

THE FOUNDATION  
FOR THE STUDY OF  
**DEMO  
CRACY**

THE  
INSTITUTE  
FOR THE  
STUDY  
AND  
COUNTERACTION  
OF  
TERRORISM

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# **COUNTERING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA**



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**T**he Foundation for the Study of Democracy (headed by Maxim Grigoryev) and the Institute for the Study and Counteraction to Terrorism (headed by Vladimir Magerov) have been working consistently to identify and counter the propaganda of terrorist groups.

Based on the frequency analysis of several thousands of terrorist materials, databases have been compiled to identify automatically the terrorist propaganda on the Internet. After a necessary examination, hundreds of such resources are submitted on a regular basis to the law enforcement agencies for prohibition. As part of the developed counter-narrative concept, counter-narrative materials aimed against terrorists are prepared to be disseminated later through Russian non-governmental organizations, the Orthodox and Muslim clergies, in prisons, as well as on Russian social networks.

Features and main statements of the propaganda of the ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) terrorist group, also known as the is (Islamic State) or Da'esh (ad-Dawlah al-Islāmiyah fī 'l-'Irāq wa-sh-Shām, which is the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) whose activities are prohibited in the Russian Federation will be set out in detail in the following pages. Taking into account that “Da'esh” is similar to the Arabic word meaning “one who tramples down something underfoot”, and in line with the counter-narrative objective, this publication is using this very acronym. The

fact that the ideology of the terrorists and Da'esh (ISIL) accomplices builds on the attempt to justify their activities using the religious and pseudoreligious wording, as well as that the Muslims are the target audience of the most intensive terrorist propaganda means that a significant part of the counter-narratives should be based on the Quran and Islamic traditions. It should be noted as well that despite the publication featuring Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda, the majority of its peculiarities described below are widely spread and can also be attributed to the propaganda of a significant number of other terrorist groups trying to justify their actions by referring to religion. Similarly, the counter-narratives set out in the following pages can be used not only against Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist group ideology, but also against many other groups of this kind.

The materials presented below use the translations of the Quran and Sunnah<sup>1</sup> most appropriate for the topic under discussion. The titles of and quotes from terrorists' publications used in the text below are transcribed exactly as found in the source, even those with errors or peculiar spelling. For instance, terrorists often use the word "mujahidin" which is close to the Arabic pronunciation, instead of the conventional spelling "mujahideen"<sup>2</sup>.

A separate section sets forth the principles, main lines and methods of countering the terrorist propaganda, as well as "ready-to-use" counter-narratives, quotes and examples of "ready-to-use" materials that can also be found on the website of the Foundation for the Study of Democracy (<http://democracyfund.ru/publicism.php?id=376>). Upon request, the Foundation for the Study of Democracy can adapt them for use in specific territory. Such request, as well as

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<sup>1</sup> Sunnah ("usual practice" in Arabic) is the sacred Muslim legend recounting the examples from the life of the Islamic prophet Muhammad to be a model and guideline for the whole Muslim community (Ummah) and each Muslim. Along with the Quran, the Sunna makes up the two primary sources of the Islamic law.

<sup>2</sup> Mujahideen is one engaged in Jihad. Jihad in Islam means struggling with spiritual or social vices, eliminating social injustice, waging a war against aggressors, punishing criminals and offenders. Terrorists, though, usually use the word "jihad" in a wrong way referring only to armed fighting.

the information about terrorist propaganda can be sent to the e-mail: [info-ru@democracyfund.ru](mailto:info-ru@democracyfund.ru)

The Foundation for the Study of Democracy and the Institute for the Study and Counteraction to Terrorism also invite all organizations concerned to cooperate in identifying and analyzing terrorist propaganda materials, including for the purposes of adding to this publication, as well as in creating and distributing counter-narrative materials.

## CHAPTER 1

# FEATURES OF DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST PROPAGANDA

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**F**irst and foremost, among the features of Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda one should point out its high level, not only in terms of quantity, but also in terms of the quality of materials, diversity of formats and media, especially those used in dissemination on the Internet.

Terrorist materials targeting the residents of Europe, Russia, the United States and the Middle East are issued by such terrorist media agencies, media centers and publishing houses as Amaq, Al-Furqan, Al-Hayat, Furat, Furqan, Al-Itisam, Ajnad, Himma and others, the Al-Bayan radio and the press services of wilayahs (areas).

These entities publish materials in Arabic, English, Russian, German, French, Turkish and other languages. In the territory of the part of Syria and Iraq occupied by terrorists the Al-Bayan radio stations broadcast on various FM frequencies, dozens of books and booklets, posters, newspapers are published, and boards with slogans are erected.

The example of the terrorist propaganda presented on the next page clearly shows the diversity of channels and formats of propaganda used by Da'esh (ISIL) as early as in October 2014, and indicates that even two years ago the total number of printed copies of various Da'esh (ISIL) publications exceeded 20 million.





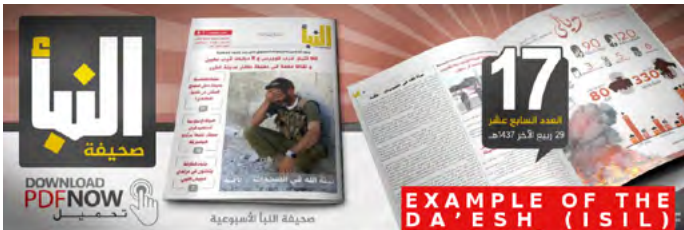
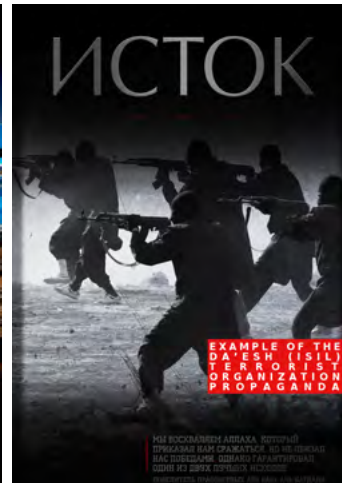
For instance, the terrorist group issues a number of periodic “information research” magazines – one or more in each language. Thus, two different magazines – Furat Press and Istok (“The Source”) – were published in Russian. The texts, their differences from those in the Dabiq, Dar al-Islam, Konstantiniyye and Rumiyyah magazines published by the terrorists in other languages, the number of pages in the Russian issues of the magazine (68 pages in one of the latest issues), professional layout of materials and proofreading unambiguously suggest that the terrorists have an individual group of experienced Russian-speaking journalists.

Besides, similar to common periodicals, each issue is presented on-line in various “reader”-friendly formats: pdf, word, epub, fb2, ebooks etc.

Terrorists have shot thousands of films and videos. The database of the Foundation for the Study of Democracy alone contains more than 500 video materials in Russian or with Russian subtitles. Their content is rather diverse. One of the most popular topics of the terrorist propaganda is Da'esh (ISIL) “military successes” and terrorist acts. Here are several examples of the titles of the terrorist video films: “True Word about the Mujahidins’ Fortitude”, “Attack against the Taghut’s Army”, “Military Parade of Those Who Strike Fear into the Hearts of the Enemies of the Religion”, “The Islamic State Fighters Capture the Huz District in the City of Ramadi”, “Islamic State Seizes the Muqbil Hill near the Industrial City of Shaykh Najjar”, “Report on the Functioning of the Caliphate’s ABM System”. “Attack of Lions on a Military Airport”.

The majority of these materials use a peculiar stilted style calling terrorists none other than “lions”, “who strike fear into the hearts of the enemies”, “fighters” etc.

A significant number of the propaganda videos aim to threaten people of the territories occupied by the terrorists and residents of various countries, as well as to glorify suicide bombers. These films feature scenes of numerous killings and executions of real and alleged enemies of the terrorists and of civilians. In many cases, the executions are carried out by minors. Here are some examples of the titles of Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist



video films aimed to threaten people of the territories captured by the terrorists and residents of various countries, as well as to glorify suicide bombers: "Soon, Very Soon", "Shoot Your Victim", "Jordan Pilot Execution", "Execution of a Murtadd in Revenge for the Monotheists", "Execution of Judges", "Message to the Muslims of France", "This is a Message to You, Taghuts of the Arabian Peninsula", "Jordan Spy Execution", "Execution of Murtadds in Yemen", "Annihilation of the Sakhauat Unit", "My Son Outstripped Me", "Istishhadist Thwarted an Attack against the Besiir Village".

Materials glorifying the suicide bombers usually include interviews with them, as well as videos of their attacks shot from a safe distance.

Terrorists have released a number of films in the form of messages from the "land of life" or from the "Caliphate" featuring a person originally born in the particular territory urging the viewer to join terrorist organizations. For instance, one such film features a person by the nickname of "Abu Khaled al-Cambodi" from Australia. Terrorist films with messages to the people of Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kurdistan, Tunisia and Yemen have similar content. These propaganda materials also feature fighters from various countries. For instance, it applies to the following terrorist video materials: "Message to the People of Georgia", "Message to the People of Kazakhstan from the Caliphate", "Message to the People of Kurdistan", "Message to Jordan", "Message to Yemen from the Lands of Al-Shaam", "Message to the People of Tunisia", "Stories from the Lands of the Caliphate"

Many video films and other propaganda materials are intentionally produced by Da'esh (ISIL) to show itself as an entity with social functions inherent in the State.

For instance, the film titled "Reconstructing the Bridge" shows the reconstruction of the bridge after the missile attack carried out by the United States air forces. For similar purposes, terrorists shot another video film promoting the "introduction" of a golden dinar, and the "Zakat in the Neynewa Wilayah" infographics show data about the sum allegedly allocated to the families in need in Mosul and other settlements.

ИСТОРИИ ИЗ ЗЕМЕЛЬ ХАЛИФАТА

Адгуну  
Вайи  
Каравай

EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA

ЛУЧШИЕ 10

ЛУЧШИЕ АКТЫ ВЕЩАТЕЛЕЙ И РАДИОСЛУШАТЕЛЕЙ

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA

Diwan of Preaching and Mosques

Organizes Preaching Activities and Manages Mosques and Religious Endowments on the Territory of the Islamic State

Mission:
 

- Preaching and spreading Islamic and Da'esh
- Construction and management of Mosques
- Quran Study Center
- Publishing Monthly Fiqh 'Ulama

Activities:
 

- Public Courses for men and women
- Preaching Courses, Mosques, and Daras
- Department of Islamic Knowledge
- Courses for Islamic State Fighters on the field
- Islamic governmental and administrative activities

Great 30+ App & App Extension, Twitter Channel

The Da'esh's Most Important Works in Syria for

1080 Quran Study Centers

690 Mosques and Mosques

212 Mosques of

50 Mosques of

64 Mosques and Mosques

93 Mosques and Mosques

EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA

EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA

распределения зяката

1200,000  
1,000,000  
800,000  
600,000  
400,000  
200,000

лучь хиджа шавваль раджаб раба саия мухаррам

распределенная сумма

число семей, получивших зякат

1 доллар равняется 1260 иракских динаров

6,703,472 долларов

86,029 семей

EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA

Зякат

в вилайте Нейнова

СТАТИСТИКА ЗА 1436 Г.Х.

распределенная сумма в округах

Мосул правая часть города \$3,158,909 семей 43,624

Мосул левая часть города \$ 2,749,266 семей 34,023

равнина Нейнова \$ 406,429 семей 4,377

Бадуш \$ 388,869 семей 4,005

EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA

For the same reason, a number of video films were released showing schools, register offices, new roads, slaughterhouses, maternity hospitals: "Register Office", "Holiday Prayer", "Life under the Caliphate Protection", "Resumption of Schools' Openings with New Programs", "Feeding in the Day of Famine", "Education in the Caliphate", "Mujahidin's Rest", "Economics in the Caliphate", "Opening of the Bab Laqsh Davas Road", "Opening of the Slaughterhouse in the City of Palmyra", "Restoration of the Maternity Hospital in Raqqa" etc.

Terrorist media center "Al-Hayat" disseminates on a regular basis propaganda material titled "Top 10. Best Ten Video Releases of the Islamic State".

Unfortunately, one has to note the high quality of studio shooting and live recording, the professional level of computer graphics and editing in general.

Interestingly enough, many terrorists' propaganda materials share the style typical of such channels as BBC and Al-Jazeera in terms of shooting, reporting and editing. Quite a few characteristics allow us to conclude that a significant number of Da'esh (ISIL) materials were produced by people with Western education and knowledge of the Western propaganda and marketing methods who have been residing in the United States, at least until recently. For instance, in the film titled "No Respite" that has also been translated into Russian, logos of large corporations are shown as one of the enemies, and the majority of those corporations are from the United States.

One of the shots of the film shows images of Prozac, a popular medical drug in the United States, another one features a photo of the "Terrorist International" edited in the style of the Western advertisement with four smiling fighters from different ethnic groups, which, according to the idea of terrorists' propaganda, should promote supranational nature of Da'esh (ISIL).

The terrorist film itself, just like the photo on the cover of the Furat Press magazine, starts with the words "Caliphate Following the Prophetic Methodology". Obviously, the phrase "prophetic methodology" is more



typical of the Western terminology, rather than Arabic or Russian languages.

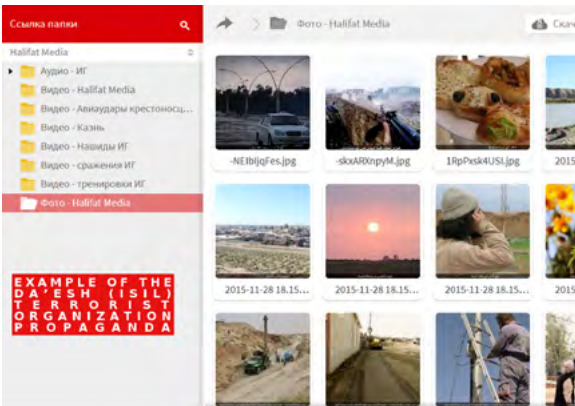
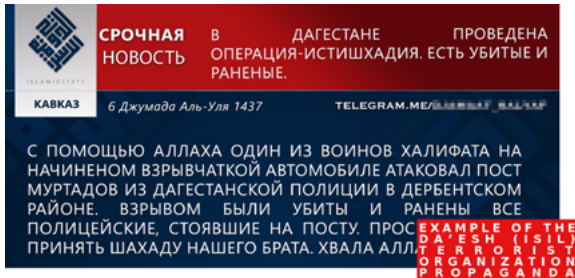
Like commercial news agencies, terrorist propaganda media centers issue daily press releases and infographics giving exaggerated data on the losses of the Syrian and Iraqi armies. They specifically indicate the number of soldiers allegedly killed by Da'esh (ISIL), the number of vehicles, tanks, armored cars and drones shot down or captured, as well as the number of suicide bombings.

Most of the time, these numbers are exaggerated or distorted. For instance, on October 26, 2016, terrorist media agency "Amaq" disseminated the following message: "Last Sunday, two warriors of the Islamic State attacked a military base in the city of Nizhny Novgorod in Western Russia."

In fact, the car with terrorists was stopped for examination of documents, and when they started to shoot the policemen they were killed by return fire. At the end of 2015, after an attack against tourists at the viewing platform in the ancient Naryn-Kala fortress in Derbent, Dagestan, Da'esh (ISIL) issued the following statement: "The Caliphate warriors managed to launch an attack against a group of Russian intelligence officers in the city of Derbent".

Another feature of terrorists' propaganda is the large-scale use of the Internet. For instance, it is used to disseminate sets of thousands of Da'esh (ISIL) staged photos with a whole range of various subjects.

Here are some examples: praying people, military equipment, peacefully grazing sheep, photos of agricultural lands, cutting off of arms, images of sunrises or sunsets, landscapes, Da'esh (ISIL) flags, construction works, first-person shooting from small arms, distributions of envelopes with money to those in need, launches of homemade missiles and planting of homemade mines, harvesting, utility works, bread baking, variety of groceries in stores, doctors in hospitals at work, photos of suicide bombers, abundance of produce at markets, executions of captives, children at schools, training of terrorist units, work of batch plants, construction of roads, cleaning of territories, suicide bombers' vehicles exploding etc.





All this variety boils down to a small number of propaganda statements terrorists are trying to promote: their military capabilities, Da'esh (ISIL) statehood elements, "good" life of people in the territories under Da'esh (ISIL) control, brutal executions and killings of alleged or real enemies of terrorists.

Pseudoreligious extremist "lectures" are disseminated in a similar manner, as well as statements and addresses by not only terrorist leaders, such as al-Baghdadi, but also by the self-declared terrorist preachers. For instance, statements of a certain Akhmad Medinskiy – a former student of a medical university in Dagestan who was expelled for academic failure, moved to the territory under terrorists' control and joined Da'esh (ISIL) – are actively distributed on Russian social networks.

Many of his "appeals" are posted on social networks in religious groups, as well as on available file hostings under the guise of religious lectures.

For instance, the audio recording of the appeal distributed on social network "Vkontakte" through the "Seekers after Knowledge" group urged the listeners to join terrorist leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, participate in killings, as well as proclaimed a direct threat to conquer Russia and dress Da'esh (ISIL) enemies in orange clothes, i.e. to kill them: "Oh, mujahidins of the city of Khasavyurt!.. Today, you have a choice, which side to join... the side of those headed by Caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, or the side of Murjites... We call you to jihad... Didn't those nine brothers who inspired terror in the whole France give you a sign ... Why don't you make a Russian kafir, a Dagestani, Chechen, Ingush, Ossetic murtadd... know that we will conquer Russia... We will definitely dress you in orange clothes and our knives will be covered in your blood." (sic)

In another material with a logo of the Furat media studio whose title featured an eloquent phrase "will strike terror", Akhmad Medinskiy welcomed a terrorist attack that took place on February 14, 2016, near the Road Patrol Service post in Dagestan and urged his supporters to continue explosions, as well as to cut heads and chop fingers: "Today, in the lands

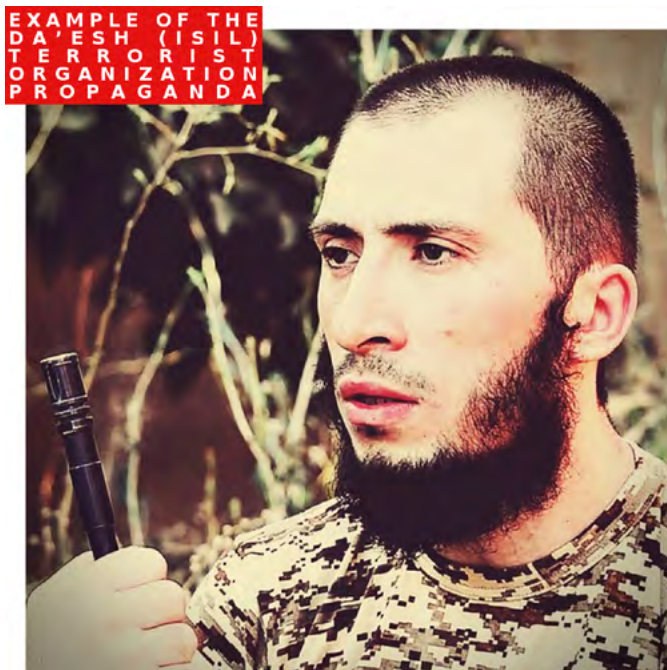
Совет братьям из [redacted] - Обращение Ахмада Мединского к верующим [redacted] в связи с последними событиями.

Подпишись, Слушай и Распространяй

**Ахмад Мединский**  
ТАЛИБУЛЬ 'ИЛЬМ'  
VK.COM/[redacted]

EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA

Ахмад Мединский - Совет братьям из [redacted]



of the Caucasus, in the lands of Dagestan, they were believers, they were stoic!.. The heart of the one who mined his car and headed to the post and blew it up... You rejoiced us with this deed... Now, continue down this path! Continue down this path, favorites of the Caliphate! The path of explosions where they do not expect it... Cut their heads and cut their fingers..."

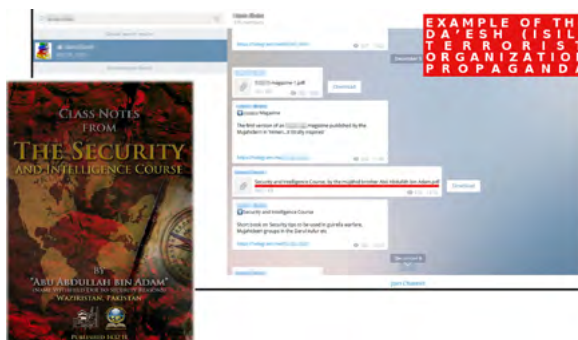
It should be noted that Akhmad Medinskiy not only disseminated terrorist propaganda, but also carried out terrorist attacks. On September 25, 2016, a group of fighters was detained in Dagestan. One of them, Magomed Gasanbekov, a 18-year old resident of Kaspiysk, confessed that he had prepared to blow himself up near the Djemikent police post and that he used the Telegram messenger to maintain contact with Akhmad Medinskiy who had urged him and other members of the group to commit terrorist attacks in Dagestan and "promised to assist them, provide contacts of the people in Dagestan who would give them money to leave Russia for Syria afterwards". During the search, seven grenades, cartridges and an explosive belt were discovered.

Internet messengers, especially Telegram, are also actively used by terrorists. In Telegram, there are channels under various names broadcasting Da'esh (ISIL) newsletters on a regular basis. There are channels under various but similar names, such as "Islamic State Official Newsletter", "Caliphate News", "Dagestan Wilayah", "Jamaat Salaf", "Hot News" etc.

The propaganda usually targets Muslim youth. To influence them, terrorists are trying to use a whole range of various channels and groups on the Internet: from religious ones and those for the residents of particular regions to groups for women with Muslim food recipes. We have also discovered terrorists using many Telegram channels – for instance, "Perfect Housewife (a channel for sisters)", channels for children, sports enthusiasts etc. They start to disseminate terrorist propaganda after these channels gain popularity and followers. For example, one of the channels that had been specializing on giving answers to religious questions for a long time, started to broadcast Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda materials after getting



EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA



3500 followers. in that case, it posted photographs of a Da'esh (ISIL) suicide bomber exploding himself; he was loftily called an amir of a combat team of the Caliphate army Aslanbek Abu Mohammed Shishani.

In another case, a Telegram channel disseminated under the guise of religious books some manuals on how to maintain secrecy.

It should be noted that the users subscribing to these news are quite often contacted by Da'esh (ISIL) recruiters through private messages.

Telegram channels are used as a tool to not only broadcast terrorist news (through texts, audio recordings and infographics), photos and videos, but also to distribute instructions, calls to murder and terrorist acts in certain territories, IED (improvised explosive device) manuals, recommendations on how to maintain secrecy and counter law enforcement agencies, manuals on subversive activities. This messenger is also used to raise money and to attempt to organize mass unrest.

For instance, one of the Telegram channels for the residents of a certain settlement in the Caucasus broadcasted a message explicitly urging the slaughter and killing of people under the pretext of protecting Islam: "Here is a little instruction from our beloved brother Muhammad Abu Zeid (hafizahullah) with regard to the recent events. How many times does one have to repeat... You need to engage in jihad, enough fooling around, that's it, they give nothing, they feel nothing – you should just blow them up, slaughter them, kill them, bury them, screw over those kafirs, there is nothing else to do. Otherwise, it will happen all the time. All mosques will be seized, you will be humiliated and will do what the kafirs will allow you to." (sic)

The Foundation for the Study of Democracy discovered instructions and videos on how to make improvised explosive devices, as well as detailed hours-long lectures on subversive groups' tactics and secrecy that had been disseminated using Telegram channels for a long time.

For example, the "Bombs, explosives" channel that is now closed offered a book on explosives with the following comment: "A really helpful book on explosives and on how to make a bomb. Be careful storing this book in any medium." Another book on this channel started

**Make a bomb in the kitchen of your Mom**  
**Сделай бомбу в Маминной кухне** The AQ Chef

Перевод: Абу Сулейман Ал-Казахستاني

На основе материала Ал-Малэхм Медиа

Послужи своей Умме на пути джихада. Данный материал предназначен для тех мусульман, которые истинно осознали свою потребность к джихаду на пути Аллаха (Свят он и Велик)!

Ваша задача извлечь пользу из данного материала, который переведен на русский язык с журнала моджахедов Арабского полуострова [redacted]. Текст переведен из русского языка, для того, что бы наши русскоязычные братья и сестра извлекли из этого пользу. И да поможет нам всем Алл

**EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA**

**Бомба взрываетка [redacted]**  
 как сделать [redacted] детонатор: [http://youtu.be/\[redacted\]](http://youtu.be/[redacted])

YouTube  
 как сделать [redacted] детонатор  
 из старого телефона

**EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA**

02:24

1112 23:55

with the following: “A manual for all those people who hate tyranny. Includes instructions on how to make explosives, safeguards, guerilla war tactics, training with weapons and many other things related to jihad... Can I make an efficient bomb that would harm the enemy from the ingredients that can be found in any kitchen of the world? The answer is yes... Main features of this bomb are the following: its ingredients are easy and free to get, the purchase will not raise any suspicions, one or two days of work and your bomb is ready to annihilate up to ten people; a few more hours of work, a bigger bomb, and you will be able to increase the casualties to several dozens of people” (sic); another section recommends using nails to increase destructive effects “It is important to use shrapnel to successfully kill the target, destroy or injure as many enemies as possible. For these purposes, you want to use metal balls or nails.”

Terrorists also try to use Telegram to obtain and disseminate data of law enforcement officials. These materials are usually accompanied by explicit calls to kill them. For instance, Telegram channel “Caucasus Wilayah Security Services” collected and posted photos and materials about the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Federal Security Service officials of Chechen Republic, Stavropol Territory, the Republic of Ingushetia and other regions of Russia, photos of locations of military units with comments about the purpose of the buildings and level of their vulnerability.

Using Telegram channels, Da'esh (ISIL) terrorists are attempting to organize mass unrest in the Russian territory. For example, the following call broadcasted to the residents of a city of the Dagestan Republic was detected at the beginning of 2016: “We have reports that X has been taken. Gather near the Municipal Department of the Interior!” Similar attempt was undertaken in Moscow – the following announcement disseminated on social media was discovered: “On February 6, a movie about the prophet made by the Iranian Shiah will be screened in the “Oktyabr” movie theater. All the scholars of the Islamic Ummah have unanimously forbidden (haram) viewing this movie...


Please support and repost this message. Please send it to everyone in your contact list.”

Using messengers and social media, Da’esh (ISIL) is trying to create a network of its accomplices to accommodate terrorists in Moscow. For instance, the following message was discovered on a Telegram channel disseminating Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist propaganda: “As-salamu alaykum brothers/sisters. I am ashamed to make such a request... Family issues, would be grateful if anyone could lodge me for a day or two, observing Muslim, 16 years old. No money on me, would go to a hotel otherwise.” (sic)


Telegram is also actively used by terrorists’ media centers to “keep in touch with the readers”. For example, they posted the following message: “We invite you to send us your complaints and proposals related to the Caliphate Russian-language media agencies (the Al-Bayan radio, information and analytical magazine Istok (“The Source”), the Furat studio). You can also use this number to submit applications for publication of relevant articles on issues that you think are important for the Islamic Ummah. Best articles will be featured in the Istok magazine. Telegram number: +9...).” Terrorists have also started to develop and disseminate Android apps to deliver propaganda materials and messages directly to the users’ smartphones, as well as so called bots – special apps for the Telegram messenger. For example, Da’esh (ISIL) channels actively spread an app used to receive terrorists’ radio broadcasts: “Brothers and sisters, every day at 12:00 the X radio delivers the Caliphate news in Russian that will repeat at 18:00, as well as lessons in Russian right after the second newscast. Download the Y app.” The message is followed by a link to the Android app in question. Various terrorists’ “bots” allow automatic access to terrorist materials, as well as the facility to send or receive a message. It should also be noted that the information exchanged in Telegram is encrypted, which does not allow to restrict access to a particular terrorist channel.

Terrorists are actively disseminating their propaganda on foreign and Russian social media – Facebook, Twitter, Vkontakte, Odnoklassniki




 2504 members

**EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA**



СБ  
ВИЛАЯТА КАВКАЗ  
telegram.me/...  
2170 0:02

 <https://telegram.me/...>

Мы собираем информацию о тагутах, их помощниках, муртадах, мунафиков и всех кто работает против религии Аллаха, Его Посланника и верующих. Любая информация, начиная от Ф.И.О, семьи, фотки, адреса, места обитания, развлечения, работы. Так же для тех, кто служил или имеет какую-нибудь информацию о секретных штабах, военных лагерях, адресах скопления и т.п. информацию о слабых местах врагов. Просим выслать нам. Полная анонимность ин ша Аллах с нашей стороны.

Информация собирается со всего Виляята Кавказ и более: Дагестан, Чечня, Ингушетия, Кабардино-Балкария, Карачаево-Черкесия, Адыгея, Осетия, Ростов, Ставрополь, Краснодар, Москва, Санкт-Петербург, Тверь, Волгоград, Пятигорск и т.д

**EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA**

**МЫ ВСЕЛИМ УЖАС  
В СЕРДЦА НЕВЕРУЮЩИХ**

... ..

etc. Just as in Telegram, they use a wide variety of groups: from those dedicated to the interpretation of the Quran to the groups with Muslim food recipes. People who have expressed their interest in these groups are often contacted by Da'esh (ISIL) recruiters. Recently, in order to disguise their activities, the agitators of terrorist groups have been trying to pose as "civil society activists", "military correspondents", "independent experts on Syria and Iraq" etc.

Terrorists' agitators usually create several accounts on social media that differ from each other by a digit. For example, @civic28active, @civic27active, @civic26active, @civic24active etc. Each of them cites duplicate accounts along with spreading information. Taking into account the shortcomings of legislation and internal procedures of social media, prohibiting or restricting access to one of such accounts does not lead to the deletion of others that continue their work. Terrorists use similar approach with their websites as well, registering and maintaining websites with the same name in different countries. In this case, the reluctance of a number of countries to respond promptly to the information provided by the Russian law enforcement agencies results in the terrorist websites continuing to function in other countries after being taken down in Russia. Terrorists also make use of public file hostings and such resources as Google Docs, Yandex Disk, JustPaste.it, Wordpress.com, Sendvid.com, Vidto.me, Archive.org and many others. Quite often, they take the following approach: a new account or page for single use is created on these resources for each piece of news, text or video, and links to them are disseminated through other terrorist propaganda channels. By the time the administration of these resources or law enforcement agencies make a decision to delete or restrict access to them, the audience the terrorists are trying to influence has already seen them; further materials are posted on a new page or account.

An obvious feature of Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda is to attempt to justify Da'esh (ISIL) actions using references to the Quran and Sunnah. Most of the time, it intentionally distorts them. In particular, terrorists use incomplete quotes or divorce them from the context suggested by



the Quran. For instance, one Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist film is built around the incomplete quote from the Quran Surah Muhammad<sup>3</sup>, Ayat 4: "strike [their] necks". It appears at the very beginning of the film followed by the terrorist talking about making sacrifices to Allah and beheading the captives.

People with insufficient knowledge of Islam, which is the majority of terrorists and their accomplices, understand this reference not only as a justification of murder, but also as a call to it. In fact, human sacrifices have never been practiced in Islam and the full quote from the Quran Surah says the opposite: "So when you meet those who disbelieve [in battle], strike [their] necks until, when you have inflicted slaughter upon them, then secure their bonds, and either [confer] favor afterwards or ransom [them] until the war lays down its burdens." Therefore, Ayat 4 of the Surah Muhammad says that captives should not be killed but released instead.

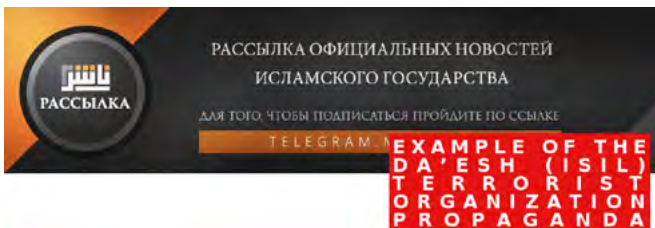
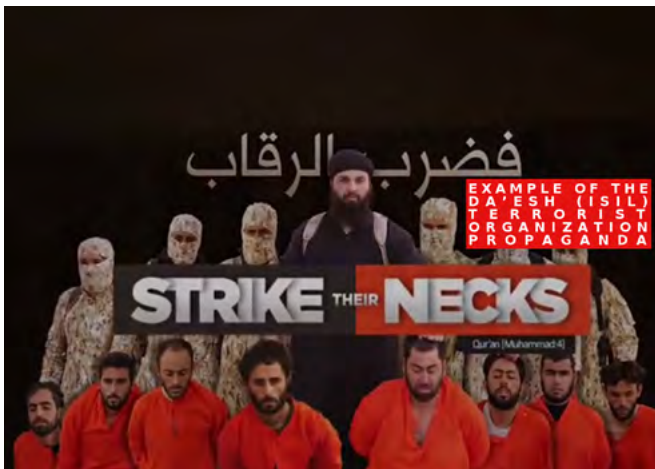
Another terrorist material disseminated by Da'esh (ISIL) on social media features a photo of Russian policemen with a quote from the Sunnah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 191: "And kill them wherever you overtake them and expel them from wherever they have expelled you." In fact, this fragment is about the Meccan polytheists against whom the Prophet Muhammad waged war more than 1300 years ago. Similarly, another terrorist material has a photo of the Russian militaries with the following hadith<sup>4</sup>: "Use your property, your persons and your tongues in striving against the polytheists".

It is obvious that Russian policemen and militaries who are followers of the Abrahamic religion cannot be considered polytheists from the times of the Prophet Muhammad. However, the target audience of the terrorist propaganda – young Muslims who have no clear apprehension of Islam –

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<sup>3</sup> Muhammad is the founder and key figure of Islam. According to the Islamic doctrine, Allah sent Muhammad his holy scripture – the Quran. Despite the traditional Russian spelling "Muhammed", in this material we will use the version "Muhammad" which is the most common and customary spelling for modern Muslims.

<sup>4</sup> The saying or action of the Prophet Muhammad several of which form a Sunnah the Muslims must follow.



may understand this material as a direct call to attack Russian policemen and militaries.

Another clear peculiarity of Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist propaganda is the large-scale use of videos featuring murders of civilians or Syrian or Iraqi soldiers, in fewer cases – of foreign citizens. The majority of these videos (for example, “Message to the Families of Captives from Peshmerga”, “If You Punish Them, Punish Them The Way They Punished You”, “Arrest of Spies. is Caliphate” [in Russian], “Dejla Wilayah, Deterrence of Spies”, “Sinai Wilayah”, “Sabotage and Execution of a Spy. is Caliphate, May 16, 2015”, “If You Do It Again, We Will Do It Again”, “Detention of the Murtadd Involved in the Killing of Muslim Women in the Sinai Wilayah, Egypt. is Caliphate, March 19, 2015”, “Execution of Murtadds in Revenge for the Monotheists”, “Execution of Judges. is Caliphate” [in Russian], “Kurdish Fighters of the is Caliphate Executed Members of Peshmerga on the Spot of the Air Strikes. March 19, 2015”, “Jordan Pilot Execution”) share a pattern: they include confessions of victims, their calls upon Da'esh (ISIL) enemies to show “repentance” followed by their execution (by shooting, throat cutting, beheading, stake, drowning etc.); in some cases, the executions are carried out by children (for example, “Kill Them Wherever You Meet Them”, “Shiah Exposed”, “Tabqa”, “Kurdistan Taghuts kill their fellows” etc).

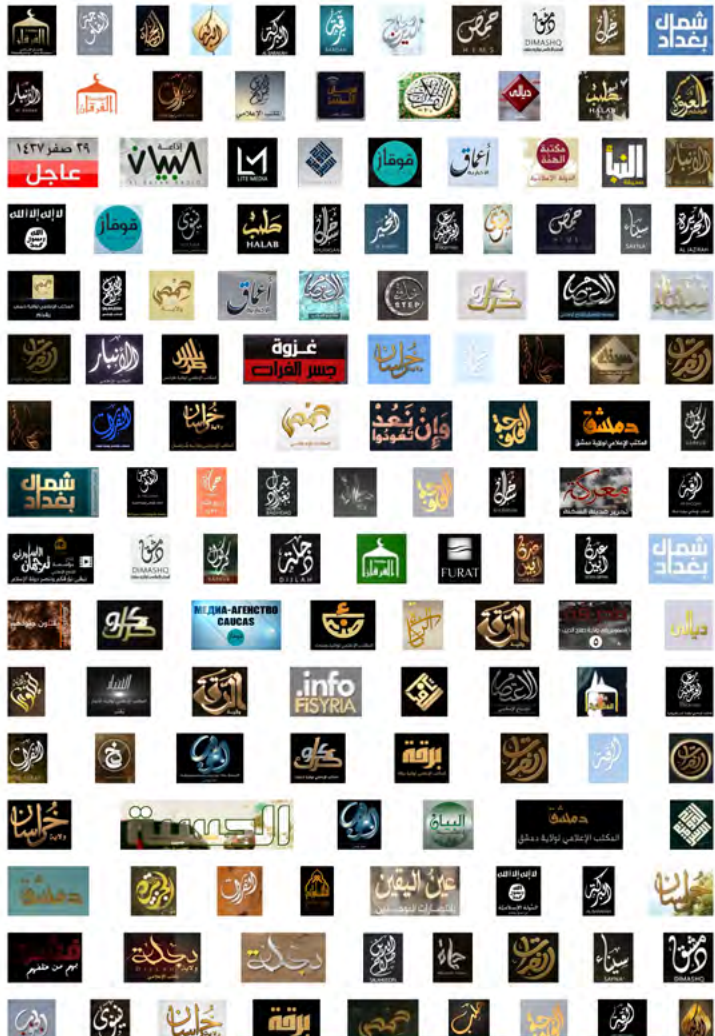
Another feature of Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda is the fact that Da'esh (ISIL) not only exerted no effort to disguise its materials on the Internet and social media until 2017, but, on the contrary, aimed to promote its propaganda as widely as possible – each material featured a logo of either the terrorist organization itself or its media agencies or Wilayah press agencies.

To a large extent, this was the reason why the terrorists have managed to promptly create a sustainable, well-known and easily recognized “brand” of their group which has become one of the factors contributing to the inflow of foreign fighters<sup>5</sup> to the organization and the increase

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<sup>5</sup>“Foreign fighters” means foreign citizens who have joined the terrorist group and have arrived in the area of combat operations or terrorist attacks from other States.

in the number of its accomplices. in the face of the strengthening efforts of various countries and major social media to fight against terrorist propaganda on the Internet, another format of Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda materials has emerged with less obvious “branding”.



**EXAMPLE OF THE  
DA'ESH (ISIL)  
TERRORIST  
ORGANIZATION  
PROPAGANDA**



## CHAPTER 2

# MAIN NOTIONS AND STATEMENTS OF DA'ESH (ISIL) PROPAGANDA

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**O**ne of the prevailing notions of Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda is the myth about Muslims being in a 'humiliating position' in almost all countries of the world or at least being ruled by the authorities considered illegitimate in Islam.

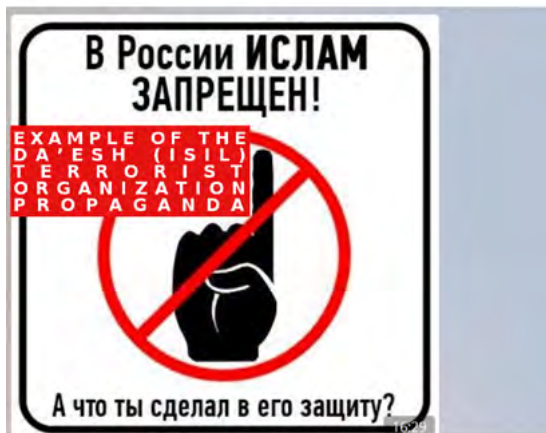
Interestingly enough, according to Da'esh (ISIL) terrorists' ideology these countries now include, inter alia, Saudi Arabia whose law is based on the Sharia. For example, Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist magazine blames "the rulers of Mecca and Medina" for not assisting the Muslims who were allegedly persecuted, calls them the most "pathetic and worthless" agents of "crusaders" involved in "enslavement" of the population of their country and, based on that, declares that they have lost "the Sharia legitimacy": "Where is the help that should be provided by the rulers of Mecca and Medina to the Muslims... who are subjected to what they are subjected: killing, burning, rape, mutilation, crucifixion, robbing and arrests? Rulers of the Arab Peninsula have brought shame on themselves, and the essence of their terrible deeds has been revealed. They have lost the declared Sharia legitimacy, and their treachery has become obvious even to common Muslims..." and "by setting their agents over us that you have chosen out of the most pathetic and worthless ones among our people, by giving them a task: to enslave and degrade the occupied nation."<sup>6</sup> in many other propaganda materials terrorists proclaim that "the time has come

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<sup>6</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 2, p.31



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to become free from the fetters” in the face of the “traitorous rulers, servants of the crusaders”. For example, a terrorists’ film titled “Apostates” aimed against the “traitorous rulers, servants of the crusaders” indicates: “Indeed, the time has come to become free from the fetters of weakness and straighten our backs in the face of the taghuts and traitorous rulers who a servants of the crusaders, atheists and guardians of the yahuds”. “Yahuds” means “Hebrews” in Islam. And by “crusaders” the terrorist propaganda means the United States, the European countries and Russia. By using the term “crusaders” terrorists try to draw an analogy with the crusades that involved occupation of the Muslims’ territory. Building on this analogy, terrorists incite artificial religious strife by promoting a false notion about Muslims being victims of Christians’ aggression both then and nowadays.

As for Europe and the United States, the terrorist propaganda not only claims that “Muslims are being humiliated” but explicitly states that “surveillance and arrests” in these countries will be soon followed by actions “targeting all Muslims” and “killing all Muslims”: “...very soon you will see them targeting all Muslims wherever they are. If the crusaders have already started to oppress the Muslims who are still residing in the “countries of the cross”, spying on them, arresting and interrogating them today, very soon you will see them killing all Muslims, taking them into custody and expelling them from their lands. There will be no one left except for those who have belied their faith and followed their religion... Oh Muslims, neither Hebrews, nor Christians, none of the kafirs will ever be pleased with you! They will never stop fighting you until you follow their religion and belie your own.”<sup>7</sup>

According to terrorists’ ideology, not only authorities, but also people of the United States, the European countries, Russia and the Middle East countries are considered enemies, and Da’esh (ISIL) propaganda is doing its utmost to incite and strengthen as much hatred and animosity towards them among the Muslim population of these States as possible. In one of their terrorist magazines Da’esh (ISIL) members declare themselves defenders of “humiliated Muslims” from

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<sup>7</sup> Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 2, p.5

“hellish, despotic order”: “We are brothers, fathers and sons of the Muslim sisters raped by your soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, in the Levant and in Algeria, in the Caucasus and in the Middle East, in Burma and Central Africa. We are fathers and brothers of children killed during air strikes. We are nephews of all senior parents whose only sons were taken and tortured to death by your curs and whose daughters were raped by your drunk soldiers right before their very eyes. We are those who feel for and care for our Muslim brothers and sisters locked up in your prisons and prisons of your puppet regimes just because they have testified that their God was Allah and have refused to accept your pagan systems and your hellish, despotic world order.”<sup>8</sup>

It must be admitted that such propaganda is quite efficient. Non-existent “torments of Muslims” allegedly based on nothing but the Muslim affiliation have become one of the strongest motives inspiring a significant number of people to join the terrorists. Here are the words of Akhmed Dengayev, former member of a terrorist group, explaining his reasons: “I saw some YouTube videos showing Muslims being tortured, innocents being killed, people asking for help. I thought it would be a right thing to go help them... I went to help locals. But they didn’t need help. Mostly, it was about some internal discords, some division. I didn’t find what I wanted.” in fact, it was the terrorists who killed tens of thousands of Muslims and became notorious for the massacres and tortures of civilians.

One cannot but note that terrorists’ successful attempts to recruit foreign fighters using such reasoning are also related to some extent to the stance of the Western media that have been opposing the Syrian President and Government in a biased fashion for many years, usually citing untrue or evidently made-up facts or information spread by terrorists’ accomplices. As a result, the Syrian authorities were purposefully pictured in the Western media as those who oppressed the civilian population, which provided a strong back-up for the terrorist propaganda about the alleged “humiliating position of the Muslims”. Uncritical perception of this myth poses a grave threat to young people, especially in the territories with high unemployment and major social differentiation, to the communities

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<sup>8</sup> Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 2, p.31

# ТАГУТЫ АЛЮ САЛЮЛЬ

ИСТОРИЯ ПЕРЕПОЛНЕНА КУФРОМ И ПРЕДАТЕЛЬСТВОМ

Их правление построено на лицемерии, предательстве и лжи с самого его начала со времени Абдуллаха Аль Сууды. Они заявляют о защите Тауухид, установлении Шариа и распространении Сунны, но сами больше остальных воюют с Исламом и бросают посланников Аллаха, которые не сойдутся с их странами и ставят их в неудобное положение перед полномочными крестами.

САМЫЕ ТЯЖЕЛЫЕ ПРИМЕРЫ ПРЕДАТЕЛЬСТВА ИСАМАИ МУСУЛЬМАНИ

**ТАГУТ ФАХД АЛЬ СУУД**  
РАЗРЕШИЛ ВВЕЗТИ ТЫСЯЧИ АМЕРИКАНСКИХ СОЛДАТ НА АРАВИЙСКИЕ ПОЛУОСТРОВЫ И ОТКРЫЛ ИХ ПОСТОЯННЫЕ БАЗЫ

1411 по Хиджре  
1424 по Хиджре

**ТАГУТ ФЕЙСАЛ АЛЬ СУУД**  
ПОДПИСАЛ ДОГОВОР «НЕФТЕДЭЛАРА», СПАСАЮЩИЙ ЭКОНОМИКУ АМЕРИКИ И ГАРАНТИРОВАВШЕГО, ЧТО НЕФТЬ БУДЕТ ПРОДАВАТЬСЯ ТОЛЬКО ЗА ДОЛЛАРЫ

1393 по Хиджре  
1435 по Хиджре

**ТАГУТ АБДУЛАЗИЗ АЛЬ СУУД**  
ПОДПИСАЛ ДОГОВОРЫ АМЕРИКАНСКИМ КОМПАНИЯМ КУПИТЬ НЕФТЬ И ДОВАРИЛ НЕФТЬ

1350 по Хиджре  
1437 по Хиджре

**ТАГУТ ФАХД АЛЬ СУУД**  
ПРЕДСТАВИЛ АМЕРИКАНСКОЙ АВИАЦИИ БАЗЫ И ВОЗДУШНОЕ ПРОСТРАНСТВО ДВА КОМПАНИИ ИРАКА

**ТАГУТ АБДУЛЛАХ АЛЬ СУУД**  
ПЛОМОТ КРЕСТНОСОСИС АМЕРИКИ ВО ГЛАВЕ И ИРА ИСЛАМСКОГО ГОСУДАРСТВА

САМЫЕ ТЯЖЕЛЫЕ ПРИМЕРЫ ПРЕДАТЕЛЬСТВА ИСАМАИ МУСУЛЬМАНИ

ВХОЖДЕНИЕ В СОСТАВ КРЕСТНОСОСИС ИСАМАИ ДВА ВОЕВЬДЫ С ИСЛАМСКИМ ГОСУДАРСТВОМ ГОД ЗНАМЕНИТЫ АМЕРИКА



ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ ЕДИНОВЕРНОСТИ В ПЕРЛАМ И ОТКРЫТИЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО ИХ СПЕЦИАЛЬНЫМИ СЛУЖБЫ ИСАМАИ



ПОМОЩЬ АМЕРИКАНЦАМ В ВОЙНЕ ИРАКИ И АРАБСКОЙ ВОЙНЫ



УСТАНОВЛЕНИЕ ВЗАИМНЫХ СВЯЗЕЙ ВО ВСЕ СЕКТОРЫ



ОТКРЫТИЕ ПОСТОЯННЫХ БАНКОВ И ДОЗВОЛЕНИЕ ЭТОГО



ОПМЕНА НАКАЗАНИЕ И ЖЕ ЗАМЕНА ЗАКОНОВ И В ТОРЖАМ ИСТИ



МНОЖЕСТВЕННОЕ ВОСКЛАНЕНИЕ И УТВЕРЖДЕНИЕ УСТАВОВ АТЕКТОСИС И ИХ ВЗАИМНЫХ СВЯЗЕЙ



ОБРАЩЕНИЕ В МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ ТУРГИ И СЫД



ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИЙ «ИДАРАТ ИБРАХИМ»: С ЦЕЛЬЮ РАЗРУШЕНИЯ АРАБИ И ГЕНЕРАЛЬСА ЛУВИА И НЕПРАВИДИТЕЛЬНОСТИ



Они входила на каждую землю, на которой велся джихад против врагов Аллаха, дабы разрушить его всеми возможными путями. Они вошли во все двери куфра, а упомянутое тут это лишь малая часть. И упомянутое достаточно для того, чтобы каждый мог понять их положение

ИНФОРМАЦИЯ «ИНАМА» ДЖУМАДА АЛЬ-АХИРА 1437 ГОД ПО ХИДЖРЕ

**EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA**



Сказал великий ибн Касир, да помучит его Аллах, в толковании саюв Аллаха «Видел я из того, кто обожествил свою прелесть? Аллах ввел его в заблуждение на основании знания»: «Он обожествил свою прелесть совершая все, что желает его душа»

of migrants working in poor conditions and earning less than natives, as well as to the neophytes who have just adopted or started to practice Islam and have fallen under the influence of extremist pseudo-preachers. This myth is disseminated with particular success in the territories ruled by the authorities that undertake unprofessional actions and fail to explain them.

Terrorists also exploit anti-religious sentiments typical for modern Western countries that allow publication of materials inciting religious strife, such as mocking articles or caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. Terrorist propaganda makes good use of these facts to prove the “humiliating position of the Muslims” in the European countries, stressing the attempts “to tarnish” the dignity of prophet Mohammed “with dirty movies and disgusting caricatures”: “...Muhammad, the one who was sent as a mercy to the worlds and the one whose dignity you have tarnished with dirty movies and disgusting caricatures.”<sup>9</sup>

The myth about the “humiliating position of the Muslims” in other countries actively propagated by the terrorists is accompanied by the myth about the Caliphate as an exemplar of prosperous life of all Muslims. This allows terrorists to promote the notion about the Caliphate declared by them as a historical successor of the Caliphate that had existed until 1922. According to the ISIL agitators, “We are the grandchildren and great grandchildren of those Muslims who once lived under the Caliphate following the rules of their religion, fearing nobody and nothing until you destroyed it and divided us and our hearts with your satanic borders.” (sic) While in 1916-1918, many Arab Muslims actually rose up against the Caliphate that was abolished at the beginning of the 20th century.

According to another line of the terrorist propaganda, “the Muslims cannot live in peace with the followers of other religions”. By deliberately inciting religious strife, terrorists are trying to radicalize the views of their followers and form a black-and-white worldview. In their materials, they explicitly proclaim the Catholics, Protestants and Christians enemies of Islam and the Muslims. Da’esh (ISIL) propaganda states the following:

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<sup>9</sup> Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 2, p.31

“We are the grandchildren and great grandchildren of those Muslims who once lived under the Caliphate following the rules of their religion, fearing nobody and nothing until you destroyed it and divided us and our hearts with your satanic borders.”<sup>10</sup> In fact, the situation of Arab Muslims under the Turkish Caliphate forced them to revolt in 1916.

Islam calls Christians and Jews “Ahl al-Kitab” (People of the Scripture). If they live in the Muslim territory, it is prohibited to insult them and attempt attacks on their life, property or dignity.

Terrorists try to justify Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda notions of Muslims being unable to “live in peace with the followers of other religions” using religious reasoning and form a black-and-white worldview: “Whoever they are – Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, capitalists, communists or fascists – all of them are enemies of Islam and the Muslims.”<sup>11</sup>, “Oh Muslims, do you really hope to live in peace with the Hebrews, Christians and other kafirs expecting reciprocity from them?! is it even possible if you follow your religion?!”<sup>12</sup>, “Scholars pointed out and passed unanimous opinions that fighting kafirs in their land is not only permitted but mandatory even if they do no harm to Muslims”<sup>13</sup> and “If there are kafir laws, i.e. any non-Islamic laws established in the land, this is the house of kufr and war, even if the majority of its inhabitants are Muslims.”<sup>14</sup> From the point of view of Islamic traditions, the terrorist propaganda unfairly equates the so called house of the heathens and house of war: “...the world is divided into two parts: the house of Islam and the house of kufr and war. And every Muslim must know that this division exists”<sup>15</sup>. Based on these dubious assumptions terrorists promote the statement about any Muslim country with laws different from the Sharia being the “house of war”.

In fact, no division into the land of Islam and the land of war is mentioned in the Quran or in the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad,

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<sup>10</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 2, p.31

<sup>11</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 4, p.7

<sup>12</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 4, p.8

<sup>13</sup> See above

<sup>14</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 4, p.7

<sup>15</sup> See above

which are the main sources of Islamic law. At the same time, several Islamic theologians traditionally singled out Dar al-Islam (house of Islam) and Dar al-Kufr (realm of the Heathens) which includes the Dar al-Harb (house of war), Dar al-Sulh (house of conciliation/treaty) or Dar al-Hudna (house of calm) and Dar al-Hiyad (house of neutrality). Even in this case, however, Christian and Jewish countries are considered Dar al-Sulh (house of conciliation/treaty) which implies non-Muslims being in power and Muslims living under the protection and enjoying religious freedom. And war is waged only against the States that belong to the Dar al-Harb (house of war), i.e. the States where the Islamic law isn't implemented and the Muslims are oppressed.

Another method to radicalize the audience used by terrorists' propaganda involves inciting religious strife between Sunni and Shiah whom they call "rafidah"<sup>16</sup>. In their materials, terrorists call rafidah "detestable" and invite to "seek salvation" in the "Islamic State" where Muslims live "in the atmosphere of greatness and respect": "...left as exiles, humiliated and threatened, waiting for the rafidah to massacre them, while the Muslims live in the Islamic State in the atmosphere of greatness and respect."<sup>17</sup> The "address" by Da'esh (ISIL) leader al-Baghdadi aimed against the United States, rafidah, crusaders and Hebrews also includes an explicit call: "Oh Allah, punish America and its allies from among the Hebrews and crusaders, rafidah, murtadds and heathens! Oh Allah, eliminate their property and squash their hearts for they will never believe until they face a painful punishment!"

Similarly, terrorists incite hatred towards Alawites, whom they call "Nusayris" (after the disciple named Muhammad ibn Nusayr) consider taghuts, i.e. accuse them of idolatry: "...Russia that has helped the Nusayris taghuts in their war against al-Sham for several years"<sup>18</sup> and "Nusayris and rafidah who tortured hundreds of thousands of people and killed them in various ways."<sup>19</sup>

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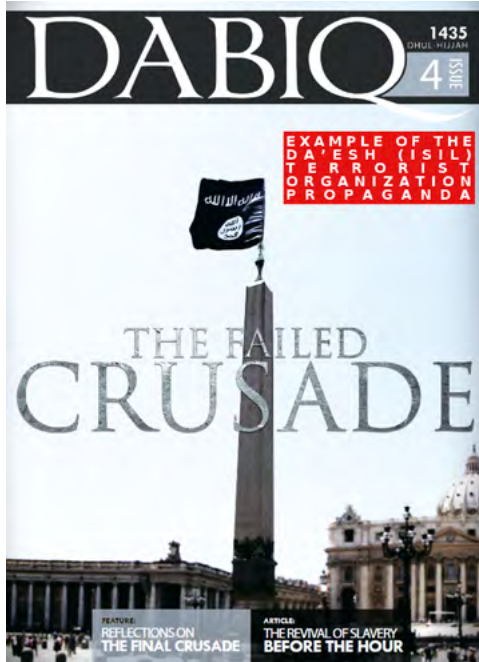
<sup>16</sup> Rafidah (Arabic for "those who reject") is one of the widespread terms used by Sunni to refer to Shiah. For Sunni, this name is derogatory.

<sup>17</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 2, p.9

<sup>18</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 3, p.5

<sup>19</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 3, p.7





Shiah, Christians, Hebrews are also considered enemies in terrorists' black-and-white worldview: "America and its allies from among the Hebrews and crusaders, rafidah, murtadds..."<sup>20</sup>

At the first stage of their existence Da'esh (ISIL) terrorists actively promoted the propaganda notion about the "need to move" to their territory. In a sense, it is a logical continuation of the statement about the alleged "humiliating position of Muslims" in various countries of the world. Starting from the details of the "humiliating" life of Muslims full of "disdain", "underdevelopment", "beggary" and "disgrace" around the world, Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda leads the audience to believe that the only territory where Muslims can live in peace and practice Islam is the territory occupied by terrorists where they will allegedly live with "dignity" and "independence": "We call you for you to leave your life full of humiliation, disdain and disgrace. For you to leave your life of underdevelopment and beggary feeling lost and empty. For you to head to the life full of greatness and dignity, domination and independence." where they will allegedly live with "dignity" and "independence."<sup>21</sup>

Terrorists' propaganda also tries to present Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist activities as a war of all Muslims mandatory for each Muslim of legal age and threatens on behalf of Allah that "painful punishment" awaits everyone who has refused to join the terrorists. Besides, they call their fighters and supporters "followers of iman", i.e. those who believe in true Islam and others are considered "supporters of kufr", i.e. apostates: "... There is no excuse for any Muslim capable of migrating (hijrah) to the Islamic State or capable of taking up arms where they are. Verily, Allah, the Blessed, the Sublime, ordered Muslims to perform hijrah and jihad. Everyone is ordered to fight. We declare a general mobilization and urge every Muslim to make a hijrah to the Islamic State or fight where they are." and "This is a war of all Muslims wherever they are. The Islamic State is just the "point of a spear" of this war. This is a war between the followers of iman and followers of kufr. So go out Muslims, go on your war in all places. It is mandatory for all Muslims of age.

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<sup>20</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 2, p.

<sup>21</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 2, p.4

Whoever fails to come forward or turns back will be punished with a painful punishment by enraged Allah, the Blessed, the Sublime...<sup>22</sup>. Just as during the first centuries of Islam, nowadays various Islamic schools and branches have different opinions regarding the “kufr”. However, regardless of any differences in opinions, considering anyone who has not joined a Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist group “a supporter of kufr” is completely wrong from the point of view of Islam.

Yet, taking into account dozens of thousands of foreign fighters in the terrorist group, one cannot but recognize the efficiency of such propaganda.

To reinforce their propaganda, terrorists also cite the Quran Surah At-Tawbah, Ayat 39: “If you do not go forth, He will punish you with a painful punishment and will replace you with another people.”

In fact, this Ayat refers to a military expedition from Medina to Tabuk headed by the Prophet Muhammad in 630, so it is obvious that by using it in their material terrorists purposefully misinterpret the Quran.

It should be noted that according to Da’esh (ISIL) ideology, moving to the territory occupied by them and joining the terrorists is the same thing. In their materials, they explicitly state that all Muslims by moving to their territory express their intention to participate in the hostilities: “...this land is not just the land of hijrah, since we know nobody who would move here just to live their lives. This is also the land of jihad... So, believer, you should be prepared for that in advance. And the most important part of this preparation is to become convinced of the need to participate in the battles.”<sup>23</sup>

At this stage, Da’esh (ISIL) propaganda has practically passed from supporting the inflow of fighters to the occupied territories of Syria and Iraq to encouraging them to carry out terrorist attacks in their countries of residence. In the beginning, fighters were urged to move, while at the interim stage they were told that they will be able to move only if “there is no opportunity to oppose them and inflict as much damage on them as possible”: “Gather your brothers and stand as one man and kill those

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<sup>22</sup> Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 2, p.4

<sup>23</sup> Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 4, p.3

EXAMPLE OF THE  
DA'ESH (ISIL)  
TERRORIST  
ORGANIZATION  
PROPAGANDA



EXAMPLE OF THE  
DA'ESH (ISIL)  
TERRORIST  
ORGANIZATION  
PROPAGANDA



EXAMPLE OF THE  
DA'ESH (ISIL)  
TERRORIST  
ORGANIZATION  
PROPAGANDA



جانب من تدريبات لواء الفاروق المدمر 313



who urge you to fight against Shariah rulers. Riot against your Amirs Oppose to your Amirs united with the sahwats, and slaughter them so that all taghuts' channels and crusaders' aircraft wept over them. If you kill the sahwat union in their own lair, it will be better than thousands of operations you carry out on your way to strengthen the power, those who reject all other Shariah except for the Shariah of Allah, other Shariah rulings in al-Sham, Shariah not sent by Allah, with consent of taghuts and crusaders. Blow you explosive belt in their crowd, shoot your machine gun in the chest of their troops. Stop whoever you can from the war with Shariah rulers. Discourage them from waging a war against monotheistic Mujahidins. Spread false rumors among them. Then, if you fail to defeat them in their territory and establish Shariah law there, and openly swear to the Caliph, and if there is no opportunity to oppose them and inflict as much damage on them as possible to help the Caliphate, then make a hijrah to the Caliphate land, since, I swear by Allah, this will be better for those who want to make a hijrah to Allah.”<sup>24</sup>

At the moment, terrorists' propaganda tells them to “not move but send their families that will be taken care of by the brothers in the Caliphate just as well” and “those who will disobey and move will be held responsible”: “I would like to make another reminder to the brothers from the Caucasus who, despite multiple instructions, keep leaving the territory of the Caucasus, moving to other Caliphate territories while having an opportunity to join the Mujahidins of the Caucasus Wilayah... And then, if they disobey the orders of the Amirs who have repeatedly told them that there is an urgent need for them, that they should not move but send their families that will be taken care of by the brothers in the Caliphate just as well. Those who disobey and actually leave and who are reported by the Wali as “disobedient” will be held responsible since this order applies to the whole Caliphate and no one has the right to move from one wilayah to another without permission. I remind you once again, this does not apply to those who have no ties with the Mujahidins and who are unable to establish them. Those have to move and are not permitted to sit back saying that they have to contacts with the Mujahidins. And those who can

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<sup>24</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 2, p.29



work independently in the field without joining anyone, can act without authorization and should act and inflict as much damage on kafirs and their economy as possible.”<sup>25</sup> As for all of those who have the opportunity to “work in the field”, Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda highly recommends them to organize terrorist attacks.

Before Da'esh (ISIL) lost some territories in Syria and Iraq, one of the most actively promoted terrorist propaganda lines was the professional training of their units, high quality of their equipment and their “military successes”. For these purposes, during attacks and terrorist acts terrorists were followed by a cameraman who promptly produced relevant video materials. Such videos shared the following pattern: they featured a preparation for the offensive, the offensive itself, during which various military equipment and weapons were demonstrated in use, shooting and moving towards the enemy and shots of dead enemy soldiers. In conclusion of such videos, Da'esh (ISIL) flag is raised over the occupied territory, and the Caliphate supporters celebrate their victory showing various trophies. These materials usually feature attacks on various armored vehicles of the government forces, shelling and destruction of fortifications etc.

Terrorists prepared a whole range of video materials and films on this topic with mostly stilted titles: “Daring Operations”, “Epic of Fortitude”, “Attack of Lions”, “Special Forces” etc. Here are several examples of the titles of the videos and films on this topic prepared by terrorists: “Daring Operations of the Islamic State Mujahidins”, “Epic of the Fortitude in the Makhoul Mountains”, “Islamic State Fighters Capture the al-Huz District in the City of Ramadi”, “Islamic State Seizes the Muqbil Hill near the Industrial City of Shaykh Najjar. Caliphate”, “Attack of Lions on a Military Airport”, “Attack on the 26th Regiment of the Safavid Army”, “Attack on the Peshmerga Barracks”, “Lions’ Response to the Taghuts’ Air Strikes”, “Attack of Lions. Fragments of the Fight for Villagies near Tal Tamer”. We can also single out individual video materials featuring staged shots of terrorists groups’ and their rear units training: “Special Forces of the Islamic State”, “Khorasan Camp HD”, “Preparatory Military Camp of the Caliphate Fighters”, “Building Assault Exercises” etc.

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<sup>25</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 3, p.41





For instance, a terrorist film dedicated to one of the attacks against the army of the Syrian Arab Republic can be of interest because it demonstrates the use of high-tech equipment for operation planning. The film starts with a computer monitor used to show the fighters a video of a target shot by a drone.

They also indicate where the strikes are to be launched from, and the instructions of the commander to the fighters are dubbed in Russian. Further footage shows a video of a target shot by a drone with a title: "Drone of the Islamic State". At the end of the video material, results of the attack are shown, including photos of burned vehicles and buildings and munitions seized, accompanied by a voiceover or subtitles in Russian.

Staged scenes featuring launches of homemade missiles, movement of military equipment, marches of infantry and moving vehicles with flags and armed people became standard for terrorists' videos. A number of videos feature footage of hostilities and first-person shootings, and video materials include computer graphics similar to modern videogames. This kind of practice is purposeful and helps young people better absorb terrorist propaganda.

Promotion of the idea about the need to carry out terrorist attacks against civilians has become a permanent element of Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda. Since Islam prohibits attempts on the lives of Muslims, priests, women and children, terrorists pay particular attention to the justification of these murders. For instance, they indicate in their materials that "today, the line between civilians and militaries has been erased" and "absolutely the entire Russian society is responsible": "And today, the hour of reckoning has come... Today, the line between civilians and militaries has been erased... And this is just a small example showing that absolutely the entire Russian society is responsible... So should the Russians not be surprised that now the earth will burn under their feet wherever they are... And Mujahidins are ordered to do so by the religion of the Lord of the Worlds. The retribution should be equal: "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth".<sup>26</sup> At the same time, Da'esh (ISIL) states

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<sup>26</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 3, p.5



## ИЗ БИОГРАФИИ ШАХИДОВ

Боем он получил серьезное ранение в живот, и докторам чуть погрозил пальцем, сказавшему, часть кишки и желудка разрыв достигли. Муаммад впервые дышал кислородом, позже который он и выжил, весивший 82 кг, став весить 38 кг. Но это его не останавливало, и с выдохом перед новой вышкой он продолжал участие в джихаде.

После приговора в тюрьме Кокафай, отправившись от ранений, он основал предприятие «Исламское государство», совершил нападку и посяднул в мисраке на инструктора — своего товарища, так же приговоренного из ДМА. Этих братья рассказали, что Муаммад выдержал из всего часа несоборья. Выдержал угрозы, пострадала, германская от

История джихада нашего брата началась еще в 2005 году, когда он, оставив родственную жизнь в Москве, отправился на Кавказ и присоединился к мухаммадам в Чечне. В ту пору он наладил контакты с Давидом Абу Умаром, да примет Аллах его шахиду, и был любимцем среди мухаммадов, которые любили его за простоту и доброту, пропуская ему и совершающим с любовью и бесстрашием. Он был мятеж с мухаммадами и жестко по отношению к кафирам.

Его желание стрелять черепки было настолько велико, что в свой последний полет против него он повсюду автоматическое оружие в виде и истории, дабы уменьшить шанс и кафир на выживание, испускал соблавы и армянской. Это впоследствии нагнала убедительная аргументация против советских курских нападков.

После полутора лет пребывания в тюрьме Муаммад по совету заключенных от работы на ранение. И в 2007 году, по воле Аллаха, он попал в плен и был освобожден в 4 года. Отбыла он срок на то время в одной из самых жестких колоний в Чеченской области, где после выписки свою несправку в легкости, разбил голову своему из пленников административная, после чего был отправлен в лагерной колонии, из которого так и не вышел до конца срока (прошел там около 3-х полугодов лет). Взяв новую джихад, Муаммад после безуспешных попыток, выйдя на территорию Кабарды решил отправиться в Шам. Там он присоединился к группе «Джамаа Муаммад» братья ками-Анасир. В

### EXAMPLE OF THE DAEESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA

все лишь автоматом, и попросила связь с него пришла на это управление. Сказавшись наедине с ним, инструктор спросил у Муаммада, почему он все это делает, зачем, ведь по количеству раз и по управлению, что было задано, по времени и месту был полна. На что Муаммад ответил, что он считал, только не солгал, потому у него поучились, а по время как обычно братья записывают каждый урок. Поэтому это делалось и что оно было. Он объяснил это инструктору так, что она знает о нем и знает, и когда он слышит приказ, то непременно должен выполнять его должным образом.

Вот такие герои сражались в рядах Исламского государства. Пострадал раз Муаммад на войне, переживая и в плену в плену, заключенный кафиром, с автоматом, взорвал и пошел по взрывчатке.

Прощая Аллаха две ночи выжил в плену Рай. Сидел в тюрьме перед Ахмедом, что наш брат не отпущивая лицо от врагов, сражались в первом ряду, и там ряд, участники которого убиты Саш Саломат. Наш брат пополнил германскую вереницу шахидов, став еще одним из тех, кто славной душой, которая была славна славна больше, чем 14 веков назад.

4653 members

March 15

● **НОВОЕ ВИДЕО К ЛЕКЦИИ АБУ ЯСИНА**

✓ Посвящается [redacted], которые ежедневно и ежечасно покидают нас на стезе Аллаха. Жми ссылку ниже: [redacted]

👤 5761 9:26 PM

Коротко [redacted] | YouTube

<https://youtu.be/>

YouTube

Коротко: [redacted] | АБУ ЯСИН

Послушайте полную лекцию по ссылке.

<https://youtu.be/>

**ОТ СЕРДЦА 2**

**EXAMPLE OF THE DAEESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA**

11:00

👤 8418 9:27 PM

March 16

that if terrorists' supporters don't "have the guts to kill a kafir", they should at least "burn down their house or car", and the terrorist attacks can target anyone, including civilians: "militaries and civilians, they are all in cahoots": "...if you don't have the guts to kill a kafir, at least burn down their house, car or shop, inflict at least some damage on them. And there is no need to search for a particular target, whether it a policeman of a military. Do not divide kafirs into militaries and civilians, they are all in cahoots."<sup>27</sup> Terrorists try to justify certain terrorist attacks committed by them as well. For example, referring to the explosion of the aircraft of the Russian "Kogalymavia" airlines resulted in 192 adults and 25 children killed, terrorists attempted to explain the killing of civilians by telling that they supported "the aggression against Muslims": "So, if someone asks – "How are the civilians who were onboard of this aircraft guilty?", we will respond – "They are the ones who are guilty of everything. They are the ones choosing and supporting their tyrannical leaders, going to the rallies and demonstrations, shouting "Here is our President!" They are the ones supporting military operations and aggression against Muslims all over the world: in Afghanistan, in Chechnya, in the Caucasus and now in the lands of al-Sham."<sup>28</sup>

Despite the fact that the Quran explicitly prohibits killings of clergymen, terrorists not only murder priests but also express their pride for these murders. For instance, the infographics released by the Amaq media agency titled "Operations of the warriors of the Islamic State in Bangladesh in 2016" openly indicates: "Christian priest killed – March 22, Kurigram; Hindu priest killed – February 21, Panchagram; Hindu monk killed – June 7, Kushtia".

In fact, the Quran and Sunnah include direct prohibitions on the killing of women, children, priests and Muslims reaffirmed several times. For example, Surah An-Nisa, Ayat 93, states the following: "But whoever kills a believer intentionally - his recompense is Hell, wherein he will abide eternally, and Allah has become angry with him and has cursed him and has prepared for him a great punishment."

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<sup>27</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 3, p.42

<sup>28</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 3, p.5

# ИЗ БИОГРАФИИ шахидов

Абу Усама аль-Магрибий - он безмолвная гора, теплое сердце с правдивым иманом.

Абу Усама был всегда не многословен в речах, постоянно молчалив. Любил уединение и одиночество. Его другом и собеседником был Коран, как будто он являлся между ним и Аллахом секретом.

Он был родом из Марокко, с северной её части, из города Танжа. Молодой юноша в самом расцвете своих сил, в возрасте 26 лет, и он владел вместе со своим отцом личным прекрасным рестораном, и его заработок составлял не менее 3000 долларов ежемесячно. Он купил свой участок земли и был женат уже 6 лет до того, как прибыл на землю джихада, но он не был наделён сыном.

Он много читал о джихаде и его величии, но более чем это, он ничего не предпринимал и затем решил однажды, что он поедет на площади из площадей величия. Но он не знал никого, кто бы мог ему помочь в этом и даже не имел

жизни в роскоши».

И после этого он проводил свои сборы и был готов к отправлению в путь, и вскоре отправился он в своё путешествие в эту страну. Он никого не знал, и не было рядом с ним никого. Он начал ходить по мечетям из одной в другую и он часто заткивал своё нахождение в мечетях, обращаясь с мольбами к Аллаху и проливая Ему свои слезы, надеясь и прося Его, чтобы Он вывел его на дорогу из дорог, ведущих к полям джихада. И однажды он услышал разговор братьев, которые разговаривали на его диалекте. Они познакомлись и назвали обителем. В тот момент, он понял о том, кто вышел на этот его и вместе с ним у Рафидейн (Ирак), по имени Абу Хабба

EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA

**Военные операции**

В вылете Западной Африки за Мусорран и Сафар 1437 г.х

- Более 100 атак на муртадов
- Выпущено больше 120 ракет
- 67 операций истишхади
- Потери муртадов
- 27 отбито атак
- Подбито 24 танка
- Подбито 20 единиц техники

**Трофеи**

- Танки - 3
- Джипы - 23
- Автоматы Калашникова - 263
- Пулеметов ДШК - 17
- Патронов - 56000

EXAMPLE OF THE DA'ESH (ISIL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROPAGANDA

Along with the notion about the need to commit terrorist attacks, Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda actively glorifies individual terrorists, especially suicide bombers.

In such materials, terrorists are usually praised as “brave warriors”, “Shakhids”, “lone heroes of the Caliphate”. Special emphasis is placed on the cases involving underage terrorists. For instance, a 15-year old Farhad Jabar Khalil Muhammad who shot a 58-year old policeman in Australia is mentioned. It is worth noting that in one of the materials this citation ends with a generalization: “These are the deeds of those who follow the Caliphate methodology”. Here are some examples of one of such texts – please note that the “crusaders” mentioned usually mean civilians: “And on this suitable occasion, we did not miss an opportunity to praise whose Shakhids, lone heroes of the Caliphate who stroke the kafirs and murtadds near them... Neither the barriers erected by the kafirs on the path towards hijrah, nor small age of some of them, nor poor training were considered an excuse... And these monotheistic heroes of jihad include Farhad Jabar Khalil Muhammad who was only 15 years old. He attacked Australian crusaders on October 2, 2015, killing one of them. Then he raised the banner of Faisal Muhammad and used his dagger to attack American crusaders on November 4, 2015, shedding their blood in the middle of their own lands. Shortly prior to that, on October 10, 2015, Isaak Kasim Badran grabbed a knife and attacked the Hebrews in their State, and their cries filled the air all around them. Then, on October 18, 2015, Muhammad Khalil al-Urbi took the gun, went to a protected railway station and shot one of the Hebrew soldiers, other soldiers fled cowardly. on November 9, 2015, Anwar Abu Zaid attacked American crusaders and their fellow murtadds, repenting for his past deeds. He killed two Americans, two Jordan murtadds and one crusader from South Africa. These are the deeds of those who follow the Caliphate methodology.”<sup>29</sup>

Another material praises the terrorist acts in Paris and indicates that eight terrorists submerged Paris and its inhabitants in “horror and fear” and that the French “had their noses filled with dirt after years of arrogance”: “The Islamic State sent its brave warriors to ignite the flame

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<sup>29</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 3, p.6

of war in the heart of the lands of filthy crusaders to submerge Paris and its inhabitants in horror and fear. After many years of French arrogance, eight brave men filled their noses with dirt. State of emergency was declared throughout France, even though those eight people had nothing but machine guns and explosive belts.”<sup>30</sup>

The efficiency of such propaganda can be evaluated based on a film and an article at the beginning of a terrorist magazine. It features a story of a father who sent his underage son Abu Amarra to commit a terrorist attack as a Da’esh (ISIL) suicide bomber: “So, in the land of the Caliphate, a father instructs his own son telling him: “Go, my son. Outstrip me... Go ahead, my son, for we will meet there...” His son’s name is Abu Amarra. He is 15 years old. He was born in Sakha. Abu Amarra committed an istishhad in the north of the Khalyab Wilayah.”<sup>31</sup> For similar purposes, there are such terrorist films as “My Son Outstripped Me”, “Istishhadist Thwarted an Attack against the Besiir Village”, “Ingimashi is the Pride of the Ummah”, “Words from the Heart: Loved Ones Leaving” etc.

It should be noted that according to the Quran and Sunnah, suicide committed by self-explosion is prohibited for Muslims regardless of the situation. Analysis of Da’esh (ISIL) propaganda glorifying suicide bombers also reveals the motives of common terrorists. There is a widely spread opinion in the media that the main reason for joining a terrorist group is the shortcomings of a State of residence of a future terrorist: low standards of living, lack of social mobility and perspectives etc. Analysis of a number of stories behind Da’esh (ISIL) suicide bombers shows that these reasons either weren’t the motives or at least played a secondary role. A wide range of examples demonstrate that in many cases future terrorists were sufficiently provided for, were in demand and had quite a sustainable position on the social ladder in the countries of residence. For instance, there is a biography of a 26-year old suicide bomber Abu Usamah from Morocco who owned a restaurant along with his father, had a good salary, a piece of land, was married and his wife was expecting a child. However, it did not stop him from joining the terrorists and committing

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<sup>30</sup> Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 3, p.5

<sup>31</sup> Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 3, p.5

a suicide attack. Moreover, Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda specifically stresses that he had funded the operation with his own money: "...we were requested to neutralize the United Nations building. Abu Usamah was never a man of many words... He was born in Morocco, in the north, in the city of Tangier. a young man in his prime, he was 26 years old and he owned a beautiful restaurant along with his father, earned not less than 3000 US dollars monthly. He bought a piece of land and had been married for six years prior to moving to the lands of jihad... He sold his land and started to prepare for the journey by buying a one-way ticket to an Arab country. And one day, out of the blue, his mother and wife came to him right before his departure and told him something pleasing to his ear, they told him "Your wife is pregnant". And he was quite happy to hear the news, but then, he listened to his heart and started a conversation with it saying: "What is that, that is the first test. Keep doing what you have intended to..." So, the day of the istishhad came... He got his car and he raced in it ahead of me... I saw a pillar of fire from the explosion rising approximately 20 meters high... And what was left for me to say was: Abu Usamah had prepared for this operation himself. He had paid for the car used to commit the istishhad using his own money. As for the results of this operation, the United Nations immediately stated that they would leave the territory..."<sup>32</sup>

The essential part of Da'esh (ISIL) ideology is the attempts to promote a notion about Da'esh (ISIL) being the only true group of the Islam followers. Furthermore, building upon this notion, Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda tries to conclude that Da'esh (ISIL) terrorists are the ones who have the right to legitimately represent the interests of all Muslims and then justify the legitimacy of al-Baghdadi publicly presented a leader of the terrorists.

Most of the time, terrorist propaganda avoids any discussion of this issue and skips to consolidation of these notions as a matter-of-fact using references to the Quran. For instance, one of the graphic materials shows a terrorist with Da'esh (ISIL) flag and a quote from the Quran Surah Al-Imran, Ayat 110: "You are the best nation produced [as an example]

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<sup>32</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 2, p.39

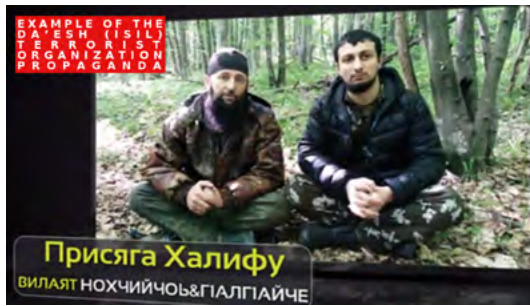
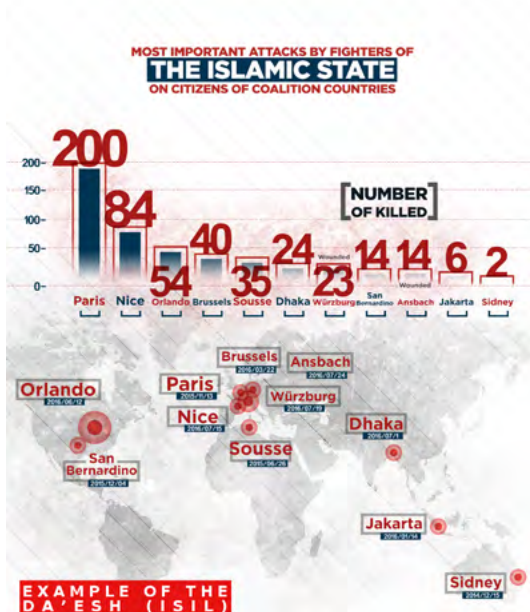




for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah.” in a similar manner, another terrorist material features a horseman on a white horse with Da'esh (ISIL) flag and a quote from the Quran Surah No. 37 As-Saffat, Ayat 173: “And [that] indeed, Our soldiers will be those who overcome.”

It is obvious that the Surah has neither direct nor indirect indication of the fact that it refers to Da'esh (ISIL). At the same time, this material shows that terrorists deliberately use it to manipulate their poorly educated accomplices who think that this is a religious support of the terrorist group.

Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda focuses considerable attention on the “ideological struggle” both against the authorities of the Muslim countries and other terrorist organizations and entities and tries to present Da'esh (ISIL) as the only group of true Islam followers. For instance, in its propaganda against the ruling Saudi dynasty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Da'esh (ISIL) uses the term “Salul family”, which is explicitly derogatory since Sunnah mentions Abdullah bin Ubai bin Salul, a hypocrite who was trying to “slander the reputation” of the Prophet Muhammad’s family. Creating a black-and-white view of the world where “millions of Muslims” are allegedly “slaughtered” or “humiliated”, numerous Da'esh (ISIL) materials also call the rulers of Saudi Arabia “slaves of crusaders” who “enjoyed and took pleasure in observing the killing of Muslims”, as well as “allies of the Hebrews” who “made an alliance with the rafidah in Iraq fighting against Ahlu Suna”: “Where is the help of the Salul family and their allies? Millions of weak Muslims, all of them without exception are slaughtered in Burma. Every day they are subjected to a painful punishment. Where is their bravery in the face of the Nusayris’ weapons used to shell Muslims’ homes? Where is their bravery in the face of horrible barrels of Nysayris they drop on Muslims’ homes... Where is the zeal of the rulers of the Arab Peninsula in the face of the captive women raped every day: in the al-Sham, Iraqi and other Muslim lands? Where is the help of the rulers of Mecca and Medina to the Muslims in China and India where the Muslims are subjected to what they are subjected: killing, burning, rape, mutilation, crucifixion,



robbing and arrests?"<sup>33</sup> and "The Salul family members are the slaves of the crusaders and allies of the Hebrews, they never wanted for the blessings from their Lord to come to the Muslims. They stood on the sidelines for decades ignoring the pain of the Muslims around the world and particularly in Palestine. Then they spent years in an alliance with the rafidah in Iraq, fighting against Ahlu Suna. Then they witnessed massacres and bloodsheds in al-Sham for years. They enjoyed and took pleasure in observing the killing of Muslims, their imprisonment, slaughter, burning and humiliation of their dignity and deprivation of their property and destruction of their homes by the Nusayris."<sup>34</sup>

Da'esh (ISIL) also has materials aimed against other terrorist organizations. For instance, it opposes the Taliban, Al-Qaeda and many other terrorist entities. Da'esh (ISIL) spreads a statement against Taliban claiming that they are "not ruled by the laws of Allah"; as for Al-Qaeda, it claims that they have "nationalistic nature": "The Taliban nationalist movement controls only a number of districts in Afghanistan nowadays. It is not ruled by the laws of Allah. It is ruled by tribal customs, and the judges act in accordance with their desires and traditions of people that contradict the Islamic Shariah law"<sup>35</sup> and "Al-Qaeda, Jaysh al-Fath, Free Syrian Army, Nour al-Din al-Zenki movement, Shamiya Front, Faylaq al-Sham... It clearly shows the nationalistic and taghut () nature of these associations."<sup>36</sup>

Based on the religious texts, Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda tries to find arguments to justify the election of its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as a Caliph, and then to urge all Muslims to follow his orders. For instance, the terrorist propaganda claims the following: "...appointing a Caliph is a fard al-kifayah and what is considered a sin can be neglected by anyone. The first to have this opportunity is the Islamic State. Following that, press secretary of the Islamic State Sheikh Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, may Allah save him, made an address urging all mujahidins in the world

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<sup>33</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 2, p.8

<sup>34</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 2, p.6

<sup>35</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Dabiq" No. 13, p.49

<sup>36</sup> Taghut means idolatry which has a particularly negative reference in Islam. Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Dabiq" No. 12, p.12



to rush to the duty of appointing a Caliph. And all mujahidins, heads of the tribes, scholars and those demanding knowledge appointed Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim al-Badri a Caliph for all Muslims." (sic)<sup>37</sup>

Fard al-kifayah is a term from the Islamic law describing deeds and norms of behavior that are a communal obligation of Muslims, i.e. an instruction that is not mandatory for an individual if certain number of Muslims are already discharging this obligation. For reasonable people, it is obvious that the statement "mujahidins, heads of the tribes, scholars and those demanding knowledge appointed Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim al-Badri a Caliph for all Muslims" is false.

Here is a quote from the theological conclusion of Ulama council of the Muslim religious authorities of Moscow and Central region "Moscow Muftiat" on illegitimacy of Da'esh (ISIL) electing a Caliph: "...there is a common agreement among the Islamic scholars that the Caliphate is an obligation for Ummah. Ummah needs the Caliphate, but a new Caliphate requires consent of all the Muslims, and not just those who inhabit a small corner of the world. Umar bin Al-Khattab said: "So if any person gives the Pledge of allegiance to somebody without consulting the other Muslims, then he or the one he has selected should not be granted allegiance, lest both of them should be killed." (Collection of hadith by Imam al-Bukhari). a declaration of a Caliphate without consulting is fitnah (distemper), because it leaves a bigger part of the Muslims who haven't consented to the caliphate, out of it. This will also lead to many separate competing Caliphates, which in turn will bring about distemper and discord among the Muslims. Similar things have already happened when Sunni Imams from the city of Mosul refused to swear loyalty to the is and were killed in retaliation."

Da'esh (ISIL) video film "Apostors" provides an even weirder "explanation" - the need to "rid the Ummah of the burden", i.e. the need for the Caliph elections to be held without broad participation of Muslims; at the same time Da'esh (ISIL) claims to have made a decision to "revive the Islamic Ummah", i.e. it operates under the assumption that no Ummah

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<sup>37</sup> Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine "Istok (The Source)" No. 1, p.11

has existed until this moment which is derogatory towards the Muslims from other territories: "In the light of the expansion of the Islamic State, its resources become variable, construction of a desired castle is coming to an end, and lost hope is getting closer. a decision has been made to end the journey and revive the Islamic Ummah ridding it of the burden to discharge fard al-kifayah, appointing an Imam and Caliph for Muslims thereby bringing greatness and leadership to the Ummah. The Caliphate has been proclaimed."

One of the most promoted lines of the terrorist propaganda is the attempt to present the terrorist organization as a full-fledged state. There is obviously a separate part of Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda in the framework of which materials are produced to show "untroubled life" in the occupied territory, as well as "social functions" Da'esh (ISIL) allegedly performs.

The topic of the "untroubled life" is featured in numerous terrorist video films showing for propaganda purposes a day in the life of a Da'esh (ISIL) fighter, their rest, prayers, register offices, schools, new roads, slaughterhouses, reconstruction of maternity hospitals and even the care of disabled. Here are some examples of the titles of the terrorist video films: "Life under the Caliphate Protection", "Holiday Prayer", "Register Office", "Mujahidin's Rest", "From the Life of the Mujahidin"; as for the elements of its statehood, Da'esh (ISIL) tries to show them in such films as "They Were Paying Zakat", "Muslims Welcome Golden Dinar", "Resumption of Schools' Openings with New Programs", "Feeding in the Day of Famine", "Education in the Caliphate", "Police of the City of Sirte", "Economics in the Caliphate", "Truth about Caliphate Prisons", "Opening of the Bab Laqsh Davas Road", "Faruq Preparatory Courses for Children", "Opening of the Slaughterhouse in the City of Palmyra", "Restoration of the Maternity Hospital in Raqqa", "Slaughterhouse of the city of Mayadin", "Care of Disabled" etc.

Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist video film "Air Forces of the US-led Coalition Launched a Strike against Mosul Civilians" features a scene with a distribution of envelopes with money to those in need, as well as footage of reconstruction works. Terrorist film "Idul Adha Atmosphere in the City of Raqqa" demonstrates a happy life of citizens: flocks of sheep, peaceful

trade, fireworks in the evening, and interviews with citizens. Interestingly enough, in one of these video materials one can clearly see the sign "Apteka (Drugstore)" in Russian.

Descriptions of the "civilian deaths" as a result of air strikes carried out by both the US-led coalition and Russian and Syrian forces have become a separate line of terrorists' propaganda. Terrorists have not only released a number of video films on this topic, but also publish videos and photos of facilities destroyed under unknown circumstances on a regular basis.

Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda has been consistently trying to create an illusion of a "global nature of the Caliphate", calling certain territories of various countries its "wilayah" (for example, it calls part of the territory of Russia "Caucasus Wilayah" in its materials), releases a separate series of videos about terrorist groups joining Da'esh (ISIL) (stiltedly referred to by the terrorists as a "swear to the Caliphate") from various territories.

For instance, Da'esh (ISIL) distributed a whole series of films featuring "swears" to al-Baghdadi, leader of the terrorists, by fighters (titles of the films are transcribed exactly as found in the source): "Swear of the Nokhchicho Wilayah to the Caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi", "Swear by Amir Abu Bakr Shekau", "Tribes of the Neynava Wilayah Renew their Swear", "Swear of the Mujahidins in the Philippines" etc.

Despite the fact that in a number of cases the groups are quite insignificant, even minimal activity of those was thoroughly covered by Da'esh (ISIL) propaganda (titles of the films are transcribed exactly as found in the source): "Shattering of an Assault of the Afghan Murtadd Army against the Kut District in Nangarhar", "Muslims Welcome the Swear by the Nigerian Mujahidins in the Raqqa Wilayah", "Message from the Sirte", "Caliphate Warriors in the Land of Yemen", "Knights of Africa", "Battle of the Caliphate in Benghazi", "SPG-9 Shelling of Positions of the Murtadd of the Pakistan Army in the Territory of Kheibar" etc. If the case involves larger Da'esh (ISIL) forces in a certain territory, their activities received even broader coverage.

Similar to a terrorist group diligently trying to prove itself as a "successor" of the Caliphate that had existed until 1922, it is forming

its succession of previous terrorist groups that has never been there and is trying to incorporate their activities in the past in its ideology. For instance, terrorist magazine “Dabiq”<sup>38</sup> features photos of terrorist Dokka Umarov (signed “Sheikh Dokka Umarov”) and cites the terrorist attack involving taking the audience hostage during the Nord-Ost musical (signed “attack of Caucasian Mujahidins on a Moscow theater”) as an example of Da’esh (ISIL) activities. It is obvious that from the historical point of view these assertions make no sense since in 2002 not only Da’esh (ISIL) did not exist, but also the main prerequisite of its emergence – the US occupation of Iraq – was not there.

The next chapter will set out “ready-to-use” counter-narratives in the framework of a unified counter-narrative concept.

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<sup>38</sup> Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Dabiq” No. 10, p.37



# CHAPTER 3

## COUNTERING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA: COUNTER-NARRATIVE PRINCIPLES, LINES AND METHODS

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**I**n this chapter, in the framework of a unified counter-narrative concept, a number of efficient counter-narrative principles, lines and methods will be presented. The counter-narrative materials and counter-statements mentioned below are provided in a convenient format<sup>39</sup> so that they can be quoted and used in printed materials, in TV programs, on the radio, during public speeches and personal meetings. A whole range of layouts for printed materials elaborated by the Foundation for the Study of Democracy and the Institute for the Study and Counteraction to Terrorism is available for free use and distribution on social networks<sup>40</sup>. These materials are also disseminated with the support of the Spiritual Assembly of Russian Muslims and other centralized religious organizations. Extensive use of the terrorist propaganda based on religious wording means that a significant part of the counter-narratives should be based on the Quran and Islamic traditions. This need is also related to the fact that such materials will be understood by the Muslims which is a target audience of the most

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<sup>39</sup> According to the Muslim tradition, the name of the Prophet Muhammad in the quotes mentioned below should be followed by the phrase “Sallā Allāhu ‘alayhi wa-ālihi wa-sallam” (s.a.a.w.) (“may the blessings and the peace of Allah be upon him”), names of the Muhammad’s companions and wives should be followed by the phrase “radhiallahu anhu” (“Allah is pleased with him”).

<sup>40</sup> On the website of the Foundation for the Study of Democracy: <http://democracyfund.ru/publicism.php?id=376>. These materials can also be found on Twitter account @RusAgainstDaesh (ISIL)

intensive terrorists' propaganda. For instance, a series of materials for Russian Muslims titled "Da'esh (ISIL) is the enemy of Islam" is prepared by the Foundation for the Study of Democracy and the Institute for the Study and Counteraction to Terrorism on the basis of the Quran and is aimed at proving from a religious point of view that the terrorists not only violate the basics of Islam but are also its enemies.

It should be noted that the aggressive style of terrorist materials, their peremptory, eye-catching and memorable nature raises the efficiency of their promotion in certain groups. Compared to the terrorist propaganda, stereotypical slogans and general materials in the format of calls, such as "Say no to terrorism" do not look that great. Given that, one of the counter-narrative principles against Da'esh (ISIL) group should be its active, aggressive nature aimed at compromising the terrorist group in the eyes of its members, as well as existing and potential accomplices. Following this approach, a wide range of materials against Da'esh (ISIL) prepared by the Foundation for the Study of Democracy and the Institute for the Study and Counteraction to Terrorism explicitly accuse terrorists of certain violations of Islam, and in some cases the materials focus on the punishments which, according to the Quran, members of the terrorist groups will be subjected to.

For instance, one of such video materials was described above with terrorists using just a fragment of a quote from the Quran Surah Muhammad, Ayat 4: "strike [their] necks". In fact, this Ayat indicated the need to release captives, i.e. in this case terrorists can be legitimately accused of deliberately misinterpreting the Quran which is prohibited by Islam. Following the principle of active terrorist counter-narratives, the materials feature relevant quotes: "...there is among them a party who alter the Scripture with their tongues so you may think it is from the Scripture, but it is not from the Scripture. And they say, "This is from Allah," but it is not from Allah. And they speak untruth about Allah while they know." (Quran, Surah Al-Imran, Ayat 78).

Similar issues can be encountered while dealing with terrorists' practice of disseminating materials featuring mass murders which in fact aims to threaten representatives of various religions, including

Muslims. For instance, terrorist video film “Soon, Very Soon” is quite emblematic: the threats to seize the countries and enslave the children are accompanied by footage featuring executions of people captured by terrorists, as well as landscapes of various Russian regions. At the beginning of November 2015, Da’esh (ISIL) (ISIL) terrorists distributed a video on Russian social media featuring explicit threats against Russian citizens. The video message starts with a computer-generated logo of the Al-Haydar Media Center – a terrorist unit specialized in Da’esh (ISIL) (ISIL) media propaganda. The video consists of the images of marching Da’esh (ISIL) fighters, brutal executions, footage with Western and Russian policemen and militaries and is accompanied by a rap or nasheed (Muslim males’ chants) song performed in Russian and composed of various threats. The key theme of the song is the phrase “Soon, very soon” repeated after each threat. Here is the translation of the lyrics of the “song”:

*Soon, very soon the blood will flow like the sea,  
Kafirs’ throats will tremble under knives,  
Lions of the Ummah have awakened, the swords have been swung,  
Making the community stronger each day.*

*Allah soldiers will know no fear,  
Since their monotheism was chosen by Allah,  
We sweep away the idol of the cross near Tijir,  
Raising the black banner in the hearts.*

*Listen up, you filthy Kafir, you are not bold at all,  
And the sonorous arrogance in your voice has faded away.  
The Caliphate is built and we will seize by force  
Your countries that attract us so much.*

*We will take your wives as concubines,  
We will make your children slaves.  
All your wealth will never save you from the slavery,  
From the Ummah of brave and valiant sons.*

*We have come to slaughter you, challenging death.  
We have seen paradise in the barrels of your guns.  
The snipers are ready and once again, from their positions,  
They keep your carefree land locked on.*

*We will get back all our lands – only  
A stupid or a blind one does not understand it.  
Europe will falter, Russia will perish.*

*And we will get back the Caucasus, never leaving it  
Under the rule of the dark forces; we will get back Crimea  
As well as Ural, and Kafir will tremble.  
We want to establish Shariah in Tatarstan.*

*Soon, very soon the Russian city  
Will be shaken by takfirs, since this is Moscow.  
Those who cherish their lives will pay with their lives,  
If you do not need Islam, here are our words.*

*We will drive you into a corner in your own house,  
We will not let you go spread your debauchery,  
You will live in humiliation from now on,  
And nothing but a boiling Hell awaits you on the other side.*

Relevant counter-narrative materials recommend using a quote from an authentic<sup>41</sup> hadith prohibiting such intimidation: “Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) said: “No Muslim is allowed to threaten another Muslim”” (Sahih al-Tirmidhi)

Other counter-narrative materials, in accordance with the principle of active counter-narrative in cases involving suicide bombers specifically stresses that such actions are in fact suicidal and punishable by eternal

<sup>41</sup> Each hadith (word or action of the Prophet Mohammad) should have a chain of transmitters – a list of all people participating in the transmission starting from the companion. Individual hadith are classified as authentic (“sahih”), good (“hasan”), weak, unreliable and fictitious.

damnation in Hell. For instance, one of the materials prepared by the Foundation for the Study of Democracy and the Institute for the Study and Counteraction to Terrorism indicates the following: "On February 15, 2016, Admir Talibov blew himself up near the police station in the Derbent region, Dagestan. Allah will overturn him in Hell for this deed. Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) said: "A man... committed suicide, and so Allah said: My slave has caused death on himself hurriedly, so I forbid Paradise for him." (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 648 (1364); Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) said: "He who commits suicide by throttling shall keep on throttling himself in the Hell Fire (forever) and he who commits suicide by stabbing himself shall keep on stabbing himself in the Hell-Fire." (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 649 (1365))

Another example of active counter-narratives can be materials criticizing cases of deliberate lies in terrorist propaganda. Its particular features described above included the attempts of terrorists to present themselves as a historical successor of the Caliphate that was a model of untroubled life for all Muslims. In fact, in 1916-1918, the majority of Arab Muslims rose against the Caliphate that was abolished at the beginning of the 20th century. Deliberate lies of terrorists allow to cite the following quotes from the Quran appropriate for the situation: "Verily, Allah guides not one who is a transgressor, a liar!" (Surah Ghafi, Ayat 28) and "...fear Allah and speak words of appropriate justice." (Surah Al-Ahzab, Ayat 70)

Given the fact that Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist propaganda is trying to present the terrorist group as a globally operating force capable of acting in various territories and even continents, another essential counter-narrative principle might be refutation and criticism of the actions or materials of the terrorists regardless of the location. For instance, the Foundation for the Study of Democracy and the Institute for the Study and Counteraction to Terrorism have prepared materials related to a number of terrorist attacks without distinction as to the city or the country where or against the citizens of which these attacks were carried out: Medina, Baghdad, Istanbul, Jordan, the United States.

- On January 3, 2015, Da'esh (ISIL) terrorists burned Moaz Al-Kasasbeh, a Jordan Muslim pilot, alive. The Prophet Muhammad prohibits such

actions: "...punishment with fire is done by none except Allah." (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 2954)

- On June 4, 2016, a Da'esh (ISIL) suicide bomber blew himself up near the Prophet's Mosque in Medina killing 6 and injuring 10 Muslims. This is what the Quran says regarding such crimes committed by Da'esh (ISIL): "And whoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell to abide therein." (Quran, Surah An-Nisa, Ayat 93)
- This is what the Quran says regarding such crimes committed by Da'esh (ISIL): "...transgress not the limits. Truly, Allah likes not the transgressors." (Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 190)
- On July 3, 2016, Da'esh (ISIL) bomber attacked almost 500 Muslims in Baghdad killing 292 and injuring more than 200 people.
- On June 28, 2016, Da'esh (ISIL) suicide bombers attacked 283 people in Istanbul, 44 of which got killed and 239 injured.
- On August 19, 2014, Da'esh (ISIL) terrorists killed American journalist James Foley. This is what the Quran says about such crimes committed by Da'esh (ISIL): "...for the transgressors is an evil place of return - Hell, which they will [enter to] burn, and wretched is the resting place." (Quran, Surah Sad, Ayats 55-58)

Countering terrorist propaganda also requires clear understanding of the target audience the material is aimed at. For instance, a series of materials titled "Da'esh (ISIL) is the enemy of Islam" targets Muslims. Here are some examples of texts included in those materials:

- On 18 Safar 1438 (November 18, 2016), Da'esh (ISIL) killed Sufi Sheikh Abu al-Kharraz, who was more than 100 years old. Sheikh Abu al-Kharraz was a respected mentor and an authoritative person in Sinai. The 1st righteous Calif Abu Bakr as-Siddiq said: "Do not kill women or children or an aged person. Transgress not the limits." (Al-Baihaqi, 17927).
- On 13 Muharram 1438, Da'esh (ISIL) suicide bomber Abu Fahd attacked 74 Muslims in Baghdad killing 41 and injuring 33 people. Allah will send him in Hell for that. This is what the Prophet Muhammad

- (s.a.a.w.) says: “None of you should point out towards his Muslim brother with a weapon, for he does not know, Satan may tempt him to hit him and thus he would fall into a pit of fire” (Sahih Al-Bukhari)
- Da’esh (ISIL) video material features the murder of three drivers after they stated that they were Muslims. Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist asked, “What do you know about Islam?”; the driver responded, “I testify that there is no other god but Allah, and Muhammad is God’s messenger (prophet)”. And then they were killed. Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) said: “The blood of a Muslim who confesses that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and that I am the Messenger of Allah, cannot be shed.” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 6878)
  - In a Da’esh (ISIL) video, a terrorist says: “So if Allah allows us to, we will make sacrifices...”. Then he kills the captives. Human sacrifices to Allah have never been practiced in Islam. The Quran says that captives should be released for ransom or for free. This is what the Quran says about such crimes committed by Da’esh (ISIL): “...Allah... forbids immorality and bad conduct.” (Quran, Surah An-Nahl, Ayat 90)
  - In Dhu Al-Q’idah 1436, Da’esh (ISIL) terrorists burned 4 Iranian soldiers alive. “Ali ibn Abu Talib, leader of the pious Muslims, said: “we have what is written in this paper... the freeing of captives”” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 1242 /3047)

The series of materials titled “Da’esh (ISIL) – crimes against women” is obviously targeting women. Here are some examples of texts included in those materials:

- On October 31, 2015, Da’esh (ISIL) blew up the aircraft of Kogalymavia intentionally killing 224 innocent people, including 137 women and 24 children. The photo shows a 10-month Darina Gromova killed by Da’esh (ISIL).
- On May 29, 2014, Da’esh (ISIL) killed 15 innocent people in the Tlelye village in northern Syria, including 7 children and 3 women.
- On November 13, 2015, Da’esh (ISIL) intentionally shot and blew up innocent people in Paris: 51 women and 79 men were killed, 350 were injured.

- On June 2, 2016, Da'esh (ISIL) terrorists burned 19 girls of Kurdish origin alive in the Iraqi city of Mosul.

A number of materials can be used for various purposes like, for instance, the series titled "Da'esh (ISIL) is the enemy of culture". Here are several examples of texts included in those materials:

- On August 30, 2015, Da'esh (ISIL) (ISIL) fighters destroyed the Temple of Baal built in 32 in Palmyra.
- On March 7, 2015, Da'esh (ISIL) (ISIL) fighters used bulldozers to level the ruins of the ancient city of Kharta founded before Christ to the ground.
- In spring 2015, Da'esh (ISIL) (ISIL) fighters destroyed the Babylonian Temple of Nabu in the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud. That monument was more than 2500 years old.
- In February 2015, Da'esh (ISIL) (ISIL) fighters destroyed about 300 exhibits of a museum in Mosul that allegedly belonged to the Assyrian Empire and the ancient city of Kharta.
- In May 2015, Da'esh (ISIL) (ISIL) fighters blew up the Maryam Khatoon Mosque – a historical site in western Mosul (Iraq) built in 1821.

Another counter-narrative principle is related to the perceptive peculiarities of the youth (one of the main target groups subjected to the most intensive terrorist propaganda) and popularity of social media used as one of the main channels for the terrorist propaganda dissemination. The perceptive peculiarities of the youth include the habit of absorbing short-time visually and emotionally saturated materials. This is the reason why while creating counter-narrative materials priority<sup>42</sup> should be given to the materials that imply viral dissemination on social media.

Based on the analysis of the terrorist propaganda, a whole range of efficient counter-narrative lines and statements will be presented below.

One of the elements of the terrorist propaganda is the attempt to justify the need to commit terrorist attacks against civilians, including women and children, and one of the most popular methods involves the

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<sup>42</sup> This principle does not imply abandonment of other counter-narrative forms and channels.



use of suicide bombers. Meanwhile, despite the terrorist groups claiming “to protect Muslims”, Muslims are usually the ones likely to become victims of terrorists. This means that counter-narratives should be aimed against suicide bombers, as well as against the killing of civilians, women and children. These counter-narratives should be based on explicit prohibitions of suicide and murders of Muslims, women and children that can be found in the Quran and Sunnah.

Murder, especially murder of a Muslim, is one of the gravest sins in Islam. According to the Quran and Sunnah, this sin is punishable by eternal torment in Hell, abetting murder leads to the loss of Allah’s mercy, and even attempted murder (“pointing a piece of iron”) results in a “curse by angels”.

- “...whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely.” (Quran, Surah Al-Maidah, Ayat 32)
- “And those who do not invoke with Allah another deity or kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed]...” (Quran, Surah Al-Furqan, Ayat 68)
- A message has been passed from Ibn Umar (r.a.) that Allah’s messenger (s.a.a.w.) said: “Whoever killed a person having a treaty with the Muslims, shall not smell the smell of Paradise though its smell is perceived from a distance of forty years.”
- “But whoever kills a believer intentionally - his recompense is Hell, wherein he will abide eternally” (Quran, Surah An-Nisa, Ayat 93)
- According to Utba bin Malik, Messenger of Allah (s.a.a.w.) said: “Indeed, Allah will turn his back on the one who killed a believer” and repeated it three times.
- Narrated by Abul-Hakam al-Bajali (r.a.): “I heard Abu Sa’eed Al-Khudri and Abu Hurairah mentioning from the Messenger of Allah (s.a.a.w.) that he said: ‘If the inhabitants of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth all took part in shedding the blood of believer, then Allah would cast them (all) in the Fire.’”
- Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) says: “If the inhabitants of heaven and earth were to share in (shedding) the blood of a believer, Allah would overturn them in Hell.” (Sahih Al-Tirmidhi)

- Abu Hurairah (r.a.) passes the words of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.a.w.) who said: "Whoever helps to kill a believer, even with half a word, he will meet Allah with (the words) written between his eyes, 'He has no hope of the mercy of Allah.'"
- Muawiyah (r.a.) passes the words of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.a.w.) who said: "One can hope to be forgiven for any sin, but he who died an unbeliever or killed a Muslim can never be forgiven."
- Al-Miqdad who took part in the battle of Badr, asked the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.): "If I meet an unbeliever and we have a fight, and he strikes my hand with the sword and cuts it off... and says, 'I have surrendered to Allah' may I kill him after he has said so?" Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) said: "Do not kill him for if you kill him, he would be in the position in which you had been before you kill him, and you would be in the position in which he was before he said the sentence."" (Sahih al-Bukhari 1535 / 4019)
- Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) says: "Whoever points a piece of iron at his brother, the angels curse him." (Sahih al-Muslim)
- Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) says: "None of you should point out towards his Muslim brother with a weapon, for he does not know, Satan may tempt him to hit him and thus he would fall into a pit of fire." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

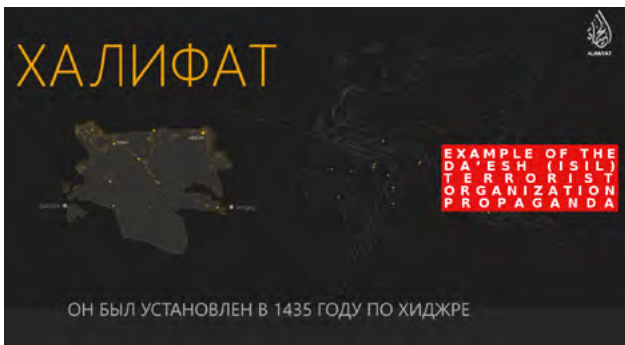
As was described in detail earlier, the terrorist propaganda is trying to justify terrorist acts against civilians, including women, children and elderly persons who become their victims quite often. However, explicit prohibitions of such murders in the Quran and Sunnah provide relevant counter-narratives.

- "And do not kill your children... Indeed, their killing is ever a great sin." (Quran, Surah Al-Isra, Ayat 31)
- "once the Prophet (s.a.a.w.) had come back from one of his battles where Khalid bin al-Waleed was the leader of the army... passed by a killed woman, who had been killed by of the front of the army... The Prophet (s.a.a.w.) stopped, looked at her and said: She would not have fought! He said to one of his companions: Follow after Khalid and

say to him that the Prophet (s.a.a.w.) orders you not to kill women, children or employees.” (Musnad Ahmad ibn Hanbal, 17158)

- “During some of the Ghazawat of Allah’s Apostle a woman was found killed, so Allah’s Apostle forbade the killing of women and children.” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 2852)
- “I came to the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.), and I went out on an expedition with him. So, I followed the best of people on that day, until they killed children. So, this was relayed to the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.), who said: “What is the matter with some people, that they exceed the limits in killing today, such that they killed children?.. the best of you are the children of the polytheists. Do not kill a child!” (Musnad Ahmad ibn Hanbal, 3/435).
- The 1st righteous Calif Abu Bakr as-Siddiq said: “Do not kill women or children or an aged person. Transgress not the limits.” (Al-Baihaqi, 17927).

In its attempts to justify the killing of civilians by terrorists, terrorist propaganda is trying to use a variety of tools. For instance, one of its methods involves citing an example of an air strike by a US drone or air forces of other countries resulting in victims among Muslims. The examples of terrorists’ attempts to promote the propaganda statement about the entire societies of those countries being responsible for the strikes based on this notion, as well as the active promotion of the statement that terrorist attacks against civilians in those States are permitted are set out in previous chapters. to counter this element of terrorists’ ideology, one should indicate that those statements are not only unreasonable and inhuman, but are also in direct contradiction to the Quran. The Quran Surah An-Najm, Ayats 38-39, states the following: “that no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another, and that there is not for man except that [good] for which he strives” meaning “no bearer of burdens will be punished for the sins of another bearer of burdens, everyone will get what they deserve”. Besides, this idea is so important that it is mentioned in the Quran five times: in Ayat 14 of the Surah Al-Isra, Ayat 7 of the Surah Sad, Ayat 18 of the Surah Fatir, Ayat 164 of the Surah Al-Anam and Ayat 38 of the Surah An-Najm.



One of the most common methods to commit terrorist attacks is using suicide bombers. Terrorist propaganda convinces them that after a terrorist act they will go to Heaven. However, suicide is one of the gravest sins in Islam. According to the Quran and Sunnah, even a heavy wound cannot be a reason for committing a suicide, and the perpetrator will be sent to Hell. This provides relevant counter-narratives against both potential suicide bombers and the terrorist organization that dooms its members to Hell, from the point of view of Islam.

- “O you who have believed... do not kill yourselves [or one another]. Indeed, Allah is to you ever Merciful. And whoever does that in aggression and injustice - then We will drive him into a Fire.” (Quran, Surah An-Nisa, Ayats 29-31)
- Jundub ibn Abdullah passes the words of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.a.w.) who said: “There was among those who were before you, a man who had a wound. The man could not bear the pain of that wound, so he took a knife and cut his hand with it and as a result, bled to death. Allah then said: “My slave has caused death on himself hurriedly and for this, I have made Paradise forbidden for him.”
- Messenger of Allah (s.a.a.w.) said referring to a man who had committed suicide using his sword, unwilling to bear the pain: “He is from the dwellers of the Hell-Fire.”
- Narrated by Abu Hurairah (r.a.): “Whoever kills himself with iron then his iron will be in his hand, thrusting it into his stomach in the fire of Hell abiding therein eternally. Whoever drinks poison and kills himself will drink it in the fire of Hell abiding therein eternally.”
- Narrated by Thabit bin Ad-Dahhak (r.a.): “whoever commits suicide with something, will be punished with the same thing in the (Hell) Fire; and cursing a believer is like murdering him; and whoever accuses a believer of disbelief, then it is as if he had killed him.”

Another important issue is countering the statement of terrorists according to which “the Muslims cannot live in peace with the followers of other religions”, as well as combating the incitement of religious strife with Christians and Jews presented as enemies of the Muslims. Counter-

narratives should note that such statements are in direct contradiction to the Quran that classifies Christians and Jews as “Ahl al-Kitab”, i.e. People of the Scripture. The Quran mentions that there are “righteous” among them and that “Allah does not forbid you... from being righteous towards them”. Here are the full quotes from the Quran:

- “Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly. Allah only forbids you from those who fight you because of religion and expel you from your homes and aid in your expulsion...” (Quran, Surah Al-Mumtahanah, Ayats 8-9)
- “among the People of the Scripture is a community standing [in obedience], reciting the verses of Allah during periods of the night and prostrating [in prayer]. They believe in Allah and the Last Day, and they enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and hasten to good deeds. And those are among the righteous. And whatever good they do - never will it be removed from them. And Allah is Knowing of the righteous.” (Quran, Surah Al-Imran, Ayats 113-115)
- “And indeed, among the People of the Scripture are those who believe in Allah and what was revealed to you and what was revealed to them, [being] humbly submissive to Allah . They do not exchange the verses of Allah for a small price. Those will have their reward with their Lord. Indeed, Allah is swift in account.” (Quran, Surah Al-Imran, Ayats 199)

Taking into account Da’esh (ISIL) propaganda promoting the statement about Islam being a bellicose religion, counter-narrative should also mention a peaceful nature of this religion. For instance, in their materials, terrorists often use the following quote: “Oh Muslims, Islam has never been a religion of peace for a day. Indeed, Islam is the religion of battles. Verily, your Prophet (s.a.a.w.) was sent with the sword as a mercy to all worlds.”<sup>43</sup>. This fragment consists of Ayat 107 of the Quran Surah Al-Anbya - “And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as

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<sup>43</sup> Da’esh (ISIL) terrorist organization magazine “Istok (The Source)” No. 2, p.4

a mercy to the worlds” – and part of the hadith “sent with the sword” that was specific to a certain time and place. Open letter of Islamic Scholars to the Leaders of the Islamic State indicates that it is prohibited to mix hadiths and the Quran.

According to a whole number of hadiths and ayats from the Quran, Islam is not characterized by bellicosity, but rather by mercy and patience.

- “And then being among those who believed and advised one another to patience and advised one another to compassion.” (Quran, Surah Al-Balad, Ayat 17)
- “Before Allah created the creations, He wrote a Book (wherein He has written): ‘My Mercy has preceded my Anger.’ And that is written with Him over the Throne.” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 7553), “Your Lord has decreed upon Himself mercy” (Quran, Surah Al-Anam, Ayat 54)
- “My mercy encompasses all things.” (Quran, Surah Al-Araf, Ayat 156)
- “But Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.” (Quran, Surah Al-Hujurat, Ayat 5)
- “Then Adam received from his Lord [some] words, and He accepted his repentance. Indeed, it is He who is the Accepting of repentance, the Merciful.” (Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 37)
- “Be merciful to those on the earth, so the One above the heavens will be merciful to you.” (At-Tabarani and Al-Hakim)
- “Fear the prayer of the oppressed, even if he is a disbeliever, for there is no barrier [between it and Allah]” (Ahmad, 12140) etc.

In addition, many hadiths directly prescribe to show mercy.

- “Allah will not be merciful to those who are not merciful to people.” (Al-Bukhari)
- “Allah is merciful to those who are merciful to people” (Al-Bukhari)
- “He who is not merciful is damned” (Abu Daud and At-Tirmidhi)

Another important counter-narrative is the fact that 113 Quran Surah mention mercy and start from the words “In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful”, and one of the Surah is titled “Ar-Rahman” (“Beneficent”). Besides, the Quran mentions several times

that even in a battle one should not “transgress the limits”: “Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress.” (Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 190). Even with regard to the enemies of the Prophet Muhammad – polytheists – the Quran says: “But if they cease, then there is to be no aggression except against the oppressors.” (Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 193).

Also, one can find in the Quran and Surah a number of statements prescribing to be “just” and condemning “insisting on hardship” which is typical of terrorists’ statements.

- “And thus we have made you a just community.” (Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 143)
- Ibn Mas’ud (r.a.) reported: “The Prophet (s.a.a.w.) said, “Ruined are those who insist on hardship in matters of the Faith.” He repeated this three times.” This hadith was passed by Muslim, 2670.

Taking into account that one of the basic elements of the terrorist propaganda is the statement about the “humiliating position of Muslims”, another important counter-narrative involves refutation of these statements. For instance, to counter terrorist propaganda in Russia, it would be efficient to use counter-narratives about not only Muslims not being humiliated, but also about the Islamic revival. This conclusion is confirmed by data, according to which during 1980-2005 the number of mosques in Russia increased from one hundred to eight thousand. After the accession of Crimea, the process of Islamic was launched there as well. When Crimea was part of Ukraine, total number of mosques in the territory was 330, while as of the end of 2016 this figure reached 480. Moscow Cathedral Mosque opened in 2015 with the total area of 18,900 square meters is one of the largest mosques in Europe. In 1997, the Grand Mosque “Yusuf Bei Cami” was built in Mahachkala – after the reconstruction, it can accommodate more than 15 thousand people. The Heart of Chechnya mosque built in Grozny in 2008 can accommodate more than 10 thousand people as well. At the same time, while promoting this counter-narrative, one should not forget about the need to maintain balance of interreligious relations.





انطلاق الأبح الاستشهادي ( أبو محمد الداعستاني ) - تقبلاه الله - نحو تجمعات المرتدين



One of the notions of the terrorist propaganda was the dissemination of information about Da'esh (ISIL) successes, including the number of occupied territories and settlements. For instance, the terrorist video film titled "Don't Grant Me a Delay" emphasizes the size of the seized lands. "This is the Caliphate with all its might and greatness... its area is already exceeding that of the Great Britain... It is already 8 times larger than Belgium and 30 times larger than Qatar. It is built based on the prophetic methodology and ruled by the Quran and Sunnah only."

In view of that, as part of the counter-narrative efforts, it is important to spread information about the successes in the fight against terrorists, including the liberation of the territories previously occupied by them.

One of the quite efficient counter-narrative methods is using former members of terrorist groups as sources of information compromising these groups in the eyes of their members, supporters and accomplices. As for Da'esh (ISIL), such information includes proof about mass violations of Islamic norms and customs, including "grave sins". For instance, it is a grave sin for a Muslim to kill another Muslim. One should also note that the significant number of foreign fighters join the terrorists in an attempt to find and live a "just" life from both religious and social points of view. Therefore, of particular importance becomes the dissemination of information about not only lack of "justice" in their territories, but also about numerous abuses graver than in those countries they come from. Here are several examples of such proof to spread. Akhmed Dengayev from the Novosaitli settlement of Dagestan, who went to Syria to join the terrorist group says: "I thought it would be a right thing to go help them... I thought there were people who were interested in nothing but Islam. Clothes, people, women, food – everything should be in accordance with Islam. But what I saw there was different. They do not do much prayer but know what homes can be burgled, profit is all they care about. I didn't find what I wanted." Elbrus Karimov, born in Magaramentskiy District of Dagestan, who joined the terrorists earlier, testifies: "In one of the mosques, they urged us to go protect our religion, sisters, brothers. I went to Syria to fight for jihad. There, I realized that there was no jihad. Lies, they only fight each other. All those Sheikhs and brothers calling us

to jihad do not go, sending us instead as cannon fodder. All they tell is lies. to be honest, I also needed money. They promised us money as well... At first, they said they would give us money, but in the end, when we are wounded, nobody cares about us. We are cannon fodder doomed to death. They fight between themselves for trophies. But the money they promised was never given to anyone”.

A 22-year old Abu Ibragim from the Deir ez-Zor University reports: “I was sent to spy on people in mosques... Locals hated me because I was from Da’esh (ISIL). Despite the fact that there were many religious ones, many people joined Da’esh (ISIL) for money and if they were paid well they would be accepted.” Sofia Kasiki who moved to Raqqa from Paris with her little son, told us that she was kept in a “guest house” that looked more like prison, she was prohibited from moving around the city freely, threatened and forced to marry an unknown man. Dua who was part of Da’esh (ISIL) unit “Al-Khansaa Brigade”, an all-women vice squad, reported: “I was married for six months, then he took part in the suicide bombings and died... We took women who violated the dress code. It was punishable by 40 strokes... one woman had a pattern on her coat, she was brought to me... She screamed and cried but we were used to that. Those who were beheaded by Da’esh (ISIL) could be left in the streets, their bodies could be displayed in public for the whole world to see, including children.” Um Asmah says that during Da’esh (ISIL) ruling in Raqqa, “dead bodies were hanging in the streets, cut-off heads were lying on the ground.” 23-year old Arib Majid from India who joined Da’esh (ISIL) reported that despite numerous requests to the Ummah he was not allowed to participate in hostilities but was sent to clean the toilets instead. “There is no holy war there, nothing from what they told us in preachings. For instance, Da’esh (ISIL) members raped many women. ” Abu Almoutanna told about a 5-week battle of Da’esh (ISIL) for the Iraqi town of Al-Marqada: “In the end, we killed everyone, including women and children left in town or in nearby villages... Everyone in Da’esh (ISIL) was afraid to speak out, the attempted escape was punishable by immediate death.”

Another efficient way to counter terrorist propaganda involves dissemination of testimonies provided by their victims. The most efficient

in this case are the testimonies of those population groups that terrorist claim to “protect” in accordance with their ideology and that were urged to move to the occupied territories.

Effective methods to counter terrorist propaganda may include as well the use of terrorist materials for counter-narrative purposes. In this regard, the Foundation for the Study of Democracy and the Institute for the Study and Counteraction to Terrorism monitor terrorist propaganda on a regular basis, analyze it promptly and disseminate counter-narrative materials. For instance, numerous cases of murders of captives advertised by terrorists provide an opportunity for efficient counter-narrative measures. Islam prescribes completely different actions – it orders to release the captives and provide them with food even if it involves difficulties.

- “ordered that each man... should kill his captive... When we reached the Prophet (s.a.a.w.), we mentioned to him the whole story. On that, the Prophet (s.a.a.w.) raised both his hands and said twice, “O Allah! I am free from what Khalid has done.”” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 1596 / 4339)
- “So when you meet those who disbelieve [in battle], strike [their] necks until, when you have inflicted slaughter upon them, then secure their bonds, and either [confer] favor afterwards or ransom [them] until the war lays down its burdens.” (Quran, Surah Muhammad, Ayat 4)
- Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) said: “Free the captives...” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 1241 / 3046)
- Ali ibn Abu Talib, leader of the pious Muslims, said: “we have what is written in this paper... the freeing of captives” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 1242 / 3047)
- “And they give food in spite of love for it to the needy, the orphan, and the captive...” (Quran, Surah Al-Insan, Ayat 8)

The Quran Surah Al-Anfal, Ayat 70, also indicates that the Quran treats the captives in a way completely different from that of the terrorists: “O Prophet (s.a.a.w.), say to whoever is in your hands of the captives, “If Allah knows [any] good in your hearts, He will give you [something] better than what was taken from you, and He will forgive you.””

Another example of using Da'esh (ISIL) materials for counter-narrative purposes is the use of a video film titled after the leader of a terrorist unit in Iraq "Shaker Wahib". This video film features him murdering three drivers after they proclaimed shahada – a testimony declaring belief in the oneness of God and the acceptance of Muhammad as God's prophet. After they gave a wrong answer to the question about the number of Rakats<sup>44</sup> in prayers, they were accused of disbelief and shot.

According to the Sunnah, accusation of disbelief with no ground, especially after the shahada, is a grave sin. "Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) said: "whoever accuses a believer of disbelief, then it is as if he had killed him."" (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 1938 / 6047). Besides, terrorists' movie itself shows Da'esh (ISIL) killing Muslims, which is another grave sin. Shaker Wahib himself was destroyed in an air strike in the middle of 2016.

Important preventive methods include publication of information about court decisions related to punishments for individual cases involving dissemination of terrorist materials and support for the terrorist ideology. Here are some examples from the materials prepared by the Foundation for the Study of Democracy and the Institute for the Study and Counteraction to Terrorism:

- On May 14, 2014, the court of the Republic of Khakassia found K.F. Tursunov guilty under P.1 of Article 205.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. He used private messages on social media to convince a Muslim from Buryatia to go to Syria and join the terrorist group. K.F. Tursunov was sentenced to 4.5 years of imprisonment in the penal colony.
- On November 24, 2011, the court of the city of Omsk found I.V. Korolev guilty under P.1 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. He publicly declared that he recognized terrorist ideology as a right one, in need of support and imitation. He received information about the terrorist ideology from the materials posted on the Internet distorting traditional Islamic doctrines and

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<sup>44</sup>Rakat is the order of prescribed movements and words followed by Muslims while offering prayers to God. Each Rakat consists of one low bow and two prostrations. Each of the five mandatory prayers consists of various numbers of rakats (2 to 4).

promoting a war between Muslims and non-Muslims, disseminated this information and showed videos of terrorist attacks. Taking into account that I.V. Korolev had already been sentenced to imprisonment for other crimes, the court sentenced him to the total of 10 years of imprisonment in the strict-regime correctional colony.

- On February 11, 2011, the court of the Ivanov Region found N.A. Kuvakina guilty under P.1 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. She publicly justified terrorism. in execution of her criminal intent on the forum titled “Our Jamaat brothers, our goal is the Caliphate, who supports Dokku Umarov in the elimination of Russians in the Caucasus?”, she posted a number of unambiguous statements, including “I am ALWAYS on their side”, “May Allah help them in their work” and others. The court found N.A. Kuvakina guilty and sentenced her to 1.5 years of imprisonment.
- On February 25, 2014, the court of the Chechen Republic found R.A. Gelayev guilty under P.1 of Article 205.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. He showed video materials using the Internet and urged Muslims to join the illegal armed formations in the territory of Chechnya and Syria. R.A. Gelayev was sentenced to 5.5 years of imprisonment.
- On July 7, 2011, the court of the city of Krasnoyarsk found T.V. Gavrilova guilty under P.1 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. She reposted a text featuring calls to carry out terrorist activities on her page on social network “Vkontakte”. T.V. Gavrilova was sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment.
- On December 3, 2012, the court of the city of Krasnoyarsk found Ruslan Meirivan-ogly Agayev guilty under P.1 of Article 205 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. He posted video materials justifying terrorism on his page on social network “Vkontakte”, including the justification of terrorist attacks in Beslan and in Moscow underground. Ruslan Meirivan-ogly Agayev was sentenced to 1 year of imprisonment.
- On December 22, 2016, Moscow State University student Varvara Karaulova was sentenced to 4.5 years of imprisonment for an attempt

to join the terrorist group undertaken under the influence of its member.

Dissemination of such materials indicating specific penalties is an important preventive measure discouraging a certain part of terrorist groups' supporters on social media from distributing their propaganda.

The list of principles, lines and methods described in this section is enough for efficient counter-narrative work, however, it does not mean there could not be other statements, approaches and ways.

It is worth noting that Da'esh (ISIL), understanding that sooner or later the part of the Syrian and Iraqi territories occupied by terrorists at the moment will be liberated, has started to form a propaganda myth about the allegedly "untroubled" life under their ruling in the occupied territories. It should be assumed that this myth will be used in the terrorist propaganda later.

Unfortunately, given the financial and human resources Da'esh (ISIL) terrorist group has at its disposal, its intent to send the fighters back to their countries of residence, practise of certain States towards their activities as a tool to exert pressure on other countries, one should assume that liberation of the territory of Syria and Iraq occupied by them at the moment may be followed by the attempts to intensify terrorist activity in many countries of the world, including Russia. Information and ideological fight against terrorism will remain one of the methods to counter such activity.

# AFTERWORDS

**T**he most dangerous factor of today's global terrorist threat is the ability of leaders and ideologists of the major terrorist groups to wage efficient propaganda and mobilization campaigns, initiate harmful radicalization of vulnerable population groups and, more often, of individuals. Without systematic and able efforts aimed at countering these "information" aspects of the terrorist activity, it would be simply impossible to ensure a decisive victory over international terrorism and protect the world community, all States and all people from terrorists.

Naturally, the States and their competent authorities play a leading and fundamental role in these efforts. It is their comprehensive work on a daily basis in strict compliance with the law that provides the main barrier protecting the society and citizens from terrorism and its information provocations. The leadership of the State authorities does not exclude but, on the contrary, implies the engagement of the civil society institutions, traditional religious communities, scientific and educational institutions, media and NGOs in the counter-terrorism efforts within their relevant functions and competence.

Russia has unbeatable experience in organizing and carrying out counter-terrorism activities, including in terms of efficient partnerships with non-governmental organizations. This publication is a clear and excellent example of that.

Deep knowledge of the counter-terrorism issues shown by the authors of this brochure, as well as the correct understanding of the State's and society's counter-terrorism agenda, international cooperation, willingness to collaborate with government structures results in a substantive, practical task-oriented and hence particularly helpful research and valuable recommendations on terrorism prevention.

We expect this publication to attract the attention of a vast Russian and foreign audience, especially youth, as well as anti-terrorism experts and practitioners, and therefore to make its contribution to the efforts aimed at countering the dissemination of terrorist ideology and combating terrorism.

*Oleg Syromolotov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Russian Federation*



Successful countering of terrorism in all its manifestation requires a substantial, well-considered, active and comprehensive fight against extremist propaganda. The guidebook by M.S.Grigoryev, head of the Foundation for the Study of Democracy, is an important step to this end contributing to the public condemnation and denunciation of the terrorism ideology.

This fight should involve active participation of the State bodies, as well as experts, clergy and representatives of public organizations. Civil society should adopt an aggressive and responsible stance in countering extremist ideas used by the criminal terrorist “International” in their attempts to justify their atrocities.

The publication in question includes practical recommendations on counter-narrative work in the counter-terrorism field. It is based on the critical analysis of a large data array on criminal activities of the so-called ISIL prohibited by court in the Russian Federation, as well as of other organizations trying to engage the youth in its illegal activity using false interpretations of religious postulates as a cover. It is important to note that the readers are offered specific arguments for use in counter-narrative efforts and lots of practical advice in terms of the organization of a system to counter and prevent export of hostile ideological surrogates to the Russian Federation.

Of course, we have much more work to do to erect an efficient public barrier against extremism and terrorism. Addressing this issue requires thorough, thoughtful and persistent work of scholars and experts.

I believe that the book by M.S.Grigoryev is a helpful and concrete example of such activities in the field of the “ideological counter-terrorism”. It can be used not only in the research activities, but also in the work of the State bodies, law enforcement agencies, as well as religious and public organizations.

*Ilyas Umakhanov*  
*Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation*  
*of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation*

**T**errorism has always been and still is the gravest crime against humanity. It is always cruel and merciless in its methods of execution against people and can be similar to exterminatory wars. Such wars or certain acts require expendable human resources. This is why nowadays the fight for human minds on the ideological front is so critical. For terrorist ideologists, a human life has no value rather being just a mean to achieve the required goal. They are not ready to sacrifice themselves, instead using more appropriate material for these purposes, such as young people in the process of choosing their guides in life.

The goal of the State and public organizations is to warn young people against embracing the wrong path, against making fatal mistakes while opting for their life guides. The Russian Federation defines the fight against terrorism in all its manifestations as one of the main priorities of the State policy in en-suring the State security, which is stressed in the National Security Strategy. Everybody knows the saying: "Forewarned is forearmed". Timely ac-quired knowledge makes it possible to prevent negative consequences of a hos-tile and purposeful influence on a person exerted by the entities concerned. Knowledge acquired beforehand makes it possible to save those who are by our side from taking wrong steps and doing wrong things. Knowledge acquired beforehand makes it possible to win against those who spread guidelines de-stroying human personality.

This guidebook prepared by the Foundation for the Study of Democracy and the Institute for the Study and Counteraction to Terrorism helps to protect individuals and the society as a whole from the carefully and skillfully built traps set by the carriers of terrorist ideology. The Foundation has conducted a large-scale research to identify obvious and hidden forms of influence on the human personality with the aim of changing its perception of good and evil.

This guidebook will also be helpful for the entities and organizations that put counter-narrative efforts at the heart of their activities. Most of the time, the "one-size-fits-all" slogans and calls are simply not perceived by young people and lose in comparison with the well-directed, attractive and skillfully presented recruiting materials prepared by terrorist organizations. In order to successfully fight the enemy you need to know him. The guidebook identifies the forms, methods and ideological guidelines of the DAESH international ter-rorist organization. This allows everyone to consciously assess the negative in-formation charge flung into the Internet and to make the right decision.

Head of the Foundation for the Study of Democracy M.S.Grigoryev has approached the preparation of this guidebook on countering extremist and ter-rorist propaganda with all the civil responsibility for the fate of our State, for the fate of young people. It requires a serious study for practical guidance.

*Vyacheslav Bocharov  
Secretary of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation,  
Hero of the Russian Federation*

**I** was in Syria in May 2015, when the ISIL terrorists seized Palmyra and demonstratively shot hundreds of civilians belonging to the Syrian State – officials, doctors, teachers, nurses, members of their families – in the ancient amphitheater. It came as a shock to not only Syrians and their friends, but to the world in general that was challenged by terrorists. Destruction of an ancient arch we remember from the photos in our school textbooks once again confirmed that the activities of such terrorist organizations as ISIL is a challenge to the whole world, a threat to humanity, even if someone hopes to use them to fulfil their own selfish geopolitical goals.

Spiritual security of citizens is the most important part of the national security of the country, and religious competence, knowledge of norms and traditions of the ancestors guarantee that the individual will never get into the hands of recruiters. It is widely known that terrorists often recruit their supporters among young people making use of their inquisitive mind, thirst for new things or maybe the absence of social demand for them.

Outstanding counter-narrative efforts, spiritual education of young people, exposure of the truth about the activities of terrorist organizations, active cooperation of schools, higher educational institutions and traditional religious communities of Russia is the path we are to embark on together. And, of course, we should propose ideas that could entice young people.

I am confident that the book by Maksim Grigoryev is extremely helpful and much-needed; this book provides assistance in learning methods used by terrorist recruiters and an outlook on their activities based on the analysis of a huge amount of materials and personal experience of specialists who wage a bloody fight against the evil, which is terrorism.

*Sergey Gavrilov,  
Chairman of the State Duma Committee  
for the Development of Civil Society  
and for Public and Religious Associations,  
Coordinator of the Inter-Faction Deputy Group  
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# **MATERIALS TO COMBAT TERRORIST PROPAGANDA**

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# DAESH's (IS) Crimes Against Women



@RusAgainstDAESH

*"And kill not your children... Surely, the killing of them is a great sin." (Quran, Surah Al-Isra, Ayah 31).*

*"And let those who oppose the Messenger's commandment beware, lest ... a painful torment be inflicted on them." (Quran, Surah An-Nur, Ayah 63).*



**On 18 Muharram 1437 (31.10.2015), IS brought down by an explosion an aircraft operated by a Russian airline, deliberately KILLING 224 innocent people, including 137 WOMEN and 24 CHILDREN PICTURED ABOVE IS 10-MONTH-OLD DARINA GROMOVA KILLED BY DAESH (IS).**

# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam



On 9 Shawwal 1437 (4 June 2016), at the end of Ramadan, a suicide bomber blew himself up near the Prophet's Mosque in Medina killing 6 and injuring 10 Muslims.



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This is what the Quran says regarding such crimes committed by Daesh: 'And whoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell to abide therein' (Qur'an, Surah An-Nisa', Ayat 93).

# DAESH IS THE ENEMY OF CULTURE



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In February 2015, Daesh (ISIL) fighters destroyed about 300 exhibits of a museum in Mosul that allegedly belonged to the Assyrian Empire and the ancient city of Kharta.



# Truth About DAESH (IS)



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*"Preachers called to defend our religion, sisters, brothers and our land. I went to Syria to fight for Jihad... I realised that there was no Jihad there. It was all deception; they just fight with each other. Those sheiks and brothers, who call us to Jihad, do not fight themselves, but send us as cannon fodder. What they say is all a lie".*

*Elbrus Karibov, Daesh (IS) defector.*



# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam



IS video footage shows a terrorist who cites the Quran, "... strike their necks," and continues, "Now, in the name of Allah, we are going to perform a sacrifice." Afterwards, all the captives are executed.



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HOWEVER, THE QURAN states, "So when you meet Unbelievers in battle, strike [their] necks", while captives should be liberated, "Thereafter (is the time) either for generosity (i.e. free them without ransom), or ransom..." (Quran, Surah Muhammad, Ayah 4).

*Such crimes of IS are referred to as follows: "... keep your duty to Allah and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth." (Quran, Surah Al-Ahzab, Ayah 70).*

# DAESH IS THE ENEMY OF CULTURE



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In May 2015, Daesh (ISIL) fighters blew up the Maryam Khatoon Mosque - a historical site in western Mosul (Iraq) built in 1821.



# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam



On 28 Ramadan 1437 (July 3, 2016) DAESH suicide bombers attacked almost 500 Muslims in Baghdad resulting in 292 killed and more than 200 injured.

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Abu Bakr as-Siddiq, the first Rightly-Guided Caliph, said, "Do not kill an oldman, a woman or a child. Do not transgress the limits." (al-Bayhaqi, 17927).

*Such crimes of DAESH are referred to as follows: '... and whosoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad), and transgresses His limits, He will cast him into the Fire, to abide therein; and he shall have a disgraceful torment!' (Qur'an, Surah An-Nisa, Ayat 14).*



# DAESH's (IS) Crimes Against Women

THE FOUNDATION  
FOR THE STUDY OF  
DEMOCRACY



On 13 Jumada al-awwal 1437 (21.02.2016), IS intimidates Syrian civilians, by bombing Sayyida Zeinab, a suburb of Damascus, which claimed the lives of 83 people and injured 178, majority of them women and children.

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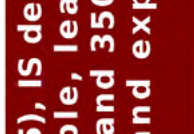
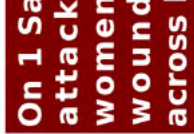


*The Prophet Muhammad  
(Peace be upon Him) said,  
" ...do not kill a child."  
(Sahih Muslim, 1731).*

*Such crimes of IS are referred to as follows: " ... Hell is ... a dwelling place for ... those who transgress the boundary limits... They will abide therein for ages..." (Quran, Surah An-Naba', Ayat 22-26).*

# DAESH's (IS) Crimes Against Women

THE FOUNDATION  
FOR THE STUDY OF  
DEMO  
CRACY



**On 1 Safar 1437 (13.11.2015), IS deliberately attacked innocent people, leaving 51 women and 79 men dead and 350 people wounded in shootings and explosions across Paris.**

**Abu Bakr as-Siddiq, the first Rightly-Guided Caliph, said, "Do not kill an old man, a woman or a child. Do not transgress the limits." (al-Bayhaqi, 17927).**

**Such crimes of IS are referred to as follows: "And for the ... transgressors... will be an evil final return ... Hell! Where they will burn..." (Quran, Surah Saad, Ayat 55-58).**

# DAESH's (IS) Crimes Against Women

THE FOUNDATION  
FOR THE STUDY OF  
**DEMO  
CRACY**



*“And kill not your children  
Surely, the killing of them  
is a great sin.” (Quran, Surah  
Al-Isra, Ayah 31).*

*“And for the ... transgressors....,  
will be an evil final return ... ”  
Hell! Where they will burn... ”  
(Quran, Surah Saad, Ayat 55-  
58).*



@RusAgainstDAESH

On 18 Muharram 1437 (31.10.2015), DAESH (IS) brought down by an explosion an aircraft operated by a Russian airline, deliberately KILLING 224 innocent people, including 137 WOMEN and 24 CHILDREN. The photo shows a family killed by DAESH: 2 year old Miron and his parents Elena and Sergey Zhimalenkov.



THE FOUNDATION  
FOR THE DEFENSE  
OF ISLAM  
DEMO  
CRACY

# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam

**On 18 Rabi' al-awwal 1437 (30.12.2015), IS OPENED FIRE on a group of tourists in Daghestan. A border guard was killed and 11 tourists were severely injured.**

For fear of taking responsibility for the killing of Muslims, IS has made a deceitful and hypocritical statement: "With the help of Allah, the warriors of the Caliphate attacked a group of Russian security officials in the city of Derbent in the south of Daghestan. As a result, one security official was killed and the others are injured."

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**Regarding such lies by IS, the Quran says: "... keep your duty to Allah and fear him, and speak (always) the truth." (Quran, Surah Al-Ahzab, Ayah 70)**

# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam

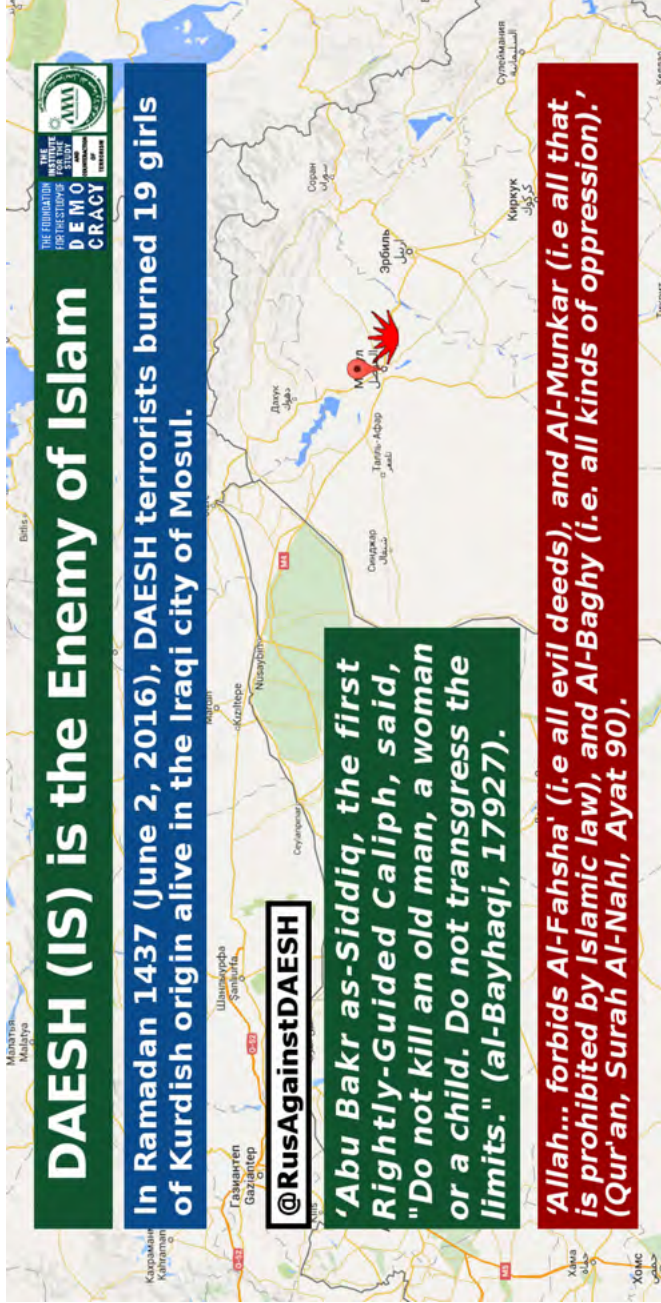


In Ramadan 1437 (June 2, 2016), DAESH terrorists burned 19 girls of Kurdish origin alive in the Iraqi city of Mosul.

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**'Abu Bakr as-Siddiq, the first Rightly-Guided Caliph, said, "Do not kill an old man, a woman or a child. Do not transgress the limits." (al-Bayhaqi, 17927).**

**'Allah... forbids Al-Fahsha' (i.e all evil deeds), and Al-Munkar (i.e all that is prohibited by Islamic law), and Al-Baghy (i.e. all kinds of oppression).' (Qur'an, Surah Al-Nahl, Ayat 90).**





# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam



On 18 Safar 1438 (November 18, 2016) Daesh killed Abu Harraz, a Sufi Sheikh who was more than 100 years old. Sheikh Abu Harraz was a respectable mentor and an authoritative person in the Sinai.

**Abu Bakr as-Siddiq, the first Rightly-Guided Caliph, said, "Do not kill an old man, a woman or a child. Do not transgress the limits." (al-Bayhaqi, 17927).**

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**Such crimes of IS are referred to as follows: "And let those who oppose the Messenger's (Muhammad) commandment beware, lest ...a painful torment be inflicted on them." (Quran, Surah An-Nur, Ayah 63).**

# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam



On Jumada Al-Awwal 1437 (15 February 2016), Admiral Talibov blew himself up near a police station in the Derbent region in Dagestan.

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Allah will overturn him in Hell for this deed.

*Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) said: "A man... committed suicide, and so Allah said: My slave has caused death on himself hurriedly, so I forbid Paradise for him." (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 648 (1364))*

# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDY OF ISLAM  
FOR THE STUDY OF ISLAM  
DEMO  
CRACY



Daesh propaganda spreads lies about how good the life of Arabs was under the Ottoman Caliphate.

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~~'We are great sons and great grandsons of those very Muslims who lived in the Caliphate abiding by the teachings of their religion, fearing Allah and nothing until you came to destroy it and crush us and our hearts with your satanic Sykes-Picot borders and put your agents to govern us.'~~

In reality, the life of Arabs under the Caliphate was so bad that in 1916 they rose in rebellion.

'Verily, Allah guides not one who is a transgressor, a liar!' (Surah Ghafi, Ayat 28).





# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam


On 19 Dhu Al-Qi'dah 1435 (September 13, 2014), DAESH terrorists killed British citizen David Haines, employee of a humanitarian organization.

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*'...if anyone killed a person not in retaliation of murder, or to spread mischief in the land - it would be as if he killed all mankind' (Qur'an, Surah Al-Ma'idah', Ayat 32).*

*Such crimes of DAESH are referred to as follows: "But indeed, for the transgressors is an evil place of return - Hell, which they will burn, and wretched is the resting place" (Qur'an, Surah Sad, Ayat 55-56).*





# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam



Daesh gunman asks, 'What do you know about Islam?' Driver responds, 'I testify that there is no other god but Allah, and Muhammad is God's messenger (prophet)'. And then they are killed.

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This is what the Qur'an says regarding such crimes committed by DAESH: 'Verily, Allah guides not one who is a transgressor, a liar!' (Qur'an, Surah Ghafi, Ayat 28).

# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam



On 13 Rabi' Al-Awwal 1436 (January 3, 2015), DAESH terrorists burned Jordan Muslim pilot Muath Al-Kasasbeh alive.

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“punishment with fire is done by none except Allah” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 2954).

*This is what is said about such crimes committed by DAESH: "Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress. Indeed Allah does not like transgressors." (Qur'an, Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 190).*

# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam



On 3 Dhu Al-Hijjah 1435 (October 3, 2014), DAESH terrorists killed British citizen Alan Henning.

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"Allah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who fought not against you on account of religion nor drove you out of your homes. Verily, Allah loves those who deal with equity." (Qur'an, Surah Al-Mumtahanah, Ayat 8).

*Such crimes of DAESH are referred to as follows: "And let those who oppose the Messenger's commandment beware, lest ... a painful torment be inflicted on them." (Qur'an, Surah An-Nur, Ayat 63).*

# DAESH (IS) is the Enemy of Islam



On Jumada Al-Awwal 1437 (15 February 2016), Admiral Tailbov blew himself up near a police station in the Derbent region in Dagestan.

**Allah will overturn him in Hell for this deed.**

**@RusAgainstDAESH**

*Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) said: "Whoever purposely throws himself from a mountain and kills himself, will be in the Hell Fire falling down into it and abiding therein perpetually forever; and whoever drinks poison and kills himself with it, he will be carrying his poison in his hand and drinking it in the Hell Fire wherein he will abide eternally forever; and whoever kills himself with an iron weapon, will be carrying that weapon in his hand and stabbing his abdomen with it in the Hell Fire wherein he will abide eternally forever." (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 5442).*



# DAESH's (IS) is the Enemy of Islam



On 1 Dhu'l-Hijjah 1436 (14 September 2015), Daesh committed yet another act of intimidation targeting the Syrian civilians - a car-bombing in Al-Hasakah, which killed 26 people, including 2 children.

'...if anyone killed a person not in retaliation of murder, or to spread mischief in the land - it would be as if he killed all mankind' (Qur'an, Surah Al-Ma'idah', Ayat 32).



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This is what Prophet Muhammad (s.a.a.w.) says regarding such crimes committed by Daesh: '... and whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad), and transgresses His limits, He will cast him into the Fire, to abide therein; and he shall have a disgraceful torment!' (Qur'an, Surah An-Nisa, Ayat 14).

# DAESH RUINS LIVES

@RusAgainstDAESH



On December 22, 2016, Moscow State University student Varvara Karaulova was sentenced to 4 and a half years of imprisonment for her attempt to join the terrorist group undertaken under the influence of a DAESH recruiter.



### **Maxim Grigoryev**

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