

WAR ON TERROR: FUNDAMENTALIST TERRORISTS GROUP IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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Abstract:

The term 'terrorism' has always given acute difficulties in defining; terrorism does not have a static meaning since it has been changing through the years. For instance until 1990s, terrorism was widely considered to be a security concern of the second order. After the events of 11 September 2001, this conception of terrorism got radically changed. It was the worst case yet of the politicalization of religion. Al – Qaeda and its allies hijacked the interpretations of the Islam just as they hijacked the United States planes. On February 2014, Bakar Al – Baghdadi declared the establishment of a Caliphate, known commonly as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). This was a significant pronouncement in the Islamic faith, as a Caliphate is traditionally known as the formations of a sovereign state to lead the Muslims. ISIL has its roots in the sunni rebellion against the United States – led occupation after the 2003 invasion and broken away from Al – Qaeda, setting itself up as a rival jihadi 'franchise'. The barbarism of the group ISIL risks engulfing the Middle – East in a catastrophe of terror, sending shockwaves of instability raging through the region with incalculable political and humanitarian consequences. Iraq and Syria are the most effected countries of the ISIL terrorism. Beyond the daily account of atrocities committed by the ISIL, the group is now boasting tens of thousands of fighters and several billion Euros in resources emerged on the international scene and made its claim to power with such sweeping assertiveness. In the present paper, the author firstly discusses the origin and the resources of the ISIL; secondly the author will discuss the impacts of ISIL terrorism on Iraq, Syria and other countrie and lastly will discuss the possible mechanisms through international instruments and other means to solve this cancerous fundamentalist terrorism.

Keywords: Islamic State, Iraq, Syria, Terrorism, Western Countries

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1. GENESIS OF ISLAMIC STATE.

“My dear [Muslim] community: As we did not lie against God when we announced the Islamic State, so we do not lie against God when we say that it will persist... It will persist upon its creed (*‘aqida*) and its path (*manhaj*), and it has not, nor will it ever, substitute or abandon these”².

- Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Leader of Islamic State; July 12, 2012.

Salafi Jihadists³ or Islamic State⁴ was originally a branch of Al-Qaeda, known as ‘Al-Qaeda in Iraq’, founded in 2004 to resist the United State invasion and the Shiite – led government it imposed. Political and theoretical differences led to a split after Osama bin Laden’s death. After the beginning of Syrian uprising, these Salafi Jihadists entered Syria and unsuccessfully tried to take over the Al-Nusra Front⁵, Al-Qaeda’s Syrian branch.

“I have been appointed to rule over you though I am not the best among you... If you see that I do right, help me, and if you see that I do wrong, set me right. And obey me so long as I obey God touching you. If I disobey Him, no obedience is owed me from you”.

²Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, “Wa-ya’ba ‘illah illa un yutim nurahu,” Mu’assasat al-Furqan, 21 July 2012: Available at <http://ia601207.us.archive.org/14/items/2b-bkr-bghd/143393.pdf> (Last visited June 20, 2015; 10:24 PM)

³ Muslims are seen as divided between the Sunnis and Shias or Shiites and there is a great diversity within these two main groups: in particular among the Sunnis, Salafis believe that the only way to be a ‘good muslim’ is to adhere, in the strictest possible way, to the code of behavior of Mohammad and his immediate successors. A fraction of them claims it is their duty to fight against those who believe anything else. These violent extremist are often referred to as ‘Salafi Jihadists’.

⁴“The Islamic State” refers here to the group once known as the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI, Oct 2006 – April, 2013), the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS, April 2013 – June 2014), and the Islamic State (IS June 2014 - present). This usage conforms to the group’s own shorthand for itself – as the “the Islamic State” (*al – Dawla al – Islamiyya*), or merely “the State” (*al – Dawla*) – going back to 2006.

⁵ Mapping Militant Organizations – ‘Jbahat al- Nusra’, available at <http://web.stanford.edu/group/mappingmilitants/cgi-bin/groups/view/493>, (Last visited June 20, 2015; 10:39 PM)

- Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Mosul, July 04, 2014, quoting the accession speech of Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (d. 634), first Caliph of Sunni Islam⁶.

The current Islamic State leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared⁷ himself the new Caliph, with an ambition to govern the lives of all the Muslims in the world. This act of self determination has not been recognized by Muslim authorities⁸ or by the Muslim community⁹ and is even rejected by other Salafi jihadists¹⁰. And in more general way, the support for Islamic State is not so high in the Arab world. This self – marketing campaign laid bare what the Islamic State stood for and what it intended to accomplish. The ideology of the Islamic State remains shrouded in mystery for many. As Major General Michael K. Nagatan, Special Operations Commander for U.S. Central Command, confessed in December, 2014: “We do not understand the movement (i.e. the Islamic State), and until we do, we are not going to defeat it”. On the group’s ideology he said: “We have not defeated the idea, we do not even understand the idea”¹¹.

Islamic State in its control areas, in particular its ‘capital’ Raqqa¹² in Syria and Mosul¹³ in Iraq, has installed its own administration¹⁴, by means of coercion and violence, but also by

⁶ Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, [Mosul sermon] July 1, 2014, Available at http://archive.org/downloads/kutba_i/k-i/pdf (Last visited June 20, 2015, 10:43 PM)

⁷ Sunni Rebel Declare new ‘Islamic Caliphate’, available at: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/isis-declares-islamic-caliphate-201462917326669749.html> (Last visited June 20, 2015, 10:51 PM).

⁸ SHAFIL MANDHAI, “Muslim leaders reject Baghdadi’s Caliphate”, available at: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/Muslims-leaders-reject-bagdadi-caliphate-20147744058773906.html> (Last visited June 20, 2015, 10:55 PM).

⁹ Available at <http://tonyblairefaithfoundation.org/religion-geopolitics/commentaries/opinion/most-muslims-dont-care-about-isis-caliphate> (Last visited June 20, 2015, 10:59 PM)

¹⁰ JOAS WAGEMAKERS, “Jihadi-Salafi views of the Islamic State”, available at <http://washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/1/27/jihadi-salafi-view-of-the-islamic-sate/> (Last visited June 20, 2015, 11:05 PM)

¹¹ Eric Schmitt, “In Battle to Defang ISIS, U.S. Targets its Psychology”, The New York times, December 28, 2014, available at http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/29/us/politics/in-battle-to-defang-isis-us-targets-its-psychology.html?_r=0 (Last visited: June 28, 2015; 11:25 PM)

¹² SAM MASTERS, “War with ISIS inside the the Islamic Caliphate life goes on - but beatings are frequent and punishments swift and savage.” Available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/war-with-isis-inside-the-islamic-state-Caliphate-life-goes-on-but-beatings-are-frequent-and-punishments-swift-and-savage-9955494.html> (Last visited June 21, 2015; 11:11 PM)

¹³ MOLLY HENNESSY – FISKE and NABIH BULOS, “Under Islamic State Life in Mosul, Iraq, tuns grim”, available at: <http://latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-islamic-state-mosul-20150126-story.html#page1> (Last visited June 21, 2015; 11:14PM)

¹⁴ QUIN MECHAM, “How much of a State is the Islamic State?”, available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/02/05/how-much-of-a-state-is-the-islamic-state/> (Last Visited June 21, 2015; 11:20 PM)

spending money and recruiting its own workforce¹⁵ for courts, police, and education. Currently there are about 6 million people¹⁶ living under the Islamic State rule.

It is estimated that the Islamic State fighters in Syria and Iraq vary from 9,000 – 20,00,000¹⁷ and among them there are about 20,000 – 31,500 are children¹⁸ who are also indulged in barbaric acts of crime and violence against the civilians. According to the study report of Conflict Armament Research – iTrace¹⁹, a European Union funded project, it was found that most of the military equipments in Islamic State possession was seized from the defeated Iraqi army in northern Iraq, or from the Free Syrian Army. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stated that 'some of the weapons' the United States dropped to help the Kurdish forces fighting in Kobani were seized²⁰ by the Islamic State.

There are suspicions that the Islamic State receives funding²¹ from Gulf States, but it generates most of its income from the territories it occupies, according to the inter governmental Financial Action Task Force²² (FATF). Islamic State earns revenue primarily from five sources, listed in order of magnitude: (1) illicit proceeds from occupation of territory, such as bank looting, extortion, control of oil fields and refineries and robbery of economic assets and illicit taxation of goods and cash that transit territory where Islamic State operates; (2) kidnapping for ransom; (3) donations including by or through non – profit organizations; (4) material support such as support associated with Foreign Terrorist fighters; and (5) fundraising through modern communication networks. These revenues streams are

¹⁵ LAURIE A. BRAND, "The Islamic State and the politics of official narratives", available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/09/08/the-islamic-state-and-the-politics-of-official-narratives/> (Last visited June 21, 2015; 11: 22 PM)

¹⁶ MARK TOWNSEND, "Uprising could trigger Islamic State's undoing – Says Study", available at: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/01/uprising-trigger-isis-undoing-study> (Last visited June 21, 2015; 11:28 PM)

¹⁷ SWJ Editors, "How many fighter does the Islamic State really have?", available at: <http://smallwarsjournals.com/blog/how-many-fighter-does-the-the-islamic-state-really-have>. (Last visited June 21, 2015; 11:33 PM)

¹⁸ Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Available at: <http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/countries/iraq> (Last visited June 21, 2015; 11:38 PM)

¹⁹ Available at: http://conflictarm.com/images/dispatch_iraq-syria.pdf (Last visited June 21, 2015; 11:49 PM)

²⁰ ANKARA, "Turkey Erdogan say U.S. weapons airdrop on Kobani was wrong", available at: <http://reuters.com/article/2014/10/22/us-mideast-crisis-erdogan-idUSKCNOIB1X20141022> (Last visited June 21, 2015; 11:59 PM)

²¹ JOSH RAGIN, "America's Allies are funding ISIS", available at: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/article/2014/06/14/america-s-allies-are-funding-isis.html> (Last visited June 21, 2015; 11:55 PM)

²² Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an independent inter – government body that develops and promotes policies to protect the global financial system against money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation of weapon of mass destruction.

inconsistent and shift based on the availability of economic resources and the progress of coalition military efforts against Islamic State²³.

2. IMPACTS OF ISLAMIC STATE SPONSERED TERRORISM ON IRAQ, SYRIA AND BEYOND

Islamic State has grown from what used to be Al-Qaeda in Iraq headed by Musbah Al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian who has originally set up a group called Jamaat al-Tawhid al-Jimal, to try to bring the Jordanian monarchy, without success. He moved to Iraq in 2004 after the US invasion and was killed in 2006 by a US air strike²⁴. During the peak of the insurgency, from 2006 – 2010, the Islamic State policy was to overthrow the Iraqi government and establishment of Islamic State, but it was apparently undone when Iraq and US military led to the killing or capture of some 80% of Islamic State leaders²⁵. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi become the new controller of the group after this failure incident.

From 2010 – 2013, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi spend a lot of efforts on reforming Islamic State organizational structure and strengthening its military capabilities. As Ahmed Hashmi, of the Middle East Policy Council points out, ‘along with the re-organization there were three other factors that set the scene for Islamic State’s breakout: the increasing dysfunction of the Iraqi State; the apparent fading way of core al-Qaeda under the leadership of Ayam al-Zawahri, and the breakout of the Syrian civil war’²⁶. During this period, Islamic State become increasingly effective at mounting attacks, laying ground for its sweep across swathes of Iraq and Syria which become easier with the end of the US combat mission in December 2011.

On June 10, 2014 the Islamic State took control over the Mosul, second largest city of Iraq. By the late summer 2014, Islamic State was relentlessly advancing beyond Syria and more deep into Iraq with genocidal attacks launched on everyone who did not conform to its fundamentalist theology – including fellow Sunni Muslims, Shia Muslims and minority groups such as Christmas, Kurds, Yazidis and Turkmen.

²³ Financial Action Task force (2015), Financing of the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant Available at: <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/topics/methodsandtrends/documents/financing-of-terrorist-organization-isil.html> (Last visited June 21, 2015;10:55 PM)

²⁴ Ben Smith, “ISIS and the Sectarian Conflict in the middle East”, House of Common Library, Available at: <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/RP15-16/RP15-16.pdf> (Last visited June 22, 2015; 10:54 PM)

²⁵ AHMAD S HASHMI, “The Islamic State: From Al-Qaeda affiliate to Caliphate”, Middle East Policy Council Journal, winter 2014, Volume XXI, No. 4, Available at: <http://www.peac.org/journal/middle-east-policy-archieves/islamic-state-al-qaeda-affiliated-caliphate> (Last visited June 22, 2015; 10:57 PM).

²⁶ Ibid.,

Last year, Islamic State executed 700 members of the Syrian al-shiitaat tribe and 1,700 Iraqis in Tikrit. Women and children have been sold into sex slavery²⁷, boy crucified, a captured Jordanian airman videoed while he was burned alive trapped in a cage²⁸ and two journalist from Japan, who were abducted for ransom were beheaded in the video²⁹. Eyes have been gouged out of defeated enemies and minority groups are reportedly hunted for sport according to eye – witnesses reporting to the UN Human Rights Council³⁰.

Islamic State summarily executed large number of captured Shia Security Officers. In the largest reported incident, Islamic State captured more than a thousand soldiers fleeing Camp Speicher, near Tikrit, and then summarily executed at least 800 of them³¹. On June 23, 2015 the Islamic State terrorist upload the latest seven – minute video of their barbaric and inhumane acts. In the video five men are filmed being drowned, underwater cameras capture them thrashing before falling unconscious. Another group is shot with a grenade launcher while locked in an old car and the final sequence shows seven prisoners being chained together with explosive necklaces, which are then detonated³². Acts of Islamic State vandalism such as the destruction of the tomb of biblical prophet Jonah in Mosul³³ or the destruction of Assyrian Church³⁴ built in 700 A.D. displays the totalitarian ideology or the wahabi ideology for the ‘purification’ of their territory. Many questions were raised before the United Nations and among the Super Powers in the international media on the future of

²⁷ Human Rights Watch, “World Report – 2015”, p.301, Available at: http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/wr2015_web.pdf (June 22, 2015, 10:49 PM)

²⁸ ANDREW MARSZAL, “Jordanian pilot ‘burned alive’ in new ISIL video”, available at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11387756/jordanian-pilot-burned-alive-in-new-isil-video.html> (Last visited: June 28, 2015; 11:46 PM)

²⁹ STEVE ALMASY, “ISIS: Japanese hostages beheaded”, available at: <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/31/middleeast/isis-japan-jordan-hostages> (Last visited: June 28, 2015; 11:47 PM)

³⁰ UNAMI/OHCHR, “Report on the Protection of Civilian in Armed conflict in Iraq: 6 July – 10 September, 2014”, 2 October 2014, p.1, Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/542d3eb4.html> (Last visited June 22, 2015; 10:39 PM), According to Deputy, United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights, Flavia Pansieri – “These inhuman and odious offences constitute a serious and deliberate attack on human dignity and on human rights, likely amounting to a crime against humanity”; OHCHR, “Human Rights Council convenes a Special session on abuses committed in Iraq by ISIL” 2 September 2014, Available at: <http://shar.es/11hzuk>. (Last visited June 22, 2015; 10: 48 PM), According to United Nation High commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, “ISIL is systematically targeting men, women and children based on their ethnic religions or sectarian affiliation and is ruthlessly carrying out widespread ethnic and religious cleaning in the areas under its control”.

³¹ Supra Note 27, p. 303.

³² JOHN HALL, “Sickening new ISIS video shows caged prisoners lowered swimming pool drowned, Shoot RPG blow explosive filed necklace” Available at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3135913/Sickening-new-ISIS-video-shows-caged-prisoners-lowered-swimming-pool-drowned-Shoot-RPG-blow-explosive-filed-necklace.html?ito=social-facebook> (Last visited June 23, 2015; 09:36 PM)

³³ JUSTIN Wm MOGER, “After leaving Iraq’s Tomb of Jonah, the Islamic State could destroy anything in the Bible”, available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/2015/07/25/After-leaving-Iraqs-Tomb-of-Jonah-the-Islamic-State-could-destroy-anything-in-the-Bible/> (Last visited: June 28, 2015; 11:57 PM)

³⁴ Available at: www.aina.org/news/20140925012701.htm (Last visited: June 28, 2015; 11:30 PM)

Iraq after the fall of Ramandi³⁵ which is the capital of Anbar province of Iraq, an another important city is captured by the Islamic State after Tikirit and Mosul.

These are just some of the atrocities which the people in the Islamic State control territories are facing, the reality of the living condition may be worse than what we can see now through the international media. On the name of religion, the Islamic Leaders are only securing their political goals with no accountability and justification of their heinous crimes they are doing against the whole humanity.

The fighting in Iraq and Syria cannot be separated from its impact on the neighboring and regional countries that are Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, Jordon and the Arab Gulf States and Iran. Conflicts in Iraq and Syria have the potential to spread beyond their current borders in the form of individual acts of terrorism, civil unrest, and war. There are also changes in the geopolitical status quo in the Middle East as the regional power – mainly Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and Iran, become more willing in 2014 to intervene directly in conflicts in the region compounding tensions, pushing up defense spending and creating new security dilemmas and uncertainties³⁶.

The enduring spillover of refugees originating from the war torn areas of Syria and Iraq is also coming up as a challenge for the neighboring countries. Syrian refugees accounted for nearly a quarter (23%) of all refugees under the UNHCR's mandate by the middle of 2014³⁷.

Table(1): Refugees, Asylum Seeker, Internal Displaced Persons (IPDs) of concern to UNHCR by origin | Mid – 2014³⁸.

Origin	Refugees	Refugees of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum seeker by pending case	IDPs protected assisted by UNHCR	Total population of concern
IRAQ	4,26,114	1,22,364	53,177	19,03,943	23,83,234
SYRIA	30,17,498	29,00,855	50,545	65,20,800	95,88,843

³⁵ “Iraq blames US for Ramandi’s fall to ISIL”, available at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11628191/Iraq-blames-US-for-Ramadis-fall-to-Isil.html> (Last visited: July 27, 2015; 06:12 PM)

³⁶ AON’s Guide on Terrorism and Political Violence Risk, “2015 Terrorism and Political Risk Map – A Guide”, p. 23, Available at: <http://www.aon.com/terrorismmap/2015-guide-terrorism-political-violence-risk-map.pdf> (Last visited: June 25, 2015; 09:57 AM)

³⁷ United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee, Mid-Year Trends 2014, Available at: <http://unhcr.org/54aa91d89.html> (Last Visited: June 25, 2015; 09:29 AM)

³⁸ Id., The table is constructed after interpreting the data available in the UNHCR Report of the status of Refugees in the world in Mid – Year Trends 2014 Report.

More than 100 countries around the world reported the presence of Syrian refugees during the first half of 2014; neighboring countries continue to shoulder by and large the highest burden. This includes Lebanon (1.1 million), Turkey (7,98,000), Jordan (6,45,600), Iraq (2,200,400) and Egypt (1,38,100)³⁹.

The most important transformative effect of the declaration of Islamic State is the increased risk of the terrorist threats in the western countries. Hundreds if not thousands of people from Europe and America heeded the group's call and travelled to Syria and Iraq⁴⁰.

Traditionally, Afghanistan – based schematic model of foreign fighters returning into terrorist seems to apply to the current conflict in Syria and Iraq. However, travelling to Afghanistan was different for would be jihadisits from Europe or America. As they had to leave the Europe or America and had to transit Pakistan to enter into Afghanistan which was an expensive, time consuming and dangerous process. Whereas Syria is comparatively much simple. As Brian Fishman contends, “it is far easier for foreign fighters to enter Syria, that it was Iraq”⁴¹. Western volunteers can simply fly, drive or take a train to Turkey and quickly enter the fray across the border in Syria. Turkey does not require a visa for travelers from EU countries, enabling foreign fighters to slip in among the millions of tourists from European countries – a relatively cheap and easy journey compared to travelling to Iraq and Afghanistan⁴².

The flow of western foreign fighters has alarmed the American and European intelligence agencies⁴³. The western security services fear that the foreign fighter threats from Syria and Iraq is different in important ways than past foreign fighters' problems. Young Europeans

³⁹ Ibid.,

⁴⁰ DANIEL BAYMAN & JEREMY SHAPIRO, “Be Afraid, Be little Afraid: The threat of Terrorism from Western Foreign Fighters in Syria and Iraq”, available at: <http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2014/11/western-foreign-in-syria-and-iraq-bayman-shapiro/be-afraid—web.pdf> (Last visited June 25, 2015; 10:49 PM)

⁴¹ Brian Fishman, “Syria Proving more fertile than Iraq to Al – Qaeda's operations”, CTC Sentinel, Nov 26, 2013, available at: <http://www.ctc.usma.edu/sentinel/syria-proving-fertile-than-iraq-to-al-qaedas-operations> (Last visited June 25, 2015; 07:49 PM)

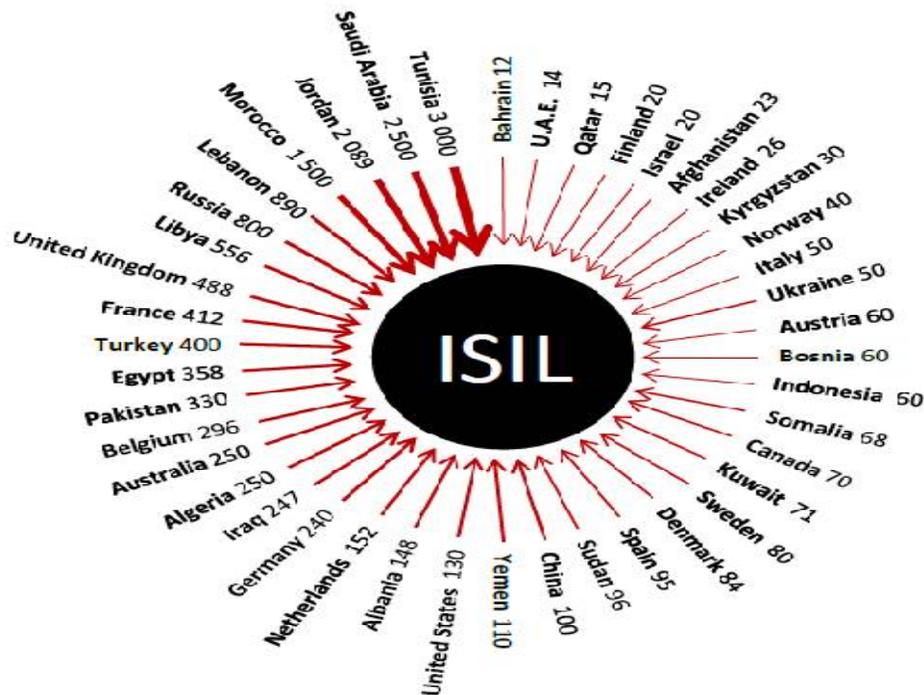
⁴² Turkey does require an ‘e-Visa’ for travelers from some EU countries, including the United Kingdom.

⁴³ Agne France – Presse, “Norway in danger from Syrian Jihadists, say intelligence agency”, The Daily Star, February 24, 2014, available at: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/feb-2014/248330-norway-in-danger-from-syrian-jihadists-intelligence-agency-ashx> (June 25, 2015; 08:54 PM)

and American Muslims go off to fight in Syria and Iraq as Sunni idealists but will return as anti – western terrorists⁴⁴.

The Figure(1) given below shows the estimated number of foreign fighters present in Syria and Iraq according to their countries of origin⁴⁵.

Figure (1): Breakdown of Foreign Fighters by country origin⁴⁶.



The threat from these foreign fighters is much more than our imaginations. While in the combat zone, they will form networks with other western Muslims, and establish ties to jihadists around the world, making them prone to further radicalization and giving them access to training, weapons, and other resources which they might otherwise lack⁴⁷.

⁴⁴Supra Note No. 25, p. 2; To know more about how these foreign fighters can negatively affect the insurgents they claim to aid, See Kristin M. Bakke, “Help Wanted? The Mixed Record of Foreign Fighters in Domestic Insurgencies”, *International Security*, Volume no. 38, No. 4 (Spring 2014), p. 140 – 187.

⁴⁵ Based on the information originally published in the Washington Post on October 30, 2014. While the graphic and associated story estimates the number of Foreign Fighters at approximately 15000 Foreign Fighters from 80 countries, this is not the most current estimate of Foreign Fighters which has been included above.

⁴⁶ Supra Note No. 20, p.21.

⁴⁷ Supra Note No. 35.

The director general of the United Kingdom's Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism, Charles Fars claims that, "Syria is a very profound game-changer"⁴⁸, while the Netherland's National Coordinator for Security and Counter-Terrorism warns that, "these people are not only coming back with radical ideas, they are also traumatized and fully prepared to use violence"⁴⁹. "This fear of violence is particularly acute because many of those going to Syria and Iraq are social misfits and marginalized... juvenile delinquents. It's often people who were criminals before", according to French Officials⁵⁰.

The foreign fighters are motivated on eschatological grounds: recruiters play on a disclosure that the apocalypse is under way and that the conflict of Syria is the battle between the forces of God and His enemies. Syria is at the heart of the Arab and Muslims worlds, both historically and symbolically. Syria quickly fell as Muslim armies spread out from the Arabian Peninsula after the birth of Islam⁵¹, and it was the heart of one of Islam's most important dynasties, the Umayyad – "the first great Muslims dynasty to rule the empire of the Caliphate (661-750 CE)⁵²". The *hadith* (saying of the prophet Mohammad (PBUH)) emphasis on the importance of Syria as the scene of the lost battles. As Islam expert William McCants explains:

"Syria is very important to this narrative. In the early Islamic Prophecies about the end of the days, few regions matters more than Syria. The Prophet recommends during the last battles to go fight in Syria if you can; if you can't go to Yemen. The Prophet also talks about a group of believers – the true believers – who are going to preserve until the end and fight in the last battle. They will gather in Syria – in Damascus and around Jerusalem, where they will fight for God until the final hour".

This increased risk was so high that many western governments take initiatives with the intelligence agencies to control and check the suspected persons who are in any how linked with the jihadists in Syria and Iraq. Western government in order to decrease the extremism

⁴⁸ COLUMN LYNCH, "Europe's New 'Time Bomb' is Ticking in Syria", Foreign Policy, July 9, 2013, available at http://foreignpolicy.com/articles/2013/07/09/european-fighters_jihadists_syria?page=0.1 (Last visited June 25, 2015; 10:54 PM)

⁴⁹ "Press Release: NCTV maintains threat at substantial", National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism, Minister of Security and Justice, July 01, 2013, available at: http://english.nctb.li/currenttopics/press_release/2013/nctv_maintains-treat-level-as-substantial.aspx (Last visited June 25, 2015; 10:55 PM)

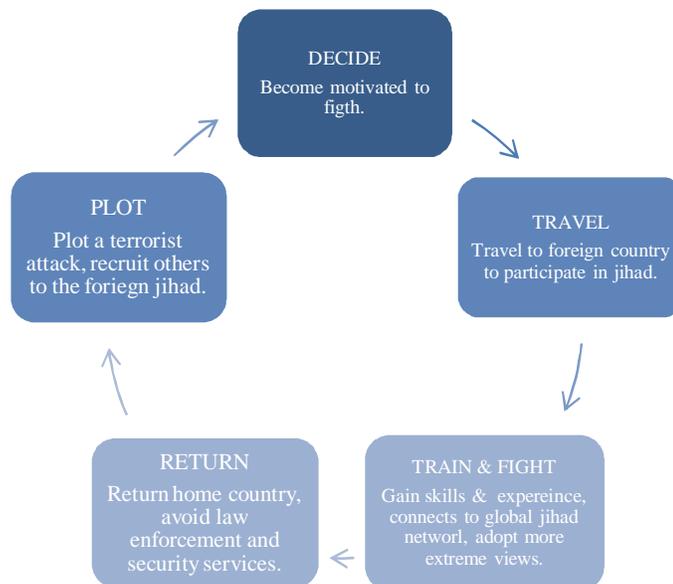
⁵⁰ Supra Note No. 35.

⁵¹ Ibid.,

⁵² Enclopedia Britannica (2015), 'Umayyad Dynasty', available at: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/613719/Umayyad-dynasty> (Last visited June 28, 2015, 09:51 PM)

and radicalization in their country, take initiated which are quite appreciable. Likewise, both Denmark and France have recently set up hotlines for family and community members to alert authorities that someone might travel to Syria. In the United Kingdom, the British government has appealed to Muslim women to persuade their sons and brothers not to join the fray⁵³. Britain also has a “Prevent” program designed to decrease extremism. In the United States, the National Counterterrorism Centre’s Countering Violent Extremism group, in partnership with the World Organization for Resource Development and Education has created community awareness briefing designed “to educate communities about the threat of online, international, and home grown radicalization”⁵⁴. There is a whole web network of young jihadists all around the world who are encouraging the jihad in their local areas and recruiting them for the Islamic State or other. This can be understood from the given chart (Figure (2)):

Figure(2): Standard Schematic model of Foreign Fighters Radicalization⁵⁵



In a very systematic way the foreign fighters are motivated to fight on the name of jihad and later they are encouraged to travel to the countries or regions like Syria and Iraq where they

⁵³ MURAD BATAL AL-SHISHANI, “The challenge of keeping Denmark’s Muslim out of Syria”, BBC News, 19 May 2014, available at: <http://bbc.com/news/world-europe-27423789>. (June 28, 2015; 3:34 PM)

⁵⁴ AARON Y. ZELIN and JONATHAN PROHOV, “The Foreign Policy Essay: Proactive Measures – countering Returnee Threat”, Lawfare (Blog), 18 May 2014, available at: <http://www.lawfarelog.com/2014/05/the-foreign-policy-essay-proactive-measures-countering-the-returnee-threat/>. (June 28, 2015; 03:39 PM)

⁵⁵ Ibid.,

learn the skills of using arms and weapons. In the next stage they are connect to global jihad and adopt more extreme views. Most of these fighters died during the comabt but some do return back to their home countries and bring with them the violence. In this stage, they indulged themselves in plotting terrorist attack and start recruiting the other people in the jihad. Thus, these foreign fighters become the worst case scenario.

In order to combat with the Islamic State terrorism, the coordination for the response to the Islamic State goes beyond the European Union framework as at the NATO Wales Submit⁵⁶ in September 2014, six European Union Member States (France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Denmark, and the United Kingdom), together with Australia, Canada, Turkey, and the United States, committed to “take the necessary steps to help Iraq; to stop the advance of the terrorist organization Islamic State”.

3. PRECIS

The Islamic State harsh strain of *Jihad – Salafi* ideology is now becoming more popular today that it was ever before. The string of success of Islamic State raised the alarm around the world as it swept through Syria and Iraq. In Iraq, the government has lost control over large portions of territory that the Iraqi Security Forces and other local security forces are incapable of retaking without significant foreign support. In Syria, the Assad regime has lost control of the majority of the State, and the regimes atrocities and sectarianism have fueled violent Islamists, particularly Islamic State.

The Islamic State is growing with much faster and stronger hold than any other terrorist group in the past. The political turmoil in the Middle – East, most particularly in Libya, and Yemen, are giving pace to the expansion of the Islamic State in the region.

The Islamic State is not only a danger to the local region but also a major threat to the world peace and security, especially to the United State and Europe. On September 21, 2014, Islamic State official spokesman Abu Muhammad al-‘Adnani called on all supporters to kill westerners arbitrarily throughout the world – Americans, Canadians, Australians and their allies – both civil and military personnel⁵⁷. This call is being met with the Islamic State –

⁵⁶ Statement to the media by the NATO Secretary General at the Press Conference held at NATO HQ, Brussels after the meeting of the NATO – Ukraine Commission, available at: http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/opinions_107682.htm (Last visited: June 25, 2015; 11:20 PM)

⁵⁷ ABU MUHAMMAD AL-‘ADNANI, “Inna Rabbaka la-bi’l-mirsad”, Mu’assaral al – Furqn, 21 Sep 2014, available at: <http://www.jihadica.com/wp-content/upload/2014/12/Inna-Rabbaka-la-bil-mirsad.pdf> (June 28, 2015; 03:00 PM)

inspired attacks having occurred in these countries⁵⁸. In another call on Jan 26, 2015 'Adnani repeated his call⁵⁹.

It is very important to stop and crush the Islamic State Terrorism because longer the group enjoys a plausible claim to statehood, the more likely its organizational and ideological unity will remain intact. Many commentators argue convincingly that the efforts to disclose is must be based on a political solution in Iraq and Syria i.e. by establishing government, through undercutting the widespread loathing of the perceived anti – sunni policies pursued by the Iraqi and Syrian governments⁶⁰.

To crush the Islamic State it is also very necessary to disrupt Islamic State's external funding sources and focus should be put on the identification of the origin, middleman, buyers, carriers, traders and routes through which oil produced in Islamic State held territory is trafficked. This would align with the recently adopted United Nation Security Council Resolution's 2170(2014)⁶¹, 2178(2014)⁶² and 2199(2015)⁶³.

The world leaders should come together at a common platform in order to make a coordination of the response to Islamic State and its allies because terrorism is not a problem of a one country, slowly and gradually it is affecting the governments across and the world.

⁵⁸ DAVID KIRKPATRICK, "Attacks in West Raise New Fears Over ISIS' influence", The New York Times, 24 Oct 2014; MICHELL INNIS, "Sydney Hostage Siege Ends With Gunman and 2 Captives Dead as Police Storm Cafe", The New York Times, 21 Dec 2014; RUKMINI CALLIMACHI and ANDREW HIGGINS, "Video shows a Paris Gunman Declaring His Loyalty to the Islamic State", The New York Times, 11 Jan 2015.

⁵⁹ ABU MUHAMMAD AL-'ADNANI, QUL MUTU BI – GHAYZI KUM, MU' ASSASAT AL-FURQAN, 26 Jan 2015, available at <http://ia902601.us.archive.org/13/items/Perish.In.Your.Rage/Tafreeqh.Perish.In.Your.Rage.pdf> (June 28, 2015; 03:07 PM)

⁶⁰ House of Commons Defence Select Committee, "The situation of Iraq and Syria and the response to al – Dawla al – Islamia fi al – Iraq al – sham (DAESH)", 7th Report 2014 – 15, HC690, 05 Feb 2015, para 30 -1, available at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmdfence/690/690.pdf> (June 28, 2015; 03:10 PM)

⁶¹ Security Council Adopts Resolution 2170 (2014) Condemning Gross, Widespread Abuse of Human Rights by Extremist Groups in Iraq, Syria, available at: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/SC11520.doc.htm> (Last visited: June 29, 2015, 10:00 AM)

⁶² Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution Condemning Violent Extremism, Underscoring Need to prevent Travel, Support for Foreign Terrorist Fighters, available at <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11580.htm> (Last visited: June 29, 2015; 10:05 PM)

⁶³ Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2199 (2015), Security Council Condemns Trade with Al-Qaida Associated Groups, Threatens Further agented sanction, available at <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11580.htm> (Last visited: June 29, 2015; 10:10 PM)