

PARTIAL ASSESSMENT OF ISIS'S RAMADAN CAMPAIGNS*

ISIS Ramadan Campaign Successes <i>(key events in the 3 weeks before Ramadan and throughout the holy month)</i>	Effects
<hr/> <p>2012 RAMADAN DATES JUL 19 AUG 18</p>	
<p>Strategic Inflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jul 21: ISIS Emir Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced “Breaking the Walls” in Iraq 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated the inability of the Iraqi Security Forces to protect Iraq. • Induced Iraqi Government to violently suppress an ongoing protest movement among Iraqi Sunni. • Regenerated the AQI/ISI fighting force through a series of prison breaks. • Degraded Iraqi Security Forces, thereby setting conditions for AQI/ISI to resurge.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Relevant ISW Publications: “Al-Qaeda in Iraq Resurgent,” September 2013</i></p>	
<hr/> <p>2013 RAMADAN DATES JUL 8 AUG 7</p>	
<p>Strategic Inflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jul 29: ISIS Spokesman Abu Muhammad al-Adnani announced “Soldier’s Harvest” in Iraq 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further degraded the Iraqi Security Forces. • Intimidated and punished local populations of Iraqi Sunni. • Set conditions to seize control of physical terrain in Iraq.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Relevant ISW Publications: “AQI’s ‘Soldiers’ Harvest’ Campaign,” October 2013</i></p>	
<hr/> <p>2014 RAMADAN DATES JUN 28 JUL 28</p>	
<p>Strategic Inflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jun 29: Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared the establishment of the ISIS Caliphate • ISIS seizes further terrain in Iraq and Syria, exploiting the success of its operation in Mosul <p>Major Attacks in New Countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 24: Shooting at Jewish Museum of Belgium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established the ISIS Caliphate and began its expansion. • Psychologically intimidated opponents in Iraq and Syria in order to sustain its military momentum. • Demonstrated to supporters that ISIS is an organization with global objectives. • Drove anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment in Europe that fueled radicalization and polarization.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Relevant ISW Publications: “The Islamic State: A Counter-Strategy for a Counter-State,” July 2014</i></p>	



ISIS Ramadan Campaign Successes

(key events in the 3 weeks before Ramadan and throughout the holy month)

Effects

2015 RAMADAN DATES JUN 17

JUL 17

Major Attacks in New Countries

- Jun 26: SVEST at Shi'a mosque in Kuwait

Other Major Attacks

- Jun 26: Tunisia: Complex attack against Westerners at a beach resort in Tunisia
- Jun 26: Decapitation and truck attack in Saint-Quentin-Fallavier, France
- Jun 25-26: Complex attacks on Kobani, Syria

- Targeted Shi'a worshippers in stable countries to drive polarization across the Muslim world.
- Drove anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment in Europe that fueled radicalization and polarization.
- Intimidated U.S.-Led Coalition and Kurds in Syria by demonstrating ability to attack behind frontlines.

Relevant ISW Publications: "What ISIS Might Try Next: A Forecast for Ramadan 2015," June 2015

2016 RAMADAN DATES JUN 5

JUL 5

Major Attacks in New Countries

- Jun 28: Grenade attack on a bar in Malaysia

Other Major Attacks:

- Jul 1-2: Complex attack on a café in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Jun 12: Mass shooting targeting a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida
- Jun 28: Complex attack on Ataturk Airport in Turkey
- Jul 4: Four SVEST attacks in three locations in Saudi Arabia
- Jul 3: Major SVBIED targeting civilians in Karrada, Baghdad

- Expanded ISIS global attacks to offset losses in Iraq and Syria and maintain image as the predominant terrorist group.
- Attacked regional power centers to challenge them for leadership of the Muslim world.
- Punish Western nations for participating in the U.S.-Led Coalition.
- Provoked sectarianism among civilians in core terrain in order to bolster its resilience against anti-ISIS operations.

Relevant ISW Publications: "ISIS Forecast: Ramadan 2016," May 2016
"ISIS's Regional Campaign: Ramadan 2016," July 2016



ISIS Ramadan Campaign Successes <i>(key events in the 3 weeks before Ramadan and throughout the holy month)</i>	Effects
<p>2017 RAMADAN DATES MAY 26</p> <p>Major Attacks in New Countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jun 7: Complex attacks in Tehran, Iran <p>Other Major Attacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 23-27: Seizure of Marawi, Philippines • Jun 3: Vehicular ramming and stabbing attack on London Bridge • May 22: SVEST attack targeting concert in Manchester, Britain 	<p>JUN 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drove anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment in Europe that fueled radicalization and polarization. • Expanded the caliphate abroad in order to decrease the reliance on terrain in Iraq and Syria to legitimize the Caliphate. • Punished Iran for its anti-ISIS operations. • Drove sectarianism in the Middle East.
<p><i>Relevant ISW Publications: “ISIS’s Global Campaign Remains Intact,” June 2017</i></p>	
<p>2018 RAMADAN DATES MAY 15</p> <p>Other Major Attacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 13-14 Coordinated attacks on churches in Indonesia 	<p>JUN 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded ISIS global attacks to offset losses in Iraq and Syria and maintain image as the predominant terrorist group. • Targeted Christian (minority) churches in order to drive global anti-Muslim sentiment and polarization in the West.

**This chart does not assess attacks that ISIS attempted and failed to conduct as part of its Ramadan campaigns*

