



COUNTERING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA



EurAsian
Scientific Editions Ltd

All rights Reserved

No part of the material protected by this copyright notice may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the copyright owner.

© EurAsian Scientific Editions OÜ, Tallinn, Estonia / EurAsian Scientific Editions Ltd, Wanchai, Hong Kong
ISBN 978-9949-7201-3-2

www.eurasian-scientific-editions.org

The Foundation for the Study of Democracy (headed by Maxim Grigoryev) has been working consistently to identify and counter the propaganda of terrorist groups.

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

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

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

The materials presented below use the translations of the Quran and Sunnah¹ most appropriate for the topic under discussion. The titles of and quotes from terrorists' publications used in the text below are transcribed exactly as found in the source, even those with errors or peculiar spelling. For instance, terrorists often use the word "mujahidin" which is close to the Arabic pronunciation, instead of the conventional spelling "mujahideen"².

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

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

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

the information about terrorist propaganda can be sent to the e-mail: info-ru@democracyfund.ru

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