The Invasion of Jabl al-Araba'in in Idlib". The video documented a suicide attack that was carried out by Moner Muhammad Abu-Salha (aka Abu Hurayra al-Amriki), using a truck bomb, in May 2014.⁷³

⁶⁶ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/07/140719_syria_gas_field.shtml (Arabic).

⁶⁷ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/07/140727_syria_crisis_gasfield.shtml

⁶⁸ <http://www.sabr.cc/inner.aspx?id=85301>

⁶⁹ <http://www.alwasat.com.kw/news/templates/wassat-maroon.aspx?articleid=73426&zoneid=2>

⁷⁰ <http://www.elaph.com/Web/News/2014/7/927823.html?entry=arab>

⁷¹ <http://goo.gl/mZe4Nm>.

⁷² <http://goo.gl/5MjTgd>.

⁷³ <https://twitter.com/JabhtAnNusrah/status/492759015890632705/photo/1>



The video banner

- An announcement titled, “Deterring the Corrupters”, which stated that since the start of jihad in Syria, the locals have helped the mujahideen and given their money and souls for the battle against the Alawite infidels and for the fulfilment of Allah’s word. However, now there are corrupt parties that are trying to exploit the security vacuum that exists in the free areas in order to gain power. These parties (apparently hinting at the Islamic State) are erecting security checkpoints and trying to take control of the locals. The Al-Nusra Front will not tolerate this and will fight in order to achieve a just and Islamic regime.⁷⁴
- During the second half of July 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. 89) documenting the construction of bomb shelters to protect civilians due to the continued attacks on Talbiseh, near Homs in Syria.⁷⁵
 - A video (no. 90) documenting the Ansar al-Tawhid Institute for the education of the various shari’a sciences in western Dara’a.⁷⁶

The Islamic State: Aleppo Province

- The Islamic State in Aleppo announced the capture of the villages of Al-Ahmediyya and Al-Kamaliyya in Aleppo Province.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁵ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency (Arabic).

⁷⁶ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/ (Arabic).

⁷⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The Islamic State in Aleppo Province published photographs of the city of Manbij that it claimed showed dozens of people gathered each day at the registration office in order to join the organization.⁷⁸



The registration of new members to the IS in Manbij

The Islamic State – Homs Province

- The Islamic State in Homs Province announced its capture of the Al-Sha'ir gas field and eight checkpoints controlled by the Syrian regime. According to the claim of responsibility, over 300 Syrian soldiers were killed in the attack and many weapons were plundered, including 15 tanks, three BMP vehicles, 40 Grad rockets, and more.⁷⁹

The Islamic State – Al-Baraka Province

- The Islamic State in Al-Baraka Province published photographs of the bounty that was seized after an attack on a Syrian army Regiment 121 base located near Al-Hasaka. The base served as a munitions and storage base, and contained huge amounts of weapons and ammunition that will strengthen the IS in northern Syria, including: 130mm M-46 field guns, tanks, military vehicles and a great deal of ammunition.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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



Weapons and ammunition plundered by the IS took from a Syrian army Regiment 121 base

The Islamic State – Damascus

- The Islamic State in Damascus published a claim of responsibility for the launch of two Grad rockets at Hezbollah strongholds in Al-Bazaliya in northern Lebanon.⁸¹

The Islamic State – Al-Raqqa Province

- The Islamic State in Al-Raqqa Province in northern Syria stoned to death a 30-year-old local woman in Tabqa, accused of adultery. According to reports, the sentence was carried out after the woman was accused of adultery in the Islamic State’s shari’a court.

The Islamic State - Al-Khayr Province (formerly Deir el-Zour)

- The Islamic State in Al-Khayr Province sent a message to fighters in other Syrian factions fighting against the IS in Al-Mayadin, in Al-Khayr Province, that they have a number of days to atone for their actions. In addition, the IS called on Sunni tribes to rally around the IS and its plan to renew and implement Islamic law.⁸²

Other Jihadist Organizations

- Jaysh al-Islam and Suqoor al-Sham published an announcement according to which they joined the Islamic Front. In the video, which was published by the Islamic Front, its spokesman explained that this step was taken in order to prevent a rift and he called on other factions in

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

⁸² <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=14331> (Arabic).

Syria to create a united front and establish a general headquarters.⁸³

- Liwa Fajr al-Islam, a small militia operating in Homs Province in western Syria, published a video in which it renounced secular military councils and declared its allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.⁸⁴
- On July 25, 2014 a video clip was published in which four representatives from four Syrian jihadist organizations announced their merger and the establishment of a new jihadist umbrella organization called the Ansar al-Din Front. The new organization includes the Sham al-Islam Movement, the Army of Emigrants and Supporters (Jaysh al-Mujahidin wal-Ansar), the Fajr al-Sham al-Islamiya movement and the Green Battalion. In response to the merger, members of the Islamic State criticized the establishment of the new organization. For example, one member of the IS wrote on YouTube: “What prevented you from swearing allegiance to the Islamic State and helping the Caliphate. What is this logic of yours, what are you thinking and what logic are you using to decide [...]”.⁸⁵



A clip from the video announcing the establishment of the Ansar al-Din Front

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

Operation ‘Protective Edge’

- During Operation ‘Protective Edge’, the reactions of terrorist organizations affiliated with global jihad to the events taking place in Gaza were occasionally published. These reactions were

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

⁸⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx9uLbm0Nqw>

mainly characterized by expressions of solidarity and identification with the residents of Gaza, and by calls for action against Israel and the Jews. Such reactions included:

- Sheikh Abu Mohammad al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, expressed solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza and harshly criticized the Arab regimes for cooperating with the enemies of Islam. According to him, instead of working to save Palestinians, they are calling for normalization with the Jews and signing outrageous agreements, both openly and secretly. Al-Maqdisi also accused Islamic movements of being bound to their internal agenda and abandoning the arena of jihad. Finally, he emphasized that despite the fact that this is a difficult time for the people of Gaza, in time the Palestinians will be victorious and things will improve.⁸⁶



The banner of al-Maqdisi's announcement

- The Global Islamic Media Front, a media institution that publishes items regarding Al-Qaeda, published an announcement of support for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in light of the war taking place there. In the announcement, the Front expressed sorrow over the deaths of many Gaza residents and emphasized that the hearts of all Muslims are with the people of Gaza and that they would come to help if they were not prevented from doing so by ruthless regimes. The Front called on residents of Gaza not to give up and not to allow anyone else to speak in their name, and specifically not to leave their fate in the hands of the Palestinian Authority, Israel or the United States. In addition, the Front spoke out against Hamas calling it a heretical organization that cannot be trusted. They should continue to fire at Israel and to paralyze it.⁸⁷

⁸⁶ <http://justpaste.it/gekb> (Arabic).

⁸⁷ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The jihadist media institution of AQAP, Al-Malahim, published a statement titled, “The Aggression against Gaza” by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nazari Muhammad al-Mirshadi, a senior member of AQAP, in which he expressed solidarity with the residents of Gaza and called on Muslims to help them in the battle.⁸⁸
- Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published an announcement regarding the “Jewish Aggression against a Wounded Gaza”. In the announcement, which was published on the Twitter account of the “Ifrikya” blog, Ansar al-Sharia expressed support for the residents of Gaza and noted that the suffering that they are experiencing is similar to the suffering of Muslims around the world under infidel Arab regimes, the allies of the Jews.⁸⁹
- Jaysh al-Ansar, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Syria, published on its Al-Fawaris media institution a speech by Sheikh Abu al-Harith al-Maqdisi, a member of the organization, titled, “Help for Gaza”. In the video, al-Maqdisi expressed identification and solidarity with the residents of the Gaza Strip.⁹⁰



A clip from the video

- Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis, which operates in the Sinai Peninsula, published an announcement titled, “A claim of responsibility for the shooting at Eilat in support of our brothers in Gaza”. The announcement stated that fighters in the organization had fired three Grad rockets at Eilat on July 14, 2014 in support of their brothers in Gaza and in protest against Israeli aggression. In addition, the organization warned the Egyptian people not to reconcile themselves with the current Egyptian regime, which cooperates

⁸⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁹ <https://twitter.com/ifrikya2/status/490294054828400640/photo/1> (Arabic).

⁹⁰ <https://twitter.com/alfwaris1/status/490592679936675840> (Arabic).

with Israel, but rather to fight against it.⁹¹ Later, the organization published a video documenting the attack on Eilat.⁹² In another video, the organization claimed responsibility for shooting three 107mm rockets at the Bnei Netzarim Moshav and four Grad rockets at the Ketziot base.⁹³



The banner of a video documenting the launch of rockets at Bnei Netzarim and Ketziot. The video was titled, “Sorry...Gaza”.

- The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem published a video regarding the operation in Gaza in which Israeli operations were presented as crimes against humanity carried out against the civilian population. In the video, a member of the organization explained – with his face blurred – that members of the organization have not abandoned the people of Gaza and that they are doing the best they can to fight the enemy by trying to shoot down Israeli planes with rockets. The end of the video showed the launch of two Katyusha rockets into Israel.⁹⁴



The video banner

⁹¹ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

- Jaysh al-Ummah, which operates in the Gaza Strip, published a claim of responsibility for the launch of several rockets into Israel: mortar fire into assembly areas of the Israeli army east of Jabalia,⁹⁵ the launch of two 107 rockets at the Eshkol Regional Council⁹⁶ and at an observation post east of Beit Hanoun,⁹⁷ and the launch of two rockets at the Moshav of Migdal.⁹⁸ In addition, the organization published a video on the Al-Raya media institution documenting the process of rocket production and launching.⁹⁹
- The Supporters of the Islamic State in Jerusalem organization published an announcement titled, “Quality Operations by the Lions of the Oneness of Allah in the West Bank”. The announcement detailed the operations carried out by members of the organization in the West Bank in support of the oppressed Palestinians: first, the firing of a homemade rocket that fell in Har Hebron on July 3, 2014; shooting at a checkpoint of the Zionist army along the tunnels between Hebron and Jerusalem on July 3, 2014; shooting at a checkpoint that connects the Zionists to their allies (an apparent reference to the Palestinian Authority) on July 3, 2014. In addition, the announcement noted that the only source for the organization’s official publications is the Al-Platform Media web forum.¹⁰⁰
- The Izz a-Din Al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas’s military wing, announced that it had kidnapped Israeli soldier, Oron Shaul, during Operation ‘Protective Edge’ in the Gaza Strip. It should be noted that the announcement, which included the soldier’s name, photo and personal number, was published on July 20, 2014, one day before the IDF’s official announcement of the soldier’s abduction. The IDF later announced that the soldier had been killed.¹⁰¹

During Operation ‘Protective Edge’, jihadist organizations continued to operate against Egyptian security forces. On July 16, 2014 seven militants from Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which operates in the Sinai Peninsula, were killed. The militants were killed by Egyptian security forces after being

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

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

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

⁹⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁰ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰¹ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

*suspected of involvement in planning intricate terrorist attacks in northern Sinai.*¹⁰² On July 22, 2014 a Twitter account connected to Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis reported that the organization had claimed responsibility for the murder of 22 Egyptian border guard soldiers in Al-Farafra.¹⁰³ On July 26, 2014 two Egyptian police officers were shot to death in Sheikh Zuweid in the northern Sinai Peninsula by unidentified gunmen.¹⁰⁴

Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis

- During the second half of July 2014, Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which operates in the Sinai Peninsula, published the following:
 - A manifesto that was distributed to residents of the Sinai Peninsula explaining the organization's activities. Among the goals of jihad, the organization included the aspiration to establish an Islamic State that operates according to shari'a, the repelling of attacks by Jews and Christians, and the release of Muslim prisoners. At the end of the announcement, members of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis called on Sunni residents to stand by and support the organization until it enforces the laws of God and holds prayers at Al-Aqsa.¹⁰⁵
 - A speech in honor of Eid al-Fitr by the mujahid Sheikh Abu Usamah al-Misri. In the framework of his speech, al-Misri expressed solidarity with the residents of Gaza and sent several messages: a message of strength to the emir of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis and its members, a message of comfort to the residents in the Sinai Peninsula who lost their loved ones, and a message urging all of the mujahideen to continue their war against the enemy.¹⁰⁶
 - A message of condemnation blaming Israel for killing three members of the organization in a drone attack. The announcement included messages and threats towards the Jews and the regime of Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Egypt.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰² <http://thecairopost.com/news/118639/news/seven-jihadists-killed-in-north-sinai> (English).

¹⁰³ http://thecairopost.com/news/119349/press_review/7am-news-wrapup-july-22 (English).

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/07/26/two-police-officers-killed-north-sinai/> (English).

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- An announcement titled, “Israeli drone bombings of our fighters in Sinai”. The announcement stated that on July 22, 2014 Israeli drones attacked and killed a group of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis fighters in Sinai after they launched rockets at Israel in support of Gaza. The mujahideen who were killed were: Khalid Suliman Al-Mani'i, Radwan Sulayman Al-Kharafin and Helmi Odeh Al-Ba'ira. Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis threatened to attack the Jews and avenge the blood of the mujahideen, and also placed blame on Sisi's army.¹⁰⁸
- A claim of responsibility for the assassination of Brig. Gen. Fathi Saleh Omara, who was responsible for the security of Sheikh Zuweid in the Egyptian armed forces, and Brig. Gen. Mohammad Selmi Abd Raba al-Sawarkeh, the commander in charge of border security.¹⁰⁹
- An announcement that stated that the only sources of the organization's official publications are: its official Twitter account (https://twitter.com/Ansar_B_Almqds), the Shumukh al-Islam and Al-Fidaa jihadist Web forums. It emphasized that Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis has no official account on social networks.¹¹⁰

The Maghreb [North Africa]

The deterioration of the security situation in Libya was no longer limited to the area around Benghazi and the eastern part of the country. Battles between armed militias led to the closure of the airport in Tripoli and the deaths of 97 people.¹¹¹ In addition, the dangerous security situation led the US and other countries to evacuate its representatives from the embassy in Tripoli.¹¹²

The Libyan arena has become a center of contention, not only for internal parties in the country but for external parties as well. After the declaration made by the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Abdelmalek Droukdel, that he rejected the Islamic Caliphate declared by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, there were attempts by the Islamic State to court Ansar al-Sharia in Libya in the hopes that it would swear allegiance to the Caliphate and lead to the Islamic State's foothold in

¹⁰⁸ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹⁰ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹¹ <http://www.thewire.com/global/2014/07/fuel-fire-at-libyas-airport-completely-out-of-control/375164> (English).

¹¹² <http://www.24.ae/article.aspx?ArticleId=93617>; <http://www.el-balad.com/1076306>

North Africa.¹¹³

Meanwhile, Tunisia began a wave of arrests of dozens of terrorism suspects following the deaths of 15 soldiers in the Jebel Chaambi region near the border with Algeria. Among those arrested was the leader of Ansar al-Sharia in Mahdia, in eastern Tunisia.¹¹⁴ This step was also accompanied by the closure of 40 mosques throughout the country that, according to authorities, were operated by imams who encouraged religious extremism.¹¹⁵ In the framework of the war against terrorism, military cooperation was also noted between Mali and Morocco,¹¹⁶ and Algeria and Tunisia.¹¹⁷

Libya

Ansar al-Sharia in Libya

- The jihadist media institution of Ansar al Sharia in Libya, Al-Raya, published a recorded speech by Abu Abdullah al-Libi, an unknown activist in the organization, in which he sent several messages: a message of encouragement and reinforcement for the mujahideen, a warning to residents in Libya lest they believe that democracy can lead to security and stability, and a threat directed at enemies of the religion and “the servants of the Jews and Christians”.¹¹⁸
- Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published photographs from attacks against Khalifah Haftar’s strongholds. During an operation that was given the Quranic title, “Assault them through the gate”, militants seized control of six Lebanese army commando bases.¹¹⁹ After the operation, photos were published of the martyrs who were killed,¹²⁰ the large amount of weapons that were plundered,¹²¹ and a short speech by the leader of the organization, Muhammad Zahawi, in which he called on Haftar’s supporters to abandon him, calling Haftar a “revolting agent”.¹²²

¹¹³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/07/31/feature-01 (English).

¹¹⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2014/07/25/newsbrief-03 (English).

¹¹⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/07/21/feature-01 (English).

¹¹⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/07/22/feature-04 (English).

¹¹⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/07/22/feature-02 (English).

¹¹⁸ https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/status/493600970564444160/photo/1; <http://justpaste.it/fursan-t-rsael> (Arabic).

¹¹⁹ https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/ (Arabic).

¹²⁰ https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/ (Arabic);

https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/ (Arabic).

¹²¹ https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/ (Arabic).

¹²² https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/ (Arabic).

Egypt

Ajnad Misr

- The jihadist media institution of Jaysh Muhammad fi Bilad al-Sham (Mohammad's Army in Al-Sham), Al-Mi'ad, produced a video documenting a terrorist attack that members of Ajnad Misr carried out at the presidential palace in Cairo.¹²³

Nigeria

Boko Haram

*Militants from Boko Haram in Nigeria attacked the residence of Prime Minister of Cameroon in Kolofata, abducted his wife and killed at least three people. In another attack, Boko Haram militants kidnapped Sini Bukar, a local cleric and mayor. According to several analysts, these attacks were in response to Cameroon's cooperation with Nigeria in its war against Boko Haram. According to politicians in Nigeria, Boko Haram aspires to establish a rear base in Cameroon in the framework of its efforts to establish an Islamic state.*¹²⁴

Somalia

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, a prominent jihadist organization in Somalia, continued to focus on symbolic, well-executed terrorist attacks that it demonstrate its capabilities and its continued survival despite the difficulties that it faces.

*On July 19, 2014 Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for an attack that it carried out in Kenya in which gunmen shot and killed seven people on a bus, two of whom were security guards and the rest civilians. Gunmen also opened fire on a police car that passed by the scene.*¹²⁵

On July 23, 2014 Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants killed the famous Somali singer and politician, Saado Ali Warsame, who was a member of the Somali Parliament. Warsame and her driver were killed when the militants opened heavy fire on her car in the capital of Mogadishu. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack after threatening earlier that year to kill

¹²³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voE52wSiRaQ&list=UUShtvhQX_B4PzbN2IWFOZ2g

¹²⁴ <http://www.alarab.co.uk/?id=29024> (Arabic).

¹²⁵ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/19/kenya-bus-attack-al-shabaab-claims-responsibility> (English).

*all members of Parliament one by one.*¹²⁶

The Caucasus

- The Kavkaz Center jihadist media institution published a video containing an oath of allegiance to the new Emir of the Caucasus Emirate, Ali Abu Muhammad al-Daghistani, Emir of the Caucasus Emirate.¹²⁷
- On July 29, 2014 a video was published by members of the Caucasus Emirate in Noxchijcho Province. In the video, a spokesman for the Emirate expressed deep sorrow over the civil war taking place in the Levant. The video was published in order to lead the fighters of the Caucasus Emirate to come together under one leadership in the Levant rather than several leaders who are fighting against one another. In addition, he called on jihad fighters in the Levant to unite against the enemy determined by the religion and not by the desires of leaders and organizations.¹²⁸
- The media institution of Daghistan Province in the Caucasus marked seven years since the establishment of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus on October 7, 2007. In the framework of the anniversary of the Emirate's founding, the names of the provinces ruled by the Emirate, and the names of past and present senior officers, were mentioned.¹²⁹



A map of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus

¹²⁶ <http://www.theguardian.com/music/2014/jul/23/somali-singer-politician-saado-ali-warsame-murdered> (English).

¹²⁷ https://twitter.com/VDagestan_Ar/ (Arabic).

¹²⁸ <http://vdagestan.com/mudzhaxidy-vilayata-noxchijcho-obrashhenie-k-mudzhaxidam-shama.djihad> (Russian)

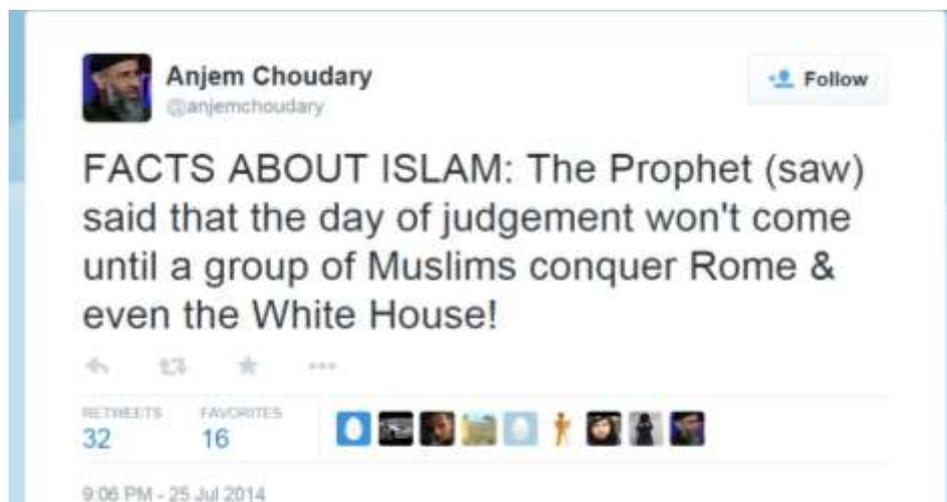
¹²⁹ <http://vdagestan.com/ar/archives/16018> (Arabic).

The Indian Subcontinent

- The jihadist media institution of Ansar al-Tawhid Hind, Al-Isabah, published a video titled, “The Lions of India” in praise of the group’s fighters.¹³⁰

The West

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamic preacher in England, continued to publish controversial correspondence on his Twitter account. During the second half of July 2014, Choudary focused on various topics, including the war in Gaza alongside which he cursed the Israeli government, the need to impose Islamic shari’a in Europe, the US and India, and the oppression of Muslims in several regions of the world, including India.¹³¹



An excerpt from a post by Choudary on his Twitter account¹³²

¹³⁰ <https://twitter.com/alIsabahmedia/status/491208290743762945>

¹³¹ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary> (English)

¹³² <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/status/492883572412649474>

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