Spotlight on Global Jihad
July 8 –14, 2021

Main events of the past week

▸ **Syria: In the Idlib region**, several wanted ISIS operatives were arrested as part of a counterterrorism operation carried out by HTS, the dominant organization in the rebel enclave. **In the desert region (Al-Badia):** ISIS continued its attacks on the Syrian army and the forces supporting it. **The Iranians reported the killing of a member of the Revolutionary Guards in Syria by an IED activated against a convoy of Iranian forces in the Homs Desert.** A commander in the Al-Quds Brigade was also killed. The Al-Quds Brigade is a Palestinian militia that supports the Syrian regime.

▸ **Iraq: This week, ISIS's activity focused on the electricity infrastructure as part of what it calls its economic war.** According to ISIS, in recent weeks, **its operatives have managed to sabotage 68 high-voltage pylons throughout Iraq**. The Iraqi army spokesman confirmed that ISIS had recently attacked at least 44 high-voltage pylons. This week, the Iraqi authorities, which are taking steps to prevent the attacks and secure the country's electricity infrastructure, thwarted several attempts to damage pylons in the Diyala and Nineveh provinces.

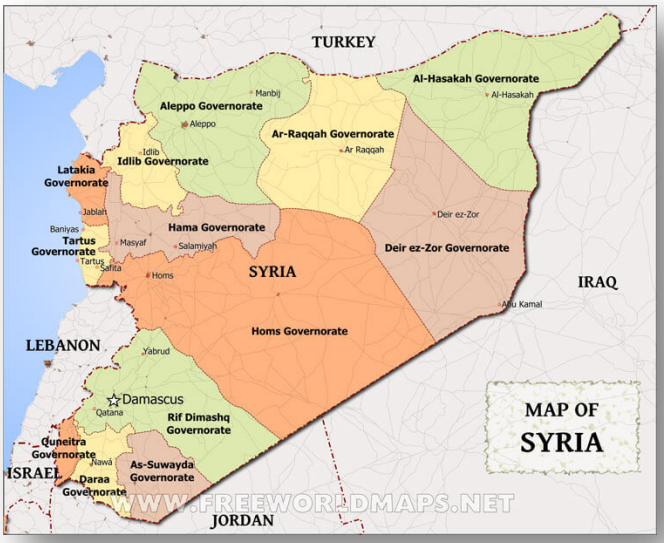
▸ **Africa: Most ISIS's activity this week focused on Nigeria.** ISIS operatives attacked military targets in the Borno State, in the northeast of the country. One noteworthy attack was carried out in Damia, in eastern Nigeria, on the Nigeria-Cameroon border. ISIS operatives carried out an attack against Christians and operatives of militias that support the government, killing 30 people.

▸ **Afghanistan: The Taliban movement continues to take over large areas of the country following the pullback of the international forces from the country and the weakness of the local government.** This week, the movement announced that it had taken over 85% of the country's territory. ISIS, which is taking advantage of the instability in the country, **stepped up its activity this week**, mainly against targets of the Afghan security forces.

▸ **The battle for hearts and minds:** This week, the main article in ISIS's Al-Naba' weekly dealt with **the failure of the International Coalition against ISIS to defeat the organization,**

against the backdrop of the June 2021 summit in Rome. The author notes that it is not a coincidence that the conference was held in Rome, and that this alludes to the Muslim tradition which bestows a divine promise on Muslims who believe in conquering Rome as part of the vision of the end of the world. In addition, the author notes that "Crusader" Europe's fears of ISIS are genuine, since Rome was and is a major target for ISIS operatives.

The Syrian arena



Syrian governorates (freeworldmaps.net)

- The SDF forces reported that during the first half of 2012, **they had arrested 245 operatives of ISIS and Turkish-backed organizations**. They also reported that 14 fighters had been killed during this time (RUDAW, July 8, 2021).

The Idlib region

- **This week, the Syrian army continued the artillery fire at the southern region of the rebel enclave in Idlib** (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, July 9-10, 2021). As part of a counterterrorism operation by HTS, the dominant organization in the rebel enclave, several wanted ISIS operatives were detained in the Idlib region (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, July 11, 2021).

The desert region (Al-Badia)

- **ISIS attacks against the Syrian army and the forces supporting it continued during the week**. On July 12, 2021, a commander in the Quds Brigade, a militia supporting the Syrian army, was killed, and three of the brigade fighters were wounded when a mine exploded in the Palmyra Desert. The mine was apparently planted by ISIS operatives (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, July 12, 2021). ISIS reported that its operatives had activated an IED

against a Syrian army vehicle in the Sukhnah Desert, about 120 km southwest of Deir ez-Zor, and that three Syrian soldiers had been killed and the vehicle destroyed (Telegram, July 12, 2021).

Vehicle that was hit in the Sukhnah Desert (Telegram, July 12, 2021)

- **On July 6, 2021**, ISIS operatives ambushed and attacked a Syrian army truck in the Sukhnah Desert. Ten soldiers were killed or wounded. The force commander was abducted. According to ISIS, the officer, an expert on explosives engineering, admitted in his interrogation that he and 10 of his soldiers had searching for ISIS operatives (Telegram, July 7, 2021). Two days later, several Syrian soldiers were wounded when a mine planted by ISIS exploded in the Ithriya region, about 100 km northeast of Hama (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, July 8, 2021).
- According to ISIS's Al-Naba' weekly, the officer was executed after being interrogated. The weekly also noted that eight Syrian soldiers had been killed in the Homs Desert in three different IEDs attacks against Syrian army vehicles (Al-Naba', July 8, 2021).

Right: The truck going up in flames in the Sukhnah Desert (Telegram, July 7, 2021). Left: The Syrian officer abducted by ISIS (Telegram, July 7, 2021)

- According to Iranian and Syrian reports, on July 8, 2021, ISIS operatives detonated an IED **against a convoy of Iranian forces in the Homs Desert**. An Iranian Revolutionary Guards officer was killed. The Iranian media issued an official statement on the death of Reza Safdari, a Revolutionary Guards member, and details of his funeral. The sources did not specify where

he was killed and the circumstances of his death (www.shaam.org, July 9, 2021). Iranian leader Khamenei addressed the incident, referring to him as a brave officer. ISIS has not issued a claim of responsibility for the incident. On June 3, 2021, a similar attack was carried out against an Iranian convoy, killing two senior Revolutionary Guards members. Then, too, ISIS did not claim responsibility for the attack.

Reza Safdari, Revolutionary Guards member killed in Syria (www.ana.press, July 9, 2021)

Deir ez-Zor-Al-Mayadeen region[1]

- An SDF "spy" was abducted in Al-Jurdi al-Gharbi, near Al-Mayadeen. He was interrogated and then executed.

The "spy" a moment before he was executed (Telegram, July 10, 2021)

Al-Raqqah region

- **On the night of July 11-12, 2021, the Syrian army managed to thwart an attack by ISIS operatives** riding motorcycles against several Syrian army posts simultaneously in the Rasafah Desert, about 40 km southwest of Al-Raqqah. According to a Syrian source, 15 ISIS operatives were killed in the incident and several of their motorcycles were destroyed. Three

[1] According to ISIS's claims of responsibility posted on Telegram

soldiers were killed and five were wounded (Sputnik, July 12, 2021; Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, July 13, 2021).

- **On July 1, 2021**, ISIS operatives fired at an SDF traffic police post in the Karamah region, east of Al-Raqqah. Two SDF fighters were wounded.

The Iraqi arena

Provinces of Iraq (Wikipedia)

ISIS's activity in Iraq

- **A reporter for The Guardian**, who accompanied forces fighting against ISIS south of Kirkuk, wrote an article that includes details on **ISIS's activity in Iraq**. According to the article, which is based on local sources and intelligence, **although ISIS continues to carry out attacks in Iraq, it is relatively weakened**. ISIS operatives mainly concentrate in the Hamrin Mountains, east of Kirkuk. They operate in mountainous and desert regions, in wadis and gorges, living like the Bedouin tribes. The nature of their activity stems from the reluctance of the population in cities and villages to provide them with shelter and assistance. According to the intelligence officer who was interviewed for the report, the region south of Kirkuk, between Samarra, Baiji and Kirkuk, is of special importance for ISIS, and "they will never let go of this area" because it's a central region in Iraq, close to the mountains on the east and the deserts in the west, so it's easy for them to find shelter there. A tribal leader who was interviewed for the report said that "although the militants' numbers are small at the moment, they are working to recreate the conditions that allowed them to control the area. If they were left unchecked, they would soon manage to organise and regroup" (The Guardian, July 11, 2021).

ISIS's economic war

- An article published in ISIS's Al-Naba' weekly, dealing with ISIS's "economic war" against the Iraqi government, **reported that during the recent five weeks, ISIS operatives had destroyed 68 high-voltage pylons in Iraq**.
- A "senior ISIS figure" interviewed in the report says that ISIS launched a campaign against the Iraqi electricity infrastructure, which lasted for 35 days. It started on June 6, 2021, and lasted until the end of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah (July 10, 2021). He says that **the current campaign was launched at the request of ISIS leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashemi al-Qurashi**, who instructed the operatives to attack Iraqi economic infrastructures, including the electricity infrastructure, and it is a continuation of previous attacks against the Iraqi electricity infrastructure in recent months. The peak of summer was chosen as the timing of the current campaign, with electricity consumption at its highest.
- According to ISIS, the campaign caused heavy damage to the electricity infrastructure, which resulted in economic damage to Iraq and also security problems due to the public protest. **ISIS expanded its activity and also attacked oil and gas facilities, wells and water infrastructure supplying water to Baghdad**. He notes with satisfaction that the Iraqi government has sustained heavy economic damage. Among other things, he mentions the extra costs incurred due to the government's decision to secure the infrastructure. In this context, it is noted that security around the electricity infrastructure makes it easier for ISIS to attack the security personnel. Furthermore, the reinforcement of troops in areas where there is an electricity infrastructure makes it easier for ISIS to operate in other regions, where the presence of security forces has been reduced.
- At the end of the article, the "senior ISIS operative" notes that the attacks against the electricity infrastructure have not replaced other attacks carried out by ISIS in Iraq, and threatens with other campaigns that will wear down the Iraqi security forces (Al-Naba', Telegram, July 8, 2021).

النبأ — العدد ٢٦٤ الخميس ٢٥ ذي القعدة ١٤٤٢ هـ — تقارير ١١

مسؤول عسكري لـ(النبأ): استهداف أبراج الكهرباء غزوة اقتصادية شاملة ضربت قطاع الكهرباء الرافضي، ولن تكون الأخيرة

النبأ | وكالة النبأ الإخباري

أطلق جنود الخلافة في ولاية العراق غزوة اقتصادية كبيرة خلال الأسابيع الخمسة الماضية استهدفت قطاع الكهرباء الرافضي في مختلف المناطق، ونتج عنها انهيارات في منظومة الكهرباء الرافضية، تسببت بأزمة اقتصادية خنقتها أزمات أمنية واضطرابات داخلية بمدن الحكومة الرافضية للاستقرار الأمني وتشاكل "مقاتلوا أرسكا" شاركت فيها مختلف قواتهم لتأمين وحماية هذه الأبراج الذكرية هنا وهناك، فصاروا يتسللون هم والأبراج؛ بعد أن أصبحوا أهدافا سهلة في مناطق مكشوفة وواسعة.

وفي هذا الصدد، أدلى مسؤول عسكري لمكالمة النبأ، تفاصيل هذه الغزوة وأهدافها ونتائجها على المستوى الاقتصادي والأمني للحكومة الرافضية.

استجابة لتوجيهات خليفة المسلمين

وفي التفاصيل، قال المسؤول العسكري (ر.أ) إن هذه الغزوة تم تنفيذ الأول من نوعها بل جاءت استكمالا لمجموعة غزوات أخرى نفذتها خلال الأيام الماضية استجابة لتوجيهات خليفة المسلمين -حفظه الله تعالى- باستهداف مفاصل الاقتصاد الرافضي بكافة أشكاله، بما فيه قطاع الكهرباء.

وأضاف المسؤول: أن الغزوات السابقة استهدفت قطاع الكهرباء بدأ بأبشاء من أبراج وخطوط نقل وتوليدات ومحولات وغيرها، كما وشح المجاهدون بالرغم الاستهداف، لتشمل قطاع النفط بما فيه المصافي وأنابيب النقل والمحطات الحكومية والفنار، إضافة لآبار ومشاريع المياه الرئيسة الغذائية لبغداد، وكان لذلك أثر كبير على اقتصاد الحكومة الرافضية وعملياتها الذريعة، فكانت النتائج إيجابية ومشجعة، ولله الحمد.

غزوة شاملة تستمر ٢٥ يوما

وتابع المسؤول حديثه (ر.أ) قائلا: بعد دراسة نتائج الغزوات السابقة قمنا بتوجيه المجاهدين للاستمرار لغزوة اقتصادية أكبر وأشمل من سابقاتها، يكون الذكر فيها عن قطاع الكهرباء بشكل خاص لأهميته، وتأثيره المباشر على كل القطاعات الأخرى كالنفط وغيرها.

وذلك لامتناع الحكومة الرافضية وتشديد قواتها وإمدادها بمعدات وأدوات هذا القطاع.

وكشف المسؤول أن مدة هذه الغزوة كانت أطول من سابقاتها، حيث انطلقت بتاريخ (٢٥/شوال) وتستمر حوالي الشهر، حتى أمر ظهر (ذي القعدة)، أي ما يقارب ٢٥ يوما.

وقال المسؤول إن الله تعالى وفقنا لاختيار التوقيت المناسب للغزوة تزامنا مع ذروة الحر الشديد التي تكون فيها الحاجة إلى الكهرباء أكثر، مما فاقم الأزمة على الحكومة الرافضية وميليشياتها وأنصارها.

تحقيق أكبر قدر من الإختراق

وأوضح المسؤول (ر.أ) أن الهدف من الغزوة هو إتاحة الوقت الكافي للمجاهدين لاختيار الأهداف المناسبة بدقة وتكرار استهدافها، بما يضمن تحقيق أكبر قدر ممكن من الاختراق والإنهاك لأجهزة الرافضة، بحيث لا يتمكنون الغزوة من إصلاح وترميم هذا القطاع، وبالتالي تكون النتائج أكثر جدوى وتأثيرا.

وهو ما رأيناه في هذه الغزوة المباركة، حيث كان المجاهدون يستهدفون أبراج النقل ذاتها عدة مرات في غضون أيام، ويستهدفون كذلك القوات الأمنية وفرق الصيانة التي تحاول الوصول إليها لإصلاحها، حتى وصلوا إلى حالة من الحذر والترقب، يراقبا كل متابع لصفحاتهم ومواقعهم الإخبارية، وتلك الفضل أولا وأخيرا.

استهداف وتدمير ٦٨ برج كهرباء

وحول عدد الأبراج المستهدفة خلال الغزوة، قال المسؤول العسكري إن نتائج هذه الغزوة كانت كبيرة كما وتأثيرا، بفضل الله تعالى، فقد تمكن المجاهدون خلالها من استهداف وتدمير ٦٨ برجا للكهرباء في مناطق متفرقة من ولاية العراق في (كركوك، صلاح الدين، الأنبار، بابل، ديالى، بغداد، الجزيرة، شمال بغداد)، نتج عنها ما رأيناه من خسائر اقتصادية كبيرة وتعطل واضح لشبكة الكهرباء الرافضية، وكان يصل بعد الأبراج المستهدفة خلال الأسبوع الواحد أحيانا إلى أكثر من ١٠ برجا، وقد بلغ عدد الأبراج المستهدفة خلال هذا الأسبوع فقط ٢١ برجا، ولله الحمد.

استهداف الأبراج عمليات منسقة

وأكد المسؤول العسكري (ر.أ) أن استهداف الأبراج تم بسلسلة عمليات منسقة تفقدها مقاتلوا المجاهدين المكلفة بهذه الغزوة، باستكشاف بعض الأبطال الفنية في عدد من المحطات بسبب التحميل والضغط الزائد عليها لتعويض الحمل الناتج عن استهداف الشبكة الخطوط الأخرى.

كما عمدنا في بعض مناطق الجنوب، حيث انعكست نتائج الاستهدافات في مناطق شمال ووسط العراق على مناطق الجنوب الرافضي الذي خرج في مظاهرات واحتجاجات ضد الحكومة الرافضية ماحصرا فيها عددا من محطات الكهرباء، استجابة منا لنداء مشايخنا وأمرائنا، وهذا من تدبير الله تعالى لعباده المجاهدين.

نتائج الغزوة الاقتصادية

وعلى الصعيد الاقتصادي، أوضح المسؤول (ر.أ) أن نهار منظومة الكهرباء الرافضية في مختلف مناطق العراق، تسبب بخسائر اقتصادية كبيرة في قطاع "الإنتاج والتدمير" ما يهدد بوقوع انهيارات اقتصادية كبيرة في الحكومة الرافضية، فيما لم استمر الحال على ما هو عليه، خصوصا بعد زيادة الاعتلال الداخلي وزيادة الضغط من الحكومة من أجل توفير حلول تحسن من تواريدها، يضاف إلى ذلك القرارات التي اتخذتها بتشكيل غرف عمليات لتشاركها وزارة الكهرباء والقوات الرافضية بهدف حماية أبراج الكهرباء، وما يتطلبه ذلك من ميزانيات كبيرة لتوفير الدعم اللوجستي والعسكري لانتشار هذه القوات، وهذا كله يضاف لخسائر الكبيرة التي لحقت بقطاع الكهرباء نأنه جراء الهجمات، ولله الحمد.

نتائج الغزوة أمنيا

أما عن الصعيد الأمني، فقد أكد المسؤول العسكري (ر.أ) أن الغزوة أدت إلى تشتيت وبعثرة جهود الحكومة الرافضية والتي اضطرت لاستنفار أعداد كبيرة من قواتها الحالية منه الأبراج الثانوية في محاولة منها لتأمين مناطق متفرقة.

وأضاف المسؤول: أنه إذا أضفنا بعين الاعتبار عدم قدرة الرافضة على تعبئة المزيد من المقاتلين بسبب أرائهم الانشقاقية، فإن هذا يعني سحب قسم من قواتهم التي تواجه المجاهدين وتدعوها في مناطق الأبراج، وبالتالي يتحقق هدفان من أهم أهداف الغزوة:

الأول: تخفيف الضغط عن المناطق الأخرى.

والثاني: توفير أهداف عسكرية جديدة وكثيرة منتشرة خارج المدن، والتي ستعتبر رصيدا إضافيا للمجاهدين بإذن الله تعالى.

ما أقل الحسنة تبقى تخم في الجهود سهم

وبخصوص ما يثار حول تضرر بعض مصالح أهل السنة جراء هذه الغزوة، قال المسؤول العسكري إن الجميع يعلم أن الرافضة لم يتركوا للمسلمين مصلحة خاصة، فإما أن تكون مسالمة رافضية بمنة وهو الأكثر، وإما أن تكون نهبا للميليشيات الرافضية التي تفرض الإتاوات عليهم وتسرق أرباحهم وأرزاقهم فالرافضة هم المتضرر الحقيقي من هذه الغزوة، وما تشهده مناطقهم من اضطرابات خير دليل على ذلك.

ونحتسب أن الله تعالى قرض الجهاد خير عباده المؤمنين وهو يعلم صعوبته ما فيه من جهد ومشقة، والمجاهدين يجاهدون الكافرين بأموالهم وأنفسهم ويحرمون في ذلك نقص الأنفس والثمرات كما يصيبهم القتل والأسر والأذى، فإن حصل بعض الضرر للمسلمين من هذه العمليات فهو داخل بإذن الله تعالى في عموم الجهاد، فعلى المسلمين أن يصبروا ويحتسبوا إن سهم في من ذلك وأن يصبروا لوراهم، ليكون لهم بذلك سهم في هذا الجهاد المبارك الذي يدفع عن دينهم وأعراضهم ومعتقاتهم عامة الروافض.

لن تكون الأخيرة بإذن الله

وفي الختام، أشار المسؤول إلى أن هذه الغزوة لم تؤثر على سير العمليات العسكرية والأمنية الأخرى لتجنود الخلافة، حيث استمرت العمليات والهجمات النوعية ضد القوات والتجمعات الرافضية في مناطق الوقاية، بفضل الله تعالى، وأكد المسؤول العسكري (ر.أ) أن هذه الغزوة المباركة لن تكون الأخيرة بإذن الله، وسيعقبها غزوات أخرى، يرجو ما سيجرح الصدر الغرض لانتقام لمقاتلة، ويبقى مشغولا مستنزفا مستهلكا هو كل الجهات، وفي كل الأوقات، مكاوحة وعبيدا وميليشيات بإذن الله تعالى.

The report on ISIS's Al-Naba' weekly (Al-Naba', Telegram, July 8, 2021)

- The Iraqi army spokesman confirmed that ISIS had recently attacked at least 44 high-voltage pylons (RUDAW, July 9, 2021). It should be noted that in spite of the Iraqi government efforts to secure the electricity infrastructure, including the announcement on setting up a joint operations room, attacks against high-voltage pylons were carried out this week as well. However, the security forces managed to thwart several attempts to damage pylons in the provinces of Diyala and Nineveh, after IEDs ready for activation had been found (Al-Sumaria, July 11, 2021).
- Following are the main **ISIS attacks in the various provinces of Iraq[2]:**

Kirkuk Province

- **On July 12, 2021**, an Iraqi police building was targeted by gunfire in the Riyad region, about 50 km southwest of Kirkuk. One policeman was wounded.
- **Three attacks were carried out against police posts and policemen in the Rashad region**, about 40 km southwest of Kirkuk. **On July 6, 2021**, a police post was attacked. One policeman was killed. **On July 8, 2021**, machine guns were fired and rockets were launched at policemen, killing and wounding four of them. The day after, a vehicle carrying policemen in the area was targeted by gunfire once again. One policeman was wounded.

[2] According to ISIS's claims of responsibility posted on Telegram

Al-Anbar Province (western Iraq)

- **On July 13, 2021**, ISIS operatives set fire to two trucks belonging to the Popular Mobilization forces and two other trucks belonging to an Iraqi police officer in the Kisra region, about 150 km southwest of Ramadi.
- **On July 8, 2021**, mortar shells were fired at an Iraqi army camp east of Al-Rutba. According to ISIS, definite hits were detected.

Salah al-Din Province

- **On July 9, 2021**, the house of a Tribal Mobilization fighter was targeted in the Abbasiyah region, northwest of Samarra. Three of the people inside the house or Tribal Mobilization fighters were killed or wounded.
- **On July 8, 2021**, rockets were fired at the Al-Siniyah refinery, about 10 km south of Baiji. No hits or damage were reported.

The rocket ready to be launched (Telegram, July 12, 2021)

Diyala Province

- **On July 11, 2021**, an Iraqi army camp was targeted by gunfire in Al-Abarah, about 40 km northeast of Baqubah. One soldier was killed and another was wounded.
- **On July 11, 2021**, an IED which was apparently planted by ISIS exploded near a high-voltage pylon in the Nahrawan region, about 40 km south of Baqubah. It partly collapsed (Al-Sumaria, July 11, 2021).
- **On July 9, 2021**, an Iraqi police post on the outskirts of Al-Miqdadiya was targeted by gunfire. Two policemen were wounded.
- **On July 6, 2021**, policemen were targeted by gunfire on the outskirts of Al-Azim, about 60 km north of Baqubah. Three policemen were wounded.

Counterterrorism measures in Iraq

Al-Anbar Province

- **On July 9, 2021**, the Iraqi security forces arrested five ISIS operatives on two separate occasions around the province (Al-Hal, July 9, 2021).

Kirkuk Province

- **On July 11, 2021**, while carrying an operation to locate ISIS operatives in Wadi Abu Khanajer, south of Kirkuk, the Iraqi security forces located an ISIS hiding place with several dozen rockets, two mortars, a Kalashnikov rifle and more (Al-Sumaria, July 11, 2021).
- **On July 10, 2021**, the Iraqi security forces located five mortars and two IEDs belonging to ISIS in Hawija, about 50 km southeast of Kirkuk (Al-Sumaria, July 10, 2021).

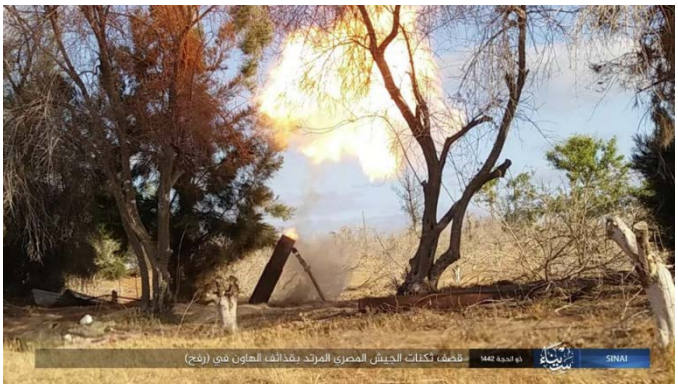
Nineveh Province

- The Iraqi security forces in west Mosul arrested an ISIS operative who had been in charge of transferring IEDs and responsible for the "Oil Committee" of ISIS's Treasury Office (*Beit al-Mal*) while ISIS controlled the city (Al-Hal, July 12, 2021).

The Sinai Peninsula

- **In the Sinai Peninsula, there was relatively little activity this week as well**. **On July 11, 2021**, ISIS operatives activated an IED against an Egyptian army tank near Al-Toumah, south of Sheikh Zuweid. Soldiers on board the tank were killed or wounded and the tank was destroyed (Telegram, July 12, 2021). **On July 13, 2021**, an IED was activated against a tank near the village of Abu Araj, south of Sheikh Zuweid. The soldiers on board the tank were killed or wounded and the tank was destroyed (Telegram, July 13, 2021).
- ISIS's Sinai Province released photos documenting attacks carried out by ISIS operatives in the past two months in Rafah against the Egyptian army (Telegram, July 13, 2021).

Right: Sniper fire at a soldier in a guard tower south of Rafah. Left: ISIS operatives planting IEDs



Right: Mortar shells being fired. Left: Exchange of fire with the Egyptian army

Summary of ISIS's activity in the various provinces

- Data from an infographic published by ISIS, summing up its activity around the world **between July 1 and July 7, 2021**, shows that during this period, **ISIS carried out 78 attacks in the various provinces in Asia and Africa**, compared to 66 attacks in the previous week. The largest number of attacks was carried out in Iraq (44). Attacks carried out in ISIS's other provinces: West Africa (13); Somalia (7); Syria (5); Sinai (3); Central Africa (3); Khorasan, i.e., Afghanistan (1); Pakistan (1); Indonesia (1) (Al-Naba' weekly, Telegram, July 8, 2021).
- According to the infographic, **140 people were killed or wounded in the attacks**, compared to 51 in the previous week. **The largest number of casualties was in the Iraq Province** (62). The other casualties were in the following provinces: West Africa (34); Syria (15); Central Africa (8); Somalia (6); Sinai (6); Pakistan (5); Khorasan, i.e., Afghanistan (3); Indonesia (1) (Al-Naba' weekly, Telegram, July 8, 2021).

Infographic summing up ISIS's activity (Al-Naba' weekly, Telegram, July 8, 2021)

Africa

This week, ISIS carried out noteworthy activity in Nigeria, mainly against the Nigerian army and security forces. In the other countries of Africa there was relatively little activity this week. Following are the main attacks, according to ISIS's claims of responsibility (Telegram).

Nigeria

On July 11, 2021, a Nigerian army checkpoint was targeted by gunfire in Mafa, about 50 km east of Maiduguri, in northeastern Nigeria. One soldier was killed and several others were wounded.

On July 11, 2021, a Nigerian army convoy was ambushed and targeted by gunfire and an IED in the Bitta region, about 80 km south of Maiduguri. Several soldiers were wounded. ISIS operatives seized two rifles and ammunition.

On July 10, 2021, a Nigerian army checkpoint was targeted by gunfire in Maiduguri. Several soldiers were wounded. ISIS operatives seized weapons and ammunition.

On July 9, 2021, a Nigerian police patrol was targeted by gunfire on the Auno-Jakana highway in northeastern Nigeria, about 100 km southwest of Lake Chad. Three policemen were killed in the exchange of fire and an armored vehicle was set on fire. An aid vehicle that arrived on the scene overturned and its passengers were injured. The day before, a temporary checkpoint set up by the Nigerian army was targeted by gunfire on the same highway, where ISIS operatives had abducted and executed a Nigerian soldier.

On July 8, 2021, a Nigerian army post was attacked in Katrako, southwest of Maiduguri. The sides exchanged fire. Two soldiers were killed and several others were wounded. An aid force that arrived on the scene was targeted by gunfire and several other soldiers were wounded.

On July 8, 2021, an IED was activated against a vehicle of a militia supporting the Nigerian army, near Damboa, about 80 km southwest of Maiduguri. The vehicle was destroyed and all four passengers were killed.

On July 7, 2021, a Nigerian army camp was attacked in Lassa, about 130 km south of Maiduguri. Several soldiers were killed or wounded in the exchange of fire.

On July 7, 2021, an attack was carried out against positions of "Christians" and militias supporting the Nigerian government in Damia, in Adamawa State, in eastern Nigeria, on the Nigeria-Cameroon border. Thirty militiamen and "Christians" were killed. Several houses in the town were set on fire.

- **On July 7, 2021**, a Nigerian army convoy was ambushed and targeted by gunfire west of Dikwa, about 50 km from the Nigeria-Cameroon border, in northeastern Nigeria. Four soldiers were killed and several others were wounded.
- **On July 5, 2021**, an attack was carried out against positions of militias loyal to the Nigerian army in Damboa. The militia fighters fled the scene and ISIS operatives set fire to several residential buildings belonging to them.

Cameroon

- **On July 5, 2021**, a Cameroonian army checkpoint was targeted by gunfire in the Maroua region, about 80 km from the Cameroon-Nigeria border. Three soldiers were killed and several others were wounded.

Niger

- **On July 10, 2021**, a Nigerien army patrol was targeted by gunfire in the Diffa region, on the Niger-Nigeria border. The patrol fighters reportedly fled.

Mozambique

- **This week, ISIS resumed its activity in Mozambique, following attempts by the Mozambican army to increase its control of the region in the northeast of the country. On July 12, 2021, ISIS operatives (according to their reports) repulsed** two Mozambican army attacks on the road between Mocímboa da Praia and Mueda. Several soldiers were wounded in the exchange of fire (Telegram, July 13, 2021). **On the same day, there was an exchange of fire between ISIS operatives** and a Mozambican army patrol in the Muidumbe region of the Cabo Delgado Province. One soldier was killed. ISIS operatives seized three motorcycles and a rifle (Telegram, July 13, 2021).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- ISIS operatives exchanged fire with Congolese soldiers in the Ituri region, about 50 km west of the Congo-Uganda border. Two soldiers were killed. ISIS operatives seized two rifles and ammunition (Telegram, July 13, 2021).

Somalia

- A Somali army force was targeted by gunfire in the **Al-Miskad Mountains** region, south of Bosaso, in northern Somalia. Four soldiers were killed and five others were wounded.

Asia[3]

Afghanistan

- **The Taliban movement** continues to take over large areas of this country, in the wake of the pullback of the US forces from the country and the weakness of the local government. This week, the movement announced **that it had taken over 85% of the country's territory** (Reuters, July 11, 2021). **ISIS is taking advantage of the instability in the country to increase its terrorist activity.** Some of the attacks targeted Afghan government infrastructure. Following are the main attacks according to ISIS's claims of responsibility (Telegram).
- **On July 11, 2021**, a Taliban commander associated with Pakistani intelligence was targeted by gunfire in Peshawar, near the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **On July 11, 2021**, an IED was activated against a bus carrying workers at the Kabul City Governor's Office and the National Directorate of Security in Kabul. A total of 18 passengers were killed or wounded.
- **On July 11, 2021**, a vehicle of an Afghan government intelligence operative was targeted by gunfire in Jalalabad. He was killed.
- **On July 11, 2021**, an IED was activated against a high-voltage pylon in the Parwan region, in north Kabul. Material damage was caused.
- **On July 10, 2021**, an IED was activated against a real estate agency owned by a so-called spy who, according to ISIS, was working for the Afghan intelligence service in Kabul. He was killed.
- **On July 9, 2021**, a lawyer who has "deviated from the path of Islam" was targeted by gunfire in Jalalabad. He was killed.
- **On July 9, 2021**, an IED was activated against an oil tanker belonging to the Afghan government in Kunduz, north of Kabul, near the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border. The tanker went up in flames.
- **On July 8, 2021**, an IED was activated against a bus carrying Shiites in Herat, about 120 km from the Afghanistan-Iran border. A total of 13 passengers were killed or wounded.

[3] According to ISIS's claims of responsibility posted on Telegram

- **On July 8, 2021**, an Afghan intelligence operative was targeted by gunfire in Jalalabad. **The day before**, a "spy" who worked for the Afghan government's intelligence service in the city was targeted by gunfire.
- **On July 7, 2021**, an Afghan intelligence officer with the rank of colonel (*akid*) was targeted by gunfire in Jalalabad.

Pakistan

- **On July 9, 2021**, a Shiite civilian was shot dead in the Peshawar region, near the border with Afghanistan.

The Philippines

- Al-Naba' weekly devoted an article to the attacks carried out by the ISIS operatives in recent months in the southern Philippines, in which, according to ISIS, 15 soldiers were killed and weapons, ammunition and equipment were seized. According to the article, these incidents have not been reported to date, due to "security and technical reasons related to the jihad fighters" (possibly because of communication problems) (Al-Naba' weekly, Telegram, July 8, 2021). Most of the incidents took place in the Lanao del Sur region of central Mindanao. The details of the incidents are as follows:

١٥ قتيلا من الجيش الفلبيني بكمائن واشتباكات والعثور على حطام مروحية جنوب الفلبين

وإصابة عنصر من الشرطة في إندونيسيا

The page devoted to ISIS's activity in the Philippines
(Al-Naba' weekly, Telegram, July 8, 2021)

- **On November 26, 2020**, and IED was activated against Philippine soldiers in Lanao del Sur. Four soldiers were wounded. A Philippine army helicopter that came to rescue them crashed. The wreckage was found by ISIS operatives on February 13, 2021.

- **On January 14, 2021**, three Philippine soldiers on two motorcycles were ambushed and targeted by gunfire in the Lanao del Norte region, in the center of the island of Mindanao in the southern Philippines. All three were killed. ISIS operatives seized two pistols, IDs and other items.

One of the soldiers killed in Lanao del Norte (Al-Naba' weekly, Telegram, July 8, 2021)

- **On January 29, 2021**, an IED was activated against a Philippine army patrol in a wooded area of Lanao del Sur. In addition, they were ambushed and targeted by gunfire. A large number of soldiers were killed.
- **On January 31, 2021**, a Philippine army patrol was ambushed and targeted by gunfire in a wooded area of Lanao del Sur. Two soldiers were killed.
- **On February 14, 2021**, ISIS operatives attacked another Philippine army patrol in Lanao del Sur. One soldier was killed and two others were wounded.
- **On March 4, 2021**, ISIS operatives attacked a Philippine army patrol which was searching for ISIS operatives in the same area (Lanao del Sur). The ISIS operatives took them by surprise and several soldiers were killed or wounded.
- **On May 9, 2021**, a Philippine army patrol was targeted by gunfire in a wooded area of Lanao del Sur. Several soldiers were killed and ISIS operatives seized an RPG launcher, ammunition and diverse equipment, as well as the soldiers' ID cards.

Indonesia

- According to a military source, Indonesian security forces **killed two ISIS operatives** who were involved in the murder of Christian civilians on the island of Sulawesi in May 2021. It should be noted that **in recent months, Indonesian security forces have been carrying out intensive counterterrorism operations on the island of Sulawesi in order to capture operatives belonging to the East Indonesia Mujahideen network**, and especially their leader, Ali Kalora. This is a local group whose operatives pledged allegiance to ISIS in 2014 (AP, July 11, 2021).

- ISIS claimed responsibility, belatedly, for throwing a grenade at an Indonesian police patrol in the southern island of Sulawesi on June 26, 2021, wounding a policeman (Al-Naba' weekly, Telegram, July 8, 2021).

Europe

Russia

- **On July 9, 2021**, Russian security forces detained an ISIS operative **who was planning to carry out an attack in the Moscow region**. The detainee, 21, is a citizen of "one of Russia's neighboring countries." Under interrogation, he confessed to the charges, noting that in late June 2021 he had begun his preparations for carrying out the attack and purchased components for making IEDs. An IED and components for making additional IEDs were seized in his home (Rusiya al-Youm, ria.ru, July 9, 2021).

The battle for hearts and minds

- The main article of ISIS's Al-Naba' weekly, entitled, The Crusader Coalition between Rome and Dabiq, deals with the countries of the International Coalition against ISIS and their failure to defeat ISIS. The article was written in light of the conference held by the countries of the International Coalition against ISIS in late June 2021 in Rome, where the countries raised concerns about the spread of ISIS in Africa, especially in West Africa and the Sahel region, and stressed the need to take action against ISIS on social media and against its sources of financing (Al-Naba' weekly, July 8, 2021).
- According to the author, it is not a coincidence that the conference was held in Rome, since this alludes to the Muslim tradition which bestows a divine promise on Muslims who believe in conquering Rome as part of the vision of the end of the world. In addition, the author notes that "Crusader" Europe's fears of ISIS are genuine, **since Rome was and is a major target for ISIS operatives**.

التحالف الدولي
GLOBAL COALITION
التحالف الصليبي
بين روما ودابق

The article on the International Coalition summit (Al-Naba' weekly, Telegram, July 8, 2021)