



# Documenting the Virtual Caliphates

Dr. Mia Bloom #N000014 16-1 -3174 06/30/16-06/30/19



How does ISIS propaganda reflect and predict the strength of the Caliphate?

**MILITARY RELEVANCE:**

The project goal is to log and record ISIS multi-language propaganda, including news bulletins, photo-reports, videos, and documents, using the PI's unique access and monitoring methodology.



**TECHNICAL APPROACH:**

- Collect, archive, code, and tag ISIS propaganda disseminated on its encrypted platforms Telegram in multiple languages, with a particular focus on Arabic materials.
- Conduct visual and other analyses of propaganda materials to determine:
  - How does ISIS' narrative change according to real-time events?
  - Can ISIS messaging campaigns signal weakness?
  - The emergence of tactical innovations of actions on the battlefield,
  - How is Propaganda disseminated?

**SCHEDULE: 24 Months**

TASKS	FY17	FY18
Shared Ontologies, Planning	—	
Tagging, Coding of Data	—	—
Dissemination Interim Results	—	—
Creating Codebook, Data user friendly	—	—
Refinement and Testing	—	—
Models Final Report		—

Accomplishments: archived over 16,000 pieces of visual Propaganda, 2 peer reviewed papers, 1 chapter, 2 policy papers & 6 presentations  
 Transition Goals: Machine learning and neural network

# Who am I?

Professor of Communication, Georgia State University

# What I do?

- Research on terrorism; my main focus is on suicide terrorism, women and terrorism and children in violent extremist organizations (VEOs).
- Grants from ONR, DoD, NSF and DHS.



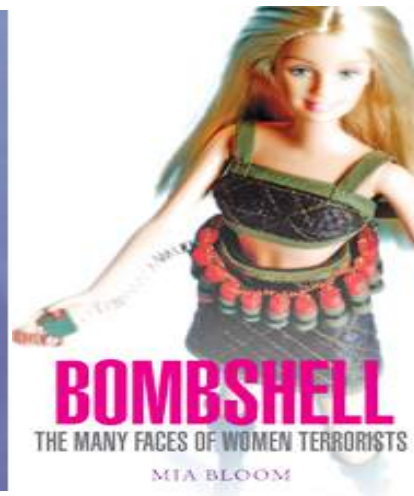
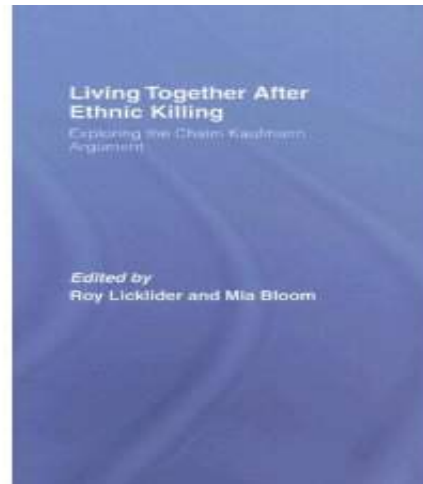
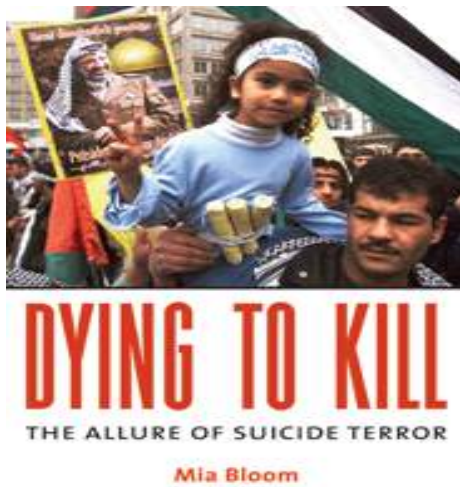
Mixed methods, process tracing, archival research, interviewing

# Current Projects:

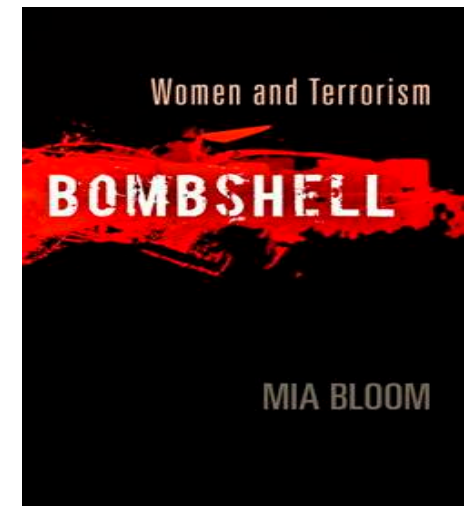
- The role of children in terrorist networks
- Rape (male and female) as a deliberate and strategic tactic in wartime esp. in the Middle East & South Asia.
- Women in AQ, ISIS and Boko Haram.
- Social Media Addiction and Radicalization



# Books



(UK)



(US)

*Forthcoming: **Small Arms Children and Terror** with Dr. John G. Horgan, Cornell University Press, 2019*

## Global penetration of a terrorist message





# From Facebook to Traditional Print Media



## That's my boy: kids witness war's horror

**EXCLUSIVE**  
PAUL MALEY  
GREG BEARUP

KHALED Sharrouf's son, a child raised in the suburbs of Sydney, struggles with both arms to hold up the decapitated head of a slain Syrian soldier.

In a conflict awash with gruesome images, this single photograph — posted on Twitter by a proud father with the words "That's my boy!" — may come to symbolise the savagery that has become the hallmark of the Islamic State and the depravity of its army of foreign fighters.

The image was taken in the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, the capital of what has been declared an Islamic Caliphate by the Islamic State. It was posted on the Twitter account of Sharrouf, a Sydney man who fled to Syria last year and is now an Islamic State fighter.

It was one of a sequence of photos posted by Sharrouf, who security agencies believe travelled to

and a blue shirt, with the insignia, Polo Golf Kids. He has a green cap on his head and a blue plastic watch on. Over his shoulders he has ammunition pouches.

There have been other photos posted from this town square in Raqqa by Sharrouf — about a week ago he posted photographs of decapitated heads on spikes. Sharrouf's friend and fellow Islamic State fighter, the former boxer Mohamed Elomar, was also pictured, a severed head in each hand, a wide grin on his face.

In those images it appeared that the men had been killed recently. However, in the most recent photographs featuring Sharrouf and his son, the heads had blackened and bloated, having been dead for a week. In the photograph, the sandals of other children can be seen in the background, suggesting other kids may be waiting for their turn to hold the head.

Like the iconic shot of nine-year-old Phan Thi Kim Phuc running naked down the road after being scorched by napalm during the Vietnam War, it reveals the

# To Live Media







## Facebook, Twitter Face Pressure to Police ISIS Posts

12/7/2015 6:24PM

Social media companies like Facebook and Twitter are facing pressure to identify and shut down accounts that spread ISIS propaganda. WSJ's Shelby Holliday explains the challenges of regulating speech online. PHOTO: AP



### RELATED CONTENT

- Social-Media Sites Face Pressure to Monitor Terror

# Telegram Channels

**English:**Hallumu

The Anfal

The Daily Routine (TDR)

Khilafah Insights

Lone Soldier (Lone Mujahid)

State Remains

Furat Wilayah

**Arabic:**Nashir News

Nashir Khilafah

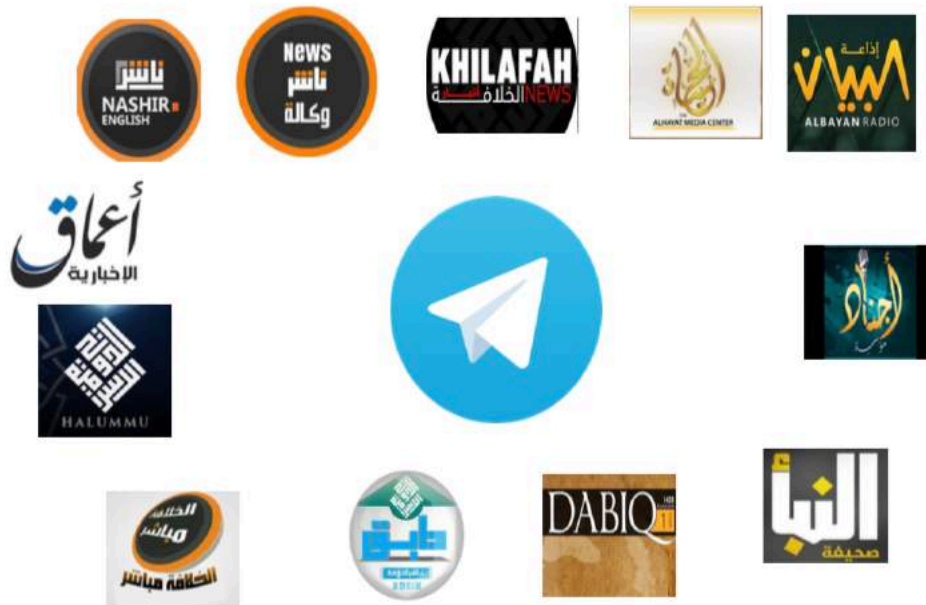
Amaq

Dabiq

**Turkish:**Al-Bayyinah- TR

**French:**Al-Bayyinah- FR

La Foi Militante





# Chat Room Administrators are Key Nodes

المسلمين ضد الحروب الصليبية  
202 members

Khilafah al Islamiyah  
186 members, 4 online

Baqiyah Family  
329 members

الحرب ضرام  
762 members

AL-HAQQ MEDIA GROUP  
333 members

“Shc Dq” (Mustafa) is a key node in creating & disseminating exclusive channels w/highly violent and graphic content



المجموعة الدولية (3) حرب بثبات  
 ممنوع دخول الروافض والنزديين  
 ممنوع دخول الاخوات  
 ممنوع السب والشتم  
 ممنوع نشر فتنة

[https://telegram.me/joinchat/AAAAAEP3YYZNU\\_YNi8mBg](https://telegram.me/joinchat/AAAAAEP3YYZNU_YNi8mBg)  
 580 8:38 AM



المجموعة الدولية (5) حجة الدين  
 ممنوع دخول الروافض والنزديين  
 ممنوع دخول الاخوات  
 ممنوع السب والشتم  
 ممنوع نشر فتنة

<https://telegram.me/joinchat/AAAAAENx1dX2LEUÖgpQ6Tw>  
 372 1:41 PM



المجموعة الدولية (4) ضد التحالف العربي  
 ممنوع دخول الروافض والنزديين  
 ممنوع دخول الاخوات  
 ممنوع السب والشتم  
 ممنوع نشر فتنة

<https://telegram.me/joinchat/AAAAAEaintLqkqptdwf8EFw>  
 495 11:44 AM



فداء لؤلؤة الموات  
 الجياد، الشهباء، فوجر ظفرة عامية

<https://telegram.me/joinchat/AAAAAEQul1V4KmA5ZM2gA>  
 1 11:27 AM



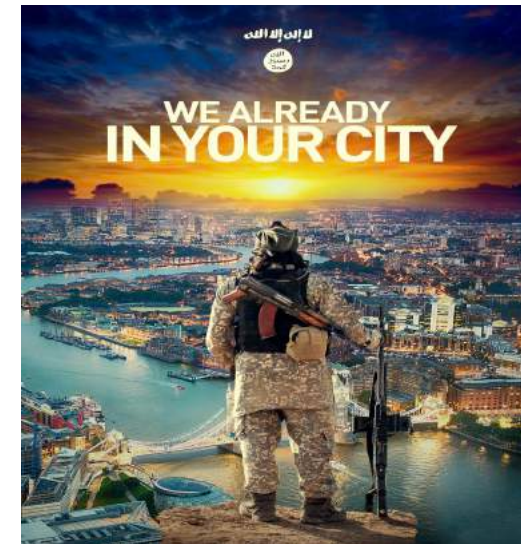
المجموعة الدولية (4) ضد التحالف العربي  
 ممنوع دخول الروافض والنزديين  
 ممنوع دخول الاخوات  
 ممنوع السب والشتم  
 ممنوع نشر فتنة

[https://telegram.me/joinchat/AAAAAEIUDY\\_Hv\\_nX-ETqGw](https://telegram.me/joinchat/AAAAAEIUDY_Hv_nX-ETqGw)  
 1448 4:29 PM



المجموعة الدولية (جديدة)  
 International group (new)  
<https://telegram.me/joinchat/AAAAAE83vp8DK1nf2q-pQ>  
 2347 11:39 AM

- Telegram has become the *platform of choice* for ISIS and its global supporters;
- Tens of Thousands of propaganda “items” are disseminated & shared across the platform on a daily basis;







Channels and Chat rooms employ  
Relatable memes for youth. Major  
Theme: Jihadi Cool  
& Brotherhood



# ISIS Publications Archived

*Dabiq* (July 2014 – July 2016)

*Rumiyah* (September 2016 – September 2017)

*From Dabiq to Rome* (March 2018 to present)

*Al-Naba* (October 2017 to present)



Issue 1 Issue 2 Issue 3 Issue 4 Issue 5



Issue 6 Issue 7 Issue 8 Issue 9 Issue 10



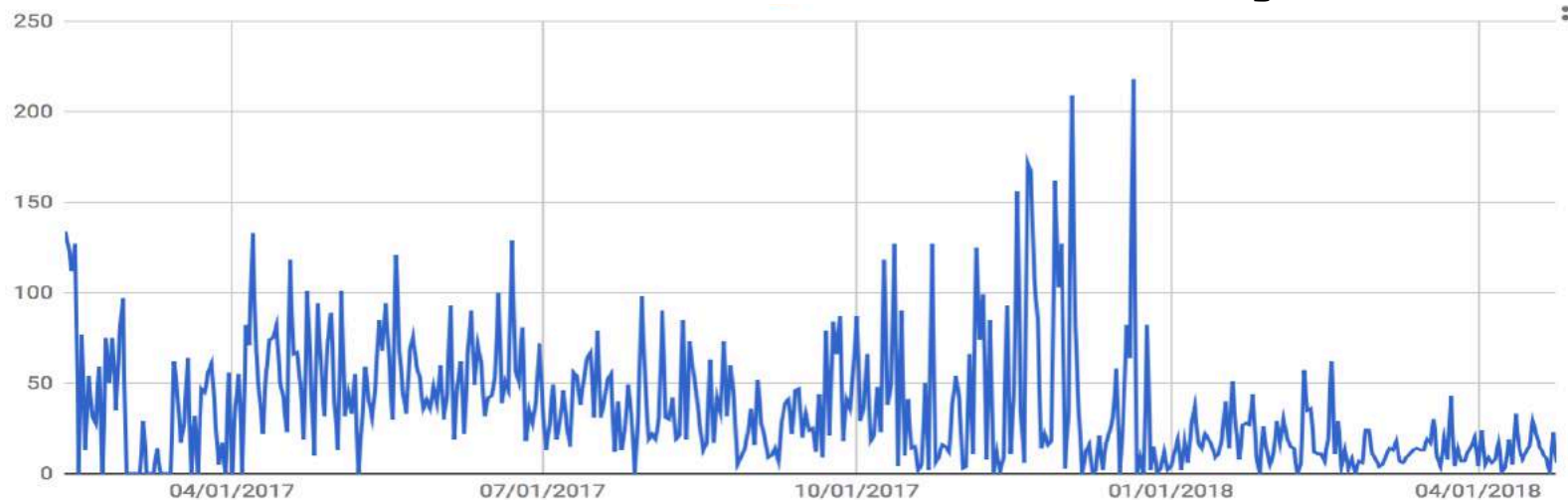
Issue 11 Issue 12 Issue 13 Issue 14 Issue 15



Issue 1 Issue 2 Issue 3 Issue 4 Issue 5 Issue 6



# Data Collection Summary



Official Propaganda available on Telegram includes battlefield reports, photo reports and images about military technology, and discussions about lone actor attacks in the West.

Our database includes over 16,000 pieces of ISIS propaganda collected daily since February 2017. (Data Collection continues)

# Threats Detected, Reported, and... Prevented

- Threat against “David” in Texas (2016) reported at last annual review
- Threat against gay nightclub in Toronto, Canada (June 2017)
- Threat against sports stadium in the UK (2017)
- Threats against Flinders St. Station, Melbourne & Town Hall subways, Sydney, Australia (September 2017)
- Threat against a shopping mall in Australia (September 2017)
- Threat against Prince George's school in the UK (2017)
- Threat against Baron Trump (January 2018)





# ISIS supporter who encouraged attack on Prince George admits guilt

By Vasco Cotovio and Judith Vonberg, CNN  
Updated 2:35 PM ET, Thu May 31, 2018



### More from CNN



Trump's phone call with Macron described as 'terrible'



Family auctions Nobel medal for \$187,000. Donates it to fight...



# Future Research

- “Proof of concept” using Machine Learning
- Disabled Fighters in ISIS Propaganda
- Islamic State State-Building
  - Education
  - State building
  - Governance
  - Punishment
  - Charity
  - Food
- Diffusion of Tactical Innovations
  - Drones



Africa News Media



#Breaking: #US surveillance drone crashed near #Awdhegle village in southern #Somalia, third in the past two weeks. #AlShabaab claims it seized all Three drones. 141 5:31 AM



# Application of Machine Learning



## JUST TERROR TACTICS

# TRUCK ATTACKS

### The Ideal Vehicle

Slightly Raised Chassis and Bumper



Fast in Speed or Rate of Acceleration



Double-Wheeled, Load-Bearing Truck



Large in Size  
Heavy in Weight

### How to Acquire a Vehicle

- 1 Buying
- 2 Renting
- 3 Taking from a Kafir by Force or Deception
- 4 "Borrowing" from a Kafir or Murtadd



### Ideal Targets

- 1 Large Outdoor Festivals, Conventions, Celebrations, and Parades
- 2 Pedestrian-Congested Streets (High/Main Streets)
- 3 Outdoor Markets
- 4 Outdoor Rallies



RUMIYAH

## JUST TERROR TACTICS

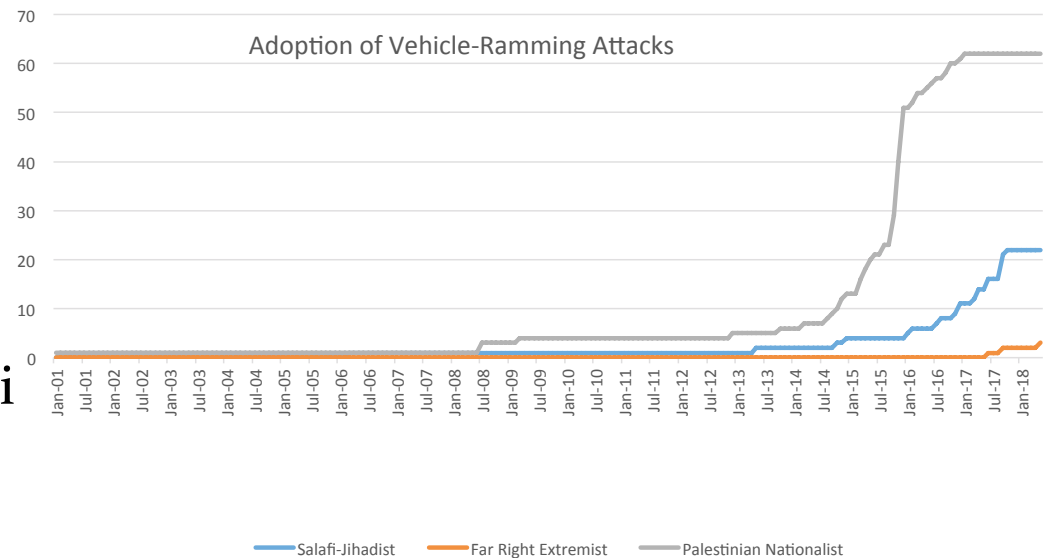
HOSTAGE-TAKING

As the Crusaders continue to wage their vicious campaigns on the lands of Islam in the wilayat of Iraq, Sham, Khurasan, Sinai and elsewhere, they are constantly reminded of the painful reality that this honorable ummah has men – heroes who gallantly demonstrate with their operations against them that their bowtizers, Tomahawks, white phosphorus bombs, and MOABs, which they rain over the heads of the Muslims and their homes, will be met with blades that plunge into their bodies, vehicles that unexpectedly mount their busy sidewalks, smashing into crowds,

crushing bones, and severing limbs, and bullets that pierce their filthy bodies while they are in the midst of their foul enjoyment. The likes of Khalid Masood in the UK, Man Haron Monis, Numan Haider, and Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar in Australia, Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, and Martin Cousoze-Rouleau in Canada, Zale Thompson, 'Abdur-Razzaq 'Ali Artan, Elton Simpson, Nadir Soofi, Faisal Mohammad, Syed Rizwan Farook, and his wife Tashfeen Malik in the US, Bertrand Nwabonayo, Laroui Abdalla, Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel, Abu Jarir al-Hanafi, and Ibn

# Diffusion of Tactical Innovation

- Vehicle-ramming attacks (VRA) is example of adaptation & diffusion of tactics;
- Introduced by Anwar al-Awlaki & perfected by ISIS – shows extent to which groups & improve upon ideas.
- Testing to see whether VRAs as lethal as other tactic yet cheaper and requires far less planning.



# Source of Inspiration for LONE ACTOR ATTACKS

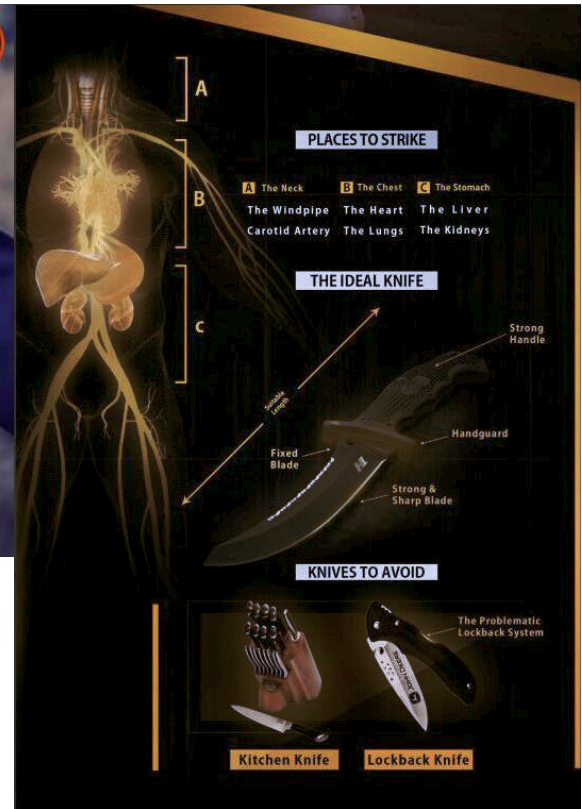
## O! Muslims

O! Muslims, in America, Russia, France, Britain, Canada, Belgium, Australia and Italy and else where Outside the Caliphate Role

Get far away from the gathering places of the Crusaders before the Military places from their markets, ways and Parkings ..

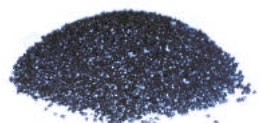
All of these places are Targets for the Soldiers of the Caliphate and we will explode, Run over people by vehicles and Cut off their necks in any time

O' Allah we have declared, O' Allah testify





# THE CHEMISTRY OF GUNPOWDER



## CHARCOAL

Consists of broken-down cellulose and provides carbon and other fuel for the reaction.

## SALTPETRE

Saltpetre is a common name for potassium nitrate. It supplies oxygen for the combustion reaction.

## SULFUR

Sulfur, also referred to as brimstone, lowers the ignition temperature required to start the reaction.

## PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION

56% SOLID PRODUCTS    43% GASEOUS PRODUCTS    1% WATER

ENERGY DENSITY  
3 MEGAJOULES PER KG

75%

Potassium Nitrate  
 $KNO_3$

15%

Charcoal  
C

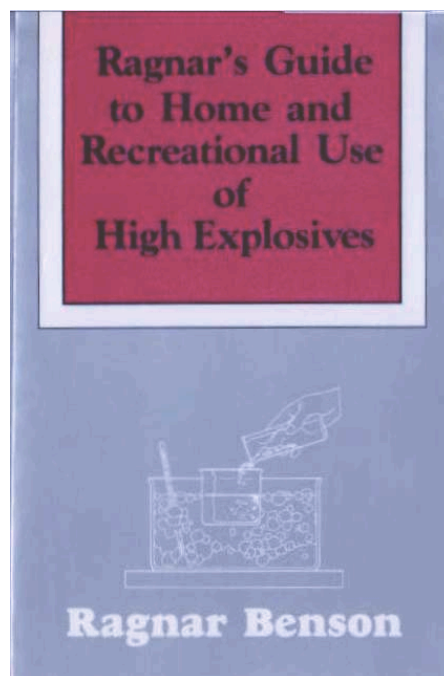
10%

Sulfur  
S

A SIMPLIFIED EQUATION FOR THE BURNING OF BLACK POWDER

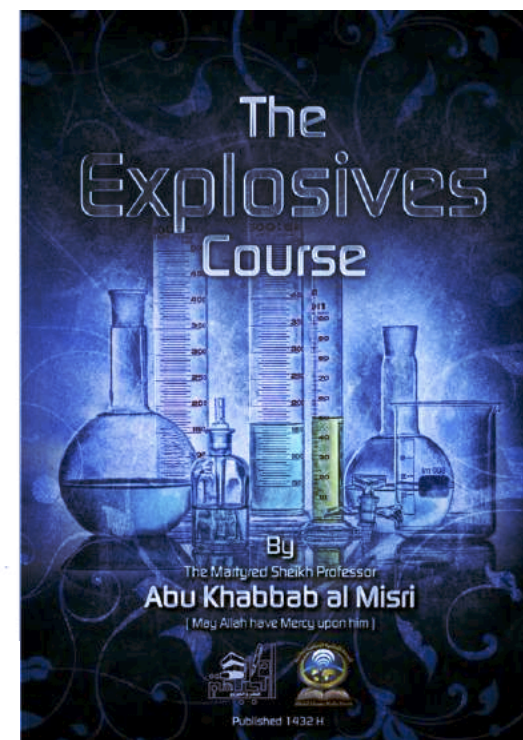


© COMPANIE INC. 2011. WWW.COMPANIE.COM. 4750  
HARRIS DRIVE & CHESTER AVENUE, CHESTER, ON. M9S 1S7



# CIA EXPLOSIVES FOR SABOTAGE MANUAL

PALADIN PRESS  
BOULDER, COLORADO



# The Explosives Course

By  
The Martyred Sheikh Professor  
**Abu Khabbab al Misri**  
[ May Allah have Mercy upon Him ]



Published 1432 H



LTTE Suicide suit runs on batteries, nails and run of the mill items readily available





# Disabled Fighters (SVBIEDs, Combat & Recruitment)



# State Building

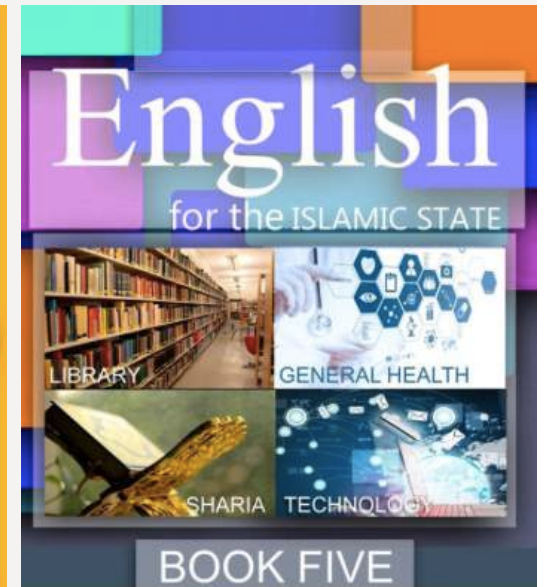
## Positive messaging to promote the proto-state of ISIS

- Better living conditions (images of food, gardens, clean water)
- Promoting life in accordance with Salafi religion (eliminating drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, music, & games)
- Provision of health care (inoculating children, providing healthcare, building hospitals)
- Education (school in accordance to religion, textbooks)
- Infrastructure

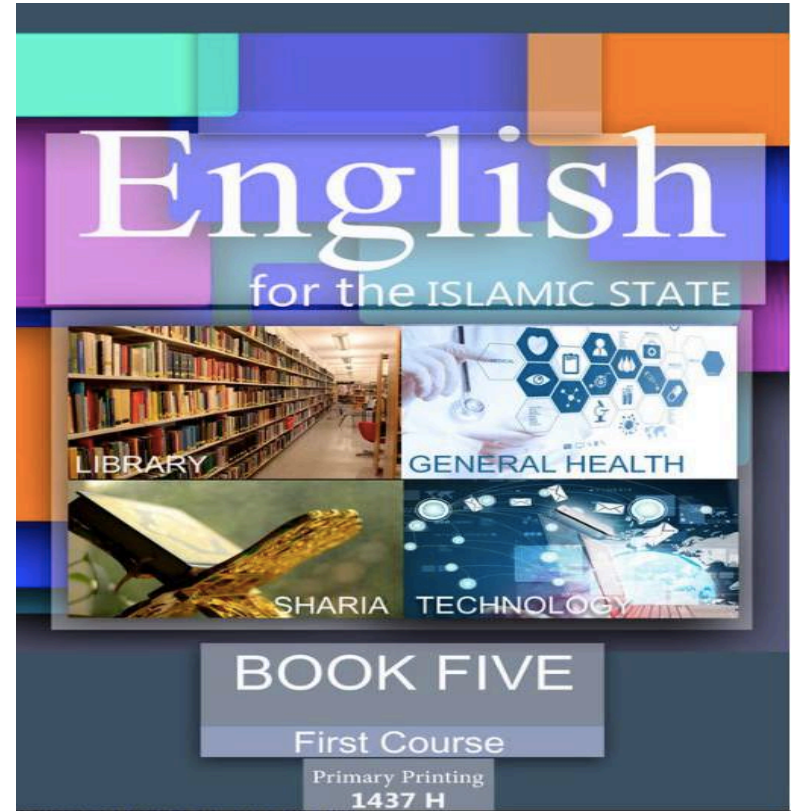
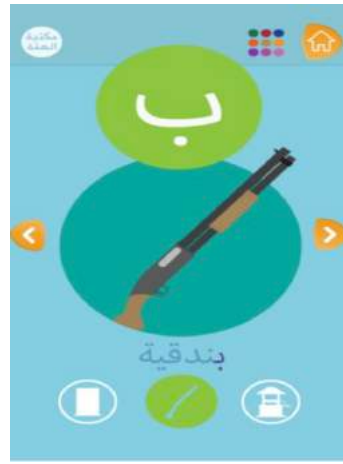




# ISIS School Books



40+ textbooks (in English and Arabic) have been Archived



#### 4. Match

aunt  
father  
uncle  
grandfather  
grandmother



#### 5. Complete the prepositions.

at                      on                      in                      under

a. Bazooka is \_\_\_\_\_ the box.



b. Three mujahidin are \_\_\_\_\_ the tree.



c. There is a gun \_\_\_\_\_ the table.



d. The school starts \_\_\_\_\_ eight o'clock.



#### Vocabulary

kitchen (n.)  
cousin (n.)

مطبخ  
ابن عم او خال / بنت عم او خال

100

#### 7. Trace

Army / Hand / Bullet / Arm

#### 8. Write

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_



Abb  
Aa

# Grammar Text Book

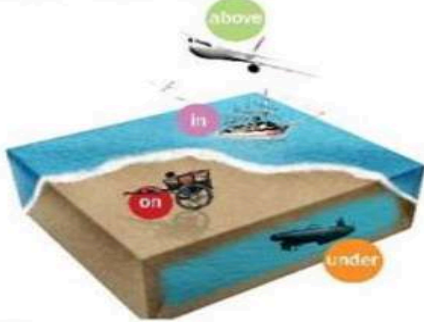
**UNIT ONE**  
**LESSON 2**

**الأهداف**

1. أن يراجع الطالب حروف الجر  
2. أن يسلّم عن المصاحف  
3. أن يجيب عن المسائل

## Prepositions

1. Look, listen and say  
(in on above under)



2. Look and answer.

Where is the **Cart**? It's \_\_\_\_\_ sea.  
Where is the **Airplane**? It's \_\_\_\_\_ sea.  
Where is the **Submarine**? It's \_\_\_\_\_ sea.  
Where is the **Ship**? It's \_\_\_\_\_ sea.

3. Complete




It's \_\_\_\_ o'clock    It's \_\_\_\_ past ten    It's \_\_\_\_ past one    It's \_\_\_\_ to eleven


Students learn to tell time  
Based on clocks affixed to dynamite



# Grade Two Math Textbook

$8 = 7 + 1$	
$8 = 7 + \square$	$8 = \square + 3 + \square$
$8 = 6 + \square$	$8 = \square + 4$

$9 = 8 + 1$	
$9 = \square + 3$	$9 = \square + 2 + \square$
$9 = \square + 1$	$9 = 5 + \square$



# Elimination of the Sources of Vice



Hisbah collecting music & electronics



Burning Cigarettes in Furat



Burning Cigarettes and Musical Instruments



Destroying Marijuana in Sinai



Destroying Hashish in Khorasan



Destroying pills in Idlib

**QUESTIONS?**

