



Spotlight on Global Jihad (January 15-21, 2015)



Main events of the week¹

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed formal responsibility for the attack at the editorial offices of the weekly Charlie Hebdo in Paris. The weekly was in AQAP's crosshairs. The Kouachi brothers had previous links to AQAP, one of them had visited Yemen (2011); during the shooting at the editorial offices, they announced their affiliation with the organization. **At the same time, ISIS operatives continued to call on the organization's supporters in France and the West** (via Twitter): "Do all in your power, **kill them, slaughter them**, burn their cars and their homes ..." A similar call was issued by AQAP.
- ISIS posted a new video threatening to execute two **Japanese** hostages unless the organization receives the sum of USD 200 million within 72 hours. The Japanese Prime Minister, who was visiting Israel, decided to shorten his stay in the region and return to Japan to deal with the issue.
- In Iraq and Syria, fighting continued in the known locations. The intensity of the fighting was low and there were no significant developments.

The shooting attacks in Paris - additional information

AQAP's claim of responsibility for the attack at the editorial offices of the weekly Charlie Hebdo

- On January 14, 2015, **AQAP** posted a video on its Twitter page, in which **Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi**, a senior ISIS official, claimed official responsibility for the attack on behalf of ISIS (January 7, 2015). The main points that he made are as follows:

¹The weekly publication Spotlight on Global Jihad monitors developments among ISIS and global jihad organizations in Syria and Iraq and in the Middle East as a whole. The publication also monitors terrorist activities around the world, directed, supported or inspired by the global jihad organizations in the Middle East.

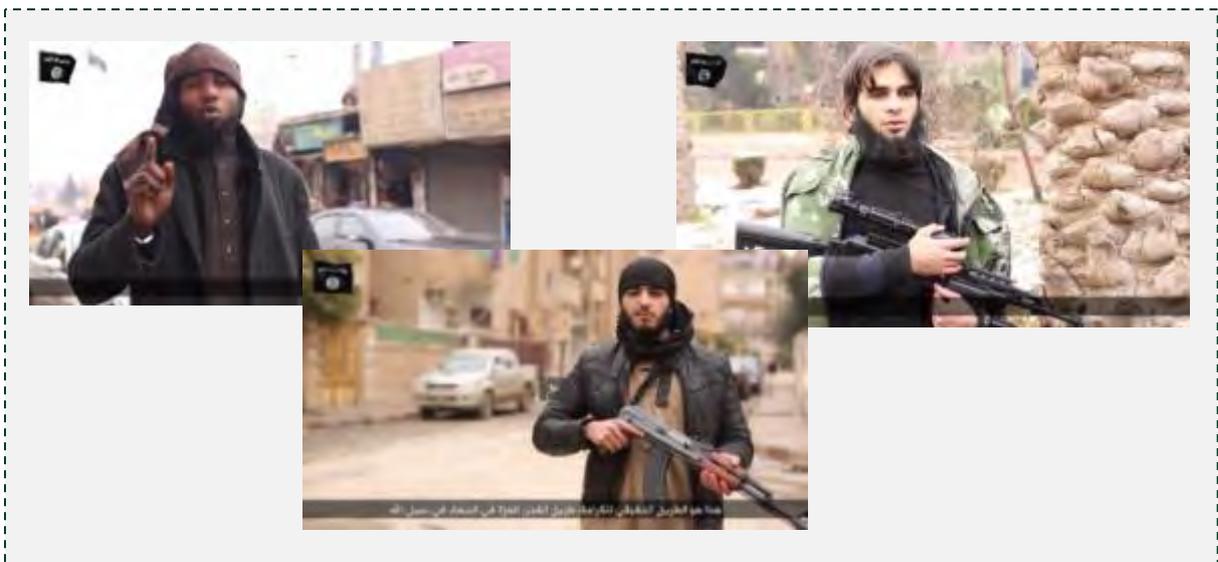
- **The organization behind the attack - AQAP operatives** planned and financed the attack and chose the target, under the guidance of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri. Anwar al-Awlaki was also one of the planners, before he died (in a targeted killing, 2011).² The announcement mentioned that the organization had previously threatened the weekly's editorial board and its editor.
- **Justification of the target** - France committed "crimes," including airstrikes in Mali and North Africa. France is the "Party of Satan," an enemy of Allah and His Prophet.
- **The terrorists who carried out the attack** - the Kouachi brothers were acting on behalf of AQAP. However it was only "by the good luck of Allah," that their attack was immediately followed by the attack carried out by Amedy Coulibaly, who carried out the attack at the kosher supermarket (i.e., the message denies responsibility of AQAP for the attack in the supermarket, whose perpetrator was affiliated with ISIS).
- **Warnings directed at the West** - if Western countries do not withdraw their forces from Muslim lands, other terrorist attacks will be carried out against them. He calls on Muslims, wherever they are, **to take revenge on the West, particularly France**, for its crimes against Muslims. He calls on them to boycott Western goods and encourage young people to die for their religion.

■ AQAP's claim of responsibility is supported by the Kouachi brothers' ties with the organization and their remarks during the shooting at the editorial offices of the weekly Charlie Hebdo (i.e., according to the Kouachi brothers' remarks, the media could be told that it was AQAP that carried out the attack). Saïd Kouachi even visited Yemen in 2011 and met with Anwar al-Awlaki, a senior official in the organization (who was mentioned in the announcement claiming responsibility). At the same time, in the ITIC's assessment, various components in the announcement claiming responsibility, which highlight the organization's central role in orchestrating the attack, and al-Zawahiri's guidance, require verification.

²Anwar al-Awlaki was a US-born jihadi operative and a senior official in AQAP. He was killed in September 2011 in an American targeted killing, carried out by means of a UAV.

ISIS's praise for the attacks in Paris and its call to residents of the West to carry out attacks in their home countries

- On January 14, 2015, a video was uploaded to the Twitter account of one of ISIS's communications operators, produced by the organization's media arm in Al-Raqqah, showing three French-speaking ISIS operatives addressing the residents of France.
- The three praised the terrorist acts carried out in Paris. They said that the Islamic State is expanding every day, and will reach "France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and all the rest of Europe, as well as the United States." They also called on supporters of ISIS in the West, who cannot travel to the territory of the Islamic Caliphate, to carry out terrorist attacks in countries where they reside: **"Do all in your power, kill them, slaughter them, burn their cars and their homes. The Islamic Caliphate will be established in Europe"** (Shabakat al-Jihad al-Alami, January 14, 2015).



Three French-speaking ISIS operatives calling on ISIS supporters in the West, who cannot travel to Syria and Iraq, to carry out terrorist attacks in their countries (Shabakat al-Jihad al-Alami, January 14, 2015)

Detention of another suspect of involvement in the terrorist attacks in Paris

- On January 10, 2015, a French citizen named **Fritz-Joly Joachin** was arrested in Bulgaria for belonging to a terrorist group which tried to leave for Turkey. Fritz-Joly Joachin was charged with **having been in contact with Chérif Kouachi**, one of the brothers responsible for the terrorist attack at the editorial offices of the weekly

Charlie Hebdo. Joachin, 29, converted to Islam at the age of 14 and became more radical two years ago. He planned to relocate to Syria so that his son would receive a “jihadist education” (AFP, January 13, 2015).

The international campaign against ISIS

Attacks by the US and the coalition in Syria and Iraq

■ US and coalition airstrikes in Syria and Iraq continued during the week. This week US and coalition aircraft carried out dozens of airstrikes in Syria and Iraq using fighter planes, bombers, and unmanned aircraft. Following are the locations of the airstrikes (CENTCOM website):

- **In Syria**, airstrikes centered mainly in Kobani (Ayn al-Arab), where fighting has continued for several months and is still ongoing. Airstrikes were also carried out in the area of Al-Raqqah and Al-Hasakah. The airstrikes destroyed ISIS battle positions, vehicles and a tank.

- **In Iraq**, airstrikes were carried out in a large number of locations, including Baiji, Rutba, Taji, Baqubah, Al-Assad, Sinjar, Ramadi and Mosul. These airstrikes destroyed battle positions, firing positions, vehicles, car bombs, heavy machinery, firing systems, buildings, and more. Near Ramadi, boats and a barge belonging to ISIS were destroyed. According to unconfirmed reports, the attack in Mosul killed a senior ISIS operative named **Salim Mula Ghanem**, who was responsible for finances in the Mosul area (www.understandingwar.org, January 19, 2015),

■ During a visit to Baghdad, John Allen, coordinator of the international coalition against ISIS, said that ISIS is a global threat and, therefore, a global response is needed. However, he stressed that **the US would not directly arm Sunni tribes but would fight ISIS by means of the Iraqi security forces** (US State Department website, January 16, 2015). In this context, the US ambassador to Iraq said that the US had supplied the Iraqi Army with 250 armored vehicles, which are intended to help the Iraqi security forces cope with the threat of IEDs and car bombs planted by ISIS (www.ibtimes.com, January 7, 2015).

First ground confrontation between ISIS and a coalition force

■ Over the past few days, there have been reports of **exchanges of fire between the Canadian Army’s Special Forces and ISIS operatives in Iraq**. According to the

commander, while his men were meeting with senior Iraqi Army commanders near the front line to discuss the approval of plans, they were fired at by mortars and machine guns (the exact location was not disclosed). Canadian snipers returned fire. This was the first direct engagement between a coalition force and ISIS operatives on the battlefield (Al-Arabiya TV, January 19, 2015).

German government sends military forces to assist the Kurdish forces

■ Germany Foreign Minister Franz-Walter Steinmeier said that the German government had decided to send **100 German military personnel to the Kurdish region to advise and train the Kurdish forces** (German Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, January 15, 2015).

Indirect contacts over the release of the Jordanian pilot continue

■ On January 14, 2015, it was reported that the round of talks between the Jordanian government and notables from the tribes in the province of Al-Anbar, to promote negotiations with ISIS in the matter of the captured pilot, had failed. According to the delegation of notables from the province of Al-Anbar, they were able to make contact with ISIS leaders in Mosul who are known to be close to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and conduct negotiations with them. However, these contacts were unsuccessful (Al-Rai al-Youm, January 14, 2015).

■ ISIS, on its part, continues to exert propaganda and psychological pressure on the Jordanians. On January 17, 2015, a Twitter account affiliated with the Islamic State issued a video that included interviews with “citizens from Al-Raqqah” who spoke about the captured Jordanian pilot. One of the interviewees said that the fate of the pilot would be death, as a lesson for those who sent him. He also blamed the pilot’s family for not having prevented him from flying to Iraq and Syria and killing Muslims, and called on them to repent (i.e., to adopt Salafist-jihadi Islam). The other interviewees made similar remarks (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 17, 2015).



Interviewees in the video calling for the execution of the Jordanian pilot captured by ISIS (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 17, 2015).

Main developments in Syria



Map of Syria (GOOGLE EARTH website)

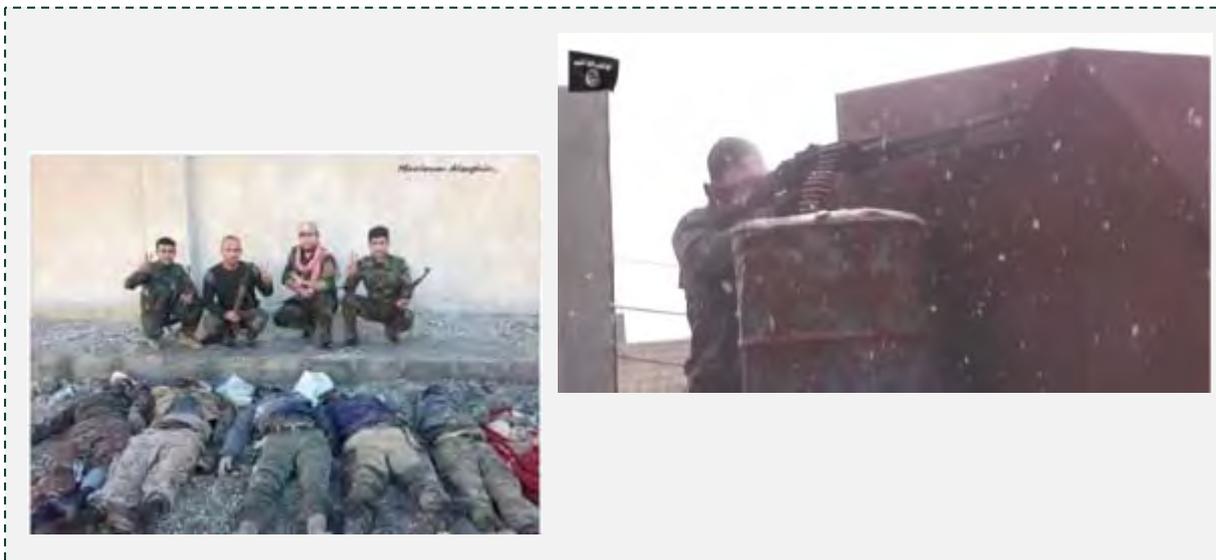
- The intensity of the fighting in Syria was low this week as well, probably due to the poor weather conditions.

Kobani (Ayn al-Arab)

- During the week, the battles in Kobani continued. On January 13, 2015, it was reported that at least eight ISIS operatives were killed in an attack in the city. On

January 14, 2015, a Twitter account affiliated with ISIS reported the death of an **ISIS operative of Canadian origin named John Maguire, AKA the Canadian Abu Anwar**. This operative first appeared in December 2014 in a video threatening that **terrorist attacks would be carried out on Canadian soil**. Another operative, codenamed **the Dagestani Abu Saad**, was killed along with him.

- On January 18, 2015, ISIS issued a video of the fighting in the area of Kobani. It is evident from the video that the presence of ISIS operatives **in the region is relatively sparse and they are probably at a disadvantage**. One of them was heard to say: “Allah, bring us the victory. After the difficulty, it will be good.” The video clearly shows the destruction in the area and an aircraft (apparently belonging to the coalition forces) can be seen in the air.



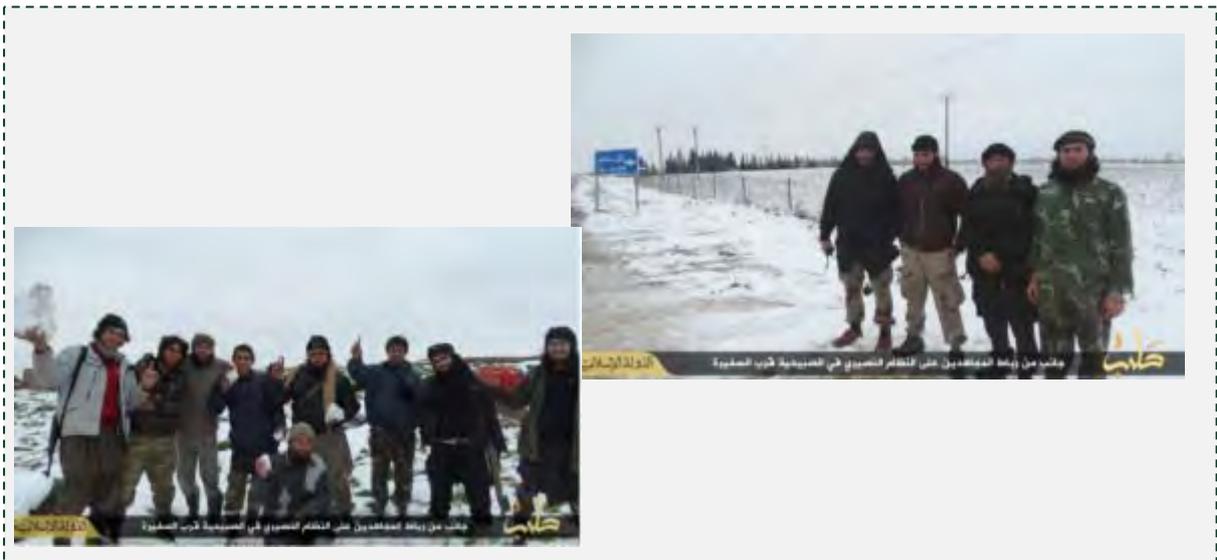
Left: Kurdish fighters photographed next to bodies of ISIS operatives killed in the fighting. Right: ISIS operatives fighting in Kobani in a heavy snowfall (Facebook page affiliated with the Peshmerga in the Kobani area, January 16, 2015)

Deir al-Zor

- Fighting between the forces of the Syrian regime and ISIS operatives in the area of the Deir al-Zor airfield. It was reported that the fighting caused fatalities on both sides (Al-Durar al-Shamiya, January 18, 2015). It was also claimed that ISIS operatives had shot down a UAV of the coalition forces (Al-Minbar al-'lami al-Jihadi Forum, January 19, 2015).

Aleppo

- In the province of Aleppo, clashes were reported between Free Syrian Army forces and ISIS forces following an attempt by ISIS to capture land in rural Aleppo. A website affiliated with ISIS documented ISIS operatives fighting southeast of Aleppo.



Al-Raqqah

- According to reports by the local coordinating committees from January 19, 2015, ISIS has closed the Syrian Red Crescent headquarters in the city of Al-Raqqah and confiscated the medical equipment and vehicles there.

Idlib

- On its official Twitter account in the Idlib region, the Al-Nusra Front reported that its **operatives had shot down an aircraft belonging to the Syrian Air Force**. They said the aircraft, an Ilyushin, was carrying ammunition, food and water, and flew over the Abu Zohour military airfield. Syrian government officials confirmed that the aircraft had crashed but claimed that the crash was due to harsh weather conditions. It was reported that 39 soldiers died in the crash (Syrian News Agency; Al-Mayadeen, January 17, 2015).

Main developments in Iraq



Map of Iraq (GOOGLE EARTH website)

Overview

- Low-intensity fighting continued this week at the various battle sites, with no significant developments. ISIS's efforts to establish its military and administrative control over the various areas also continued.

The Mosul area

- Following the airstrikes by the coalition forces, it was reported that ISIS operatives had removed 13 security checkpoints that they had set up in the Mosul area (Al-Mayadeen, January 14, 2015). It was also reported that ISIS operatives in Mosul had abducted 56 former Iraqi Army officers from their homes and executed them (www.understandingwar.org, January 19, 2015).

The Kirkuk area

- On January 17, ISIS operatives took over a village north of Kirkuk, the seat of the Albu Hamdan tribe. According to the leader of the tribe, ISIS took over the village

because the tribespeople refused to pledge allegiance to ISIS (www.understandingwar.org, January 19, 2015).

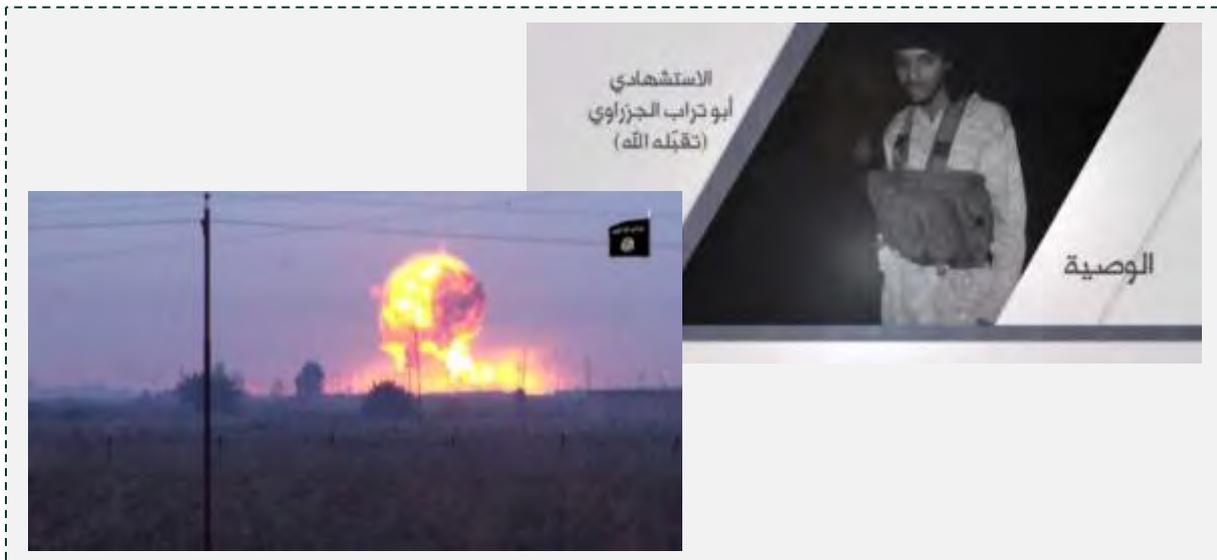
- On January 17, 2015, a website and Twitter account affiliated with ISIS published photos from a ceremony marking the end of a snipers course, which took place in the province of Kirkuk, at the Abu Omar al-Baghdadi Army Camp (the camp is named after the former commander of the Organization of the Islamic State in Iraq).



Photos from the ceremony marking the end of the course (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 18, 2015).

Samarra

- On January 16, 2015, a suicide bomber detonated a car bomb at the entrance to the city of Samarra. A Twitter account affiliated with ISIS posted a video showing the preparations for the attack and the reading of the will by the operative (Abu Turab al-Jazrawi - according to his codename, he was probably Saudi). In the video, the terrorist expressed the hope that members of the organization will be able to release the prisoners from the prisons and called to fight to defend Islam and cause maximum casualties among the enemies (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 16, 2015).



Left: The car bomb explosion at the entrance to the city of Samarra. Right: The suicide bomber (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 16, 2015).

Baiji

- ISIS published photos and a video which they claim pertains to the takeover of the Al-Maliha area (south of Baiji) from the Al-Hashd al-Shaabi militia (popular militia recruited by the Iraqi government). They also showed an ISIS operative of German origin, killed in the fighting in the Baiji area (he was referred to as “the media man, the German Abu Jandal”) (Al-Minbar al-l'ami al-Jihadi, January 14, 2015).



Top left: ISIS operative holding the insignia of Al-Hashd al-Shaabi militia, a popular militia recruited by the Iraqi government (the insignia is reminiscent of the insignia of the Iranian Qods Force and of Hezbollah). Top right: Rocket fire during the battle. Bottom: ISIS operative of German origin, killed in the fighting in the Baiji area (Al-Minbar al-l'ami al-Jihadi, January 14, 2015).

Rutba (Al-Anbar province)

- On January 16, 2015, a forum affiliated with ISIS published photos from the city of Rutba (eastern Iraq). One photo shows a sign reading “The Islamic State - the province of Al-Anbar,” “Welcome to the city of Rutba.” The insignia of the Islamic State appears in the upper left. These photos were apparently published in order to refute the claims of the Iraqi regime regarding the siege imposed on the city and to make it clear that the city is still controlled by ISIS (the Muntadayat Ahl al-Sunnah fi al-Iraq forum, January 16, 2015).



Left: Banners of the Islamic State in the city of Rutba. Right: The sign at the entrance to Rutba showing the ISIS insignia (on the left) and the words “the Islamic State” (on the right) (Muntadayat Ahl al-Sunnah fi al-Iraq forum, January 16, 2015).

The Sinjar area

- On January 14, 2015, Kurdish sources said that ISIS had carried out a widespread attack against the Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Sinjar (Al-Jazeera, January 14, 2015). On January 17, it was reported that ISIS had released 200 Yazidis, most of them elderly or ill, who had been held by the organization for five months. The released prisoners were taken by ISIS from Sinjar to a crossing near Mosul and handed over to the Peshmerga forces (www.understandingwar.org, January 19, 2015)

The conduct of the Islamic State

Estimated number of ISIS operatives

■ According to a report on the Al-Mayadeen channel (affiliated with Hezbollah), **the number of ISIS operatives is estimated at over 20,000**. This is after the organization took over the province of Deir al-Zor and forced the combatants who fought against it to join its ranks. According to the report, **the number of operatives in the rival jihadi organization, the Al-Nusra Front, is around 15,000**. It is also reported that ISIS has expanded its deployment in the cities of eastern Syria, after eliminating its adversaries from the Al-Nusra Front, and now controls about 35% of the territory of Syria (Al-Mayadeen, January 14, 2015).

■ The number of ISIS operatives that appears in the article is close to the ITIC's estimate (as of November 2014), whereby ISIS has about 25,000 operatives in Iraq and Syria. In the ITIC's assessment, this figure has increased since then, by at least several thousand operatives, in view of ISIS's recruitment and training efforts.

“Educating” the younger generation in the Islamic State

■ On January 13, 2015, a posting on a Twitter account affiliated with ISIS announced the opening of **Quran memorization classes** in the Tell Abyad area (in the northern part of the province of Al-Raqqah). The announcement included photos from one of the classrooms, showing young students listening to a teacher, probably an ISIS operative (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 13, 2015).



Quran memorization class north of the province of Al-Raqqah (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 13, 2015)

- On January 15, 2015, a Twitter account that publishes news about the Islamic State posted photos of boys and girls (probably in Al-Raqqah) holding plastic rifles in combat positions, under the caption “Lion Cubs are being raised on the soil of the Caliphate” (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 15, 2015).



Left: A boy about two years old holding a toy rifle (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 15, 2015) Right: Girls holding weapons, under the caption: “Education in the State of the Caliphate in accordance with Muslim values” (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 16, 2015)

In the areas under its control, ISIS has established a formal education system at state schools that are not operating normally. At the same time, the organization is setting up its own new educational institutions that teach mainly ideological content in the spirit of ISIS, centering on the religious studies and religious indoctrination. In

addition, ISIS maintains an informal education system consisting of training camps for children and teenagers. At these camps, the children undergo semi-military training, and various events of a Muslim nature are held (such as Quran reading contests).

Threat to execute two Japanese hostages

- ISIS posted a new video **threatening to execute two Japanese hostages unless the organization receives the sum of USD 200 million within 72 hours**. The video was published two days after the Prime Minister of Japan had promised to transfer a similar amount for non-military support of the coalition.
- The video showed the British jihadi operative known as Jihadi John, who served as the executioner of Western hostages. The two Japanese hostages were shown dressed in orange. **One of them is a Japanese journalist who went to report on events in Syria last year**. The identity of the other is unclear. The Japanese Prime Minister, who was visiting Israel, decided to shorten his stay in the region and return to Tokyo to deal with the issue.



Photo from the video issued by ISIS, threatening to execute two abducted Japanese nationals

Palestinians and Israeli Arabs

Operatives of an ISIS network of Israeli Arabs were detained³

- In November and December 2014, Israeli security forces detained **seven Arab residents of the Galilee**, who had organized themselves as a religious nationalist

³Israel Security Agency website, January 18, 2015.

group, centering on the Salafist-jihadi ideology. The network later declared its ideological commitment to ISIS.

■ During the interrogation of the network operatives, it became evident that some of them had participated in meetings with a well-known Salafist-jihadi sheikh in northern Israel. The meetings focused on religious studies and knowledge of Salafist-jihadi Islam. The sheikh also encouraged them to recruit additional operatives. At the same time, network operatives held secret meetings to discuss Salafist-jihadi ideology and ISIS's activity in Syria, **and to make their preparations to go fight in Syria. Through the internet, they also maintained contact with ISIS operatives in Syria, including Israeli Arab citizens who went to Syria to join the fighting.** Banners, objects and publications related to ISIS were found in the detainees' possession.

■ The key operative in the network is **Adnan Jamil Ala al-Din**, 39, a lawyer from Nazareth, who once worked for the Public Defender's Office. He introduced himself to the network operatives as **a senior and official commander of ISIS in "Palestine" and encouraged the group members to carry out attacks against Jews.** On his farm in the Arab village of Kafr Manda in the Galilee, the network operatives practiced assembling Molotov cocktails, slaughtering sheep (as a metaphor for slaughtering people?), and more. They also engaged in fundraising. Another operative in the network, **Karim Abu Saleh**, tried to go to Syria in July 2014. His departure was prevented at the last minute at Ben Gurion Airport. During his interrogation, he admitted that he had **purchased weapons to carry out a shooting attack in Israel in the name of ISIS.**



Left: Lawyer Adnan Jamil Ala al-Din. Right: Six operatives of the network (Israel Security Agency, January 18, 2015)



Karim Abu Saleh, one of the network operatives, against the background of an ISIS poster (Israel Security Agency, January 18, 2015)

Arrest of an ISIS-affiliated resident of a village in southern Israel

■ In November 2014, Israeli security forces arrested **Musa Khalil Abu Kush**, 29, a resident of Arara (a Bedouin village near Beer Sheba), on suspicion of belonging to ISIS. Musa Khalil Abu Kush recently completed his medical studies in Jordan. During his interrogation, he admitted to supporting ISIS **and meeting with the organization's operatives in Jordan**. He also said that he had intended to go to Syria to join the fighting.⁴

■ Prominent among the Israeli Arabs who go to Syria to join the ranks of ISIS are students who were exposed to the jihadi ideology during their studies in Jordan or Europe. It is also likely that during their studies, they were exposed to contacts of ISIS and global jihad organizations, who attempt to recruit them and handle them in Israel.

Demonstration against France by Salafist-jihadi organizations in the Gaza Strip

■ On January 19, 2015, a demonstration was held in the Gaza Strip in front of the French Cultural Center to protest the cartoons denouncing the Prophet Muhammad that appeared in the weekly Charlie Hebdo. At the demonstration, attended by several dozen Salafist-jihadi operatives in Gaza, signs condemning the cartoons were waved and calls of support for ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi were voiced. Hamas

⁴Israel Security Agency website, January 18, 2015.

security apparatus operatives detained seven participants (Qods News, January 19, 2015).

■ In response, Iyad al-Bazm, the spokesman of the Interior Ministry in the Gaza Strip, said that it was a group of teenagers who call themselves the “Salafist fighting youth” and that the demonstration was under the supervision and control of the security apparatus. He stressed that “freedom of expression” and maintaining security and order are established in law (Hamas Interior Ministry website, January 19, 2015).



Salafist-jihadi operatives demonstrating in front of the French Cultural Center in Gaza and waving black flags (Quds Net, January 19, 2015)

Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula

Report of a change in the structure of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis

■ An operative of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which recently pledged allegiance to ISIS, revealed that, following the organization’s oath of allegiance, the structure of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, the ISIS branch in Sinai, has been changed. According to the operative, the structure of the organization is currently as follows (Al-Arabiya al-Hadath, January 15, 2015):

- The organization has a special headquarters headed by **Abu Osama al-Masri**, who was appointed by the leader of ISIS. Abu Osama al-Masri maintains direct contact with the organization’s commander in Sinai.

- Under him there is a **general headquarters**, which actually controls the organization in the Sinai Peninsula and is headed by an operative whose name was not announced.
- Under the headquarters are the fighters, who are divided into five “battalions”. Each “battalion” is headed by a commander. There are also a number of specialized entities such as the preaching (da’wah) and recruitment branch in charge of recruiting new operatives; the security branch in charge of surveillance, supervision and investigation; the explosives branch, which includes explosives experts; and the information cell in charge of making and disseminating announcements on behalf of the organization.



Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis operatives in the Sinai Peninsula, on a website affiliated with ISIS (January 18, 2015)

Global jihad organizations in other countries

Suicide bombing attack in Turkey

■ It was recently reported that the police investigation revealed that the attack against the police station in Turkey on January 6, 2015, was **carried out by an 18-year-old ISIS operative from Dagestan**. The young woman, **Diana Ramazonova**, who was pregnant, **blew herself with a grenade at the entrance to a police station in Istanbul**. The explosion killed a Turkish police officer. **Ramazonova was the widow of an ISIS operative, a Norwegian citizen of Chechen descent**, who was killed six weeks earlier in Syria. She married him about a year ago in a religious

ceremony held in Syria or in Turkey after they had met through a social network (Daily Mail, January 16, 2015).



The perpetrator of the suicide bombing attack in Turkey and her husband, an ISIS operative (Hürriyet, January 16, 2015)

■ According to the Turkish newspaper Hürriyet, citing a police intelligence report, there are **at least 3,000 people in Turkey who are affiliated with ISIS** in one way or another and should be monitored. This figure is in addition to the estimate **that between 700 and 1,000 Turkish operatives are fighting in the ranks of ISIS in Iraq and Syria**. According to the article, the Turks are very concerned about the possible return of the Turkish operatives. To date, the Turks have deported 1,165 people suspected of belonging to ISIS and have refused entry to 7,250 people. Police have warned of future activity of dormant networks of ISIS operatives throughout Turkey, especially attacks on embassies and consulates of Western countries (Hürriyet, January 17, 2015).

■ In practice, however, Turkey continues to serve as the main logistical channel of ISIS and other jihadi organizations operating in Syria and Iraq. Turkish security forces, due to operational and political considerations, refrain from taking effective preventive measures to end or significantly reduce the flow of foreign fighters and aid to Syria through Turkish territory.

Call to attack the Saudi TV network Al-Arabiya

■ On January 17, 2015, Twitter accounts affiliated with ISIS **called for the killing of reporters and presenters of the Saudi TV network Al-Arabiya, under the Arabic hashtag “Kill the reporters and presenters of Al-Arabiya”** (transliteration of the

original Arabic: #iqталu_murasali_wamudhi'i_al-Arabiya). In addition, a number of posters were issued on the subject, implying that the **TV network is a “mouthpiece of Israel”** and represents a danger to religion and morality (Twitter accounts affiliated with ISIS, January 17, 2015).

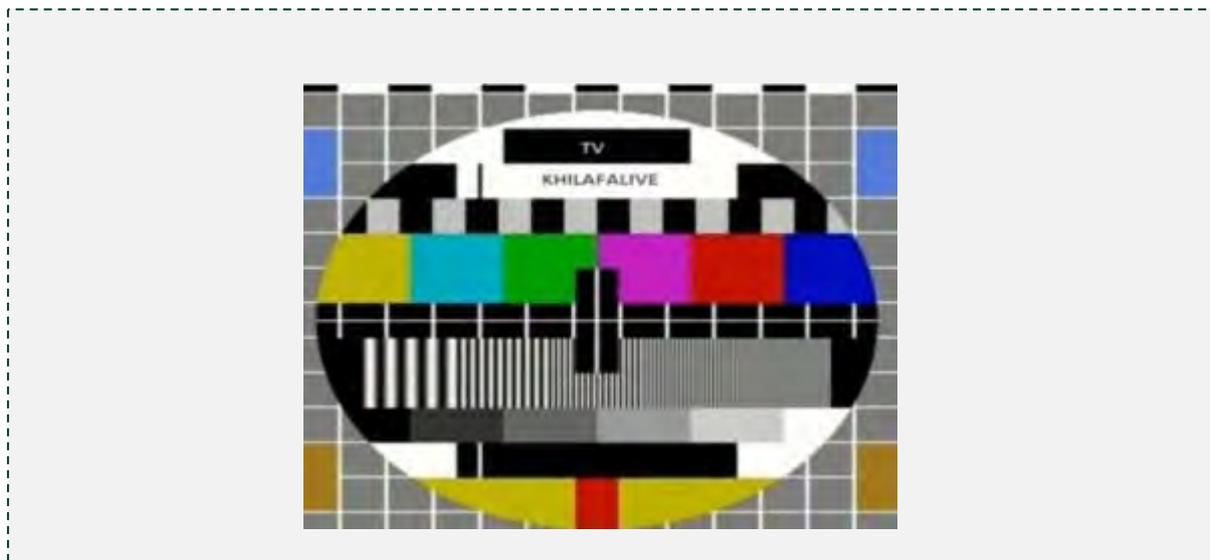


Left: A poster with the word “Al-Ibriya” (the Hebrew), a play on the word “Al-Arabiya” (the Arabic). The word “Al-Ibriya” is written in blue and white, to enhance the impression that the Al-Arabiya network serves Israel. Right: A poster with the inscription “Al-Arabiya, we will definitely take revenge” (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS, January 17, 2015)

The battle for hearts and minds conducted by ISIS

ISIS’s new TV channel

- **ISIS has begun experimental broadcasts of a new TV channel on the internet.** The TV channel is aimed at an international audience and is supposed to broadcast 24 hours a day. It is not yet clear what language it will broadcast in. Social networks and forums affiliated with ISIS have begun to show videos which they claim will be broadcast on the new channel, named **The Islamic Caliphate Broadcast**.
- The new channel’s broadcasts will include news reports. It was reported that the broadcasts will also feature **reports by John Cantlie**, the British journalist and photojournalist who was abducted by ISIS **and has appeared in ISIS propaganda films** since his abduction. It also will air a program called Recruiting Time, which deals with recruiting new operatives for ISIS. The program will air every Wednesday at 17:00 (Islamic State Time) (www.vocativ.com, January 18, 2015).



Test pattern of ISIS's TV channel

ISIS's activity is accompanied by a widespread campaign for hearts and minds, **using all existing media**. ISIS directs its propaganda messages to diverse audiences in the Arab/Muslim world and in Western countries. This campaign, **which has turned ISIS into an international brand**, also includes psychological warfare campaigns designed to frighten its enemies and rivals and to inspire terror among the general public throughout the world (featuring the execution of captives, beheading of Western hostages, etc.).

ISIS has an extensive propaganda infrastructure that includes a massive presence **on social networks**. **The organization recently launched a radio station called *Idha'at al-Bayan*** (Radio Al-Bayan), which broadcasts a daily program summarizing the events of the day at the various arenas of the Islamic State. It was also reported that ISIS has launched **a satellite TV station** called Tawhid, which has been operating since October from Sirte, Libya. **Setting up a TV channel on the internet, if it is implemented, reflects the broadening and deepening of ISIS's propaganda capabilities at a time when it is under attack by US and coalition forces.**

Documentation of the execution of a Kazakh and a Russian by a boy

- A video in Russian issued by the Al-Hayat Media Center, the media wing of ISIS, shows the execution of two people of Kazakh and Russian descent charged with spying for Russia. In the video, the Kazakh admits that he was sent by the Russian security agency to spy on Russian-speaking operatives

fighting in the ranks of ISIS. **The second, who was apparently Russian, made a similar statement.**

- The execution of the two men was carried out by a young boy of about 11, of Kazakh descent. This boy appeared in a previous video showing Kazakh children who apparently came with their families who joined ISIS, studying Arabic and undergoing military training (Twitter account affiliated with ISIS; US Archive website; The Al-Hayat Media Center, the media wing of ISIS / IsdaratTube, January 13, 2015).

- The documentation of the execution was designed to terrorize the enemies of ISIS and, at the same time, to attract media attention. Indeed, the video of the execution was shown by many media outlets in the Arab world and the West, thereby serving ISIS's propaganda system.



The boy who belongs to the Lion Cubs of the Caliphate executing “Russian agents” (US Archive website; The Al-Hayat Media Center, the media wing of ISIS - posted on IsdaratTube, January 13, 2015)

Counterterrorism and preventive activity

Wave of arrests of jihadi operatives throughout Europe

- Following the attacks in Paris, European security forces raised the state of alert and tightened security at sensitive targets, including Jewish institutions. Special police forces in France, Belgium, Germany and Britain carried out raids that led to the arrest of **several dozen people suspected** of planning attacks or in connection with jihadi terrorist cells throughout Europe. The details are as follows:

- **Belgium** - On January 15, 2015, a terrorist cell was exposed in Belgium. The cell consisted of jihadi operatives who planned to carry out an attack, **apparently against police forces** (police forces in the West, which are associated with the authorities, are a “preferred target” for many jihadists). The cell operatives were equipped with police uniforms, four Kalashnikov rifles and explosives. Two of the cell operatives were killed when they opened fire on security forces. **They recently returned to Belgium after fighting in the ranks of ISIS in Syria.** The exposure of the cell led to an additional wave of arrests, which lasted for a few days (Daily Mail, January 16, 2015).
- **Greece** - four people were arrested on suspicion of involvement in a terrorist attack in Belgium, including a person suspected of being the leader of the terrorist cell in Belgium.
- **Germany** - two people were arrested on suspicion of recruiting foreign fighters and raising money for terrorist organizations in the Middle East. It was also reported that German police arrested **Nils D.**, a German citizen suspected of joining ISIS during a stay in Syria from October 2013 to November 2014 (Reuters, January 11, 2015).
- **France** - additional suspects were arrested in Paris and its environs on suspicion of involvement in terrorism. Up to now, at least 12 suspects have been arrested on suspicion of involvement in the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.
- **Ireland** - an Algerian-born Frenchman using a fake passport was arrested at the Dublin airport.
- **The Netherlands and Spain** - the state of alert has been raised and police forces have stepped up their surveillance of suspects, including those who recently returned from fighting in Iraq and Syria.