

Public Annex B

Structure and organisation of the Islamic State operating in Afghanistan – 2014-2017

Relevant Period	Leadership	Summary	Source
2014	<p>Overall: Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi</p> <p>In Afghanistan: No formal leadership. Some reports of Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost being appointed <i>amir</i> for the ISIS-Khurasan region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost was appointed interim <i>amir</i> for the ISIS-Khurasan region (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asian republics). A former Guantanamo prison detainee and Afghan Taliban commander, Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost and other militant commanders had previously announced their allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the IS ‘Caliph (September 2014). • Pledges of allegiance by senior commanders: Six top commanders of the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban (“TTP”) Pakistan, including spokesman Shahidullah Shahid, announced their allegiance to Abu Bakar Al-Baghdadi of the Islamic State. The other commanders included: TTP amir for Orakzai Agency Saeed Khan, TTP’s Kurram Agency chapter chief Daulat Khan, Fateh Gul Zaman, who heads TTP in Khyber Agency, TTP’s Peshawar amir Mufti Hassan and TTP’s Hangu chief Khalid Mansoor (October 2014) • Control over territory The UNSG assessed that despite rumours of the presence of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Afghanistan, to date no major part of the Afghan insurgency has declared allegiance to 	<p>AFG-OTP-0003-3009 & AFG-OTP-0008-1911 at -1912 (Appointment of Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost as interim leader)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0008-2023 (Pledges of allegiance by senior commanders)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0004-7148 at -7152 (Control over territory)</p>

		ISIL (September-December 2014)	
2015	<p>Overall: Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi</p> <p>In Afghanistan: Hafiz Saeed Khan AKA Mulla Saeed Orakzai (January 2015 – July 2016)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread of ISIL-KP influence Afghan security forces estimate that around 10 per cent of the active Taliban-dominated insurgency are ISIS sympathisers [...] the viral spread of ISIS branding is in evidence, with sightings of groups with some form of ISIS branding or sympathy reported in 25 provinces in Afghanistan, according to Afghan Government sources. (October 2014 - August 2015) • Background of ISIL-KP members According to a number of Afghan security officials, groups that have declared loyalty to ISIS in Afghanistan can be divided into three categories: the largest number of individuals has been recruited from within already existing insurgent groups, some of which are disgruntled with the central leadership of the Taliban. [...] The second largest group of individuals that operates under the ISIS banner in Afghanistan is made up of fighters who have fled into Afghanistan owing to the ongoing Pakistani military operations in the border region. These individuals formerly belonged to groups such as Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and rebranded themselves in recent months. Many of these individuals have close connections to, or sympathise with, the Al-Qaida movement. Finally, a very small number of non-Afghan individuals have come to Afghanistan directly from Iraq or the Syrian Arab Republic and are considered by Afghan officials to constitute the nucleus of ISIS activities in the country. (October 2014 - August 2015) 	<p>AFG-OTP-0005-1969 at -1977 (Spread of ISIL-KP influence, Background of ISIL-KP members)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal Establishment of ISIL-KP: Islamic State’s spokesperson announced the establishment of Wilayat Khurasan (Khurasan Province), a reference to a historical region broadly centering on Afghanistan and Pakistan. (January 2015). <i>(NB: Wilayat Khurasan will hereafter be called “ISIL-KP”)</i> • Appointment of Hafiz Saeed Khan Abu Muhammad al-Adnani also endorsed a former Taliban commander, Hafiz Saeed Khan, as governor (wali) of ISIL-KP in the same speech (January 2015) • Death of deputy leader The “deputy governor” of ISIL-KP, Abdul Rauf Khadim was killed in the Kajaki district of Afghanistan’s Helmand Province. (February 9, 2015) • Death of deputy leader The “deputy governor” of ISIL-KP, Hafiz Wahidi, was killed in Helmand Province. (March 2015) • IMU joins ISIL-KP The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) (An Afghanistan-based militant group) pledged allegiance to ISIL and declared they were now members of ISIL-KP. Clashes broke out between the IMU and the Taliban in Zabul province following this pledge. (August 2015) The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan was destroyed by the Taliban (November-December 2015) 	<p>AFG-OTP-0008-2028 at -2030 & AFG-OTP-0008-1895</p> <p>(Formal Establishment of ISIL-KP, Appointment of Hafiz Saeed Khan)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0008-2433 (killing of Abdul Rauf Khadim)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0008-1907 (killing of Hafiz Wahidi)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0008-2039 at 2041 (IMU pledges allegiance to ISIL, IMU destroyed by Taliban)</p>
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2016	<p>Overall: Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi</p> <p>In Afghanistan: Abdul Haseeb Logari (2016–April 2017)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control over territory ISIL-KP remained limited in its presence to the Achin, Deh Bala and Chaparhar districts of Nangarhar Province. (December 2015 – March 2016). Afghan security forces, supported by international military assets, have conducted regular air and ground operations against ISIL-KP in both Nangarhar and Kunar Provinces. These operations have confined the group’s presence in both provinces. An additional, smaller presence of ISIL-KP exists in Nuristan Province (September -December 2016). • Estimated size of ISIL-KP: 7,000–8,500 Daesh members based on Afghan soil and 2,000–3,000 based in Pakistan. These figures are inclusive of all active Daesh members, both fighters and support elements. (February 2016) • Sharp increase in civilian deaths attributed to ISIS UNAMA documented a sharp increase in civilian casualties caused by groups belonging to, • or claiming allegiance to ISIL-KP. In 2016, UNAMA attributed 899 civilian casualties (209 deaths and 690 injured) to ISIS as opposed to 82 civilian casualties (39 	<p>AFG-OTP-0008-1915 at -1920 & AFG-OTP-0008-1960 at -1964 (Control over territory)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0008-2047 at -2048) (Estimated size of ISIL-KP)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0006-3441 at -3525 (Sharp increase in civilian deaths attributed to ISIS)</p>

		<p>deaths and 43 injured) in 2015. ISIS publically claimed responsibility for 11 separate incidents that resulted in 747 civilian casualties (166 deaths and 581 injured). In addition to these civilian casualties, UNAMA also documented an additional 107 civilian casualties (45 deaths and 62 injured) and the abduction of 12 civilians perpetrated by self-identified ISIS fighters in Ghor, Jawzjan, and Sari Pul provinces. (January-December 2016)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level Defections from ISIL-KP Several members of ISIL-KP’s “central council” as well as other senior and mid-level leaders based in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar broke their oath to Abu Bakr al Baghdadi and re-joined the Taliban. (April 2016) • Death of Hafiz Sayed Khan Hafiz Sayed Khan, head of ISIL-KP, was killed by a US drone strike (26 July 2016) • Appointment of Abdul Haseeb Logari A former Afghan Taliban commander, Abdul Haseeb Logari, replaced Hafiz Saeed Khan as leader of ISIL-KP. (August 2016) 	<p>AFG-OTP-0008-1978 (High-level Defections from ISIL-KP to Taliban)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0008-2055 (Killing of Hafiz Sayed Khan)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0008-1898 at -1899 (Appointment of Abdul Haseeb Logari)</p>
2017	<p>Overall: Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi</p> <p>In Afghanistan: Abdul Rahman Ghaleb AKA Abu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control over territory: ISIL-KP maintained its presence in southern Nangarhar Province, as well as in Kunar and Nuristan Provinces. Notwithstanding the clearing operations of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, with the support of international 	<p>AFG-OTP-0008-2255 at -2258 & AFG-OTP-0008-2351 at -2355, -2355. (Control over territory)</p>

	Saeed (April 2017–July 2017)	<p>military forces, by the end of 2016, the group reportedly returned to the areas from which they were cleared. (March 2017) While ISIL-KP operations remain mostly limited to eastern Afghanistan, the group claimed responsibility for eight significant attacks nationwide during the reporting period. The group consolidated its presence in Kunar Province and succeeded in re-establishing operational capacity in areas of Nangarhar Province that previously had been cleared by Afghan security forces. Elsewhere, alleged ISIL-KP activities were reported in the northern provinces of Jowzjan and Sari Pul, as well as in the western provinces of Herat and Ghor, indicating that the group may have attracted affiliates in areas beyond its stronghold in the east. (September 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated size of ISIL-KP: US officials believe the movement has only 700 fighters, but Afghan officials estimate it has around 1,500, with twice as many auxiliary helpers and up to 8,000 less active supporters. (March 2017) • Death of Abdul Haseeb Logari Abdul Haseeb Logari, leader of ISIL-KP, was killed during the course of a raid carried by Afghan Special Security Forces & U.S. forces (27 April 2017) • Appointment of Abdul Rahman Ghaleb Abdul Rahman Ghaleb AKA Abu Saeed was appointed as the leader of ISIL-KP (April/May 2017) 	<p>AFG-OTP-0008-1903 at -1905 (Size of ISIL-KP)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0008-2053 (Death of Abdul Haseeb Logari)</p> <p>AFG-OTP-0008-1890 at -1892 (Appointment of Abdul Rahman</p>
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