



*ISIS continues to expand its influence in Southeast Asia. ISIS confirmed local militant leader Isnilon Hapilon as its appointed leader in the Philippines on April 19, indicating that ISIS likely intends to announce an affiliate in the area in the near term. ISIS has also begun to frame local supporters' clashes with state security forces in the Philippines as part of the operations of the Caliphate, suggesting ISIS may seek to expand military support or cooperation to its Southeast Asian supporters.*

1. ISIS-linked 'Amaq News Agency claimed that ISIS militants kidnapped 20 Philippine soldiers in **Lanao** on the island of **Mindanao** on March 6, amidst ongoing clashes between militants and the Philippine army.
2. Elements of pro-ISIS Abu Sayyaf Group kidnapped four foreigners from the island of **Samal**, southern **Philippines** on March 11; ten Indonesian sailors near **Batangas**, southern **Philippines** on March 29; and four Indonesian sailors from **Cebu**, **Philippines** on April 15. Abu Sayyaf traditionally relies on kidnappings as a source of revenue.
3. Indonesian authorities arrested fourteen people in **Jakarta** suspected of attempting to travel to join ISIS in **Syria** on March 14.
4. Indonesian authorities killed two Uighur militants in a shootout with pro-ISIS group East Indonesian Mujahidin (MIT) in **Poso**, **Central Sulawesi** on March 16, demonstrating the presence of foreign militants in the region.
5. Pro-ISIS group Ansar al-Khilafah Philippines (AKP) released a video showing the beheading of an alleged spy in **Sarangani**, southern **Philippines** on March 17, the first video of its kind from AKP.
6. A component of the Abu Sayyaf Group known as Jund at-Tawhid Battalion pledged allegiance to ISIS in **Sulu**, **Mindanao** on March 20.
7. ISIS-linked Furat Media released a video on March 23 encouraging Indonesians to reject other militant groups and pledge allegiance to ISIS, indicating ongoing rivalries amongst numerous local groups.
8. Malaysian authorities arrested fifteen people in **Kuala Lumpur** on March 24 suspected of planning an attack in **Malaysia**. The group reportedly received instruction from Malaysian ISIS recruiter based in **Syria** Mohammad Wanndy Mohamed Jedi.
9. ISIS claimed killing nearly 100 Philippine troops in clashes in **Basilan**, southern **Philippines** on April 13, its first official claim in Southeast Asia. During the clash, Philippine forces killed Moroccan cleric and bomb-maker Mohammad Khattab, who was attempting to recruit and organize Philippine militant groups in order to connect with a transnational ISIS network.
10. A Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) splinter group identified as "MILF in Lanao" pledged allegiance to ISIS in a photoset possibly shot near Lake Lanao, western **Mindanao**, **Philippines** on April 20. The group also released a photoset of the beheading of two "spies." This pledge may threaten the peace agreement between MILF and the Philippine government, which guaranteed the establishment of an autonomous Muslim region in the southern **Philippines** by 2016.