Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The Second Half of March 2014
Highlights

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

- Mutual accusations continue between members of the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS). Sheikh Abu Abdullah al-Shami, member of the Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council and Shari’a Committee, accused the ISIS of harming jihad efforts in Syria and of bickering based on misrepresentations and lies aimed at justifying its actions. According to him, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, swore allegiance to Ayman al-Zawahiri in a letter after the killing of Osama bin Laden, but he denied this.

- Members of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan express their support for the ISIS in both written and recorded statements by one of its members, Abu al-Huda al-Sudani. A similar letter of support for the ISIS is published by several members of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

- The ISIS publishes a detailed report summarizing the organization’s operations in Iraq during 2013 and reveals their broad scope: 7,681 terrorist attacks were carried out using car bombs, explosive devices, suicide attacks, shootings and more.

- The new Egyptian jihadist group, Ansar al-Sharia in Egypt, publishes a claim of responsibility for the killing of 28 police officers and security personnel in several operations throughout Egypt.

- A new jihadist periodical called Hasad al-Jihad is published, in which it describes the operations carried out by jihadist organizations in Egypt against the Egyptian regime.

- Jama Ansar al-Tawhid in Hind publishes a video that includes an appeal from Sheikh Abd al-Rahman al-Indi, a member of the organization’s Sharia Council, to Muslims in India to act against the oppression, imprisonment and murder of Muslims by the Indian authorities.

- The Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus announces the selection of a new leader, Abu Muhammad al-Quqazi, following the death of its previous leader, Doku Umarov.

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, publishes a video about the life of Sheikh Sheikh Said al-Shihri, the deputy leader of AQAP who was killed in July 2013.
## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highlights</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Publications</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Qaeda’s Internal Rift</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting the Myth of the Martyr</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports from the Field</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan-Pakistan</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Taliban in Pakistan</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arabian Peninsula</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ansar al-Islam</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other organizations</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Sham [The Levant]</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Al-Nusra Front in Syria</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: Operations in Syria and Lebanon</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Jihadist Organizations</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ansar Beit Al-Maqdas</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Shura Council of the Mujahideen</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Maghreb [North Africa]</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ansar al-Sharia in Tunisia</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ansar al-Sharia in Libya</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Caucasus</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Indian Subcontinent</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The West</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Jihad</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Publications

Ideology

- A jihadist writer named Abu Al-Mutasim Khabab published an article about the development of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) over the years. The article tied the organization to Al-Qaeda and discussed its history, starting from the 9/11 attacks through today, and concluded that the ISIS is currently at a positive and critical junction ahead of its big victory over the infidels.¹

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published a video titled, “Together with the Quran – Part 6” by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nadhari, a senior member of the organization.²

- The jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Basira, published a video titled, “Lessons from the Life of the Lord of Mankind [referring to the Prophet Muhammad] – Part 2” by Sulayman al-Muhajir, a member of the organization’s Sharia Council.³

Al-Qaeda’s Internal Rift

The rising tensions between the ISIS, and the Al-Nusra Front and Al-Qaeda leadership worsened following the refusal by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, to follow the order given by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri to retract the declaration that he made in 2013 (appointing himself Emir of the ISIS and announcing its annexation of the Al-Nusra Front, an affiliate of Al-Qaeda in Syria) and focus only on the arena of jihad in Iraq. The failed attempts to reconcile the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS – most significantly demonstrated by the killing of Abu Khalid al-Suri, who was sent by Ayman al-Zawahiri to reconcile the two groups but was killed by members of ISIS - only added to the growing rift among the jihadist groups.

Against the backdrop of this internal rift, there has been a significant increase in the number of publications expressing support for Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi’s declaration and calling on the mujahideen to swear allegiance to him, and articles criticizing al-Baghdadi’s actions and

² [https://alfidaa.info/vb](https://alfidaa.info/vb) (Arabic).
³ [https://twitter.com/abusulayman321](https://twitter.com/abusulayman321)
emphasizing the importance of standing by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri. The following section refers to articles that were published as a result of this rift during the second half of March 2014.

- During the second half of March 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Basira, published the following:
  
  - A new three-part video series titled, “Testimonies prior to the extension of Mutual Imprecation”. The first video documented the testimony of an Al-Nusra Front fighter named Abu Sulayman al-Muhajir, who was involved in talks between the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS. Al-Muhajir noted that, in a private conversation with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, the latter did swear allegiance to Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, and expressed a willingness to comply with al-Zawahiri’s arbitration in the matter of Syria. In addition, al-Muhajir mentioned, in detail, a number of threats that al-Baghdadi had made towards senior members of the Al-Nusra Front.⁴

In the second video, another Al-Nusra Front fighter named Abu Firas al-Suri claimed that Abu Khalid al-Suri, a commander in Ahrar al-Sham who was killed in an explosion in February 2013, had received threats from the ISIS prior to his death.⁵

The third video included an interview with three more fighters who told of harassment of Al-Nusra Front members by ISIS fighters who, for example, broke into their homes and stole their money.⁶

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An audio clip by Sheikh Abu Abdullah al-Shami, a member of the Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council and Sharia Committee, in which he referred to the fighting taking place on various fronts in Syria and noted that, in addition to the ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front, other jihadist organizations were operating there as well. In addition, al-Shami addressed Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, a spokesperson for the ISIS, and accused his organization of harming jihad efforts in Syria and of inciting disputes based on misrepresentations and lies aimed at justifying the ISIS’s actions. He noted, for example, that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, had sworn allegiance to Ayman al-Zawahiri in a letter after the killing of Osama bin Laden, but he denied this. At the end of the audio clip, he emphasized that he was willing to argue the issue with al-Adnani.7

Several jihadist Web forums published an announcement of support for the ISIS that was allegedly circulated by members of Al-Qaeda in Khorasan. The statement briefly reviewed the history of the ISIS and the misconceptions being spread about it, and concluded with a declaration of support for the organization as long as it continues down its path. The statement was signed by nine militants, only some of whom are well-known: Abu Ubaydah al-Lubnani, Abu al-Muhammad al-Urdunni, Abu Jarir al-Shamali, Abu al-Huda al-Sudani, Abd al-Aziz (brother of Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi), Abdullah al-Banjani, Abu Yunis al-Kurdi, Abu Aisha al-Qurtubi and Abu Mus’ab al-Tadamuni. It should be noted that the style of the document made it difficult to determine with certainty the extent of its authenticity.8

Abu al-Huda al-Sudani, a member of Al-Qaeda in Khorasan, published a recorded speech in which he expressed his support for the ISIS and called on Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, to establish a caliphate that will ensure the enforcement of shari’a. Hinting at the Al-Nusra Front, al-Sudani attacked the “deserters of Islam” in Syria and claimed that they were nothing but an obstacle to jihad that must be removed.9

In the beginning of March, the administration of the Hanein jihadist Web forum published an official announcement regarding the inter-organizational conflict in Syria, in which it expressed

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9 [http://www.hanein.info/vb](http://www.hanein.info/vb) (Arabic); [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9M85kgV CXv](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9M85kgV CXv)
support for all of the factions and organizations fighting against the Shi’ites and the dictators, free of bias. In addition, the administration asked forum users to avoid fanning the flames of the conflict and warned that users who provoke “fitna” (“strife”) will be removed from the forum.10

- The ISIS published an announcement in response to recorded speeches by Abu Muhammad al-Golani, leader of the Al-Nusra Front, and Abu Abdullah al-Shami, a member of the Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council. In the announcement, the ISIS rejected the accusations made against it in a speech given by Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, spokesperson for the ISIS, which was published in the beginning of March.11

- The Al-Ghuraba jihadist media institution, which operates on social networks, published an article by Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Athari in which he attempted to refute the criticism voiced by opponents of the ISIS, which claimed that the oath of allegiance made to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was a mistake.12

The article banner

- The Al-Battar jihadist media institution published a pamphlet by Sheikh Abu Zahraa al-Athari with detailed arguments for why one should pledge allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader

10 http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).
11 https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu/status/447033667689664512
12 https://twitter.com/alghuraba_ar
of the ISIS. Among other things, al-Baghdadi was presented as a descendant of the Quraysh tribe, to which the Prophet Mohammad belonged, and it was emphasized that his religious knowledge had made him worthy of being Imam of the Muslim Nation in Iraq and Al-Sham.¹³

- Senior leaders of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) published an announcement of support for the ISIS. The announcement, which was signed by all senior members of the organization, including the “Emir of the Central Region”, Abu Sohayb Usama, stated that AQIM supports the goal of the ISIS and claimed that factions that try to fight against the organization are essentially destroying the Islamic plan, which is in the interest of the entire nation.¹⁴

- Abu Ibrahim al-Ghazi, a militant affiliated with Ansar Beit al-Maqdas, a jihadist organization operating in the Sinai Peninsula, published an article titled, “The Nature of the Struggle Requires Steadfastness”. In the article, al-Ghazi praised the ISIS for its operations in Syria and pleaded with other factions not to fight against it because any blow to the ISIS means a blow to efforts to impose shari’a and establish an Islamic state.¹⁵

Strategy

- Nukhbar al-Ilam al-Jihadi, a jihadist advocacy group, published a document titled, “General Intentions Regarding the Jihadist Islamic Plan in Azawad” (17 pp.) by AQIM. The document itself was first published on July 20, 2012 following the takeover of the Azawad region, known as northern Mali, by jihad fighters. The document included guidelines from the AQIM leadership to members of the organization and those who head its advisory council (“Majlis al-Shura”) as to the strategy that should be applied in occupied territory and how to conduct themselves among the local population. This document was initially discovered in January 2013 by French soldiers on a military operation to free northern Mali from the clutches of terrorists.¹⁶
The ISIS in Al-Anbar Province published a link to a video on its Twitter page and to photographs taken from an airborne camera. Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum held a discussion on the topic, in which some questioned the possibility of using such a camera for jihad purposes while others claimed that it could be used for intelligence and surveillance of Iraqi military movements.

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17 https://twitter.com/yemney; https://twitter.com/Alanbar_news/status/446743531315417089
• One of the department administrators at the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published an article by Abu al-Bashr al-Hajri titled, “Strategic Incentives for Jihad Activity”, in which he emphasized the importance of the Palestinian issue and explained that the greatest danger to the jihadist project is a state of deadlock; such a situation will create hopelessness and, therefore, a good jihad leader must find options for tactical operations that will keep the jihad project alive. For this reason, charismatic jihad leaders are needed and the battle must be brought to the heart of the Nation – Palestine – and its capital, Jerusalem, through a series of well-calculated operations that will eventually lead to the liberation of Palestine.

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

• A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum published a link to a video that displayed a device created by the company, FLIR, installed on the iPhone that turns it into a thermal camera. The visitor expressed hope that the device will be useful to comrades especially in light of the fact that it is cheaper than real thermal cameras.¹⁹

• A visitor to the Al-Minbar jihadist Web forum published Part 4 of the “Jihadist Encyclopedia”, a collection of security guidelines for the mujahideen, which included, among other things, explanations about methods of intelligence gathering, information on anti-tank weapons, an explanation of military tactics and security guidelines for jihadist Web forum users.²⁰

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

• The jihadist media institution of AQAP, Al-Malahem, published a video in Arabic with English subtitles titled, “The Biography of Sheikh Said al-Shihri”. The video was the first part in a new series of publications titled, “The Path of Jihad”.²¹ Al-Shihri served as Deputy Commander of AQAP and was killed in an American drone strike in Yemen on July 17, 2013.

¹⁹ http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).
²¹ https://alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).
• The ISIS published a video titled, “Martyrs from Qatar”, which displayed the photos and names of eight Qatari militants who were killed in the framework of the organization’s operations. In addition, the video displayed the photos and names of five Tunisian, Egyptian and Syrian militants who abandoned their lives in Qatar for the sake of jihad.22

• The Al-Furqan jihadist media institution published a video in which Omar al-Shishani, an ISIS commander of Chechen origin fighting alongside the ISIS in Syria, gave a eulogy for Doku Umarov, leader of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus, who was killed on March 18.23 In the video, al-Shishani sent his condolences to Umarov’s family, encouraged his comrades to

22 http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).
23 http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2014/03/islamic_caucasus_emiri.php
“continue the project that the Emir started”, and announced that Abu Muhammad would be the new Emir.24

• Ansar Beit al-Maqdas, a prominent Salafi-jihadist organization operating in the Sinai Peninsula, published a eulogy for six members of the organization who were killed in clashes with Egyptian security forces in Qalyubia, one of its strongholds in Egypt.25

The banner in memory of six members of Ansar Beit al-Maqdas

24 http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic); http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEVR0t5CFgo
• The jihadist media institution, Global Islamic Media Front (G.I.M.F.), published a eulogy for Hanzalah al-Khurasani, founder and General Manager of the Indonesian jihadist Web forum, Al-Busyro. According to the G.I.M.F., al-Khurasani was killed in February 2014 in a gun battle with Indonesian security forces. The announcement also stated that al-Khurasani had proved that the jihadist media is no less important than the military aspect, and that the Al-Busyro forum will continue to operate even after his death.26

![The banner in memory of Hanzalah al-Khurasani, founder and General Manager of the Indonesian Al-Busyro jihadist Web forum](image1)

**Magazines**

• The Fursan Al-Balagh jihadist media institution published the 11th edition (69 pp.) of the magazine, *Al-Balagh*.27

![The banner of the 11th edition of the magazine, Al-Balagh](image2)

26 [https://alfidaa.info/vb](https://alfidaa.info/vb) (Arabic).
• The Taliban in Pakistan published the fifth edition (37 pp.) of its English-language jihadist magazine, AZAN. Among the topics covered in the current edition were: the use of drones by the enemy to kill jihad fighters; criticism of the idea of a nation-state; a call on Muslims in Britain to wage jihad against the British government; an article criticizing the Pakistani army; and quotes from a speech given by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, about the persecution of Muslims in Bangladesh by Pakistan and India.28

![AZAN magazine banner](image)

• The ISIS published the first edition (410 pp.) of a new jihadist magazine, Al-Naba, which included documentation of the organization’s operation in Iraq during the Hijri year 1434, or 2013. The document contained detailed lists classifying the organization’s operations according to various regions in Iraq and according to the type of operation. According to the general chart at the beginning of the document, a total of 7,681 operations were recorded during the year, which included explosive devices, car bombs, suicide attacks, prisoner releases and more.29

The first edition (17 pp.) of a new jihadist magazine, *Hasad al-Jihad*, was published, in which it described the operations carried out by jihadist organizations in Egypt against the Egyptian regime and presented alleged “crimes” that were committed by the Egyptian regime against the Egyptian population.³⁰

³⁰ [https://alfidaa.info/vb](https://alfidaa.info/vb) (Arabic).

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**From left to right: the magazine banner; the annual summary of ISIS operations in Iraq**
Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

During the second half of March, the number of terrorist incidents in the Afghan arena multiplied. The Taliban carried out many terrorist attacks in a larger than usual show of force ahead of elections set to take place in the country.

On March 18, 2014, 15 people were killed in a terrorist attack in a crowded market in northern Afghanistan. At least 47 people were injured in the attack, which was apparently carried out by the Taliban.31 Only two days later, the Taliban launched another attack, this time in Jalalabad in the eastern part of the country: suicide bombers broke into a police station in the city, accompanied by a small arms attack on the station. Ten police officers were killed as well as one civilian and all seven militants who participated in the attack.32 On March 21, 2014 a gunman broke into a hotel in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and shot to death nine guests as they were eating dinner; two children and four foreign nationals were among the dead.33

Elections in Afghanistan are approaching and the Taliban is rushing to attack state symbols. On March 25, 2014 gunmen broke into the election committee office in Kabul and shot five people to death: two police officers, two members of the election committee and one of the candidates in the local election. The five militants who carried out the attack were also killed after a long shootout with security forces.34 The election committee office was attacked again on March 29, 2014 by suicide terrorists but no causalities or damage were immediately reported.35

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- Dhabih Allah Mujahid, spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, denied that members of the Taliban-Afghanistan were responsible for the deaths of women and children in

the framework of a military operation that it carried out at a luxury hotel in Kabul on March 20, 2014. Nine people were killed in the attack, including four foreign nationals.  

**The Taliban in Pakistan**

- During the second half of March 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Taliban in Pakistan, Umar, published the following:
  - An official announcement by Shahidullah Shahid, spokesperson for the organization, regarding the ceasefire that was declared at the beginning of March, in which he accused the security forces of continuing their operations despite the agreement.
  - A video titled, “Invasion of India – Part 7”.

**The Arabian Peninsula**

_The second half of March 2014 was characterized by an increase in the number of terrorist attacks carried out by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in southern Yemen, threatening the security of maritime traffic in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. For example, AQAP militants killed 20 Yemeni soldiers at a checkpoint in Hadramawt Province in southeast Yemen. The city of Al-Huta, the capital of Lahj Province with a population of 40,000, also saw a marked increase in terrorist attacks. Members of Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, struck a series of military and security targets in the city. The deterioration of the security situation in Al-Huta aroused concern among its residents of an AQAP takeover of the city, but Yemeni security officials denied the likelihood of this and noted that the security situation was under control._

*Commentators have suggested various reasons for the organization’s increased activity in*

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36 [http://www.hanein.info/vb](http://www.hanein.info/vb) (Arabic); [http://shahamat-arabic.com/index.php/paighamoona/39755-%D8%A7%D8%B8%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%AF%D8%AB-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AD%D9%88%D9%84-%D9%85%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B7%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%82-%D8%B3%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%A7](http://www.hanein.info/vb) (Arabic).


38 [bab-ul-islam.net/showthread.php?s=0a5807985fc1c2ac60042bd52eba0aa8&t=24415](http://bab-ul-islam.net/showthread.php?s=0a5807985fc1c2ac60042bd52eba0aa8&t=24415)

39 [https://alfidaa.info/vb](https://alfidaa.info/vb) (Arabic).
southern Yemen:

A. **Internal reasons; an effort to de-stabilize the country and undermine the Yemeni government’s efforts to reach a political agreement with opposition forces in the country.**

B. **External reasons; events in Syria and the rift between the ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front motivated many jihad fighters to emigrate from Syria to Yemen.

As the security situation in southern Yemen escalated, AQAP announced the establishment of a new armed group, Ansar Al-Sharia in the Central Region, to be responsible for focusing efforts on attacking Houthis, a Shi’ite minority in Yemen. According to the organization, the Yemeni government is failing to protect the Sunni population from Houthi aggression and is even providing the Houthis with ammunition and supplies.

**Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula**

- During the second half of March, the jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published the following:
  
  o A video about the raid at the central prison in Saana on February 13, 2014. The video documented interviews with several prisoners who were freed and the reception that was held in their honor. In the framework of the interviews, one former prisoner said that the prison raid was divided into two parts: The prisoners were responsible for the first part, in which they produced weapons within the prison. In the second part, the organization used a car bomb to break into the compound. The reception that was held for the freed prisoners included speeches, songs and slogans against the tyrants.

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42 [http://www.hanein.info/vb](http://www.hanein.info/vb) (Arabic); [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKIJNG-WMdA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKIJNG-WMdA)
A video titled, “The Yemeni Government: Treason & Betrayal”. The first part of the video, which was filmed inside a jail for political prisoners in Saana, the capital of Yemen, showed prisoners who had been injured in the prison authorities’ suppression of a protest in October 2013. The second half of the video included a recorded message by an AQAP commander named Jalal al-Marqashi “Hamza al-Zinjibari”, in which he threatened that security forces in Yemen would pay the price for harming prisoners and accused the government of Yemen of turning a blind eye to the attacks on the country’s Sunni population by the Shi’ite Houthi group.43

A video in which Ibrahim al-Rubaysh, Mufti of AQAP, gave a speech condemning the Saudi regime and the Wahhabi religious establishment for issuing a fatwa prohibiting the inclusion of Muslims in the jihad front, defining the Muslim Brothers as a terrorist organization and other acts that harm Muslims.44

Iraq

Inter-ethnic tensions in Iraq increased in the wake of violent incidents, described as massacres, which took place in the Sunni city of Buhriz, north of Baghdad. In the incidents that took place during the second half of March 2014, approximately 30 people were executed and mosques were set on fire. The ISIS blamed the regime for the attacks.45 In return, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior accused the ISIS of attempting to take control of the city while killing innocent people and burning

43 http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).
44 https://alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).
45 http://www.alarabonline.org/?id=19107
mosques.\textsuperscript{46} It should be noted that the bloodbath came at a particularly sensitive time: only several weeks before the Parliamentary elections, which were set to begin on April 30.\textsuperscript{47}

Meanwhile, the ISIS lost Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Kuwaiti, one of its senior commanders, in Fallujah, Al-Anbar Province.\textsuperscript{48} Al-Kuwaiti’s death was the latest in a list of losses recently suffered by the organization: the arrest of a senior militant in Tikrit,\textsuperscript{49} the expulsion of ISIS militants from the city of Ramadi by members of local tribes,\textsuperscript{50} additional deaths, and the loss of equipment in Al-Anbar Province as a result of increased operations by the Iraqi army.\textsuperscript{51}

\textbf{The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham}

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) in Saladin Province, in Iraq, published a claim of responsibility for a terrorist attack at the home of Abu Salim, one of the leaders of the Awakening Councils in the Samarra region.\textsuperscript{52} In the announcement, the organization accused Abu Salim of harming innocent Muslims and described the operation in which heavy artillery was used, the soldiers guarding the building were decapitated and weapons were plundered. According to police sources, two of Abu Salim’s children were killed in the attack, along with his wife and another female relative.\textsuperscript{53}

\textsuperscript{46}http://almustaqbalnews.net/world/item/37082-%D9%88%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%AA%D9%87%D9%85-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%B4-%D8%A8%D8%A3%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AF-%D8%A8%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%B2-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%A6-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AA.html


\textsuperscript{48}http://www.aljadeed.tv/MenuAr/news/DetailNews/DetailNews.html?id=111736


\textsuperscript{50}http://alhayat.com/Articles/1451916/%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%B6-%D8%B9%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D9%84%D9%82%D9%88%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%AA%D8%B7%D9%88%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%84%D8%B9%D8%A1%D8%A6-%D8%AB%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B7%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A

\textsuperscript{51}http://www1.youm7.com/News.asp?NewsID=1588977#.UzvLeqiSx48

\textsuperscript{52}http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).

\textsuperscript{53}http://alhayat.com/Articles/1149329/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82--4-%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%87%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%85-
• A senior member of the ISIS’s media branch gave his blessings to all supporters of the organization via its Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum. He wrote that members of the organization’s media branch wished to send their regards to the comrades helping them on all fronts and in all arenas.54

• The ISIS published photos of a terrorist attack that its members carried out in Nineveh Province in Iraq. In the attack, members of the organization detonated an explosive device on an Iraqi army vehicle in the southern part of the province.55

One of the photos that were published on the forum

• The ISIS published reports regarding its recent operations in Diyala Province. The reports concerned, among other things, armed clashes with Iraqi government forces and the detonation of an explosive device on a vehicle belonging to Iraqi Intelligence.56

• The ISIS published photos of recent incursions carried out by its fighters in Diyala Province, Kirkuk Province and North Baghdad.57
**Ansar al-Islam**

- Ansar Al-Islam, a jihadist organization in Iraq affiliated with global jihad, published a claim of responsibility for several operations, including the plunder of weapons and the setting of an Iraqi army post alight in Hawija, Kirkuk Province, on March 21;\(^{58}\) the explosion of the house of an Iraqi army officer in Diyala Province on March 20;\(^ {59}\) and damage caused to a police car in Kirkuk Province on March 18.\(^ {60}\)

**Other organizations**

- Hamas in Iraq, an organization affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, published a letter titled, “Guidance”, in which it commanded factions in the field to take immediate action against the interests of the ISIS, and especially against the following individuals: Ali Hatem Suliman, Rafe Mushhan Al-Jamili, Fayez Al-Shawish and Abd Al-Qader Al-Nayel. The letter claimed that the ISIS was interested in using Al-Anbar Province in order to promote Iranian interests in the name of religion, which must be prevented.\(^ {61}\)

**Al-Sham [The Levant]**

*Despite the emergence of the first signs of reconciliation between representatives of the regime and the rebels in several areas in Rif Dimashq Province,*\(^ {62}\) *there is still no end in sight to the war in*

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\(^{58}\) [http://www.hanein.info/vb](http://www.hanein.info/vb) (Arabic).

\(^{59}\) [http://www.hanein.info/vb](http://www.hanein.info/vb) (Arabic).

\(^{60}\) [http://www.hanein.info/vb](http://www.hanein.info/vb) (Arabic).


Syria. In Daraa, one of the first centers of unrest against the Bashar al-Assad regime, gunmen from the Free Syrian Army seized control of the central prison and, according to several reports, managed to free 294 prisoners.63 On a more personal level, al-Assad was dealt a blow by the death of his cousin, Hilal Assad, during clashes in Latakia.64

Meanwhile, the regime successfully re-captured several strategic targets: the small town of Al-Husn, which controls the crossings between northern Lebanon and Syria,65 two other small towns in the Qalamoun region, 66 and a strategic lookout point in northern Latakia67 (in addition to the recapturing of the city of Yabrud in mid-March). These achievements by the regime had a direct influence on the fighting capabilities of the rebels who were subsequently cut off from essential supply routes for weapons and ammunition.68

While clashes between the regime and the rebels continued, so did the conflict between the ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front. 18 militants were killed in a clash that took place between the organizations in Dayr al-Zour,69 and 35 people were killed in an armed skirmish in Al-Hasakah.70

In addition, the Al-Nusra Front blamed the ISIS for the death of the former’s emir in Al-Raqqah Province,71 while it claimed responsibility for the execution of two ISIS militants of Saudi origin.72

The Al-Nusra Front in Syria

- During the second half of March 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front in

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63 http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/03/140319_syrria_prison.shtml (Arabic).
64 http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/03/140323_syrria_assad_cousin.shtml (Arabic).
70 http://all-agencies.com/l.php?id=30216
72 http://alhayat.com/Articles/1394666--%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9---%D9%85%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%B9-%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A6%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D8%B8%D9%87%D8%B1-%D8%A5%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%AA%D8%AA%D9%87%D9%85%D9%87%D9%85%D8%A7--%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%B1%D8%A9--%D8%AB%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%87%D8%A7
Syria, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:

- A video documenting the destruction of the Aleppo Courthouse, which served as a stronghold of the Syrian army. The operation was carried out on March 7 when an explosives tunnel that had been dug under the building was detonated. Approximately 60 Syrian soldiers were killed in the attack, and four army vehicles and a tank were destroyed. A member of the Al-Nusra Front described the operation “as revenge coming from underground” for the massacres being committed by the regime in aerial bombings and in response to Hezbollah’s infiltration into the Syrian city of Yabrud.73

- A video documenting the takeover of the Adrag region in East Ghawta – Damascus by members of the organization.74

The video banner

- The Al-Nusra Front in Syria published several announcements in which it claimed responsibility for a number of military operations that were carried out against Syrian security forces. In announcement no. 480, for example, the organization announced the start of the Battle of Anfal – a series of military operations against the Syrian regime that were planned by the joint operations room, which is composed of four organizations (the Al-Nusra Front, Ansar al-Sham, Sham al-Islam and Agrar al-Sham). The operations were carried out in northern Latakia Province in Syria, and included the takeover of army outposts, a suicide attack using APC bombs and the plunder of weapons.75

73 http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic); http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6c2Iu_jfmao
74 https://alfidaa.info/vb/ (Arabic).
75 http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).
• The Al-Basira jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the Al-Nusra Front, published a video titled, “Contours of the Path of Islam’s Righteous Ancestors – Part 2” by Dr. Sami al-Aridi, member of the Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council.76

• During the second half of March 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:
  o A video (no. 66) documenting a tour of Al-Nusra Front positions in Dayr al-Zour.77
  o A video (no. 67) documenting the graduation ceremony at a religious studies school for boys in Homs.78
  o A video (no. 68) documenting a visit to a shari’a legal institute run by the Al-Nusra Front in Dayr al-Zour.79

A clip from the video

  o A video (no. 69) documenting the distribution of food to residents of Hama by the Al-Nusra Front.80
  o A video (no. 70) documenting the distribution of clothing to jihad fighters by the Al-Nusra Front near the city of Damascus.81
  o A video (no. 71) documenting a tour of Aleppo by Al-Nusra Front fighters.82
  o A video (no. 72) documenting a conference and activities on religious topics for boys in

77 [https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/445551845738430464](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/445551845738430464)
78 [https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/447371186087800832](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/447371186087800832)
79 [https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/448148601055629312](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/448148601055629312)
80 [https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/448810634520432641](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/448810634520432641)
81 [https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/449251121186365440](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/449251121186365440)
Aleppo.\textsuperscript{83}

- The ISIS reported on an operation that its members carried out in the city of Markadah, Al-Hasakah Province, in Syria on March 16, 2014. According to the report, ISIS militants carried out a surprise attack on Al-Golani’s soldiers (Al-Nusra Front fighters), who immediately fled, leaving their equipment behind. ISIS militants plundered the equipment that was left there.\textsuperscript{84}

- The Al-Nusra Front announced that 150 female Muslim prisoners had been freed from Alawite jails in Syria. Members of the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum claimed that this was indeed good news for the Muslim Nation but that it did not mean that the Al-Nusra Front was behaving in a good and legitimate manner; even though this was a positive event, the Al-Nusra Front has carried out many operations that conflicted with the path of jihad, and one act against the Alawite regime was not enough to atone for its negative actions.\textsuperscript{85}

**The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: Operations in Syria and Lebanon**

- During the second half of March 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), Al-Furqan, published the following:
  - A video titled, “Messages from the Land of Battles (Part 21)”. The first part of the video showed the Sabri Brigade (an independent militant group operating in Syria for the past two years) swearing allegiance to the ISIS, and included speeches given by Chechen ISIS commanders, Abu Jihad al-Shishani and Umar al-Shishani.\textsuperscript{86} The second part of the video documented the ISIS invasion of the city of Anah, Al-Anbar Province, in western Iraq, using a truck bomb, as well as the last will and testament of the two suicide terrorists who took part in the operation. The transcription of this chapter was published by the Fursan al-Balagh jihadist media institution.\textsuperscript{87}

\begin{footnotesize}
\footnote{83}{https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/450692393759965184}
\footnote{84}{http://alplatformmedia.com/vb (Arabic).}
\footnote{85}{http://alplatformmedia.com/vb (Arabic).}
\footnote{86}{http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).}
\footnote{87}{http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).}
\end{footnotesize}
A video titled, “Messages from the Land of Battles (Part 22)”. In the first part of the video, Saudi jihad fighters in ISIS hurled accusations at the Saudi regime in general and at Muhammad bin Nayef, the Saudi Minister of Interior, in particular. In addition, some of the fighters filmed expressed hope that ISIS operations would someday reach the Arabian Peninsula as well. The second part of the video documented an attack on an Iraqi army post in Nineveh Province in northern Iraq.88

The banner of the transcription of the video by the Fursan al-Balagh jihadist media institution

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), Al-‘Itisam,

88 http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).
published a video of a speech given by Sheikh Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, the leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq who was killed in April 2010, about the image of the Islamic state that one should aspire to establish. It should be noted that the Al-Himmah jihadist media institution published a translation of the speech in Indonesian. This was the seventh video in a series produced under the title, “The Project to Establish an Islamic State”.  

• Sheikh Mane' bin Naser al-Mane’ announced that he was going to travel to the arena of jihad in Syria and join the ISIS.  

**Other Jihadist Organizations**

• The Al-Uqab jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the Sham al-Islam Movement, a jihadist organization operating in Syria, published a propaganda video about the Alawites’ rise to power in Syria during the time of the French Mandate, the treatment of the Sunni population in Syria by the ruling Alawite Assad family, and more. In addition, the video claimed that Israel was interested in the division and collapse of Syria in order to maintain the Judaization of Jerusalem and to keep the Golan in Israeli hands. Finally, the video emphasized the importance

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89 http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).
90 https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu
91 http://alplatformmedia.com/vb (Arabic); https://twitter.com/M_N_Alman3/status/445466596229017600 (a link to the original announcement posted on al-Mane’s Twitter account).
of fighting against Alawite strongholds in Ladikiyyaa and Tartus Provinces in the Syrian coastal region.\(^\text{92}\)

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**The video banner**

- A Syrian rebel group announced the establishment of the Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah Brigade under the auspices of the Ajnad al-Sham Islamic Union, an umbrella organization composed of several fighting groups in Syria that was established in November 2013. The spokesperson for the organization who appeared in the video explained that the brigade was subordinate to the Harun al-Rashid Brigade, which, in turn, is affiliated with the Al-Habib al-Mustafa Brigades.\(^\text{93}\)

- Jaish Al-Mujahireen, a jihadist organization operating in Syria and composed of mostly foreign fighters, published an official announcement in which it apologized for the conduct of some of its members in the Marcel Shahwaro affair. Marcel Shahwaro was a female member of the organization who was arrested after refusing to wear a hijab. According to the announcement, several members of the organization behaved irresponsibly and of their own accord; [The announcement claimed that] Jaish Al-Mujahireen is an organization that acts to advance the freedom of the Syrian people.\(^\text{94}\)

- The Mujahidi al-Sunnah Brigade, a jihadist organization operating in Aleppo in northwest Syria,
published a short video in which it declared that it had joined the Al-Nusra Front.95

- The Shuhada al-Karak Brigade, a jihadist organization operating in Dar’a in southwest Syria, published a short video in which it declared that it joined the Islamic Front.96

**Lebanon**

*The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon*

- The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon published an announcement (no. 16) in which it claimed responsibility for a suicide attack that it carried out in Nabi Othman, a village in the Beqaa Valley that serves a stronghold for Hezbollah. At least four people were killed in the attack,97 and it was described as a response to Hezbollah’s arrogance in taking control of the Syrian city of Yabrud.98

*The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham*

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al Sham (ISIS) reported that ISIS fighters had bombed a Hezbollah stronghold in Lebanon to avenge Hezbollah’s recent operations in Yabrud (a city in western Syria).99

**Other**

- The Markaz Aisha jihadist media institution, which covers events concerning the Sunni population in Lebanon, published a call to Sunni residents of Lebanon to start a revolution against the reigning tyrannical regime. According to the media institution, the revolution would be a continuation of the Sunni revolution in Syria.100

**The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip**

98 [https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu/status/447033667689664512](https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu/status/447033667689664512)
100 [https://twitter.com/MarkazAisha](https://twitter.com/MarkazAisha)
Apart from isolated incidents, relative quiet has been maintained in the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip. The situation in the Sinai Peninsula and Egypt is tense ahead of the upcoming elections, and [militants] in the Gaza Strip are still considering the result of the latest round of escalation with Israel.

On March 24, 2014 a police officer was shot to death in the northern Sinai Peninsula. According to an announcement by the Egyptian Ministry of Interior, unidentified gunmen shot the police officer who was on his way to work in Al-Arish. On March 30, 2014 gunmen attacked an army bus carrying soldiers in Al-Arish, in the northern Sinai Peninsula. One Egyptian soldier was killed in the attack. So far, no organization has claimed responsibility for the attack.\textsuperscript{101}

**Ansar Beit Al-Maqdas**

- Ansar Beit al-Maqdas, a Salafi-jihadist group operating in the Sinai Peninsula, published an announcement regarding the separation fence being built in Al-Arish. In the announcement, the organization threatened anyone who collaborates with the Egyptian army, especially those participating in the construction of the fence such as contractors, investors, company owners, foremen and truck drivers.\textsuperscript{102}

- A representative of the jihadist organization, Shabab Ahl al-Sunnah – Gaza, announced that he had joined the Al-Platform Media jihadist media institution, extended his blessing to members of the forum and thanked them for supporting the organization.\textsuperscript{103}

The group’s Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/SUNNIAGAZA
The group’s Twitter page: https://twitter.com/dfghg542

**The Shura Council of the Mujahideen**

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen published an announcement of the deaths of two martyrs: Abu Abdallah Tawfiq Mohammed Freij and Abu Obeida Abdallah Mohammed Al-Sayed Mansour Al-Toukhi. The announcement stated that the two martyrs were prominent officers in the

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\textsuperscript{101} [http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/03/30/Egyptian-soldier-killed-in-Sinai-bus-attack.html](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/03/30/Egyptian-soldier-killed-in-Sinai-bus-attack.html) (English).

\textsuperscript{102} [http://www.hanein.info/vb](http://www.hanein.info/vb) (Arabic).

\textsuperscript{103} [http://alplatformmedia.com/vb](http://alplatformmedia.com/vb) (Arabic).
organization who contributed greatly to the revival of jihad in the Sinai Peninsula, but the details of their deaths were not published.\textsuperscript{104}

The Maghreb [North Africa]

At a conference on security matters that was held in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, with representatives from the countries of the Sahel and Sahara, participants emphasized the need to formulate a coherent strategy in order to achieve security stability and sustainable peace. Special emphasis was placed on the need for border inspections, intelligence cooperation and operational coordination among the countries in order to cope with the threat of terrorism and organized crime.\textsuperscript{105}

Despite attempts at change, the second half of March in Libya signaled a growing trend of attacks on army forces: on March 14, gunmen seized a Libyan army base near the capital of Tripoli, and on March 18 a car bomb was detonated at a military academy in Benghazi, killing 11 cadets.\textsuperscript{106} The violence in Libya also took the form of kidnappings; the March 22 abduction of a Tunisian diplomat who was in Tripoli aroused anger in Tunisia that the country was being dragged into the chaos in Libya.\textsuperscript{107}

In contrast, Tunisia itself recently managed to demonstrate greater determination and capacities in fighting terrorism. The intelligence cooperation between Tunisia and Algeria bore fruit, and on March 15 the Tunisian authorities arrested Abu Ayyub al-Tunisi, a senior member of Ansar al Sharia, which operates in Syria, for preaching jihad and smuggling weapons, among other things.\textsuperscript{108} In addition, on March 17 three terrorist were killed near the Algerian border and six others were arrested.\textsuperscript{109}

Algeria also made efforts to thwart potential terrorist attacks, especially in light of the upcoming 17\textsuperscript{th} presidential election. The placement of troops along the borders to prevent terrorist infiltration (especially from Libya and northern Mali) and the increased security patrols in large cities

\textsuperscript{104} http://alplatformmedia.com/vb (Arabic).
\textsuperscript{105} http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/17/feature-01 (English).
\textsuperscript{106} http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/19/feature-01 (English).
\textsuperscript{107} http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/24/feature-01 (English).
\textsuperscript{108} http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/20/feature-02 (English).
\textsuperscript{109} http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/18/feature-01 (English).
were just some of the preventative steps taken as part of the security plan for the elections.\footnote{http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/26/feature-01 (English).}

The local authorities in Morocco and Spain successfully dismantled a local terrorist cell with ties to Europe. The leader of the network, a Spanish militant named Mustafa Maya Amaya who grew up in Belgium and converted to Islam, used social networks in order to recruit Moroccan youth to wage jihad in Syria, Mali and Libya. According to terrorism researcher Abdellah Rami, this incident indicated a growing phenomenon in which Moroccan youth view European converts to Islam as role models and more easily acquiesce to offers to take part in global jihad.\footnote{http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2014/03/21/reportage-01 (English).}

**Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb**

- The Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published a 60-minute video titled, “Algeria and the Dark Tunnel”. The video described various crises throughout the history of modern Algeria, including an attack against the rule of the President of Tunisia, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who supposedly caused the country to deteriorate into corruption, crime and drugs. At the end of the video, the implementation of shari’a and the establishment of the Shura Council were presented as the only way out of the crisis that Algeria finds itself in today.\footnote{https://twitter.com/Salafi_Jihadi/status/449085537362526208; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8ANx6tqRxg}
**Ansar al-Sharia in Tunisia**

- The Al-Bayariq jihadist media institution published a message to Muslim youth from the leader of Ansar al Sharia in Tunisia, Abu Iyad al-Tunisi. In the short letter, al-Tunisi emphasized the importance of Muslim youth as a cause of concern for the United States and other Western countries. In addition, al-Tunisi pleaded with the young people to remain faithful to the religion and not be tempted by the follies of this world that the West has to offer.¹¹³

- Sheikh Abu Saad al-Amili, a very prominent writer on jihadist Web forums, published a letter of support for Ahl al-Tawhid in Siliana, a jihadist organization affiliated with Ansar al Sharia in Tunisia, for an attack that its members carried out against Tunisian soldiers in Awlad Mana. Al-Amili promised that the organization would carry out additional attacks of this kind and offered a religious justification for them.¹¹⁴ This attack was considered the first operation against Tunisian security forces for which the organization claimed responsibility.

**Ansar al-Sharia in Libya**

- Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published a propaganda leaflet that detailed the tenets of the organization, its methods of operation and its goals. Among the principles mentioned in the document were: a declaration of faith in the foundations of Islam, an explanation of the organization’s principle of “takfir” (the proclamation that an individual is a heretic), and an absolute rejection of secularism in all its forms. Among the goals of the organization listed at the end of the document were: the enforcement of shari’a in Libya and the elimination of government courts in order to replace them with shari’a courts.¹¹⁵ In addition, the distribution of the leaflet was accompanied by a series of lectures delivered in mosques in Benghazi, in eastern Libya, in an effort to explain Ansar al-Sharia to the general public.¹¹⁶

- Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published a statement regarding the struggle for control of the oilfields in Sirte and the Gulf of Sidra. The organization recommended the establishment of an

¹¹³ https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_tn/status/447777858434260992
¹¹⁵ https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/status/444660090402902016; http://justpaste.it/equl
¹¹⁶ https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/status/44464564336047744; http://justpaste.it/equ5
“Institution for Petroleum Affairs” to operate according to the laws of shari’a and to ensure that the production of oil profits will be divided equally among all citizens.¹¹⁷

- The Al-Raya jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Ansar al-Sharia in Libya, published the seventh chapter in a video series titled, “Steps on the Way to Empowerment”. The video included a description of the patrols carried out by members of the organization in the city of Benghazi.¹¹⁸

**Egypt**

- The jihadist organization, Ansar al-Sharia in the Land of Egypt, which was established on March 4, 2014,¹¹⁹ published an announcement in which it claimed responsibility for the killing of 28 police and security officers in three different areas in Egypt. According to the announcement, these attacks were in revenge for police attacks on women in Egypt.¹²⁰

![An announcement by Ansar al-Sharia in the Land of Egypt, claiming responsibility for the killing of police officers](image)

**Somalia**

¹¹⁷ [https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/status/445408251866513408](https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/status/445408251866513408)
¹¹⁸ [https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/status/445408533484691457](https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/status/445408533484691457)
Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen has consistently carried out terrorist attacks across Somalia while trying to hit as many Western symbols in the country as possible.

On March 17, 2014 Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen gunmen attacked a convoy of the United Nations African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) using a car bomb as the convoy left Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia; a spokesperson for Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed that seven people were killed in the attack but there were no official reports to confirm this. On March 19, 2014 a suicide terrorist from Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen detonated inside a car full of explosives at a hotel in southern Somalia. Several people were killed in the attack (the exact number of casualties was not reported), which took place several days after the city was re-taken by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.

Meanwhile, AMISOM soldiers were sent to the city of Barawe, an Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen stronghold, in order to try and push back the organization’s fighters and to re-gain control of the city.

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Kataib, published a video documenting the invasion of Afmadow, a city in southern Somalia, by members of the organization. The operation took place on August 6, 2013 and was directed against Somali and Kenyan security forces. The video showed the planning of the operation at one of the organization’s camps, photos from the operation itself and the life stories of several martyrs who were killed in the operation.

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125 http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic); http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAe5JqNP2wU
The Caucasus

- Abu Muhammad al-Quqaz, the new Emir of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus published a message of advice and guidance for jihad fighters in Syria. In the video, al-Quqaz explained that when he sent his fighters to Syria he instructed them to join the largest jihadist organization in the country rather than establish a separatist group for the Caucasus, in order to create unity among the jihad fighters. The video ended with a call from al-Quqaz to fighters in Syria to avoid “fitna” (“strife”) as well as a personal appeal to the leaders of the ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front to engage in dialogue, make mutual concessions and maintain obedience to the top leadership (of Al-Qaeda) or the shari’a court.  

The Indian Subcontinent

- The jihadist media institution of the Jama Ansar al-Tawhid in Hind organization, Al-Isabah, published a video in Hindi in which Sheikh Abd al-Rahman al-Indi, a member of the

organization’s Shari’a Council, appealed to Muslims in India to act against the oppression, imprisonment and murder of Muslims by the Indian authorities.\textsuperscript{127}

From left to right: a clip from the video in which Sheikh Abd al-Rahman al-Hindi appeared; the logo of the Al-Isabah jihadist media institution

China

- The jihadist media institution of the Turkestan Islamic Party, Sawt Al-Islam, published a video titled, “The virtue of being present in the war zone for the sake of God”.\textsuperscript{128}

Turkey

- Several visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum held a discussion about reports that Turkey was planning to act against the ISIS in Syria.\textsuperscript{129} One visitor said that if it was true, then the ISIS must infiltrate into Turkey and set up camps in order to wage guerilla warfare in the mountainous regions, and to provide weapons and equipment to the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus.\textsuperscript{130} In contrast, another visitor claimed that Erdogan must sign a treaty with the ISIS since both have a common religious background (Sunni Islam) and common enemies (the Kurdish minority).\textsuperscript{131}

The West

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamic preacher in England, drew attention to a campaign conducted by British Muslims in London and in other cities in Britain in which they called on

\textsuperscript{127} https://shamikh1.info/vb (Arabic).
\textsuperscript{128} https://alfidaa.info/vb (Arabic).
\textsuperscript{129} http://blogs.wsj.com/emergingeurope/2014/03/28/leaked-youtube-tapes-spotlight-turkish-tomb/
\textsuperscript{130} http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).
\textsuperscript{131} http://www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).
Christian residents to convert to Islam and for the application of shari’a in Britain. In the framework of the campaign, videos were posted to YouTube and on the Web site, http://www.need4khilafah.com, which was designed for this purpose.

Choudary founded the al-Muhajiroun extremist group with the militant leader, Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad. That group was banned in 2004 but has re-emerged under different names and in various guises. He also established the radical Islamist group Islam4Uk, which was banned in 2010.

The logo for the http://www.need4khilafah.com Web portal and the campaign for the establishment of an Islamic State

Women and Jihad

- The Al-Nasaim jihadist media institution, which produces audio clips, posted a clip of a song calling for the release of Heila al-Qusayyerr, a female Al-Qaeda activist imprisoned in Saudi Arabia since 2010 for the recruitment of women and donations for the organization.132

132 https://twitter.com/nsam2014/status/446325147885006849
Miscellaneous

- The Fursan Al-Balagh jihadist media institution published an index that listed all of the jihadist publications published by jihadist media institutions for February 2014.¹³³

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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