

# Are they 'Ticking Time Bombs?'

## Children & Terrorism

Professor Mia Bloom

Georgia State University,  
mbloom3@gsu.edu



# 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

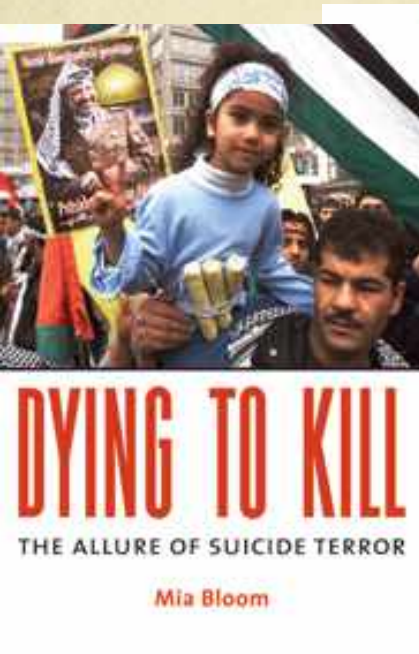
## Current Projects:

- 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 Online Radicalization

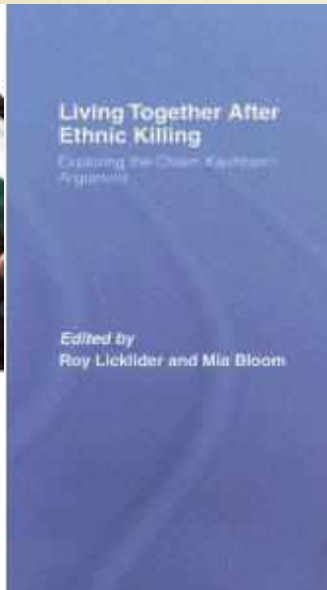




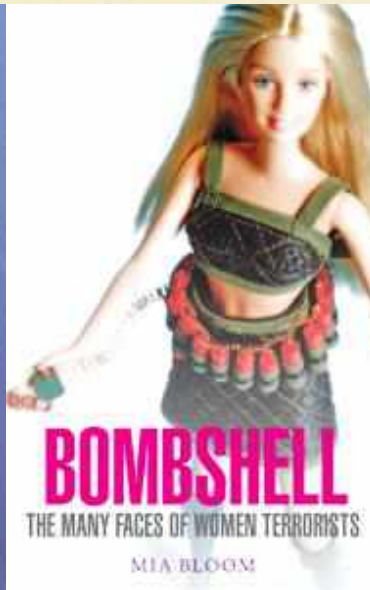
# My Books



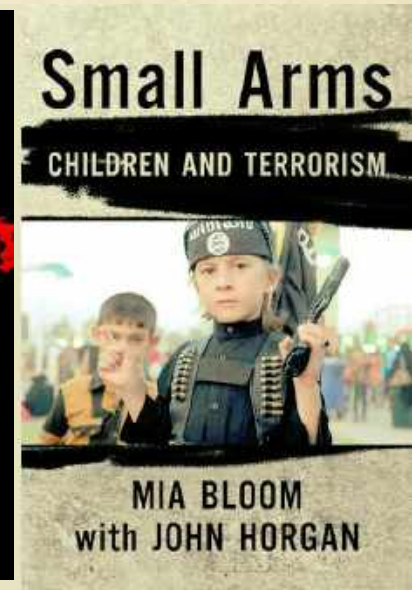
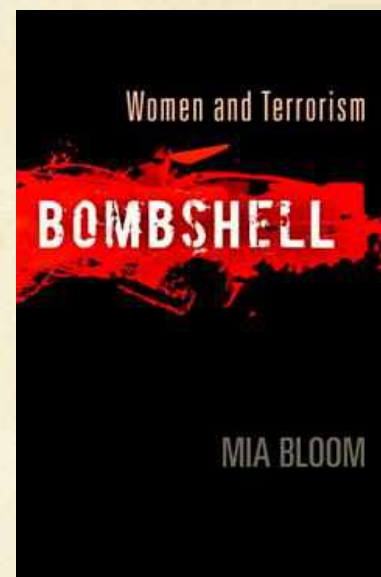
2005



2007

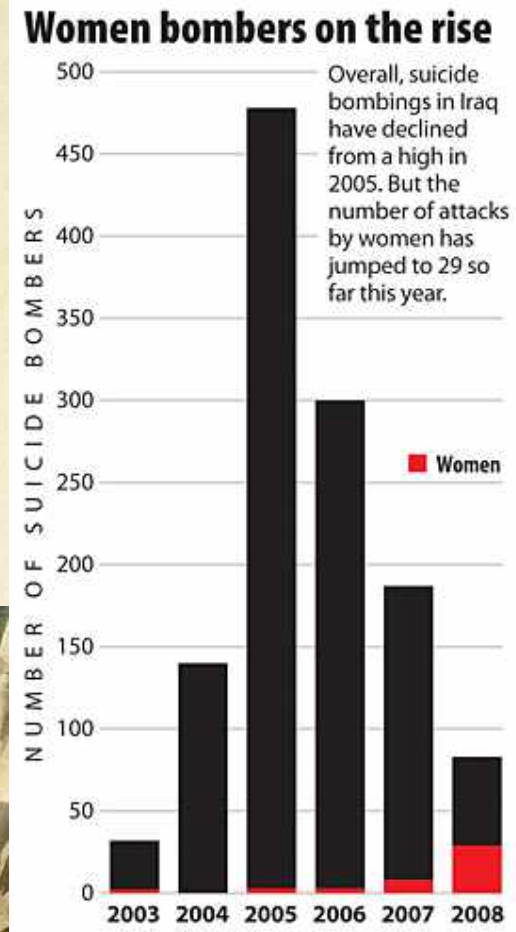


2011



2019

# Female Suicide Bombers







## **Iraq Women Banned at Shrine to Thwart Female Bombers**

Jan 7, 2009 8:25 AM CST

**Female suicide bombers became the weapon of choice for al-Qaeda in Iraq because women are less likely to be searched at checkpoints and also often wear long, black, Islamic robes that conceal explosives.**

- Lieutenant Commander David Russell, US Military

# Women's Motivations

## ❖ 5 R's

Redemption

Revenge

Respect

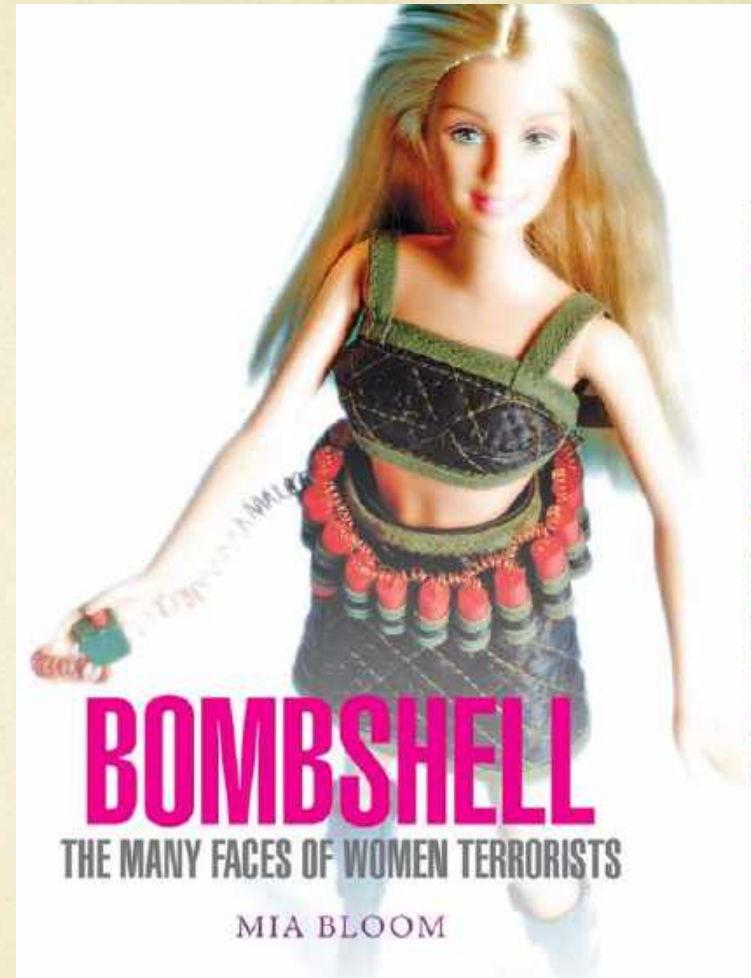
Relationship

Rape

❖ Prove just as dedicated as Men

❖ Relation to another cadre, member, or Jihadi

❖ Sexual Violence and the Honor Code



# Violence Against Women at Abu Ghraib



Pentagon has rejected that these photographs exist  
allegations that they are faked photos



# Same Disinformation used in ISIS Propaganda

ISLAMIC STATE IS THE SOLE SAVIOUR OF  
MILLIONS OF SUNNI MUSLIMS AGAINST  
IRAQI-SYRIA ARMY BUTCHERS



**DAWLATUL ISLAM BAQIYAA**

let the people of the world know that the khilafah is awoke and it coming for them.  
no more watching brothers die no more watching sister cry..



# AQI Propaganda

“Our Honor and chastity have been violated, our clothes have been torn.. The wombs are full of illegitimate children (from rape). We scream for help to save us. I urge you, if you have weapons attack, and kill them (Americans). I urge you by Allah!”

## A Desperate Plea From Your Sister In Abu Ghraib Prison..

To my family and noble brothers in Ar-Ramaady, Al-Khalidiyyah and Al-Fallujah ..., to all honourable people of the world, this is my appeal:

Allah's Greeting and Peace is upon you,

Allah, the Highest, says in His exalted book: (O you who believe! If you support (the cause of) Allah, He will support you and firm your foothold), (Muhammad; 47:7).

And says: (Fight them so that Allah will punish them by your hands, disgrace them, grant you victory over them and heal the hearts of a believing people And remove the anger of their (the believers') hearts. Allah turns (mercifully) to whom He pleases. Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise), (At-Tawbah; 9:14).



This is a message from your sister Noor, in the American-Zionist prison of Abu Ghraib. Where should I start? The pen is unable to describe to you the misery and the indignation in the prison. Shall I describe for you the hunger while you eat, or shall I describe the thirst while you are drink, or the nakedness (nudity) while you dress, or the sleep deprivation while you rest?

Dear brothers, when I see your trucks and cars passing by, transporting construction material for the Americans, and when I read the identity of your cars carrying the names of my people and my town I say my people and my brothers have sold their sister, (and) their honour for money (US Dollar), but when I reflect upon our desecrated honour and my situation, I burst into tears.

Dear brothers and sisters, how can I, in Allah's name, describe or put in words, the mental and physical suffering we undergo at the hands of the Americans, let alone the severe beating and daily torture which we try to endure just to keep our honour and save your trust.

Where are the religious leaders? Did you forget the divine message that was carried by the Truthful and Trustworthy Prophet Muhammad(p)? Have you already sold yourselves and us to the Americans and Zionists in the slave market in return for a few Dinars (gold coins)? We shall bring you before Allah, Allah has put us as a trust in your necks; to keep, to cherish and protect our honour from desecration, and you are responsible before Allah for our destiny. The Americans in Abu Ghraib have already desecrated your and our honour.

In whosever hand this message lands in, I request and urge you in the name of Allah, to raise your voices against this brutal treatment, especially the noble scholars of Islam who fear Allah, who have a pulpit and a platform, this (message) is a trust which you have to broadcast from your platform, you noble ones.

Remember that once you looked to your sisters in Palestine? Now we are suffering, especially when we see the Zionist drinking alcohol and then violating our honour and chastity like wild beasts. We scream for help to save us from these beasts but no one seems to hear our desperate cry.

You noble one: How many times have you died! Our honour and chastity has been violated, our clothes have been torn, our bellies have been starved and our tears are running, but there is no supporter or helper.

I do not want to say farewell before saying: Fear Allah in your next of kin. The wombs are full from illegitimate bastards (from rape). We urge you (again): Fear Allah and remember your next of kin!

Also before the farewell: I call on the noble ones, if you have weapons; so attack (the prison) and kill us with them (Americans) inside the prison: I urge you by Allah, I urge you by Allah, I urge you by Allah!

Your sister in Allah:  
Noor (10 February 2004)

*Based on several translations from the original Arabic including that of Prof. Dr. Q. Al-Samarrai. The letter was smuggled out of Abu Ghraib prison by foreign visitors. An Iraqi professor, Huda Shaker, researching for Amnesty International, has since visited Noor's home in Baghdad and found it empty. A recent article in the Guardian newspaper (12 May 2004) suggests that Noor has been killed.*

# Rape & Terrorist Mobilization

- Women Raped in traditional societies are funneled into terrorist organizations
- Facing certain death because of the violation of the honor code.



Samira Ahmed Jassim coordinated the rape of 80 young women so she could recruit them as suicide bombers for Ansar al Sunnah in Iraq



# 32:80 Victims Became Bombers



# Married off to a Jihadi for the purpose of becoming bombers

- Iraqi **police** foiled a 15 year old girl sent on a suicide mission at a school; She carried 33 lbs of explosive.
- The girl's father and brother had already died. Officers arrested her mother and sister as recruiters. Her husband worked for AQI



Raniya Mutleg arrested in Baquba





# Women/Girls of ISIS



Aqsa Mahmood, Zahra Halani



Samra Kesinovic, Sabina Selimovic

Hayat Boumedienne

- We hear about those going from Western states due to the disproportionate media attention on them.
- Vast majority of female ISIS supporters were not from the West.
- Similar demographics to the group's male membership.



Umm Jihad  
@ZumarulJannah



Follow

Bonfire soon, no need for these anymore.  
alhamdulillah



RETWEETS

12

FAVORITES

20



3:45 AM - 1 Dec 2014



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



## سرية النساء الإغلاية



قِسْمُ التَّصْيِيمِ وَالْمَوْتَانِجِ  
قِسْمُ الرَّفْعِ وَالنَّشْرِ

يقدم

المرأة في الدولة الإسلامية

[رسالة وتقرير]



المرأة

في دولة الخلافة



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
مؤسسة الزوراء تقدم

لصحة قيمة وتفصيل مهم  
في حكم مشاركة المرأة في القتال

بقلم الشيخ: أبو عبد الله المنصور لبنة الله



أخواننا الأنصاريت سألت أخت لكن من بلاد الحرمين الشيخ أبو عبد الله المنصور حفظه الله  
عن كيف تستطيع أن تخدم المجاهدين وهل يجوز لها المشاركة في القتال ؟  
فكان جواب الشيخ على هذا التفصيل



أما إذا بدأ الجهاد في بلاد الحرمين فلا عذر لأحد يستطيع تقديم أي شيء للمجاهدين وقد كن  
الصحابيات يخرجن في الغزو فيسفين الرجال ويدوين الجرحى.. فلذلك يجب على المرأة تقديم  
ما تستطيع للجهاد ولنصرة دين الله بحسب قدرتها في معالجة المرضى أو إخطاطة أو  
الخدمة بالطبخ والغسيل أو الترتيب حسب القدرة  
أما القتال للمرأة فهو على هذا التقسيم ..



١- إذا دهمت المرأة في بيتها وجب عليها الدفع عن نفسها بالسلاح وإن كان معها حزام  
نفذت به من دون إذن أحد...



٢- إن كانت في مستشفى أو مكان عام هاجمه الكفار وأرادوا احتلاله فهنا تفائل المرأة  
ولو كان معها حزام فإنها تنفذ بالكفار بدون أن من أحد.



٣- أن تعمل في القنص في مكان منفرد فهذا بعد أن الأمر وحسب الحاجة ..

٤- أن تنفذ عملية استشهادية فهذا جائزة للمرأة ولكن بعد أن الأمر وحسب المصلحة.

٥- أن تكون مختلطة مع الجيش أو السرية فهذا لا يجوز لما يترتب عليه من مفساد ..

وبناء عليه فالمرأة تسعى في إعداد نفسها بقدر الإستطاعة فتتعلم التمريض والطبخة والإخطاطة وبعض  
الأسلحة التي تدافع بها عن نفسها كالسدس والكلاشن وصنع الأحزمة والقنابل اليدوية ... الخ ولكن  
تتدرب عند محرم لها أو ثديها امرأة متعلمة.. ولا بأس من اجتماع النساء للتدرب على السلاح بعيدا عن  
الرجال .. أما بالنسبة للرياضة فالمرأة فلا مانع أن تتدرب ليقوى جسدها وتذهب الأمراض لوحدها أو مع نساء  
صالحات بشرط أن يكون اللباس ساترا فضفاضا وفي مكان بعيد عن أعين الرجال .. ملاحظة .. إذا كانت المرأة  
خرج من بيتها لمكان يجتمع فيه فإنها تلبس لباسها في بيتها لأنها لا أجل لها أن تترج ثيابها في غير بيتها ..

فالله الله أخباتنا بالإعداد والإستعداد ووفقك الله وليتمكن كما ترجوا نشر هذا المنشور على أوسع نطاق  
لتعم الفائدة على الأخوات بإذن الله .

# CONDITIONS FOR A CORRECT HIJAB

**FIRST:** THAT IT BE HEAVY (THICK) AND NOT TRANSPARENT AS TO WHAT IS UNDERNEATH IT

**SECOND:** THAT IT BE LOOSE (WIDE, NOT TIGHT)

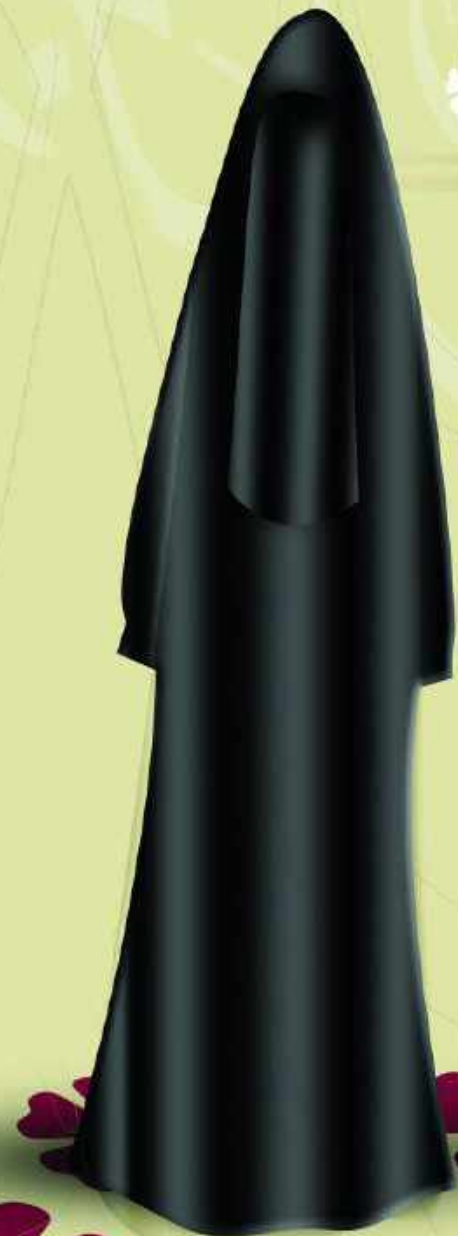
**THIRD:** THAT IT COVERS THE WHOLE BODY

**FOURTH:** THAT IT IS NOT A DRESS THAT MAKES ONE STAND OUT

**FIFTH:** THAT IT DOES NOT RESEMBLE THE CLOTHING OF DISBELIEVING WOMEN NOR THE CLOTHING OF MEN

**SIXTH:** THAT IT IS NOT A DRESS OF BEAUTIFICATION THAT ATTRACTS LOOKS

**SEVENTH:** THAT IS NOT SCENTED (PERFUME OR INCENSE)





**In November 2014, Abubakar Shekau released a video gloating that he'd married off the Chibok schoolgirls.**









Maimuna Uyman



Maimuna Yahaya



Maryama Lawan



Hauwa M. Maina



Amina Ali



Hauwa Balfai



Hauwa Abba



Glory Maina



Fibi Haruna



Esther John



Modu Baba



Dorcas Yakubu



Saraya Musa



Comfort Habbila



Awa Abaga



Rose Daniel



Yagana Joshua



Naomi Adams



Rahila Yohanna



Naomi Zakariyya



Charred remains edited by  
*NewsRescue* for reader tolerance



# Children were the target for Recruitment

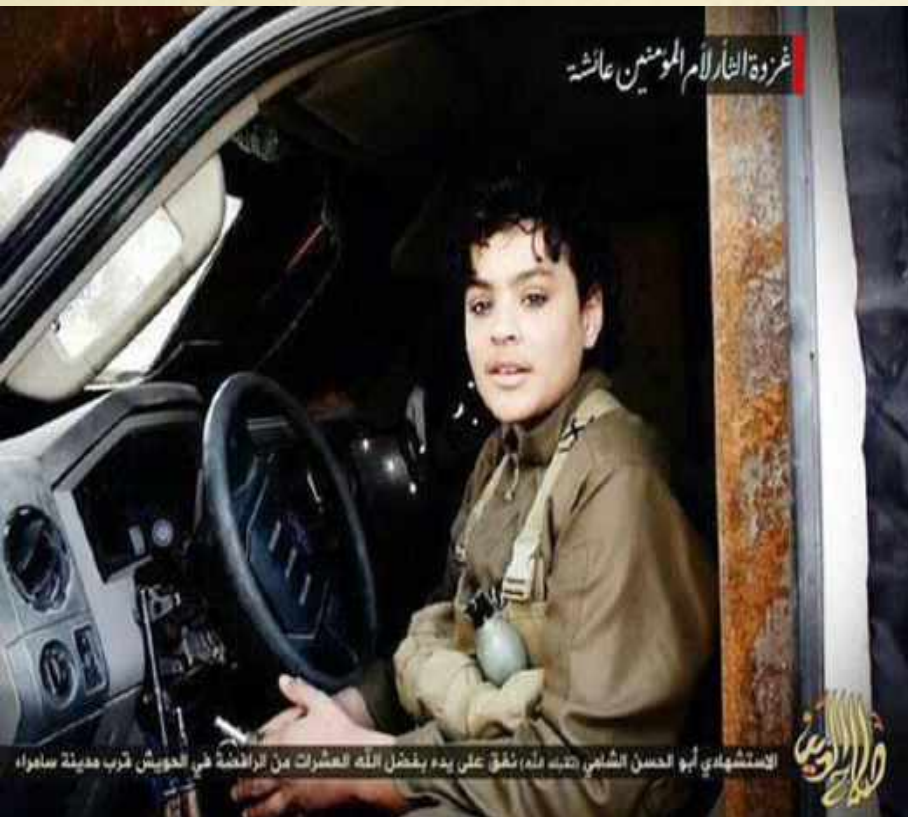




# Exploitation of Children



# Child Suicide Truck/Car Bombers





# ISIS Recruiters (Dawa Caravan)



# May 2016 “Sang Pour Sang”





# August 26, 2016 Video



## A photograph of five men in military uniforms sitting on a patterned rug. The man in the center wears a tan keffiyeh and a dark vest. The two men on the right are circled in red. A large red rectangle obscures the bottom right corner.

Exploded in  
Operation  
December  
2016



Toy Gun (+2 yrs)  
Executioner





# Life-Cycle of a Cub

## From bystander to fully committed insider



“The Furqan Foundation in the Company of a Migrant Family,” *The Furqan Foundation*, October 14, 2013.



“Race Towards Good,” *Al-Hayat Media Center*, November 22, 2014.



“Uncovering an Enemy Within,” *Al-Hayat Media Center*, January 13, 2015.

# Child Foreign Fighters in ISIS



Abu Bakr al Tajiki (Tajikistan)



Abu Musa al Andunisi



Safwan al Sana'ani (Yemen)



Abu Uaqasha al Malizi (Malaysia)



Talha al Kurasani (Afghanistan)



Abu Musab al Turkestani



# ISIS Adult Foreign fighters Country of Origin



Source: Soufan Center Richard

## Child Foreign Fighters Country of Origin (all groups)



Source: Minerva Research Pro



# ISIS Child/Youth Foreign Fighters Country of Origin



Source: Minerva Research P

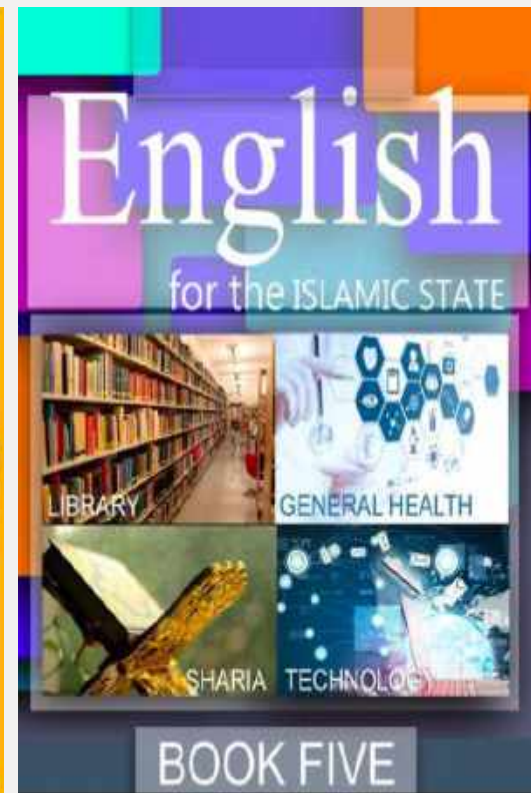


# Social Ecology of Children





# ISIS School Books



Project archived 40+ textbooks (English and Arabic)

# Grade Two Math Textbook

$$8 = 7 + 1$$



$$8 = 7 + \square$$

$$8 = \square + 3 + \square$$

$$8 = 6 + \square$$

$$8 = \square + 4$$

$$9 = 8 + 1$$



$$9 = \square + 3$$

$$9 = \square + 2 + \square$$

$$9 = \square + 1$$

$$9 = 5 + \square$$

13 اكتب العدد المناسب في الفراغات التالية للحصول على العدد المطلوب

$\square = 2 + \square$

69



# Grammar Text Book


UNIT 1  
LESSON 2

الأهداف

1. أن يراجع الطالب حروف الجر  
2. أن يسأل عن الساعة  
3. أن يجيب عن الساعة

## Prepositions


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



2. Look and answer.

Where is the **Car**? 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

# Gold Standard for child De-Rad Programs: Sabaoon in Pakistan







# What to do with Returning ISIS women & children?





# Best Practices – Lessons from 20 years of DDR

- Reintegration programmes spearheaded by States have **better success rate** and a **lower recidivism** (because there is local ownership of the process).
- The Disarmament and Demobilization parts of DDR tend to be done effectively, but Reintegration often lacks funding and long-term interest from donors.
- Without proper investment in Reintegration the exploitation of children in protracted conflict will continue. We need to create programs that are gender specific

