

Inside the Surreal Western-Created ISIS-Daesh Propaganda Machine

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In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

In order to understand how effective Daesh's propaganda campaign has been, it's important to analyze the plethora of information included in this compilation article. This extensive article discusses many different aspects of the Daesh propaganda machine. It also discusses the US/NATO narrative which it preaches in hopes that the public will sheepishly believe and support their "fight" against Daesh. As well as explaining how Daesh is actually a US/NATO invention to further allow foreign intervention under the pretentious guise of "protecting itself" in a fight against terrorism.

Daesh narratives can be divided into three main themes: Political, Religious, and Social. The main efforts of the information strategy can be divided into four types of messages or Lines of Effort ([LOE](#))—to Unite, Frighten, Support, and Inform.

IS/Daesh is using social media platforms such as Twitter (primarily), Facebook, and YouTube to recruit, inform (or rather misinform) potential recruits and gain supporters for their devious and deadly "cause". These social media platforms play a vital role in Daesh's information campaign, especially in reaching young people susceptible to recruitment and radicalization. The [NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence](#) (NATO StratCom COE) _conducted research into 'Daesh's detrimental use of social media and specifically from an information warfare perspective' to show how Daesh is using adaptive networks to respond to allied efforts of curbing propaganda dissemination worldwide.

"This report provides a short history of the development of the terrorist organisation and its various names, its present structure, at both the global and provincial levels, and a short description of its objectives. An analysis of the Daesh information strategy; its core message, narrative themes, lines of effort, and target audiences follow. The report further describes the communication tools and influence techniques Daesh uses regionally and globally".

In a [debate/poll](#) on debated.org the question was asked: Did the United States support ISIS and other extremist groups in Syria? 71% of participants answered yes.



Obama is Protecting the Terrorists, America to the Rescue of ISIS-ISIL-Daesh. Per Testimonies of Syrian Soldiers Who Witnessed the US Airstrikes.

In this [article](#) by [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#) he explains why “The United States of America is not fighting the terrorists in Syria. The Obama administration, with the support of its allies including Turkey and Saudi Arabia, is supporting the Islamic State (ISIS Daesh)”.

And then they tell us (i.e the Western media) that the Islamic State is threatening the Western World, that ISIS-Daesh cells are responsible for the terror attacks in Europe and the US. “The US homeland is under attack and we must defend ourselves.” Nonsense! Washington and its allies are the State Sponsors of Terrorism. The various jihadist organizations including ISIS-Daesh and al Nusra are supported and funded by the Western military alliance. In the words of **Oliver Stone: We’re Not under Threat. We Are the Threat.**



The [image](#) above shows child Daesh soliders right before they executed Kurdish prisoners in Syria, from left to right the children are Uzbekistani, Kurdish, Tunisian, British, and Egyptian, here is an [article](#) that includes a video of the execution.

The Salafi terrorist organization Daesh, also known as the 'Islamic State/IS/ISIS/ISIL', is currently engaged in direct military actions in Syria, Iraq, and Libya, has announced that it wants to establish a global Caliphate and annihilate all opposition. Daesh has launched an extremely sophisticated information campaign targeting a wide range of audiences around the world to gain support for its expansion in the Middle East. The [NATO StratCom COE](#) was asked to conduct research into Daesh's information strategy in order to gain a better understanding of how the Daesh information campaign is managed and to propose practical solutions concerning the situation in the Middle East.

On 18 December 2014, Army **Lt Gen James L. Terry** used the name 'Daesh' repeatedly during a 30-minute news conference. When asked why he was no longer using the name 'Islamic State' he explained that partner nations in the Middle East had asked him not to use that name or any of its related acronyms, ISIS and ISIL, out of concern that doing so legitimises the militants' aspiration to establish a caliphate, a sovereign Islamic sphere that would replace existing governments and borders. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius also made an announcement about the name and concluded, 'This is a terrorist group and not a state... the term Islamic State blurs the lines between Islam, Muslims, and Islamists.' The minister was amongst the first few who avoided calling the group with the name 'Islamic State' and put effort on calling them the acronym 'Daesh'. Read [More](#).



Brian McCarty
@McCartyPhoto

 Follow

It's more than a little disturbing seeing one of my #wartoys photos stolen / altered by #ISIL for propaganda.

1:37 PM - 16 Jun 2015

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Read the [article](#) about **Brian McCarty's** surprise discovery that his photo was stolen and used as propaganda by Daesh.

[Daesh Propaganda Videos](#) – Warning very graphic and real executions, beheadings etc.

[ISIS propaganda alive and kicking, as Amaq publishes new images from frontlines](#)

“Despite desperate situation on several fronts in Syria and Iraq, media wing of the so-called “Islamic State” (IS, formerly ISIL/ISIS), Amaq agency, keeps regularly publishing images and video materials intended to demonstrate military victories of the designated terror group, no matter how much significance these victories bear”. – AMN May 29th, 2017

[War Propaganda: Syria’s Destruction by the Lies of the Western Media “Washington will Never let Go, Their Target is World Hegemony”](#)

“The propaganda coming out of the Western mass media outlets and indoctrination-spreading institutions are so thorough, so professional, that to most of the people all over the world everything related to Syria appears to be blurry, murky, and incredibly complex. President al-Assad is demonized on a daily basis. Heroic resistance is called the “regime’s brutal actions”, pro-western terror groups are described as “moderate opposition.”– Global Research

[INSIDE THE ISIS SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN](#)

The study estimates that between September and December 2014, there were at least 46,000 ISIS-supporting Twitter accounts, though not all were active at once. In fact, the authors found that a minimum of 1,000 ISIS-supporting accounts were suspended during that time frame. One reason for the suspensions is that ISIS’s social media strategy is known for its violent content.
– Newsweek

[CONFRONTING THE ‘CALIPHATE’](#) | *This is part of an occasional series about the rise of the Islamic State militant group, its implications for the Middle East, and efforts by the U.S. government and others to undermine it.*

[National Security](#) By [Greg Miller](#) and [Souad Mekhennet](#) November 20, 2015 (I’ve included the complete article below as it might not be accessible to all viewers by clicking on the source)

RABAT, MOROCCO — The assignments arrive on slips of paper, each bearing the black flag of the Islamic State, the seal of the terrorist group’s media emir, and the site of that day’s shoot. “The paper just gives you the location,” never the details said **Abu Hajer al-Maghribi**, who spent nearly a year as a cameraman for the Islamic State.

Sometimes the job was to film prayers at a mosque, he said, or militants exchanging fire. But, inevitably, a slip would come with the coordinates to an unfolding bloodbath. For Abu Hajer, that card told him to drive two hours southwest of the Syrian city of Raqqa, the capital of the caliphate, or Islamic realm, declared by the militant group.

There, he discovered that he was among 10 cameramen sent to record the final hours of more than 160 Syrian soldiers captured in 2014. “I held my Canon camera,” he said, as the soldiers were stripped to their underwear, marched into the desert, forced to their knees

and massacred with automatic rifles. His footage quickly found a global audience, released online in an Islamic State video that spread on social media and appeared in mainstream news coverage on Al Jazeera and other networks.

Why the Islamic State propaganda arm is more important than its fighters

Abu Hajer, who is now in prison in Morocco, is among more than a dozen Islamic State defectors or members in several countries who provided detailed accounts to The Washington Post of their involvement in, or exposure to, the most potent propaganda machine ever assembled by a terrorist group.

What they described resembles a medieval reality show. Camera crews fan out across the caliphate every day, their ubiquitous presence distorting the events they purportedly document. Battle scenes and public beheadings are so scripted and staged that fighters and executioners often perform multiple takes and read their lines from cue cards.

Cameras, computers and other video equipment arrive in regular shipments from Turkey. They are delivered to a media division dominated by foreigners — including at least one American, according to those interviewed — whose production skills often stem from previous jobs they held at news channels or technology companies.

[In a propaganda war against ISIS, the U.S. tried to play by the enemy's rules](#)

Senior media operatives are treated as “emirs” of equal rank to their military counterparts. They are directly involved in decisions on strategy and territory. They preside over hundreds of videographers, producers, and editors who form a privileged, professional class with status, salaries and living arrangements that are the envy of ordinary fighters.

“It is a whole army of media personnel,” said **Abu Abdullah al-Maghribi**, a second defector who served in the Islamic State’s security ranks but had extensive involvement with its propaganda teams.

“The media people are more important than the soldiers,” he said. **“Their monthly income is higher. They have better cars. They have the power to encourage those inside to fight and the power to bring more recruits to the Islamic State.”**

Increasingly, that power extends beyond the borders of the caliphate. The attacks in Paris were carried out by militants who belonged to a floating population of Islamic State followers, subjects who are scattered among dozens of countries and whose attachments to the group exist mainly online.

Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the alleged architect of the attacks [who was killed in a raid in France](#), had appeared repeatedly in Islamic State recruiting materials. The barrage of videos and statements released afterward made clear that the overriding goal of the Islamic State is not merely to inflict terror on an adversary but also to command a global audience. The United States and its allies have found no meaningful answer to this propaganda avalanche.

[A State Department program to counter the caliphates messaging](#) has cycled through a series of initiatives with minimal effect. Islamic State supporters online have repeatedly slipped around efforts to block them on Twitter and Facebook.



The Propaganda Wars since 9/11

Overmatched online, the United States has turned to lethal force. Recent U.S. airstrikes have killed several high-level operatives in the Islamic State's media division, including [Junaid Hussain](#), a British computer expert. FBI **Director James B. Comey** recently described the propaganda units of the Islamic State, also known as ISIL and ISIS, as military targets.

"I am optimistic that the actions of our colleagues in the military to reduce the supply of ISIL tweeters will have an impact," Comey said at an event last month in Washington. "But we'll have to watch that space and see."

Research for this article involved interviews with Islamic State defectors and members, as well as security officials and counter-terrorism experts in six countries on three continents. The most authoritative accounts came from seven Islamic State defectors who were either in prison in Morocco or recently released after facing terrorism charges upon their return from Syria. All spoke on the condition that they be identified only by the adopted names that they used in Syria.

[Why the Islamic State leaves tech companies torn between free speech and security](#)

Those interviews were conducted with the permission of the Moroccan government in the administrative wing of a prison complex near the nation's capital. The prisoners said they spoke voluntarily after being approached by Moroccan authorities on behalf of The Post. Other prisoners declined. Most of the interviews took place in the presence of security officials, an arrangement that probably led participants to play down their roles in the Islamic State but seemed to have little effect on their candor in describing the caliphate's media division.

The Camera Man

Abu Hajer, a soft-spoken Moroccan with a thin beard and lean physique, said he had been active in jihadist media circles for more than a decade before he entered Syria in 2013. He began participating in online Islamist forums after the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, he said,

and later became an administrator of an influential site known as Shamukh, giving him authority to admit new members and monitor the material other militants posted.

Those credentials cleared his path to coveted assignments within the Islamic State, a group that began as al-Qaeda's affiliate in Iraq before splitting off from that terrorist network in an ideological rupture two years ago.

The group has an elaborate system for evaluating and training new arrivals. Abu Hajer said that shortly after entering Syria he was groomed to be part of the Islamic State's media team. He spent two months undergoing basic military training before he was admitted to a special, month-long program for media operatives.

The program "specializes in how to do the filming. How to mix footage. How to get the right voice and tone" in interviews, he said. After completing the course, he was given a Canon camera, a Samsung Galaxy smartphone and an assignment with the caliphate's media unit in Raqqa.

[Why did victims in Islamic State beheading videos look so calm? They didn't know it was real.](#)

Abu Hajer, who is in his mid-30s, had come from an impoverished corner of Morocco. Now that he is in prison, his wife and children have returned to the encampment where they lived before departing, a shanty village of corrugated tin and plywood with no running water near a cement plant on the outskirts of Rabat.

In Syria, they were given a villa with a garden. Abu Hajer was issued a car, a Toyota Hilux with four-wheel drive to enable him to reach remote assignments. He was also paid a salary of \$700 a month — seven times the sum paid to typical fighters — plus money for food, clothes, and equipment. He said he was also excused from the taxes that the Islamic State imposes on most of its subjects.

He quickly settled into a routine that involved getting his work assignments each morning on pieces of paper that also served as travel documents enabling him to pass Islamic State checkpoints. Most jobs were mundane, such as capturing scenes from markets or celebrations of Muslim holidays.

Abu Hajer said he encountered only one Western hostage, **John Cantlie**, a British war correspondent who was kidnapped in Syria in 2012. Cantlie was cast by his captors in a series of BBC-style news reports that touted the caliphate's bustling economies and adherence to Islamic law while mocking Western governments.

Abu Hajer said he filmed Cantlie in Mosul in 2014, and he said that by then the British broadcaster was no longer wearing an orange jumpsuit or confined to a darkened room and was allowed to wander among the markets and streets of Mosul for camera crews.

"I cannot tell you whether he was coerced or threatened. He was walking freely," Abu Hajer said, an assertion that is at odds with what is known about Cantlie's captivity.

A video released in January shows Cantlie in multiple locations in Mosul, including one in which he is riding a motorcycle with an armed militant seated behind him. It was among his

final appearances before the series was halted with no explanation or subsequent indication of Cantlie's fate, although articles attributed to him have since appeared in the caliphate's magazine.

One of Abu Hajer's next assignments took him to an elaborately staged scene of carnage, a mass execution-style killing choreographed for cameras in a way that has become an Islamic State signature. After arriving at the site, he said that he and the other camera operators gathered to "organize ourselves so that we wouldn't all film [from] the same perspective."

Abu Hajer said he had grave objections to what happened to the Syrian soldiers in the massacre that he filmed in the desert near Tabqa air base. But he acknowledged that his misgivings had more to do with how the soldiers were treated — and whether that comported with Islamic law — than any concern for their fates.

[*Islamic State video shows British hostage John Cantlie*](#)

As the soldiers were stripped and marched into the desert, Abu Hajer said he filmed from the window of his car as an Egyptian assistant drove alongside the parade of condemned men.

"When the group stopped, I got out," he said. "They were told to kneel down. Some soldiers got shot. Others were beheaded."

The video, still available online, shows multiple camera operators moving in and out of view as Islamic State operatives fire hundreds of rounds.

"It wasn't the killing of soldiers that I was against," Abu Hajer said. "They were Syrian soldiers, Nusairis," he said, referring to the religious sect to which Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his closest supporters belong. "I thought they deserved to get shot." "What I didn't like was that they were stripped to their underwear," he said, an indignity that he considered an affront to Islamic law.

Abu Hajer also said he kept his lens aimed away from the beheadings because of his objections to the practice. But asked whether he considered refusing to record the massacre, he said he feared that would consign him to the fate of those he filmed. "You don't want to do it," he said, "but you know that you cannot say, 'No.' "

The Machine

The contradictions of the Islamic State's propaganda apparatus can make its structure and strategy seem incoherent. The group exerts extraordinarily tight control over the production of its videos and messages but relies on the chaos of the Internet and social media to disseminate them. Its releases cluster around seemingly incompatible themes: sometimes depicting the caliphate as a peaceful and idyllic domain, other times as a society awash in apocalyptic violence.

[*Life in the 'Islamic State': Spoils for the rulers, terror for the ruled*](#)

The dual messages are designed to influence a divided audience. The beheadings,

immolations and other spectacles are employed both to menace Western adversaries and to appeal to disenfranchised Muslim males weighing a leap into the Islamist fray.

A separate collection depicts the Islamic State as a livable destination, a benevolent state committed to public works. Videos show the construction of public markets, smiling religious police on neighborhood patrols and residents leisurely fishing on the banks of the Euphrates.

Even the concept of the caliphate has a dual aspect. The terrorist group's rise is a result mainly of its demonstrated military power and the tangible territory it has seized. But a remarkable amount of its energy is devoted to creating an alternative, idealized version of itself online and shaping how that virtual empire is perceived.

That project has been entrusted to a media division that was operational well before the Caliphate was formally declared in 2014. U.S. intelligence officials said they have little insight into who controls the Islamic State's propaganda strategy, although it is presumed to be led by Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, the caliphate's main spokesman.

The media wing has relied on veterans of al-Qaeda media teams, young recruits fluent in social media platforms, and a bureaucratic discipline reminiscent of totalitarian regimes. Defectors and current members said that phones and cameras they brought to Syria were impounded upon arrival by the Islamic State to prevent unauthorized and potentially unflattering images from finding their way online.

Only sanctioned crew members were allowed to carry cameras, and even they were to follow strict guidelines on the handling of their material. Once finished with a day's shooting, the crews were to load their recordings onto laptops, transfer the footage to memory sticks, then deliver those to designated drop sites.



In an Islamic State enclave near Aleppo, the media division's headquarters was a two-story

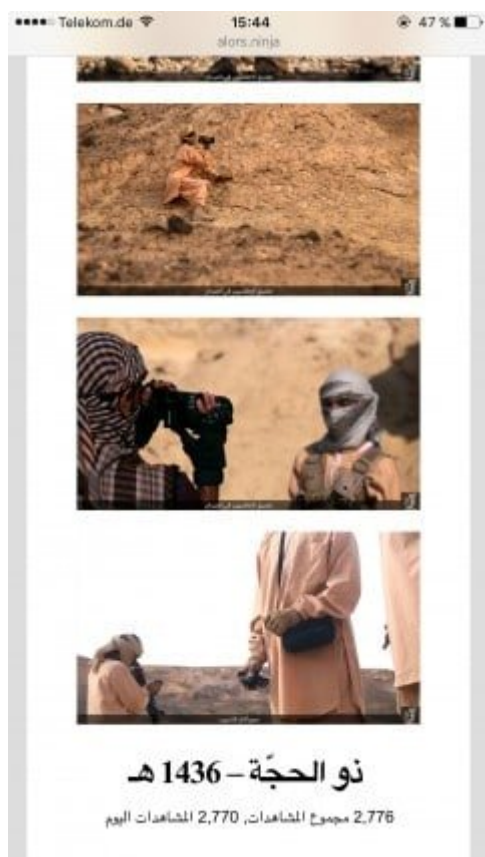
home in a residential neighborhood, defectors said. The site was protected by armed guards, and only those with permission from the regional emir were allowed to enter.

Each floor had four rooms packed with cameras, computers and other high-end equipment, said **Abu Abdullah**, 37, who made occasional visits to the site as a security and logistics operative. **Internet access went through a Turkish wireless service.** The house served as an editorial office of Dabiq, the Islamic State's glossy online magazine. Some also worked for al-Furqan, the terrorist group's main media wing, which accounts for the majority of its videos and mass-audience statements. **Overall, there were more than 100 media operatives assigned to the unit, Abu Abdullah said. "Some of them were hackers; some were engineers."**

Images from the Islamic State media obtained by The Washington Post are seen in screen grabs taken from the mobile messaging service Telegram, a promotional and recruitment platform for Islamic State.

Abu Abdullah had no affiliation with the media arm, but he often did its bidding. At one point he was tapped to install a generator at the media headquarters so that it would not lose power when the electricity went down.

Another assignment involved recovering corpses from battle scenes and arranging them to be photographed for propaganda videos exalting their sacrifice. He would wash away dried blood, lift the corners of dead fighters' mouths into beatific smiles, and raise their index fingers in a gesture adopted by the Islamic State as a symbol of its cause.



Many in the American public were introduced to the Islamic State through wrenching videos in which **Mohammed Emwazi** — a masked, knife-wielding militant with a British accent known as “Jihadi John” — slit the throats of Western hostages, including Americans James Foley and Steve Sotloff.

['Jihadi John': Islamic State killer is identified as Londoner Mohammed Emwazi](#)

Scrutiny of those and other videos revealed an extraordinary level of choreography. Discrepancies among frames showed that scenes had been rehearsed and shot in multiple takes over many hours.

The releases showed professional-caliber attention to lighting, sound and camera positioning. Certain videos, including one showing a decapitated American **Peter Kassig**, appear to have employed special effects software to digitally impose images of Kassig and his killer against a dramatic backdrop.

Those production efforts were reserved for videos aimed at mass Western audiences and were addressed explicitly to **President Obama**. But defectors said that even internal events not intended for a global viewership were similarly staged.

Abu Abdullah said he had witnessed a public execution-style killing in the city of Bab in which a propaganda team presided over almost every detail. They brought a whiteboard scrawled with Arabic script to serve as an off-camera cue card for the public official charged with reciting the condemned man's alleged crimes. The hooded executioner raised and lowered his sword repeatedly so that crews could catch the blade from multiple angles.

The beheading took place only when the camera crew's director said it was time to proceed. The execution wasn't run by the executioner, Abu Abdullah said.

"It's the media guy who says when they are ready."

The Brand

For two decades, the dominant brand in militant Islam was al-Qaeda. But the Islamic State has eclipsed it in the span of two years by turning the older network's propaganda playbook on its head.

Al-Qaeda's releases always exalted its leaders, particularly **Osama bin Laden**. But the Islamic State's propaganda is generally focused on its fighters and followers. Appearances by leader **Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi** or his senior lieutenants have been rare.

Rejecting the lecture format employed by al-Qaeda, the Islamic State's videos are cinematic, emphasizing dramatic scenes, stylized transitions and special effects.

"The group is very image-conscious, much like a corporation," said a U.S. intelligence official involved in monitoring the Islamic State's media operations. Its approach to building its brand is so disciplined, the official said, "that it's very much like saying 'This is Coca-Cola' or 'This is Nike.'"

The propaganda competition with al-Qaeda is a high priority, defectors said. One former Islamic State fighter said that he came under enormous pressure from the organization after it learned that his father had been a high-ranking al-Qaeda operative killed in Pakistan in a CIA drone strike.

[The Islamic State was dumped by al-Qaeda a year ago. Look where it is now](#)

Islamic State media figures pushed the recruit to appear in a video renouncing his father's organization, said the son, who spoke on the condition that neither he nor his father be identified. His refusal, and reluctance to fight al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria, damaged his standing in the Islamic State, and he said he fled in fear for his life. Al-Qaeda has typically required extraordinary patience from its audience. Even its most media-savvy affiliate, the al-Qaeda branch in Yemen, often takes months to release new issues of its online magazine, Inspire.

The frequency and volume of releases by the Islamic State are staggering by comparison. The group has produced hundreds of videos in more than a half-dozen languages, puts out daily radio broadcasts and garners as many as 2 million mentions per month on Twitter.

Twitter and Facebook have moved to shut down accounts associated with the Islamic State and ban the distribution of its messages, but users have found ways to resurface. Thousands of loyalists have also flocked [to new services that are less vulnerable to government scrutiny](#), including Telegram, a messaging application created by a Russian software entrepreneur, although Telegram began shutting down Islamic State channels after the Paris attacks.

The Islamic State has also exploited apparent connections to news organizations in the Middle East. A [video that surfaced in 2013 appeared to show an Al Jazeera correspondent working with a cameraman, Reda Seyam](#), a militant who had been linked to terrorist plots and is a senior figure in the Islamic State.

In a [comprehensive examination of the terrorist group's media releases](#) in the summer, Charlie Winter, until recently an analyst at the Quilliam Group in the United Kingdom, identified 1,146 distinct pieces of propaganda, including photos, videos, and audio releases, during a single month-long stretch. Winter counted as many as 36 separate media offices that answer to the Islamic State's headquarters in Raqqa — including affiliates in Libya, Afghanistan, and West Africa — and saw evidence of extraordinary coordination across the network.

At one point during his study, on July 19, he noticed that every affiliate had simultaneously shifted to a new logo with the same stylized Arabic script. The icon appeared in the same location on every image and [in the initial frame of every video release](#).

The highly-stylized Islamic State logo is yet another example of the group's propaganda machine



This logo plays before most Islamic State videos as the group is “very image conscious, much like a corporation,” according to a U.S. Intelligence official. (TWP)

“There was clearly a communique issued,” Winter said in an interview. **“The Islamic State is constantly striving to be as formalized, as bureaucratic-seeming as possible, to keep up the appearance of being a state.”**

That effort to simulate legitimacy is particularly pervasive inside the caliphate. The same videos employed to shock outsiders are used internally to cow the group’s less enthusiastic subjects. A constant stream of utopian messages is designed to convince residents, in Soviet-style fashion, of the superiority of the Islamic State.

While Internet access is often restricted to the public, propaganda units set up giant viewing screens in neighborhoods where residents come out in the evenings to watch approved videos streamed from laptops.

“It’s like a movie theater,” said Abu Hourraira al-Maghribi, a 23-year-old with a shaved head who wore an Adidas hoodie when he met with reporters in prison. The videos are drawn from the Islamic State’s expanding film library, he said, depicting “daily life, [military] training and beheadings.”

The Islamic State’s most notorious videos — including those showing the beheadings of Western hostages and the burning of a caged Jordanian fighter pilot — were shown over and over, he said, long after their audiences beyond the caliphate dissipated.

Abu Hourraira said he attended one screening on a street near the University of Mosul that attracted about 160 people, including at least 10 women and 15 children. One of the videos showed an execution by Emwazi, who is believed to have been [killed this month](#) in a U.S. drone strike.

“The kids, they are not looking away — they are fascinated by it,” Abu Hourraira said. **Jihadi John became a subject of such fascination that some children started to mimic his uniform, he said, wearing all “black and a belt with a little knife.”**

The Americans

The Islamic State maintains strict bureaucratic boundaries within its media wing. Camera crews were kept separate from the teams of producers and editors who stitched the raw footage together, adding titles, effects, and soundtracks. Real names were almost never exchanged. But Abu Hajer and two other defectors said that an American in his late 30s with white skin and dark-but-graying hair was a key player in some of the Islamic State's most ambitious videos. **"The American does the editing,"** Abu Hajer said, and was the creative force behind a 55-minute documentary called "Flames of War" that was released in late 2014. The film strives to create a mythology surrounding the Islamic State's origin and connection to the historic Muslim caliphate.

[*5 stories you should read to really understand the Islamic State*](#)

It culminates with scenes of Syrian soldiers digging their own graves while a masked fighter, speaking English with a North American accent, warns that "the flames of war are only beginning to intensify."

Another American-sounding figure surfaced more recently, delivering daily news broadcasts that appear to emanate from a radio station that the Islamic State overran last year in Mosul. After the attacks in Paris, his voice was the one that most English-speaking audiences heard describing France as "the capital of prostitution and vice" and warning that governments involved in strikes in Syria "will continue to be at the top of the target list."

"U.S. officials said they have been unable to determine the identity of that speaker or others with North American accents. The militant who appeared in the "Flames of War" film remains the subject of [an entry on the FBI's Web site](#) appealing to the public for help identifying him.

The Defectors

The Islamic State's relentless media campaign has fueled a global migration of militants. **More than 30,000 foreign fighters from more than 115 countries have flooded into Syria** since the start of that country's "civil" war. At least a third arrived within the past year, the vast majority of them to join the Islamic State, according to U.S. intelligence estimates.

Of the defectors interviewed by The Post, all but one said their decisions to leave for Syria could be traced to videos they saw online or encounters on social media, that ignited a jihadist impulse. The only outlier said that he had been prodded by a friend to come to Syria and was promptly imprisoned for refusing to fight.

[*Foreign fighters flow to Syria*](#)

Abu Hourraira, who spent months fighting in Iraq, said he began searching online for material about the Islamic State as the group began to dominate headlines about the war in Syria. He decided to abandon his job at a dry-cleaning business in Casablanca only after watching the group's emotionally charged videos.

"Some were like Van Damme movies," he said, referring to Jean-Claude Van Damme, the Hollywood action star. "You see these men fighting, and you want to be one of these brave heroes."

Like many countries in the region, Morocco has struggled to offset that pull. Moroccan security officials said that more than 1,500 men had left the country to fight in Iraq and Syria, plus more than 500 women and children, many of them seeking to join their spouses, sons or fathers.

Several of the attackers in Paris, including the alleged architect, were of Moroccan descent, but were born and grew up in Europe.

“The fight now is with the propaganda because it plays a very big role in these numbers,” said a senior Moroccan security official who spoke on the condition that neither he nor his agency be identified. Al-Qaeda recruitment relied almost exclusively on direct contact in mosques or other settings, he said, but “now, 90 percent are being recruited online.”

Defectors offered conflicting views on whether the Islamic State would endure. Some said that a cohort of young males in Iraq and Syria are already coming of age immersed in the group’s propaganda and ideology and that a generation of children was being raised to idealize its masked militants.

But all attributed their decisions to leave Iraq and Syria to a combination of factors, including not only fears for their safety but also a disenchantment that set in when the reality of the caliphate failed to match the version they had encountered online.

Some said they were haunted by scenes of cruelty they saw firsthand but that Islamic State propaganda teams edited out. Abu Abdullah, who wore a hood to disguise his identity during an interview, said he witnessed a mass killing near Aleppo in which Islamic State fighters fired into a crowd of Alawites including women and children.

When a 10-year-old boy emerged alive, the highest-ranking militant on hand “pulled out a gun and shot him,” Abu Abdullah said. The slaying was recorded by the ever-present camera crews, he said, but the footage “was never aired.”

Abu Hajer, the former cameraman, said his standing with the group began to slip when he became involved in helping to administer the Islamic State’s religious courts. After sharing views that he said were at odds with his superiors, the perks of his media position were withdrawn.

Military, Defense and Security at Home and Abroad

“They took away my weapons, my monthly income,” as well as his villa and car, he said.

A relative told a Post reporter that Abu Hajer finally pulled his family out of Syria after he had received a warning in which an Islamic State militant dragged a finger across his throat. A sympathetic colleague gave Abu Hajer the paperwork he needed to pass Islamic State checkpoints on the way out of Syria, he said. Another friend gave him cash to put his family on a flight out of Turkey. Moroccan authorities were waiting for him at the Casablanca airport. He now shares a crowded cell with other militants in a high-walled Moroccan prison, with two years remaining on a three-year sentence. Asked whether he worries that his work

will induce others to join the Islamic State, he gave an equivocal answer.

“To a certain extent I feel responsible,” he said. “But I am not the main reason”.

His videos continue to circulate online.

What can you do?

Now, you might be wondering what you can do to anonymously report Daesh activity on social media. Here is an article that explains “[How to report Daesh’s terrorist propaganda](#)”.

Obama’s “[Fake War](#)” against the Islamic State (ISIS). The Islamic State is Protected by the US and its Allies by [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

According to [figures released by U.S. Central Command \(CENTCOM\)](#),

“the U.S. and its coalition partners have struck 10,684 targets including 3,262 [so-called] **ISIS buildings**, 119 commandeered tanks, 1,202 vehicles and 2,577 fighting positions.”



The term “ISIS buildings” is a fake concept. Those buildings (including residential areas) are part of the civilian infrastructure of Iraq and Syria. The number of targets struck suggests an intense carpet bombing campaign geared towards the destruction of both Iraq and Syria.

The ISIS-US Empire - Their Unholy Alliance Fully Exposed by [Joachim Hagopian](#)

For over three and a half decades the US has been funding mostly Saudi stooges to do its dirty bidding in proxy wars around the world, beginning in Afghanistan in the 1980’s to fight the Soviets with the [mujahedeen-turned al Qaeda](#) that later would mutate into ISIS. Reagan and Bush senior gave Osama bin Laden his first terrorist gig. Our mercenary “Islamic extremists” for-hire were then on the CIA payroll [employed in the Balkans](#) during the 1990’s to kill fellow Moslem Serbs in Kosovo and Bosnia. For a long time now Washington’s been relying on the royal Saudi family as its chief headhunters supplying the United States with as needed terrorists on demand in order to wage its geopolitics chessboard game of global hegemony, otherwise known by the

central banking cabal as global "Theft-R-Us."

As recently as a month ago it was reported that an Islamic State operative claimed that [funding for ISIS had been funneled through the US](#). Of course another "staunch" US-NATO ally Turkey has historically allowed its territory to be a safe staging ground as well as a training area for ISIS. It additionally allows jihadist leaders to move [freely in and out of Syria through Turkey](#). Along with Israel and all of US Empire's Moslem nation states as our strategic friends in the Middle East, together they have been arming, financing and training al Qaeda/ISIS to do its double bidding, fighting enemies like Gaddafi in Libya and Assad in Syria while also posing as global terrorist boogie men threatening the security of the entire world. Again, Washington cannot continue to double speak its lies from both sides of its mouth and then expect to [continue having it both ways](#) and expect the world to still be buying it.

Disclaimer from [The Rabbit Hole](#) & Sarah Abed: I understand that there is some objection to the term "Islamic State" being used in reference to Daesh. This is a legitimate concern, Daesh is [anti-Islamic](#) and has killed more Muslims than non-Muslims. However, they do refer to themselves as such and some of the sources above refer to them as such. I apologize in advance. I however prefer the derogatory term Daesh when referring to them.

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