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# ISIS terrorist organization and its Impact on the National Security of the Arab Maghreb Countries

(Algeria is an Example)

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## **Abstract**

Over the course of two decades, the security forces in all their branches were able to gain experience that enabled them to control the course of security reality to some extent. The bitter experience that the Algerian people have experienced with the previous jihadist currents had created a fear for it to repeat the scenario of the black decade that passed through the country. However, at the same time, we must not lose sight of the strength and ability of the organization, despite the blows it receives. The organization has the ability to renew blood in its veins, especially through its sleeping cells, which will be ready to work at any moment they may be instructed to do so.

**Keywords:** Islamic State, National Security, Arab Maghreb Countries, Algeria.

#### Introduction

The last decade witnessed dramatic developments and events that allowed the emergence of many Jihadi Salafi groups, the last of which was what became known as the "Islamic State" (ISIS), as the organization became the forerunner of the scene due to the aura that has been raised around it, and has become one of the influencing factors in

the nature of the internal and regional changes of many Countries. This organization was able, and within a period not exceeding several weeks, to impose its control on large areas in both Syria and Iraq, especially after 10/6/2014, he entered the Iraqi city of Mosul and extended it to the outskirts of Baghdad, the capital of the Republic of Iraq .With the emergence of signs of crises in some Arab countries, especially what was known as the Arab Spring revolutions in 2011, and the subsequent fall and fall of a number of regimes, and the preoccupation of others with fixing their pillars, all of this enabled the creation of an appropriate environment for this group for stability and expansion . Not only was his presence in his strongholds in Iraq and Syria, which was his starting point, but he was expanding and establishing new bases and fronts, such as the Yemen and Sinai fronts in Egypt, Sirte, Libya, Pakistan, Nigeria, and academics others .Here, and researchers are puzzled by the characterization of the Islamic State (ISIS), a period that some see as the work of foreign powers that lie in wait for the region, and others see that it expresses a sect that has been undermined of rights and that the organization emerged to lift the injustice and injustice from it and infer that in this way the conditions of the Sunnis in Iraq, But the fact that the people of the Sunnis in Iraq were provided with nothing but destruction and displacement, so that they became dispersed between the governorates of Iraq, including some of whom pushed him to leave Iraq as a refugee and refugee in the countries of the world, and academics see that he is a faction that carries a religious contractual character.

#### Literature Review

# 1. The Birth of the Islamic State

The American occupation of Iraq came in the year 2003 to begin with the birth of many jihadist currents in the Arab region. Since the legions of the American army set foot in the land of Iraq, what is known

as holy jihad has begun to confront the West and its local agents. With the announcement of the formation of the Tawhid and Jihad group and the emergence of its loyalty to Al-Qaeda and its name change to "Al-Qaeda in Mesopotamia, "which began its activity in Iraq after the end of the major American military operations, in an undeclared manner under the leadership of Abu Musab Al-Zargawi, who worked to collect the diaspora of volunteers and worked for a period Without any name, then he turned to the name "Tawhid and Jihad Group" with the advice of the legitimate official of the group Abu Anas Al-Shami, which is the basis for the Islamic State "ISIS" and adopted its leaders such as "Al-Zarqawi, Muhammad Yusef Al-Filastani, Abdel Nasser Al-Jayyab, Abdul Hamid Abu Azam the Palestinian, Hassan Izeri, Omar Baziani "Several factors have been acquired from the camps of Afghanistan and the offices of Mujahideen affairs of Pakistan (Al - Hashemi, 2015) after the announcement successively activity jihadist groups to take a turning point more organized. On Sunday, October 15th, 2006 Shura Council announced Mujahideen in Iraq, in a statement about the birth and the establishment of what he called state Islamic Iraq led by Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, and that statement came in response to the Iraqi parliament's approval of the law forming regions, and after the Kurds sided in the northern state and the approval of a state in the south for the Shiites. Then events accelerated until April 29 of 2013, when Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi announced in an audio statement the formation of what was known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS). Where he announced the unification of the names "Front of Al-Nusra" and "Islamic State of Iraq" under one name, which is "the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant". With al-Golani's increasing influence in Syria, and a fatwa rejecting the merger of his forces under the leadership of the leader of the Islamic State in Iraq, al-Baghdadi waged a war on the Nusra Front, which

led to his separation from al-Qaeda (Thought Center, 2016) This statement was met with reservations by the Al-Nusra Front, and the differences between the two groups bred after the latter accused the state organization of trying to unilaterally control and influence, and battles took place between the two parties in several areas of Syria (Al-Jazeera Network, 2014) On June 29, 2014, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, the official spokesman for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, announced that the organization's name would be changed to "Islamic State" and that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi would become the successor to all Muslims. (Al-Hayat Network, 2011) Al-Adnani appeared in the publication surrounded by a group of fighters of the organization and began to remove the territorial borders between Syria and Iraq, and some analysts believe that this version is a review attempt aimed at sending regional and international messages to confirm that the organization has become a major component and an important player in the regional and global scenes. This is the first time in the history of jihadi organizations that achieve the full sovereignty of an organization on the ground as the Islamic State has controlled large areas of land in both Iraq and Syria (Abdel Bari, 2015) After two years or so, he announced the killing of Adnani in Syrian Aleppo, and it is believed that his death came as a result of an air strike by the international coalition that formed the war and eliminated this organization. (Al-Jazeera Network. 2016)

# 2. The Possibilities and Financing of the State Organization

In terms of armament and human capabilities, as far as armament is concerned, the organization seized the weapons stores of the Iraqi army when it invaded Mosul and did the same when it seized the stores of the Free Army in the city of Azaz in northwestern Syria and seized many of the stores of the Syrian army in its military barracks and

airports in Ragga and Deir Al-Zour Aleppo and all of these contained a huge arsenal of weapons and military equipment .(Abdel Bari, 2015) In an Amnesty International report, Islamic State fighters are armed with massive stockpiles of AK47 (Kalashnikov) machine guns, as well as its American-made M16, CQ and German FN Herstal FALs, as well as the Belgian FN Herstal FAL. Experts have noted the presence of the following items in the Islamic State's arsenal: Austrian Steyr and Russian SVR sniper rifles, Russian, Chinese, Iraqi and Belgian-made machine guns, Soviet and Yugoslavian anti-tank missiles, and Russian, Chinese and Iranian artillery. In addition, the Islamic State (ISIS) was able to seize more sophisticated equipment such as Russian-made anti-tank guided missiles, the Chinese G-8, the Chinese Milan and the European Hot, surface-to-air missiles and Chinese-made FN-6 MANPADS) (Amnesty, 2015). A study by an organization dealing with armed conflict that collects information on arming the Islamic State (ISIS) indicates that the organization obtains its ammunition from 21 countries And that this diversity in the sources of armament shows the extent of its fighters' prowess in arming themselves and expanding their spheres of influence, and the study simultaneously warned of the danger of supplying weapons through proxies in the region as the security forces receive munitions that they are unable to hold (Hussein, 2014). As for the numbers of fighters coming to the organization, their numbers range from 25,000 to 30,000, according to a US Pentagon report released in January 2015 (BBC, 2015). In a report prepared by the British Telegraph newspaper, the report estimated that the number of Arab fighters at about 12 thousand fighters distributed in varying proportions in the Arab world, where Tunisia, for example, came to the forefront of the countries that export these fighters. (Islamic state, 2011) Tunisia alone has a number of members of this organization about 2500 people, all in Syria and Iraq. In financial terms, the organization controlled oil wells and refineries in eastern Syria

(Raqqa and Deir Al-Zour), which provided the organization with daily financial income in the range of two million US dollars, as well as selling oil from Iraqi fields in both the Ajil and Abbas fields located in Hamrin Mountains in the east from Tikrit, the governorate center Salah al-Din, as he smuggled oil through local and international agents and continued this work for more than two years at a daily rate of approximately one million dollars and over a period of international aviation that was formed to fight this organization! Not to mention that he acquired more than half a billion dollars in cash through his control of The Central Bank of Iraq J in the Iraqi city of Mosul Likewise, the gold reserves when it invaded the city on June 11, 2014. Indeed, the organization increased its funding from the proceeds of the ransoms obtained as a result of the release of the hostages and the sale of antiquities in both Iraq and Syria, and here it appears that the state organization has achieved complete financial independence unlike the Al Qaeda and other jihadi organizations that still depend on Foreign aid (Raji, 2017).

So the battle is difficult and long, this is what came out of the American general John Allen, where he described the conflict as "the battle of generations" (John, 2016) A study conducted by the Center for Strategic and Budget Assessment in October 2014 showed that the war budget for ISIS amounts to more than one billion dollars, and could reach \$ 1.8 billion in the case of using ground forces in military operations, where the strength of those fighting forces will reach 25 thousand fighters. The study the cost of American air strikes against elements of the state organization per month between 200 to 300 million dollars, bringing the annual cost to nearly 4 billion dollars (Believers without Borders, 2014). With the battle of the final decision in the last strongholds of the organization in Nineveh approaching, the number of these raids will approach twelve thousand in just over two years. 12 million dollars per day, this is what the United States guarantees in the

war against ISIS, and the cost of raids is 5.2 million dollars per day, and with 724 days of fighting against the organization, the total costs amounted to approximately 7-8 billion dollars during two years, specifically from the beginning of August 2014 to End of July 2016 according to Western periodicals and media reports. Reports stated that "the United States recorded 724 combat days against ISIS, and the US Air Force alone against ISIS carried out 11,558 air strikes, since the international campaign against ISIS began, including 6,657 air strikes in Iraq and 4,901 raids against IS in Syria." According to reports, the air forces of the rest of the countries participating in the international alliance, which includes Britain, France, Australia, Canada, Germany and Turkey in addition to Italy, Poland and Denmark, in addition to 60 other countries carried out 3414 raids against the targets of the organization in Iraq and Syria. The cost of daily raids is \$ 5.2 million, while the cost of other military action requirements is \$ 6.8 million. According to reports, 65% of the cost of the operations was devoted to financing the airstrikes on the organization (Al-Gomhoria News, 2016). After a simple calculation, it turns out that the cost of the war after July 2016 until mid-December reached \$ 1,620 billion, and by adding this number to the previous number, we find that the cost of this war and until mid-December 2016 reached 10,308 billion dollars. So this war will be paid by the Iraqi people and the Syrian people in addition to its losses in the infrastructure that was destroyed and the cities that have become ruins (Raji, 2017). The war against ISIS lasted for more than three years and the Iraqi forces and with the help of the international coalition forces managed to control and liberate the last Iraqi cities, which is a city Mosul and declaring victory over this organization on 12/12/2017,

But the fact is that it has not been completely eradicated and its groups and cells remain operating and carrying out some operations against Iraqi forces. Therefore, the extreme danger posed by the

organization is due to its unique characteristics and its embodiment of long-term trends and risks in the broader Middle East extending from Pakistan to the Atlantic Ocean. Starting from the latter, we see a state system as Henry Kissinger recently described it - laying under enormous pressure as the peoples of the region question its legitimacy. The loyalty of these peoples to any particular country rivals exclusive ties of belonging, Tribal or local, motivations in favor of regional Islamic unity, and nationalist tendencies regarding Arab peoples. Indeed, ISIS is the latest in a long line of Islamist movements calling for regional Islamic unity that adopts a violent approach (James, 2015)

# 3. The Case of Algeria, the Signs of the Crisis and its Repercussions

The history of jihadist currents in Algeria began with the emergence of what was known as the Islamic Awakening in Algeria, specifically with the Islamic Salvation Front, a movement that won a majority of votes in the parliamentary elections headed by Abbas Madani and Ali Belhaj, on December 26, 1991, and these events were preceded by a very important event which is events The uprising of Sunday, October 5, 1988, or what the Algerians see as their Arab spring which preceded the twenty-two years of the Arab Spring, and which paved the way for the emergence of a multi-party system according to which the Islamic Salvation Front was born .After the victory of the front ,the Algerian army moved and canceled the electoral path, which led the movement to take up arms and engage in a war of attrition with the authority. It was the first and most prominent person to go to armed action (the Armed Islamic Group) in 1992 and entered the country in what was known as the Black Decade, and this was described because the country entered In a fierce war between the jihadist groups, the Algerian security forces and the army, however, the war had its bloody

and brutal effects, as more than 150,000 Algerian citizens were killed, not to mention 7,200 missing persons, in addition to the material losses inflicted on the country (Arabic.cnn, 2016). Observers believe that the Islamic State is only a revised version of the Armed Islamic Group in Algeria in the nineties of the last century, where the Islamic State takes the same violent approach that the Islamic Group was going on, so they agree in the same approach that calls to confront all those who contradict their approach, thinking and atonement with armed violence (Nawal, 2014). There was not a single jihadi movement on the Algerian scene, but there were many combating currents against the state, and they all agreed to atone for the regime and describe it as labor for the West, as Algeria also had another experience with what was known as jihadist salafism represented in the (Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat), which was formed in 1998 by Hassan Hattab, who defected from the Armed Islamic Group with a group of his followers to form the first nucleus of the Salafist group .With this announcement and direction, the path of the jihadi movement began to take a somewhat different path, as the Salafi group exonerated the massacres committed by the Armed Islamic Group against the Algerian people, but it continued its approach in fighting the Algerian government and its goal, according to the group's claim to establish the Islamic State, in agreement with the Islamic State In the same idea, which is the application of Islamic law in the land, however, the Islamic State (ISIS) has a bigger dream, which is the application of the caliphate and expansion, while the Salafi group was limited in its geographical scope to Algeria .As a reminder, the United States has designated the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat in the Terrorist List .The affairs of the group evolved until the case brought them to pledge allegiance to al-Qaeda led by Osama bin Laden and to become its name (Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) (Abdullah, 2018).

# 4. Organization of the State and the Algerian Reality

The announcement came about the branch of the Islamic State in Algeria, and it was known (as the Soldiers of the Caliphate in the Land of Algeria), and the entire state hopes that a great victory will be achieved in the land of Algeria by virtue of the experiences that preceded the jihadist organizations in Algeria, as it entered the country in the wake of a war that lasted nearly ten years and its repercussions are still It is apparent to this day as if the organization came to build on what was built by the legacy of the previous jihadist groups and currents, which either abandoned armed action with the National Reconciliation Law that President Abdelaziz Bouteflika brought, which gives a complete exemption to those who lay down arms and tend to peace, or they have given up Because of what I found From the blows received by the army and security forces in the context of its war against it. The pledge of allegiance to the Soldiers of the Caliphate in the land of Algeria for the Islamic State came in an audio recording broadcast on the Internet, in which the group's leader, Abd al-Malik Qouri, known as (Khaled Abi Suleiman), pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi Khalifa .Khaled Abu Suleiman was before that under the command of Abdel Malek Droudkal, the prince of Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb, who defected from him on 09/13/2014, and carried out his first demonstration operations, which kidnapped French mountain climber Hervey Gordal at the top of the mountains of Bouira Province and wanted the organization through this process to His presence is confirmed, as the French hostage appeared in a video recording calling on his country to stop air strikes on Iraq as a condition for his release within twenty-four hours (Boualem, 2014).

# 5. The Strategy of the Algerian Security Forces to Confront the Threat of the Islamic State

One of the most important challenges that the Algerian army faces is lawlessness in neighboring countries, especially Libya, where the distance of the Algerian border with its neighbors is about 6386 km. This led the army to enhance the presence of its forces and mechanisms on the borders, especially the Libyan ones (Bahaa El-Din, 2018). The army raised the highest state of alert on the Libyan border due to fear of infiltration by elements of the Islamic State, which has now taken control of a number of Libyan cities, most notably Sirte. Likewise, the reinforcement of the forces came to prevent arms smuggling, and in this context, General Ahmed Qayed Saleh, Chief of Staff of the Algerian Army and Deputy Minister of Defense Raise the state of security alert in the context of precautionary measures in anticipation of any possible developments in the region, especially after the events in the Tunisian city of Bin Qirdan and the attack by ISIS on it by members of the organization who infiltrated from Libya (Russia Today Channel, 2016). Sources indicate Until the leadership of the Algerian army mobilized more than 50 thousand soldiers and gendarmes on the border with Libya after the organization took control of the Libyan city of Sirte, as it became separated by only 1,000 km from the organization's fighters on the Algerian border, which called on the army to take precautionary measures that would maintain security the border (Muhammad, 2015). Likewise, the Algerian army managed to hit the organization in its cradle and its early stages when a unit of the Algerian elite forces managed to eliminate the Emir of the Algerian branch of the state organization, Qouri Abdel-Malik called Khaled Abi Suleiman in Yusr in Boumerdes state in eastern Algeria, accompanied by two of his comrades who were preparing to enter the capital to implement Operation in one of the commercial centers, and this process comes to the army after only three months after the pledge of allegiance to Abd al- Malik Qori, Emir of the caliphate, affiliated to the State Organization. It

seems clear to the follower that the Algerian army was able to control the reins of affairs in its war against the Islamic State by strengthening the intelligence role that Algeria attaches great importance in eliminating organizations and tracking their operations and monitoring their sources of funding and support, which facilitates the elimination of logistical matters that give the organization the sources of strength .As well as strengthening its operations, whether by monitoring borders to prevent the flow of arms and fighters, as well as its operations in the strongholds that the organization has its center in the mountain ranges linking the states (Boumerdes - Tizi Ouzou - Bouira) and the army's operations are still ongoing as of this writing.

# 6. Algeria and the Attractiveness of the State Organization

Many observers of Algerian affairs see that the organization's chances in Algeria are weak, as the extremism's extremism and extremism remind them of the black decade that passed through the country and that the Algerians breathed a sigh of relief after its end. According to a statement by the Algerian Minister of Religious Affairs Mohamed Issa, the number of Algerian fighters in the Islamic State does not exceed 63 A fighters (Hadjer, 2017). Thus, it is considered the lowest number of fighters, according to Interpol confirmation, while other sources indicate that the number reaches 200 fighters, but in any case they are the lowest percentage of the fighters of the organization, and if we follow the statements and publications of the Islamic State, we find that it has tried in more than issuing the loyalty of the Algerians So, the issue of (Message to the People of Algeria) came, in which three members of the organization appeared, the Algerian nationality, who joined the organization in (the Syrian Province of Ragga), namely Abu Bara, Abu Hafs, and a third person who did not reveal his identity, as they criticized the Algerians' delay in pledging allegiance to the Islamic

State. There were many versions that demanded the Algerians to pledge allegiance and their delay in it, as was also the case in the version of (Enchanting the eyes of the people and terrorizing them) issued by what was known as (Wilayat al-Khair) or (Deir al-Zour) Syria previously, where the publication attacked the Arab Maghreb regimes led by Algeria and came to reprimand the cells of the Islamic State in Algeria to increase its activity in Algeria and the Maghreb in general. As the Algerians are still concerned about the possibility of returning to the turbulence of the nineties, especially with the outbreak of conflicts in neighboring countries, Libya and Libya, which may extend to Algeria, moreover, the images flowing from Syria and Iraq, which represent a painful reminder to Algerians of the events of the black decade (Dalia, 2014)

### **Results**

A follower of the Islamic State's affair finds that this organization is in both Iraq and Syria, and that it almost ended in Iraq after declaring victory over it and liberating all Iraqi lands that fell under its control after 6/10/2014. He managed in a simple period to expand and achieve influence not achieved by any other jihadist groups, as the state's slogan (remaining and expanding) included two parts of the first part, which is wrestling to survive in light of the attack based on it from the countries of the coalition against it, and the **second part** is the expansion of the state, and it has been reeling between controlling other regions and losses And by studying the organization and trying to find it in Algeria, we find that it was not carefully studied, for several reasons:

1. The long experience that the Algerian security forces gained in their struggle with the jihadist currents. Over the course of two decades, the security forces in all their branches were able to gain experience that enabled them to control the course of security reality to some extent.

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2. The bitter experience that the Algerian people have experienced with the previous jihadist currents, has created a fear for it to repeat the scenario of the black decade that passed through the country.

3. However, at the same time, we must not lose sight of the strength and ability of the organization, despite the blows it receives. The organization has the ability to renew blood in its veins, especially through its sleeping cells, which will be ready to work at any moment they may be instructed to do so.

#### **Conclusions**

State institutions must be built on democratic national foundations that guarantee the participation of all in building the homeland, in order to preserve the stability of societal security inside Algeria .The basic life requirements of the citizen must be met, as this helps to enhance security and public order in the country .Likewise ,the policy of suppressing the other opinion should be avoided and an opportunity to express opinion in all its forms should be avoided so that the country does not make mistakes committed in the past, especially in the nineties of the last century when the Islamic Salvation Front was neutralized from the scene, which followed the Islamic trend to raise arms as a way to restore their stolen rights from him.

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