

Commentator's Note: The translation is by Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi. Original links precede each separate article. The notes in **orange text** are intended to illuminate linguistic issues or the operational or tactical strategy. All such comments are set within brackets [] to make clear what comes from the commentator and what is from the writer or the translator. Definitional meanings come from *The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*.

In many ways this set of articles is similar to Robert Roper's 28 "Rules of Ranging" from the Ranger Handbook. These are suggestions for how to conduct operations rather than requirements. They are informative. Our opponent has regularly told us what he wanted to do or how he planned to do it. This is no different. It is worth a read.

<http://www.aymennjawad.org/2019/04/islamic-state-insurgent-tactics-translation> [accessed 27 May 2019].

Islamic State Insurgent Tactics: Translation and Analysis

by Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi • Apr 26, 2019 at 4:09 pm

It has become a cliché that the Islamic State lives on as an insurgency following the loss of its formal control and governance of territory in Iraq and Syria (in jihadi terms, the loss of *tamkin* [variety of meanings include: strengthening, consolidation, cementation; deepening, intensification; fixation, establishment; enabling, enablement, capacitation; livery of seizin (convey holdings of property), investiture (Islamic Law)]). But what exactly are the insurgent tactics pursued following the collapse of the state project? An article in [this week's issue of the Islamic State's al-Naba' newsletter](#) provides some insight into this question. I have translated this article in full for the reader.

In sum, the article, which is intended to be the first in a series, emphasizes that the methods being pursued are not new and are also utilized in areas as diverse as Iraq, Libya and West Africa. The general approach highlighted in this article is one of **taking temporary control of an area and realizing specific aims in that area** (e.g. the aims might be taking out certain wanted targets, seizing some weapons and resources, destroying immovable enemy property and wealth etc.). The area in question might be a single village, a locality, part of a town or even a whole town, depending on the circumstances. The precise means and extent of the expeditions can also vary according to circumstances: for example, the Islamic State fighters might use the cover of enemy forces (as they did in the Haditha assault in western Iraq in March 2012 mentioned in the article, when the Islamic State of Iraq fighters were [wearing SWAT uniforms](#)).

The article emphasizes that **a key feature of these expeditions is to avoid entering into a decisive battle of confrontation with the enemy forces that could result in the Islamic State fighters being surrounded and killed**. Further, it is possible during the expedition itself that the scope may be broadened if an opportunity is perceived in the rapid collapse of the enemy. Interestingly, article gives the example of the assault on Mosul in 2014 as a case of broadening the assault during the operation even though the article makes clear it is not of the same type of operations as detailed in the article. That is, the Mosul assault in 2014 was about taking over territory to administer it and not merely seizing territory on a temporary basis for specific aims beneath the level of *tamkin*. According to the article, as the Iraqi forces collapsed so rapidly, a decision was taken to broaden the assault to the east side of the city and pursue the fleeing remnants of the Iraqi forces.

Below is the article translated in full with the original text.

إسقاط المدن مؤقتا كأسلوب عمل للمجاهدين

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الظهور والتلاشي

فمن ناحية الطريقة، وجدنا المجاهدين في الفترات الانتدائية لحرب العصابات، والتي لا يكون لهم فيها أي منطقة تصلح منطلقا للهجمات أو موطئا آمنا للركن إليها، يخرجون إلى الشوارع في أوقات محددة، وهم مسلحون بما يتوفر بأيديهم من سلاح يمكنهم إخفاؤه بعد انتهاء عملهم، مثلثون لا يرتدون من اللباس إلا ما شابه ثياب أهل المنطقة، ليسول عليهم التخفي عند الحاجة لذلك، فينتشرون في المنطقة، ويسيطرون عليها بشكل كامل أو جزئي لساعات قليلة، وينفذون هدف انتشارهم، ثم وعند تلقيهم الأمر بالانسحاب يبدؤون بالتلاشي والذوبان، دون أن يعثر عدوهم على آثارهم فيما بعد.

فهذه الطريقة يمكن للمجاهدين تنفيذها في حال كان لديهم قوة داخل المنطقة، وكان بالإمكان لديهم الاختفاء بعد انتهاء العمل وتحقيق أهدافه مباشرة، دون أن يتعرضوا لخطر المداومة والاعتقال من قبل العدو الذي قد يقوم بعمليات تشييط كبيرة فور انسحاب المجاهدين منها للعثور على المجاهدين المتخفين للسيطرة المؤقتة على المنطقة.

التسلل والتمويه والكسر

وكذلك رأيناهم في بعض الحالات يتسللون خلال الليل إلى المناطق التي يضعف تواجد العدو فيها، وخاصة في الأرياف المعزولة، ليقوموا بتشبيط إحدى القرى بعدد قليل من المجاهدين، لاعتقال المطلوبين، واغتنام أموال المرتدين، أو إتلافها، ثم الانحياز من المنطقة بعد تحقيق أهدافهم، دون أن يتركوا أثارا تتبع لقوات العدو تعقبهم واعتقالهم، ويمكن تنفيذ هذا بأن يظهر المجاهدون أنفسهم، أو يتخذوا من مظهر العدو نفسه غطاء لهم.

ورأيناهم في غزوة حديثة الشهيرة التي وثقها إصدار (صليب الصوامير ٢) يقتحمون المدينة من مداخلها بغطاء قوات سوات المرتدة، ويسيطرون على معظم أجزائها، حيث حققوا فيها عددا

تعريف

شهدت الفترة الماضية غزوات عدة لمجاهدي الدولة الإسلامية -التي وفقهم الله تعالى لها- على قرى وبلدات في مناطق مختلفة، تمكن خلالها المجاهدون من السيطرة المؤقتة عليها، لتحقيق أهداف محددة سلفا، ثم الانسحاب من المنطقة، قبل تمكن قوات العدو من الوصول إليها لاستئصال جنودها أو أنصارتها.

وقد رأينا مثل هذه العمليات في كل من ليبيا وغرب إقليمية والعراق على وجه الخصوص، وهذا الأسلوب ليس جديدا، إذ لطالما استخدمه المجاهدون في فترات عدم التمكن، وسيبقى أسلوبا في غاية القوة بيد المجاهدين في فترات حرب العصابات التي يخوضونها ضد الكفار والمرتدين، تمهيدا للسيطرة الدائمة على الأرض والمخول في حرب جيهاة للدفاع عنها عند الضرورة.

وصف الأسلوب

ويعتمد هذا الأسلوب على مفاجأة قوات العدو في مناطق ضعيفة، يمكن تأمين تفوق في القوة للمجاهدين فيها، واقتحام قرية أو أكثر أو إحدى البلدات أو المدن، بحسب طاقة المجاهدين، ومن ثم ضرب أو تحييد قوة العدو داخلها، بما يمكن المجاهدين من التحرك داخل المنطقة بحرية، وتحقيق أهدافهم من الغزوة، خلال ساعات قليلة، ثم الانسحاب من مواقع الهجوم، مع تجنب الدخول في معركة حاسمة ضد العدو، والسعي لتجنب الخسائر في صفوف المجاهدين قدر الإمكان.

أما طريقة التنفيذ وكذلك المدى الزمني والمكاني، فهي أمور تختلف بحسب طبيعة المنطقة، وحال العدو فيها من حيث الانتباه والقوة والانتشار والقدرة على الرد، وحال المجاهدين من حيث الإمكانيات المادية والبشرية، والفرات في التخطيط والتنفيذ، وكذلك فإنها تخضع للمرحلة التي بلغها الصراع بين المجاهدين وأعدائهم.

المجاهدين تماما إن أيقنوا أن لا إمكانية لوصول قوات العدو البرية إلى المكان، مع إمكانية تسخّل الطيران في حال بقاء المجاهدين فيها، والذين ليس في مخططهم البقاء فيها، فيعتمد الأمر على هدفهم.

وكذلك فإن المدى الذي المكاني للغزوة يتحقق أساسا بقدرة المجاهدين على الانتشار وتغطية المساحات الواسعة، وهكذا يتفاوت مدى الغزوات بين قرية صغيرة أو بلدة أو حي من مدينة أو مدينة كاملة.

كما أن المدى قد يتغير خلال الغزوة بحسب درجة مقاومة العدو، وسرعة تقدم المجاهدين، حيث قد يغلب على ظن الأمر أن انهيار العدو السريع يساعد على تحقيق تقدم أكبر، مع احتمال ضئيل لوجود خطة استدراج من قبل العدو، ووجود الطريق الآمن للانسحاب ومنع التطويق.

ويمكننا أن نضرب مثلا على ذلك بما حدث في مدينة الموصل، مع الخلاف بأن هدف الهجوم عليها كان السيطرة وليس فقط توجيه ضربة للعدو داخلها ثم الانسحاب، حيث أدى انهيار الجيش الراقضي والقوات الأمنية إلى اتخاذ المجاهدين قرارا بتوسيع الهجوم ليشمل الجانب الأيسر من المدينة ثم ملاحقة قلول العدو الهاربة.

فهكذا يمكن أن يكون هدف المجاهدين الأساسي عزل جزء من المدينة والسيطرة عليه مؤقتا لتنفيذ بعض الأهداف، ولكنهم قد يجدون خلال عملية الاقتحام للحصن أن العدو انهار في أحياء مجاورة أو انسحب من المدينة كلها، ويكون لدى المجاهدين من القوة ما يمكنهم من توسيع نطاق الهجوم، والاستفادة من عامل المفاجأة والارتباك في صفوف العدو، واستثمار الوقت الذي سيحتاجه قبل ترتيب صفوفه للقيام بهجوم مضاد، في عملية سيطرة مؤقتة على كامل المناطق التي انسحب منها العدو، وتحقيق أقصى ما يمكن من الأهداف فيها، قبل الانسحاب منها تجنباً للدخول في معركة تصادية مع قوات العدو القادمة لاستعادة السيطرة على الوضع.

وسنبحث في المقال القادم -برأى الله- في أهداف هذا النوع من الهجمات السريعة، لتبين بذلك فائدتها الكبيرة للمجاهدين، مع الإشارة إلى بعض الأمثلة المناسبة للغرض، والحمد لله رب العالمين.

من الأهداف، قبل أن يتجاوزوا منها إلى الصحراء خلال ساعات.

في حين أنهم عمدوا في بعض الحالات إلى كسر خطوط الصد القوية حول المدن والأرياف، والدخول إليها عنوة، لضرب نقاط قوة العدو داخلها، والسيطرة بذلك على المنطقة في ظل الصدمة التي تصيب العدو، ثم الانسحاب قبل أن يستعيد العدو وبعيه، ويعيد ترتيب صفوفه، أو يستجلب قوات إسناد من خارج منطقته لاستعادة السيطرة.

المهامات الأمنية

وفي حالات أخرى فإن اقتحامات المجاهدين للمناطق تأخذ شكل المداومات التي تقوم بها الشرطة أو الأجهزة الأمنية، حيث تكون دفاعات العدو في المنطقة ضعيفة للغاية أو غير موجودة، مما يسهل على المجاهدين الدخول إلى المنطقة والتجول فيها بحرية خلال ساعات معينة، وتنفيذ كل أهدافهم دون مقاومة كبيرة من المرتدين، ثم الانسحاب إلى حيث أتوا قبل أن تتمكن قوات العدو الفاعلة من الوصول إلى المنطقة، إن كان في نيتها المضور أصلا.

وهذا ما رأيناها في هجمات الإخوة في ليبيا على البلدات المعزولة في مناطق الجنوب الليبي، والتي لا تحدث فيها سوى اشتباكات قليلة مع بعض رجال الشرطة والأمن، تنتهي بقتلهم والسيطرة على مقراتهم، ثم التفرغ لمداومة ما تبقى من المرتدين في المنطقة داخل منازلهم لاعتقالهم أو قتلهم، وكذلك أخذ كل ما يمكن من الغنائم، وإتلاف أموال المرتدين التي لا يمكن نقلها، ثم العودة إلى الصحراء مجددا، لضرب منطقة أخرى، أو العودة لضرب المنطقة نفسها في حال أراء المجاهدون ذلك وتيسرت لهم الإمكانيات.

مدى الغزوة

أما بالنسبة لمدى الغزوة الزماني، فيقصد به مدة سيطرة المجاهدين على المنطقة بعد اقتحامها، وهذا يتوقف على قوة المجاهدين وقوة عدوهم، فقد يضيق الوقت جدا قبل أن تحضر قوات العدو الكبيرة، وتحاول تطويق الإخوة وإجبارهم على الدخول في معركة تصادية ليست في صالح المجاهدين، وقد يطول هذا الأمر خاصة في المناطق المعزولة التي ستتأخر قوات العدو قبل الوصول إليها، وقد يكون الخيار بيد

Bringing Down the Towns Temporarily as a Method of Operation for the Mujahideen (1)

Definition

Recently there have been multiple expeditions by the mujahideen of the Islamic State- for which God Almighty granted them success- against villages and localities in different areas, during which the mujahideen managed to take them over temporarily, in order to realize aims defined beforehand, then withdraw from the area, before the enemy forces manage to reach them in order to rescue their soldiers or supporters.

And we have seen the likes of these operations in Libya, West Africa and Iraq in particular. And this method is not new, as the mujahideen have always used it in times when there is no tamkin [consolidation, as in consolidation of gains]. And it will remain as a very powerful method in the hand of the mujahideen in the times of guerrilla warfare that they wage against the disbelievers and apostates, preparing the way for lasting control of the land and entering the war of frontlines to defend them on necessity.

Description of the Method

[When the mujahideen are external to an area.]

And this method relies on surprising the enemy forces in weak areas, in which the mujahideen can be secure in their superiority in force, and assaulting a village or more or one of the localities or towns, according to the strength of the mujahideen. From there they strike or neutralize the force of the enemy inside it, thereby allowing the mujahideen to move about inside the area freely, and realize their aims from the expedition in a matter of a few hours. Then they withdraw from the attack site, while avoiding entrance into a decisive battle against the enemy, and trying to avoid losses in the ranks of the mujahideen as far as possible.

As for the means of implementing and likewise the extent of time and place, they are things that differ according to the nature of the area and the state of the enemy in it from the aspect of alertness, force, distribution and ability to respond and the state of the mujahideen from the aspect of material and manpower capabilities and skills in planning and implementation, and likewise these things are subject to the state that the conflict has reached between the mujahideen and their enemies.

Appearing and Disappearing

[When the mujahideen are internal to an area.]

From the aspect of means, we have found the following regarding the mujahideen in the first periods of guerrilla warfare, in which they have no region suitable as a launch point for attacks or secure enough to rely on. They come out to the streets in specific times, and they are armed with what weapons they have that they can conceal after the end of their work, masked and only wearing the clothes that resemble the clothes of the people of the region, in order to facilitate being concealed for them when they need that, so they spread about in the region, and seize it entirely or in part for a few hours, and they implement the aim of their spreading. Then and when they encounter the order to withdraw, they begin to disappear and melt away, without their enemy finding traces of them subsequently.

So this method can be implemented by the mujahideen when they have force inside the area, and it is possible for them to be concealed after ending the task and fulfilling its aims immediately, without being exposed to the danger of assault and arrest by the enemy that may undertake big sweeping campaigns

as soon as the mujahideen withdraw from it in order to find the mujahideen who carry out the temporary seizure of the area.

Infiltration, Camouflage and Breaking

And likewise we have seen them in some cases infiltration during the night into the areas in which the enemy presence is weak, and especially in the isolated rural areas so that they may sweep through one of the villages with a small number of the mujahideen, in order to arrest the wanted, seize wealth of the apostates or destroy it, then retreat from the area after they realize their aims, without leaving traces that enable the enemy forces to track them and arrest them. Implementing this may mean that the mujahideen show themselves, or they **take from the appearance of the enemy itself a cover for them**.

And we saw in the famous Haditha expedition that was documented in the release Salil al-Sawarim 2 how they assaulted the town from its entrances in the cover of the apostate SWAT forces, and they seized most of its parts, as they realized in it a number of the aims, before withdrawing from them to the desert in a matter of hours.

In addition in some instances they have embarked on breaking the strong lines of resistance around the towns and countrysides, and entering them by force, in order to strike points of the enemy inside them, and thus seizing the area in the shade of the confrontation that may wound the enemy, then withdrawing before the enemy should regain its awareness and reorganize its ranks or bring auxiliary forces from outside its area to regain control.

Security Assaults

[Early Islamic military successes of the 7th century were accomplished through moving into Persian or Roman lands from the desert and, if challenged by strong forces, fleeing back to the desert. In this way, these early Muslim armies have been described as acting like navies in that they could attack from the desert as they chose and when they chose and deny battle in a similar manner. Here one can see the same logic being extolled.]

And in other instances **the mujahideen's assaults on regions take the form of assaults that the police or security apparatuses carry out**, when the enemy's defences in the area are very weak or not present, which facilitates the mujahideen's entrance into the area and moving about in it with freedom during specific hours, and **implementing all their aims without great resistance from the apostates, then withdrawing to where they came from before the active enemy forces manage to arrive at the area**, if there is in their intention to be present from the outset.

And this is what we have seen in the attacks of the brothers in Libya on isolated localities in the areas of south Libya, in which only light clashes occur with some of the men of the police and security, ending in their killing and seizing their bases. Then there is the space to assault what remains of the apostates in the area inside their homes in order to arrest or kill them, and likewise taking all that one can from spoils, and destroying the wealth of the apostates that cannot be moved, then returning to the desert again, to strike another area, or returning to strike the area itself in the event that the mujahideen want to do that and the capabilities have been possible for them.

Extent of the Expedition

[Timing and target location selection]

As for the time extent of the expedition, by this is meant the period of the mujahideen's seizure of the area after assaulting it: this depends on the force of the mujahideen and the force of their enemy, for the timeframe may be very narrow **[burst operations as discussed in *Armed Conflict: the Lessons of Modern Warfare*]** before large enemy forces are present, and they try to surround the brothers and

force them to enter into a battle of mutual confrontation that is not in the interest of the mujahideen. And this matter may be drawn out especially in the isolated areas that the enemy forces will be delayed in reaching, and the choice may be in the hands of the mujahideen entirely if they are convinced that there is no possibility for the enemy's land forces to reach the place, even as the aircraft may intervene in the event that the mujahideen remain in it, while remaining in it is not in their planning, as the matter depends on their aim.

And likewise the extent of place for the expedition depends on the outset on the capability of the mujahideen to spread and cover the wide spaces, and thus the extent of the raids vary between a small village or locality or neighbourhood of a town or an entire town.

Likewise the extent may change during the expedition, according to the degree of the resistance of the enemy and the speed of the advance of the mujahideen, as the amir may think in all probability that the rapid collapse of the enemy will help to realize a greater advance, with a weak possibility of the existence of an allurement plan on the part of the enemy, along with the existence of the safe path for withdrawal and preventing encirclement. [Note the freedom of decision making given to local commanders to expand or contract the mission parameters as needed to take advantage of opportunities or to prevent serious loss.]

And we can give an example of that in what happened in the city of Mosul, despite the fact that the aim of attacking it was to seize it and not only to strike the enemy inside it and then withdraw. The point is that the collapse of the Rafidite army and the security forces led to the mujahideen immediately adopting the decision to broaden the assault to include the left side of the city then catch the fleeing remnants of the enemy. [This statement supports earlier claims that ISIS initially went in to Mosul for a prison break only to expand the scope of their operation as opportunities arose. Even if the prison break story is inaccurate, the original author admits that Mosul was an expanded operation based off opportunities as they were presented during the fighting.]

So thus it may be that the original aim of the mujahideen is to isolate a part of the city and seize it temporarily to implement some of the aims, but they find during the operation to assault the neighbourhood that the enemy has collapsed in adjacent neighbourhoods or has withdrawn from the city entirely. The mujahideen thus have the power to broaden the extent of the assault, take advantage of the element of surprise and confusion in the enemy ranks, and invest the time that the enemy will need before organizing its ranks to counterattack in an operation to seize temporarily the entire areas from which the enemy has withdrawn. Thus the most that can be achieved of aims will be realized in those places, before withdrawing from them to avoid entering into a battle of confrontation with the advancing enemy forces to regain control of the situation. [This section is an excellent example of the US Army concept of mission command – disciplined initiative based off a common understanding of objectives and trust between levels of command.]

And we will explore in the coming article, by God's permission, the aims of this type of rapid assaults, so that their great benefit for the mujahideen may become clear in that, while noting some of the appropriate examples for that purpose. And praise be to God the Lord of the Worlds.

NB: This post resulted from a query by Dr. Jonathan Spyer about the al-Naba' article.

Islamic State Insurgent Tactics: Translation and Analysis (II)

by Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi • May 17, 2019 at 1:52 pm

In a previous post I provided a translation and analysis of the [first article in a series in the Islamic State's al-Naba' newsletter](#) that discusses the group's insurgent tactic of temporarily taking control of areas. That first article emphasized the point that the guerrilla forces of the Islamic State, in pursuing this tactic, would not seek to enter into a decisive confrontation with enemy forces. This second article in the series discusses in-depth the goals of these expeditions. In summary, the objectives can be as follows:

- Inflicting damage on the enemy (nikaya) while also taking necessary war spoils (ghanima) for the mujahideen to continue their operations.
- Freeing prisoners by various means, including launching raids to destroy documentation that might incriminate prisoners, thus their release is secured through the courts for lack of evidence.
- Harassing the enemy whereby they may send reinforcements to an area under attack but the Islamic State fighters will have laid ambushes and IEDs for the reinforcement convoys.
- Forcing the enemy to concentrate large forces in certain areas, preventing them from utilizing their full force to attack the mujahideen.
- Demonstrate the strength of the mujahideen and perhaps force the 'hypocrites' and apostates to abandon their support for the idolatrous tyrants (Tawagheet) and repent. Those hypocrites and apostates may be deterred from joining the ranks of the enemy army in certain areas, while Muslims feel more confident to join and support the mujahideen.
- The enemy can gradually be broken down allowing the mujahideen to secure tamkeen (control/being enabled) in certain places. At first the enemy will try to secure all areas, then be forced to protect more vital ones while losing complete control over others (e.g. granting Islamic State effective control of certain places by night), paving the way for tamkeen.

Below is the article translated in full with the original text.

إسقاط المدن مؤقتاً كأسلوب عمل للمجاهدين

٣

الأهداف

وتتعدد أهداف المجاهدين من استخدام هذا الأسلوب (التكتيك) في حريهم الطويلة الأمد ضد الكافرين، وخاصة في مرحلة القتال بنمط العصابات السابق للمكثفين، ومن الأهداف ما هو مباشر يتمحقق خلال ساعات الغزوة، ومنه ما يتمحقق على المدى المتوسط والبعيد، وخاصة مع تكرار هذا الأسلوب مرات عديدة، وتوزيع الهجمات على مناطق واسعة.

التكايمة والغنيمة

فمن أهم الأهداف المباشرة، تحقيق التكايمة في العدو وأنصاره من خلال أسرهم وقتلهم واقتناص أموالهم أو إتلافها، وذلك لإضعاف قوتهم وفتحهم إلى تركه قتال المجاهدين وتوبة المرتدين من رديتهم، ومنها أيضاً أخذ أموال الكفار بالقرى والغنيمة، وتأمين احتياجات المجاهدين من السلاح والعمار والوقود والآليات والغذاء والدواء والأموال، وغيرها، وخاصة في حال صعوبة تأمين هذه الاحتياجات بسبب ضعف ذات يدهم أو فرض أعدائهم الحصار عليهم، عندما يكون التثخن من العدو وأنصاره هو الوسيلة الأفضل والأكثر بركة، بإذن الله تعالى.

فكك الأسرى

ومنها أيضاً فكك أسر المسلمين، للتجوزع في سجون العدو أو مخافره ومراكزه الأمنية، عن طريق اقتحامها وعدم أسوارها وكسر ألقائهم، أو أسر عدد من قادة العدو وجنوده وأنصاره، بما يمكن من فناء الأخرى بهم، أو حتى إتلاف المستشفيات التي شُيِّدَتْ والوجود في المراكز الأمنية والحاكم الطائفية، مما يسهل - بإذن الله تعالى - إغلاق القضايا المفتوحة لهم في تلك الحاكم، بسبب انعدام الأدلة عليهم.

الاستنزاف

وبذلك فقد يكون الهدف من اقتحام

قرية أو بلدة ما ومهاجمة العدو فيها استنزاف العدو لإرسال قوات من المناطق المجاورة لإنقاذ جنوده الذين يطلبون النجدة منه، حيث سيكون في انتظار الإمدادات كمائن المجاهدين وعبواتهم على الطرقات لتقتل بهم، وتوقع فهم أكبر الخسائر، ويكرر عملية الاستنزاف والفتاخ مرات عديدة، يصبح العدو في حيرة من أمره بين الانشغال لإنقاذ قواته التي تتعرض للهجوم، وبين أمن قواته التي سيرسلها لإنقاذ والتي قد تقع في كمين قاتلة، حتى يصل إلى مرحلة امتناع أي موقع للعدو عن تقديم الدعم والإنشاء للمواقع المجاورة، والطلب من كل موقع الانسحاب عن نفسه، حينها قد يلجأ الجنود للهروب من المواقع أو الاستسلام عند تعرضهم لهجوم يرويه يفوق طاقتهم على الدفاع، في ظل بأسهم من قدوم أي موازنة صديقة لسانيتهم. وقد يكون الاستنزاف أبعد مدى من هذا، وذلك حين يتخصص العدو في مواقع، ويمتثل بحذر شديد بمبدأ ويستمع عن الدخول إلى المناطق التي يسهل على المجاهدين اصطفاها فيها، وعند ذلك يمكن لهم استنزافه باقتحام القرى والبلدات ذات الحماية الضعيفة، وتحقيق التكاية في جنوده وأنصاره، وإتقان ذلك وسيلة لإتلافه وتسريع أفعه في التراب، مما قد يدفعه إلى الخروج من حصونه للاحققة المجاهدين، وطلب الثأر منهم، والانشغال بغير احتراس نحو مناطق خطيرة، يكون المجاهدون قد أحسنوا شهيداً بالعبوات وحقوق الأرقام والكشائر وتبركات القناصين وبصاوي الدروع، لينضل في محركة لجنوده وآلياته لا يخرج منها إلا بشارش كبيرة، ويعود لحصونه مشقاً بالبراج، عازماً على أن لا يعود للاحققة المجاهدين مرة أخرى، مما يتيح لهم حرية حركة أكبر في مناطق عملهم، ومن ثم تكرار استنزافه بشكل أكثر لدفعه مجدداً على الحركة الخطرة.

تثبيت العدو

وبالعكس من ذلك تماماً، فيمكن أن يكون هدف المجاهدين من مهاجمة

القرى والبلدات، إجبار العدو على تثبيت قوات كبيرة فيها للدفاع عنها وحماية مصالحه وطررق إمداده وأنصاره، وتبرز أهمية هذا في حال رغبة العدو بتنفيذ هجوم على مواقع المجاهدين، وذلك بحرماته من قسم كبير من طاقة جيشه التي ستصرف على حماية أهداف قد تكون قليلة الأهمية، وخاصة عندما يكرر للمجاهدين اقتحام قرى وبلدات في مناطق متباعدة، عندما يُجرى العدو على توزيع قواته على مناطق واسعة، لتخوفه من حدود الخسائر في أي مكان، والأفضل أن يفكر المجاهدون لأهدافهم مناطق بعيدة من التي يتوقعون أن يهجم العدو منها، كي لا يستفيد العدو من القوات التي يخصصها للدفاع عن القرى والبلدات في الإنشاء والموازنة عند الحاجة.

كبت المنافقين ونصرة المؤمنين

ومن أهداف هذه الغزوات كسر شوكة المرتدين، ورفع همم المسلمين، فالتأفقون حين يرون من المجاهدين ضعفاء والطواغيت وجيوشهم ظهراء، فإنهم يشجعون باتجاه الرد، بالانشاء إلى جيوش الكفر، ومظاهرتهم على المسلمين، والتجسس لمصالحهم على المجاهدين، وكذلك فإنهم يُدعَوْنَ في إيهام المسلمين وأهاليهم وخاصة ممن هم في صفوف المجاهدين أو مناصروهم، في حين أن كثيراً من أهل الإيمان في هذه المرحلة يفرض عليهم الذلة والاستضعاف، ويتردد كثير منهم عن التحالف بالمجاهدين مخالفةً أن مصيبيهم وأهل الشر.

ولذلك فإن المجاهدين عندما يقتسمون على المنافقين والمرتدين مناطقهم، ويقومون باعتقال رؤوسهم، ويكفون أموالهم التي لأجلها ارتدوا عن دين الله تعالى، وكذلك يُروَّيهم عجز جيوش الطواغيت عن حمايتهم، فإن هذا سيدفع من سلم منهم من يبطش للمجاهدين إلى ترك ما هم عليه، وربما يقودهم إلى التوبة من الكفر، في حين يقو من عزائم المسلمين، ويشفي صدورهم ممن كلفهم، ويعينهم على تقوية إيمانهم بئس الله تعالى لهم وإخوانهم، وجهاد أعدائهم.

وهذا الأمر مهم جداً ليس في إععاد الناس عن الردة وجذبهم إلى الإسلام والجهاد فحسب، ولكن له دور كبير أيضاً في إضعاف جيش العدو، بتقليل

معدلات انضمام المتأكلين من سكان المنطقة إلى صفوفه، وكذلك كل أوجه التعاون الأخرى من تقديم المعلومات أو الإمدادات، وذلك خشية من عقاب المجاهدين لمن يرتد عن دين الله تعالى بذلك، وفي نفس الوقت تشجيع المسلمين على إيمان المجاهدين، عندما يرون قوتهم وقدرتهم على هزيمة أعدائهم بإذن الله تعالى، ويعينهم بالانصراف عنهم.

التمهيد للمكثفين

وبذلك فإن هذا الأسلوب في القتال قد يجعله الله تعالى سبباً لحصول التمكين للمجاهدين في الأرض، وذلك بعد تكرار تنفيذهم مرات كثيرة في مناطق متباعدة، فإن العدو يحاول بادئاً بتغطية كل المناطق، بشكل دائم أو على سبيل توفير النجدة للتأمية للدخول في معركة ضد المجاهدين في أي منطقة يظهر فيها، حيث يبدى جيشه بداية نشاطاً في هذا الباب.

ولكن مع تكرار الأمر، وتعاظم الخسائر الكبيرة في صفوفه، يصبح من الواجب على الجيش المناضلة بين المناطق بحسب درجة أهميتها بالنسبة إليه أو للمجاهدين، فتمتلي أولاً الارتباط بين قطع الجيش الموجودة في المناطق المجاورة، بأن تسمح كل منطقة مسئولة عن أمنها، وذلك لضرورة تنقل القوات بين المناطق أثناء الهجمات عليها، ثم يسيطر على تقديم الحفاظ على المناطق التي يهتد بها، جداً الحفاظ عليها أو منع المجاهدين من السيطرة عليها، وترك المناطق الأخرى بشكل جزئي، بحيث يفتد السيطرة عليها في أوقات معينة (خلال الليل مثلاً) أو أطول من ذلك بحدود يقتصر وجوده على لحظات عابرة تُثبت وجوده فيها من خلال أرباب كبيرة يجول بها بين المناطق التي فقد السيطرة الكاملة عليها، وهو متوقع أن يتجذب المجاهدون للاشتباك معه فيها مؤقتاً، فإن ما تلقى بعض الضربات للوجهة، أو انشغل بأمر آخر، ترك هذه المناطق كلها، وتحولت إلى مناطق خالية من السيطرة، مما يعيد لتمكين المجاهدين فيها بإذن الله تعالى، فهذه بعض من الأهداف المهمة التي قد يسعى المجاهدون لتحقيقها من خلال السيطرة المؤقتة على المناطق، وسنبيده في القتال القادم بإذن الله تعالى في طرق تنفيذ هذا الأسلوب من القتال، والحمد لله رب العالمين.

Bringing down the towns temporarily as a method of operation for the mujahideen 2

Aims

There are numerous aims of the mujahideen from using this method (tactics) in their long-term war against the disbelievers, and especially in the stage of fighting in the form of guerrilla groups preceding tamkeen [recommend seeing this as similar to the US Army doctrinal concept of consolidation of gains]. Among the aims is what is directly achieved during the hours of the expedition, and what is achieved in the medium and long term, and especially with the repetition of this method multiple times, and the distribution of attacks over wide areas.

Nikaya and ghanima

Among the most important direct aims is inflicting nikaya [damage] on the enemy and their supporters through taking them prisoner, killing them and seizing or burning their wealth, and that is in order to weaken their force and push them to abandon fighting the mujahideen and so that the apostates may repent from their apostasy. [Nikaya can be translated as damage, but it has other meanings that may help to illuminate what is meant by damage: wrong, harm, damage, prejudice; vexation, annoyance, grievance, offense, outrage, chicanery. In this context, the meaning is one of damage to achieve a desired end – forcing an intended conduct by the enemy. This isn't destruction for the sake of destruction, but rather to achieve a purpose.]

Also among the aims to take the wealth of the disbelievers in booty and spoils, and secure the needs of the mujahideen in weapons, ammunition, fuel, vehicles, food, medicine and wealth and other things. This is especially so when it is difficult to secure these needs on the account of the weakness of their own hand or because their enemies have imposed the siege on them. In such a case getting provisions for oneself from the enemy and their supporters is the best and most blessed means by the permission of God Almighty.

Freeing prisoners

Among the aims also is to free the prisoners of the Muslims who are held in the prisons of the enemy or their stations and security centres: through assaulting them, breaking their walls [This was a name of ISIS operations in 2012 and 2013 to free prisoners in Iraq.] and breaking their locks, or taking prisoner a number of the leaders of the enemy and their soldiers and supporters, which can allow for the ransom of prisoners through them. Or the means might even consist of destroying the documents that condemn them and are present in the security centres or courts of the Taghut [Meaning: tyrant, oppressor, despot, bully, brute, gorilla], which will facilitate- by the permission of God Almighty- the closing of the open cases for them in those courts, on account of the lack of evidence against them.

Harassment

[This is advocacy for a strategy of exhaustion through attrition. Attack enough places and ambush enough relief columns and then the enemy will be exhausted of morale and simply quit the fight.]

And likewise the aim from assaulting a village or locality and assaulting the enemy in it is to harass the enemy into sending forces from neighbouring regions to save their soldiers who seek help from them, while there will lie in wait for the reinforcements ambushes of the mujahideen and their IEDs on the ways to slaughter them, and inflict on them the greatest losses. And through the repetition of the operation of harassment and traps multiple times, the enemy will fall into a dilemma between being pushed to save their forces that are exposed to attack, and the safety of their forces that they will send

for the purpose of rescuing and which may fall into deadly ambushes.

Things get to the point that any position for the enemy refuses to offer support and relief for the neighbouring positions, and the request is for every position to rely on itself, while the soldiers may resort to fleeing from the positions or surrendering when they are exposed to an attack that they consider to be beyond their ability of defend against, amid their despair about the coming of any allied support to help them. And the harassment may be longer term than this and that is when the enemy fortify themselves in their positions, and move with strong caution between them, and refrain from entering the regions in which it is easy for the mujahideen to hunt them. In that case, it is possible to harass them through assaulting the villages and localities that are weakly protected, and realizing nikaya against their soldiers and followers, and adopting that as a means to humiliate them and bloody their noses in the soil, which may push them to come out of their fortresses to pursue the mujahideen, and seek revenge against them, and being pushed without taking precaution towards regions of danger.

The mujahideen will have done well in paving these areas with IEDs and fields of mines, ambushes, and concentrations of snipers and hunters of armored vehicles, such that it would result in an incineration of their soldiers and vehicles that they could only get out with great losses, and they return to their fortresses, worn out with wounds and determined not to return to pursue the mujahideen again. This then permits for them greater freedom of movement in the areas of their operation, and then they can repeat the harassment of them in a greater form to push them again to dangerous mobilization.

Fixing down the enemy

[Create weakness by forcing the enemy to be strong everywhere.]

And to the complete contrary of that, the aim of the mujahideen in attacking the villages and localities may be to compel the enemy to fix great forces in them in order to defend them and protect their interests, reinforcement routes and supporters. And the importance of this becomes prominent when the enemy desire to implement an attack on the positions of the mujahideen, and that is in barring them from a great portion of the power of their army that will be expended on protecting targets that may be of little importance. This is especially so when the mujahideen repeatedly assault villages in areas far off from each other. In this case, the enemy are forced to distribute their forces over wide areas, as they fear the occurrence of penetration in any place, and it is better that the mujahideen choose for their targets areas that are distant from where they expect the enemy to attack, so that the enemy may not benefit from the forces that they designate to defend the villages and localities in reinforcement and support when they need to do so.

Repressing the hypocrites and supporting the believers

And among the aims of these expeditions is to break the force of the apostates, and raise the zeal of the Muslims [Muslims means only those who agree with the ISIS interpretation of Islam.], for the hypocrites, when they see weakness from the mujahideen and supremacy for the Tawagheet and their armies, they are pushed towards apostasy, affiliating with the armies of disbelief, and supporting them against the Muslims and spying for their interest against the mujahideen. And likewise they are blocked off in harming the Muslims and their families, especially those of them who are in the ranks of the mujahideen or supporting them, at a time when many of the people of faith in this stage face humiliation and weakness imposed on them, and many of them hesitate to join the mujahideen out of fear of harm coming to them and their family.

And therefore when the mujahideen launch assaults against the hypocrites and apostates in their areas, arrest their heads, inflict punishment on the apostates, and destroy their wealth for whose sake they have apostasised from the religion of God Almighty, and likewise show them the inability of the armies

of the Tawagheet to protect them, this will push those of them who have been safe from the power of the mujahideen to abandon what they are upon, and perhaps it will lead them to repenting from disbelief, while it strengthens the determination of the Muslims, and heals their hearts from those who have oppressed them, and helps them strengthen their faith in the victory of God Almighty for them and their brothers, and jihad against their enemies.

And this matter is very important not only in distancing the people from apostasy and luring them to Islam, but also it has a great role in weakening the enemy army, by reducing the averages of enlistment of fighters from the inhabitants of the area into its ranks, and likewise all other forms of cooperation from offering information or offering support, and that is out of fear of the consequence of the mujahideen for the one who apostasises from the religion of God Almighty in that. At the same time the Muslims are encouraged to help the mujahideen, when they see their force and ability to defeat their enemies, by the permission of God Almighty, and their certainty in their victory against them.

Paving the way for tamkeen

And likewise this method in fighting may be made a cause by God Almighty in the realization of tamkeen [consolidation of gains] for the mujahideen in the land, and that after the repeated implementation of the method many times in multiple areas, for the enemy will at first try to cover all the areas, in a permanent sense or in the way of making available reinforcements on alert to enter into a battle against the mujahideen in any region in which they appear, while showing their army in the beginning to be active in this regard.

But with the repeated occurrence of the matter, and the multiplying of great losses in their arms, it becomes necessary for the army to choose between reasons according to the degree of their importance with regards to them or the mujahideen, so at first the connection between the sectors of the army present in the neighbouring areas ends, so that each area becomes responsible for its own security, and that is on account of the danger of moving forces between areas during the attacks upon them [Effectively dis-integration of the enemy security.]. Then they are compelled to offer protection to the areas that they are very concerned to protect, or prevent the mujahideen from seizing them, while partially leaving other areas, such that they lose control over them in specific times (during the night for example) or longer than that as their presence is limited to temporary moments in which they strengthen their presence through great convoys patrolling with them between the regions over which they have lost complete control. And it is expected that the mujahideen will avoid clashing with them in them temporarily, for when they encounter some painful strikes, or become preoccupied with another matter, they leave those areas totally, and they become areas devoid of control, which paves the way for the mujahideen to have tamkeen [consolidated gains] in them by the permission of God Almighty.

So these are some of the important aims that the mujahideen strive to realize through temporary control over areas, and we will discuss in the next article by the permission of God Almighty the means of implementing this method of combat. And praise be to God the Lord of the Worlds.

Islamic State Insurgent Tactics: Translation and Analysis (III)

by Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi • May 19, 2019 at 10:50 am

For prior parts in this series, see:

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

This article in the al-Naba' newsletter on the Islamic State insurgent tactics of temporarily taking control of areas discusses the issue of implementation of the method. The article emphasizes that there is no single masterplan for such expeditions as circumstances vary according to place. However, the article offers **general guidelines** to the mujahideen on their conduct of these operations:

- Do not take on more than you are capable of.
- The need for precise and accurate intelligence gathering, while sorting through information to find out what is useful and what is not. Intelligence is attained from many sources including reconnaissance units, local inhabitants who are supportive of the Islamic State, enemy prisoners etc. During expeditions guides are assigned to units to convey them to their targets and help them get out.
- Cutting off paths of the enemy forces to prevent their reinforcements from taking the mujahideen by surprise, and also to inflict losses on those enemy forces.
- Seizing control of entrances and exits to facilitate entry and withdrawal while blocking off enemy forces, but it is not always necessary to do this. Sometimes seizing control of only some of them may be necessary in order to give the enemy space to flee and avoid a battle to the death.
- Seizing, attacking and destroying enemy force and command centres, such as bases with warehouses and military barracks, in order to minimize coordination between enemy forces.
- As far as possible, targets are to be known and defined beforehand. To carry out the mission, the amir of the expedition may divide units by sector, each one dealing with particular targets.
- Some targets may arise incidentally during a raid, and so the amir should have an emergency reserve force under his control to deal with such matters, if possible.
- Remove usable war spoils to safe areas. Destroy what cannot be taken.
- Place traps and decoys. IEDs are most effective in this regard, but bear in mind that Muslims in the area may want to take spoils of the enemy, so warn them or bar them from entering danger areas that are booby-trapped.

Below is the article translated in full with original text.

التنفيذ

وأما عن تنفيذ هذا الأسلوب من الهجمات الخاطفة، فإنه مما لا يمكن حصره بمخطط واحد أو أكثر، لأن ذلك يتبع لطبيعة المنطقة المستهدفة، وحال قوات العدو، وحال المجاهدين من حيث الإمكانيات المختلفة، ولكن يمكننا أن نقدم هنا بعض النصائح العامة التي يمكن للإخوة الاستفادة منها في تنفيذ عملياتهم بهذا الأسلوب بطريقة ناجحة بإذن الله تعالى.

لا يكلف الله نفسا إلا وسعها

فأول النصائح بعد التوكل على الله تعالى وإحسان الظن به، ألا يكلف المجاهدون أنفسهم فوق طاقتهم، بمهاجمة أهداف تفوق قدرتهم على كسر العدو فيها، وأن لا يعتبروا هذا النوع من المعارك مصيريا أو حاسما في تقرير مجرى الحرب مع أعدائهم، بل هي كزة لا بد وأن تتبعها فزة، هدفها التحضير لكزة أخرى، وهكذا..

الاستخبارات

المعلومات من أهم الموارد التي يجب تأمينها قبل كل عمل للمجاهدين، وخاصة في الأعمال التي تتطلب سرعة وفعالية عالية، بحيث لا يضيعون وقتهم أثناء الاشتياله في البحث عن المواقع، وتحديد الأهداف، وتغييرها مع كل معلومة جديدة تسلم من صديق أو يستحصلوها من عدو، ولذلك فإن من المهم جدا أن يحرص المجاهدون على جمع أكبر قدر ممكن من المعلومات المفيدة الموثوقة، وتصنيفها وتحليلها بشكل جيد، واستخلاص ما يلزم منها ليكون أساسا لخطة الهجوم والسيطرة والانسحاب على حد سواء. ومصادر المعلومات كثيرة، منها الاستطلاع المباشر من قبل مفارز الرصد، ومنها الاعتماد على معلومات المجاهدين العارفين بالمنطقة، أو الأنصار من سكانها، ومنها ما يتحصل من أسرى العدو الذين يتم أسرهم قبل الهجوم لهذا الغرض.

ولا يقتصر دور استخبارات المجاهدين على جمع المعلومات ولكن على فرزها لعزل ما لا يفيد منها وعدم إشغال الإخوة بها، وكذلك تدقيقها لتجنب المخططين البناء على معلومات كاذبة أو مضللة.

وبعد تحديد أمراء المجاهدين للأهداف التي سوف تضرب خلال الهجوم، يعمل الإخوة في الاستخبارات على تجهيز قوائم بالأهداف التي ستهاجم، والأشخاص الذين سيتم أسرهم أو تصفيتهم، ووضع الخطط للتعامل مع كل هدف منها بناء على المعلومات المتوفرة عنه، والتي تحدد أهميته وجوانب القوة والضعف في دفاعاته. ثم قرر الألاء العارفين الثقافات لإيصال كل مجموعة من مجموعات المجاهدين إلى هدفها بسرعة ودقة، ثم إخراجهم من المنطقة بعد إتمام الهجوم وصعود الأمر من الأمير بالانسحاب نحو المناطق الآمنة.

قطع الطرقات

وذلك ينصب الكماش ونشر العبوات الناسقة على الطرقات التي يتوقع أن تأتي منها المؤازرات للعدو، ويتأمين هذه الطرق، يكون المجاهدون المقتحمون للمنطقة في أمان - بإذن الله - من المفاجآت، ويمكنهم تنفيذ قدر أكبر من أهدافهم ضمن الوقت المخصص للهجوم. وكذلك فإن قطع الطريق يعد وسيلة لتكيد قوات العدو القادمة للنجدة أو الهاربة من الاشتياله، خسائر كبيرة قد تفوق أحيانا خسائر الاشتياله المباشر معها أثناء الاقتحام.

السيطرة على المداخل والمخارج

وذلك من أجل تسهيل دخول المجاهدين للمنطقة في حال كان الهجوم من خارجها، ثم منع هروب المرتدين منها إذا لزم، ومنع دخول المؤازرات إليها في حال قدومها، وكذلك ضمان طريق انسحاب المجاهدين من المنطقة بعد إتمام العملية. ولا يشترط السيطرة عليها في حال كان الهجوم قائما على التسلل، وكان طريق الانسحاب للإخوة مضمونا بقوة تمسك الطريق وتدافع عنه لمن تأمين الانسحاب. وقد يكفي بالسيطرة على بعضها فقط، لتسهيل الاقتحام والانسحاب مع ترك الجال أمام قوات العدو للهروب من المنطقة، تجنبنا الحصرها ودفعها للقتال باستماتة.

السيطرة أو تحييد مراكز القوة والتحكم

وتنقسم بها المقرات القيادية للعدو في المنطقة، والتي تتحكم بقواته الموجودة فيها، والتي يؤدي ضربها إلى تشتت قوة العدو وصعوبة التنسيق بينها، وكذلك المقرات التي تضم قوات العدو القادرة على التحرك ضد المجاهدين، من ثكنات عسكرية، ومراكز أمنية، ومخافر شرطة وغيرها، وكذلك المقرات التي تحوي وسائل قوة العدو، من مستودعات السلاح، والعتاد، ومرائب الآليات والمدافع، وكذلك ما يمكن العدو من إدارة الحركة وإدامتها، من مراكز وأبراج للاتصالات، ومراكز علاج الجرحى وغيرها. وبإثناء هذه المهمة، بالسيطرة على تلك المقرات، أو حصارها، أو تسفها، يكون ما تبقى من قوات العدو في المنطقة عبارة عن أفراد مشتتين يسهل - بإذن الله تعالى - التعامل معهم، واصطيادهم من منازلهم، بحيث يصبح أفضلهم حالا من يستطيع الهرب، خاصة إذا يتسوا من احتمال وصول قوات مؤازرة إليهم لإنقاذهم.

ضرب الأهداف المحددة مسبقا

وهذا هو هدف الغزوة المباشر الذي من خلاله تتحقق كل الأهداف، ويقدر ما تكون الأهداف معلومة بشكل مسبق للمجاهدين اعتمادا على المعلومات الاستخباراتية، بقدر ما يكون الوصول إليها سهلا، ويكون التعامل معها فعلا. بحيث يقسم أمير الغزوة جنوده إلى مفارز تتوجه كل منها بصحبة دليلها إلى هدفها العلوم، للتعامل معه وفق الخطة المرسومة سلفا، بالوسائل البعد بما يتناسب مع طبيعته والطريقة المحددة للتعامل معه. وقد يعمد الأمير إلى تقسيم المنطقة إلى قطاعات، بحيث تتعامل كل مجموعة من المجاهدين مع قطاعها الخاص، من حيث السيطرة ومعالجة الأهداف، ولهذا التقسيم فائدة في الحد من أخطاء عدم التعارف بين المجاهدين، وخاصة إن كانوا متتكرين بزي أعدائهم، والتي قد ينجم عنها اشتباكات غير مقصودة بينهم.

ضرب الأهداف العارضة

ومن الممكن أن تظهر خلال الهجوم أهداف جديدة، إما لم تكن معلومة لدى الاستخبارات، أو أن المعلومات عنها توفرت خلال الغزوة، كاصطدام المجاهدين فجأة مع قوة للعدو، أو المفاجأة بمقاومة كبيرة له في أحد المواقع، أو عثروهم على مصدر مهم للمعلومات (من الأسرى أو قوائم

للعلماء في دوائر أمن العدو، أو عناوين مخازن للسلاح أو الأموال...)، وحينها، وكما لا يضطر المجاهدون للمفاضلة بين إكمال خطتهم الأصلية، أو تغييرها للتعامل مع الأهداف الجديدة الطارئة، فإنه من الأفضل أن يترك الأمير - إن أمكن - خلال تخطيطه للغزوة عدة مفارز تحت إمرته للتعامل مع هذه الأهداف، بشكل يرفع عن المفارز - العاملة على الأهداف الأصلية - عبء التعامل معها، وفي الوقت نفسه تكون هذه المفارز بمثابة قوة طوارئ عامة تعمل على مؤازرة أي مفززة تحتاج للمؤازرة حتى انتهاء الهجوم.

سحب الفخائم والتخريب

ولهذا الأمر أهمية من جانبين، الأول حاجة المجاهدين إليه للتقوى والتسلح والتخريب، فمستودعات العدو هي المصدر الأول لتموين المجاهدين، والثاني ضرورة حرمان العدو من إمكاناته، فما لا يمكن للمجاهدين سحبه إلى المناطق الآمنة من أموال الفري والغنيمة، فإنهم يعمدون إلى إتلافه، من مقرات وآليات ومعدات وأسلحة وبخار وأجهزة إلكترونية، وذلك لكونها من مصادر قوة العدو، وينبغي تجنب ما يمس حياة عامة المسلمين ولا يشكل مصدر قوة للعدو قدر الإمكان.

نصب الفخاخ

ولكون العدو سيعود إلى المنطقة بعد انحياز المجاهدين عنها، فمن المفيد نصب الفخاخ والشرائح الدخالية له، والتي يمكن من خلالها اصطياد عدد آخر من جنوده، وإيقاع خسائر إضافية في صفوفه، وأفضل هذه الفخاخ - بحسب المتوفر حاليا - هو العبوات الناسقة المخفية بإحكام في كل ما يمكن أن تلمسه أيادي العدو بعد وصولهم إلى المنطقة، من آليات وأسلحة، وفي داخل المقرات وغيرها. مع الأخذ بالاعتبار الاحتياط في حال غلب على ظن المجاهدين أن المسلمين من أهل المنطقة قد يدخلون إلى الأماكن المعرضة للتفخيخ، لأخذ ما تركه المجاهدون من أموال المشرئين والمرتدين، وذلك من خلال تحذيرهم، أو منعهم من دخول المناطق الخطرة بالطرق المناسبة. وسنكمل في المقال القادم بإذن الله تعالى في مسألة إنهاء السيطرة المؤقتة والانسحاب الناجح للمجاهدين بعد تحقيق الأهداف المطلوبة منها، والحمد لله رب العالمين.

Bringing down the towns temporarily as a method of operation for the mujahideen (3)

Implementation

As for implementation of this method of fleeting attacks, it cannot be confined to one plan or more, because that depends on the nature of the targeted area, the state of the enemy forces and the state of the mujahideen from different capabilities. But we can present here some general advice that the mujahideen can benefit from in implementing their operations by this method through a successful means by the permission of God Almighty.

God does not entrust a life except with what is possible for it

[Note that what is being advocated in all of this advice is not nihilistic. These guys are not encouraging a Joker in *The Dark Knight* approach of just watching the world burn. This should be reminiscent of Maoist Guerilla Warfare or Revolutionary Warfare – creating an environment wherein ISIS may return to governance.]

The first advice after putting trust in God Almighty and goodness of thought towards Him, is that the mujahideen should not entrust themselves with something beyond their power by attacking targets that surpass their ability to break the enemy in them, and they should not consider this type of battles to be fateful or decisive in documenting the course of war with their enemies. Instead they are fight-and-flight, whose aim is to prepare for another fight, and so on. [He who fights and runs away ...]

Intelligence

Information is among the most important sources that must be secured before every operation for the mujahideen, especially in operations that require speed and high activity, as they should not waste their time during clashes in looking for places, and defining the targets, and changing them with every new piece of information that reaches them from a friend or they obtain from an enemy. And therefore it is very important that the mujahideen be keen to gather as much useful reliable information as they can, and classify it and analyze it well, and conclude what is necessary from it to be a foundation for the plan of attack, control and withdrawal alike.

And the sources of information are numerous: among them direct reconnaissance by observation units, and among them relying on the information of the mujahideen who know the region, or the supporters from its inhabitants, and among them what is obtained from the prisoners of the enemy who are captured before the attack for this purpose.

And the role of intelligence for the mujahideen is not limited to gathering information but also separating it out to distinguish what is not useful from it and not preoccupying the brothers with it, and likewise being accurate about it to prevent the planners from basing things on false or misleading information.

And after the amirs of the mujahideen specify the targets that will be struck during the attack, the brothers in intelligence work on preparing lists of targets that will be attacked, and the people who will be taken prisoner or liquidated, and putting in place plans to deal with every target of them according to the information available about it, and whose importance will be defined as well as the aspects of force and weakness in its defenses.

Then the knowledgeable trusted guides are assigned to convey every group of the mujahideen to its target with speed and precision, then to get them out from the area after the attack has been

completed and the order has been given by the amir to withdraw to the safe area.

Cutting off the paths

And that is accomplished by putting in place ambushes and spreading IEDs on the paths from which it is expected that enemy reinforcements will come, and by **securing these paths** the mujahideen assaulting the area will be safe- by God's permission- from surprises, and they can implement a greater extent of their aims within the time allotted for the attack. And likewise cutting off the path is considered a means to inflict on the enemy forces coming to provide help or fleeing from the clash great losses that may sometimes exceed the losses of the direct clash with them during the assault.

Seizing the entrances and exits

And that is done in order to facilitate the entry of the mujahideen into the area if the attack is from outside it, then to prevent the apostates fleeing from it if necessary, and preventing the entry of reinforcements to it in the event that they come. Likewise the aim is secure the path of withdrawal of the mujahideen from the area after the completion of the operation. And it is not required as a condition to seize them in the event that the attack is based on infiltration, and the path of withdrawal for the brothers is guaranteed by the force that holds and defends the path so as to ensure withdrawal. And it may be sufficient to seize some of them only, to facilitate the assault and withdrawal, **while leaving the space before the enemy forces to flee from the area, in order to avoid confining them and pushing them to fight in defiance of death.**

Seizing or neutralizing the centres of force and control

And we mean by this the command bases for the enemy in the area, which control their forces present in them, and the striking of which may lead to the dispersal of the enemy's forces and difficulty of coordination between them, and likewise the bases that include enemy forces capable of mobilizing against the mujahideen. This includes military barracks, security centres, police stations and others. Likewise we mean the bases that contain the means of force of the enemy, from weapons warehouses and ammunition, garages of vehicles and armored vehicles, and likewise what enables the enemy to control and prolong the battle, from centres and connection towers, centres for healing the wounded and others.

And by accomplishing this assignment and seizing those bases or besieging them or blowing them up, the enemy forces in the area will only have dispersed personnel who- by the permission of God Almighty- can easily be dealt with and hunted from their homes, while the best they can hope for is to be able to flee, especially as they despair about the likelihood of reinforcements coming to them to save them.

Striking targets defined beforehand

And this is the direct aim of the expedition through which all of the targets are realized, in so far as the targets are known beforehand to the mujahideen relying on the intelligence information and in so far as they can be reached quickly and can actually be dealt with. So the amir of the expedition divides his soldiers into units, each of them directed with the accompaniment of their guide to their known target, in order to deal with it according to the previously outlined plan by prepared means in accordance with its nature and the defined way of dealing with it.

And the amir may resort to **dividing the area into sectors**, whereby each group of the mujahideen deals with its particular sector in terms of control and rectifying the targets, and this division has the benefit of limiting the mistakes of lack of acquaintance between the mujahideen, especially if they are disguised in their enemies' clothing, which may result in unintentional clashes between them **[fratricide**

prevention].

Striking incidental targets

And it is possible that during the attack there will be appear new targets, either unknown to the intelligence or the information about them becomes available during the expedition, like the mujahideen's sudden clash with a force of the enemy, or the surprise of great resistance on their part in one of the places, or they find an importance source of information (from prisoners or lists of agents in the enemy security offices or addresses of stores of weapons or wealth...)

And at the time, and so that the mujahideen should not be compelled to choose between finishing their original plan or changing it to deal with the new incidental targets, it is preferable that the amir- if possible- should leave aside during his planning for the expedition a number of units under his command to deal with these targets [reserve force], in order to remove from the units working on the original tasks the burden of dealing with them. And at the same time these units should be tantamount to a general emergency force working to support any unit that needs assistance until the end of the attack.

Removing spoils and causing destruction

This matter has importance from two aspects: the first is the need of the mujahideen for it in order to provide for themselves and arming and provision of ammunition, for the storehouses of the enemy are the first source for providing provision for the mujahideen, and the second is the necessity of barring the enemy from their capabilities. So what the mujahideen cannot remove to safe areas from wealth of booty and spoils, they should resort to destroying: from bases, vehicles, equipment, weapons, ammunition and electronic devices, and that is because they are among the sources of force of the enemy, and what harms the life of the Muslim masses must be avoided and not constitute a source of force for the enemy as far as possible.

Placing traps

Since the enemy will return to the area after the withdrawal of the mujahideen from it, it is beneficial to put in place traps and decoys for them, through which one may take out another number of their soldiers, and inflict additional losses in their ranks, and the best type of these traps- according to what is available currently- are IEDs well-concealed in anything that the hands of the enemy may touch after they reach the area, from vehicles and arms, and inside the bases and other places.

But there should also be taking into account caution if the mujahideen think it likely that the Muslims of the people of the area may enter the places subject to explosive rigging in order to take what the mujahideen have left behind from the wealth of the mushrikeen and apostates. Thus they should warn them or prevent them from entering the danger zones by appropriate means.

And we will finish by the permission of God Almighty in the next article on the issue of ending the temporary control and successful withdrawal for the mujahideen after realizing the desired aims of the expedition, and praise be to God the Lord of the Worlds

Islamic State Insurgent Tactics: Translation and Analysis (IV)

by Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi • May 19, 2019 at 2:28 pm

For prior parts in this series, see:

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

This final article in the Islamic State's al-Naba' newsletter series on the insurgent tactic of temporarily taking control of areas deals with the issue of withdrawal. The article notes that circumstances can vary and unexpected obstacles may arise for a withdrawal plan during an expedition. However, some **general guidelines** are given.

- The organization of withdrawal may vary. For example, it could be that the groups that assault first should be the first to withdraw, or the groups that launch the deepest incursion into an area should be the first to withdraw.
- The need to secure exits. Some exits are to be held at all costs, while others can be used in the framework of diversion operations. The loss of other exits may not be deemed a major problem.
- Islamic State supporters in an area should have safe shelters for groups that cannot withdraw or groups with wounded who cannot be evacuated easily.
- Withdrawal should ideally be done under cover of diversion operations that mislead the enemy.
- Withdrawals can be affected by enemy responses: e.g. if it is expected the enemy will bring in reinforcements to surround the mujahideen, a reserve force should exist prepared to break the siege, or the mujahideen should organize as strong groups capable of a break out by force.

The article concludes that the series is not presenting a comprehensive one model program for insurgent operation, but is just illuminating general principles on one of the methods of operation. Commanders should devise continually innovative ways of implementing the method so that the enemy do not devise effective counter-tactics. Finally, the article stresses the need for 'hearing and obeying' of the leadership for expeditions.

إسقاط المدن مؤقتاً كأسلوب عمل للمجاهدين

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الانسحاب

ولا تقل خطة الانسحاب في أهميتها عن خطة الهجوم والاقترام، بل قد تكون أكثر أهمية في بعض الأحيان، لكونها جزءاً مهماً من مراحل العملية ككل. إذ ليست غايتها الإسكاف بالأرض والدفاع عنها، وخاصة أن المجاهدين يكونون في مرحلة الاقترام منظمين، تخطيطاً أشدها وخفاف الأعمال، لكنهم وقت الانسحاب قد يشظرون لتتقدم بتكليف أقل، كما أنهم يكونون متعبين من العمل لساعات، وقد يكون بينهم جرحى ومصابون، ويكون حملهم ثقلاً بما معهم من أسرى وغنائم من -الله تعالى- بها عليهم في غزوتهم. ولهذا فإن من مهام الأمير عند إعطائه الموافقة على خطة الهجوم أن ينظر في مناسبتها لخطة الانسحاب، وكما أنه من الضروري توفير المعلومات والأراء للمجاهدين خلال الاقترام، فمن الضروري أيضاً إرشادهم إلى طرق الانسحاب وتوقيتها، وكيفية إعطاهم الأمر به، والناطق الذي يصرون بدخوله خارج منطقة العمليات الشطرية التي يتوقع أن يغضها العدو خلال تعقبه لإتمامه.

وكما أن خطة الهجوم عندما تقر فإن المجاهدين يتوقعون إمكانية حدوث تغيرات عليها، بسبب أحداث طارئة تعرض لهم، أو أخطاء تحدث أثناء التنفيذ، أو مفاجآت سببها نقص المعلومات الاستخبارية أو قدامها، أو تغيرات في وضع العدو قلقت من قاستها، فإنهم يجب أن يضعوا في حسبانهم وجود احتمال كبير لحدوث عواقب تمنع تطبيق خطة الانسحاب كما وضعت، فيسطر الأمراء للاجتهاد بحسب المتاح من المعلومات والإمكانات لتحقيق أفضل ما يمكن من ظروفه، وتطبيق أفضل ما يتوفر بأيدهم من إجراءات لتأمين الانسحاب بشكل مناسب.

ترتيب الانسحاب

وتتأثر خطة الانسحاب بعوامل عديدة،

المشاغلة، أو التي لا تؤثر فقدائها على سير العمل لكون الطرق المؤدية إليها من الخارج مؤمنة بمقارن قطع الطريق مثلاً.

الماوي الآمنة

ومن المفيد في حال وجود أنصار للمجاهدين في المنطقة، تأمين مأوي آمنة ضمن المنطقة مأوي إليها المجاهدون الذين لم يتمكنوا من الانسحاب لسبب ما، أو إيواء الجرحى الذين كان من الصعب إخلاؤهم، وذلك لمبقوا فيها حتى يمكن إخراجهم من المنطقة بطريقة آمنة.

المشاغلة

والأفضل أن يكون الانسحاب تحت غطاء عمليات مشاغلة، داخل منطقة الهجوم أو على أطرافها، بحيث تكمل بعض المقارن عملية الاشتباك وتحيي للعدو برقيتها مهاجمة مناطق جديدة، في الوقت الذي يكون المجاهدون المنفذون للهجوم قد بدأوا إخلاء المنطقة بشكل تدريجي لا محقق توقف مفاجئ للاشتباكات، ثم انسحاب مقارن المشاغلة بطريقة مناسبة بعد تحقق الأمر بذلك حين إتمام عملية الانسحاب الآمنة.

تجنب التعطيل على الطريق

وكذلك فإن الخطة تتأثر بمدى قوة العدو وسرعة استجابته للهجوم وطبيعة هذه الاستجابة، فإن كان متوقفاً أن نجأ تعزيمات العدو إلى محاولة تطويق المنطقة لحصار المجاهدين داخلها، فمن الأفضل أن تكون هناك قوة احتياط في خارج المنطقة مستعدة لكسر الطوق عنهم، أو أن يكون خروج المجاهدين من المنطقة بشكل مجموعات قوية قادرة -بإذن الله تعالى- على كسر الطوق والخروج منه عبثاً.

وإن كان متوقفاً أن ينصب كمان على الطرقات فيفضل أن تتقدم المجاهدين قوة استطلاع لاستكشاف الطريق، وأن تكون القوات النسيبة على شكل مجموعات قوية مرتبة بشكل يجعلها قادرة على ضرب الكمان.

وإن كان متوقفاً تدخل الطيران، فالأفضل ألا ينسحب الإخوة على شكل أرتال وإنما بشكل متناثر يمنع من تحديد وجهتهم لتعقبهم وضرب

أرتالهم، وكذلك التموه على الطيران بإغفاء المظاهر المسلحة على الأتاهات قدر الإمكان.

أما إن كان العدو ضعيفاً مشتتاً، والهجوم في منطقة نائية عن قواته الرئيسة، فحينها يكون المجاهدون في سعة من أمرهم من حيث توقيت الانسحاب، وكيفية، وهذه الأمور كلها تخضع لتقدير المجاهدين قبل الهجوم وأثناءه.

خاتمة

إن ما طرحناه في هذه السلسلة هو عبارة عن أفكار مستقاة من تجارب المجاهدين المختلفة، وليس نموذجاً موحداً للعمل، يطبق بكامله، فالغاية من طرح هذه الأفكار هي التنبه على هذا الأسلوب المهم من أساليب القتال ضد الكفار والمرتدين، وإعطاء نبذة عن أهم جوانبه، لئلا تترك لأمر المجاهدين في كل ساحة النظر فيها بناسهم، ويؤوا على هذه الأصول لخطا مبدعة متجارب الأضاء بشكل مستمر، وتنبههم من توقع نمط جديد لهجمات المجاهدين يجعلون لها خطا مضادة مطورونها باستمرار.

وعما ينبغي التأكيد عليه هنا، أهمية القيادة والسمع والطاعة، فهذه العمليات نظراً لسرعتها الكبيرة تحتاج إلى ضبط عالي من قبل القيادة الموحدة لمجموعات المجاهدين المختلفة، وهذا الأمر لا يمكن تحقيقه إلا بتوفير منظومة "السمع التواصل" عن طريق الاتصالات الفعالة بين الأمراء والجنود، وتحقيق الطاعة من قبل المجاهدين بموجباً لقيادة الغزوة، من لحظة انطلاقهم من معانهم وحتى عودتهم إلى المناطق الآمنة، وإعلان الأمير انتهاء الغزوة.

فأي معصية أو تكلف غير مبرر في تنفيذ الأوامر من المجاهدين في إحدى المجموعات قد يؤدي إلى ما لا محدد عقاباً من تشريف عمل مجموعات أخرى، أو تعريضها للخطر، أو حتى إفشال الغزوة كلها، ومنع المجاهدين من قطف ثمراتها التي بذلوا من أجلها الكثير من العرق والمال والدم، وبالإعداد الجيد، والتفكير المناسب للغزوة، تتحقق أهدافها بإذن الله تعالى، وليصبرن الله من يصبرن إن الله لقوي عزيز، والحمد لله رب العالمين.

Bringing down towns temporarily as a method of operation for the mujahideen 4

Withdrawal

The withdrawal plan is no less important than the attack and assault plan, and may be more important in some instances, as it is an important part of the stages of the operation as a whole, as its objective is not to hold to the land and defend it, and especially as the mujahideen in the stage of the assault are organized, active, in good health and lightly burdened, but at the time of the withdrawal they may be compelled to implement it with less organization, just as they may also be tired out from working for hours, and there may be injured and wounded among them and their burden may be heavy in what they have from prisoners and spoils that God Almighty has granted them in their expedition.

Thus among the assignments of the amir on his giving agreement on the attack plan is that he should also give consideration as to the withdrawal plan in relation to it. And just as it is necessary to make available the information and guides for the mujahideen during the assault, it is also necessary to guide them to the means of withdrawal and its timing, how they will be given the order to do so, and the boundary by entry of which they will be outside the danger area of operations that the enemy will be expected to cover in pursuit of them.

And as is the case that when the attack plan is decided, the mujahideen expect the possibility of the occurrence of changes to it because of incidental events that face them, or mistakes that occur during the implementation, or surprises whose cause is lack of intelligence information or its outdatedness, or changes in the enemy's situation that have reduced its usefulness, so they must take into account the existence of a great likelihood that there will be obstacles that prevent the implementation of the withdrawal plan as it has been put in place. So the amirs are compelled to make an effort according to the available information and capabilities to realize the best thing possible of circumstances, and implement the best of what is in their hands from procedures to secure the withdrawal in an appropriate manner.

Organizing the withdrawal

And the withdrawal plan is affected by multiple factors, among them the attack plan itself, for this plan may be put in place on the basis of it with a retroactive effect: that is, every group withdraws from the place it assaulted, following the safe path and organization, in that the first of the groups in the assault should be the first to withdraw. Or the organization may be according to the degree of incursion, in that the groups that have penetrated most deeply into the area should be the first to get out from them, while the group that has control over the exits should remain holding to them until it is sure that the exit of all of the groups that will follow this path has been secured.

And likewise the organization of the withdrawal depends on the nature of the mujahideen and their burden, so there should first be pulling out of the groups that are overburdened with injured, that the groups on whose shoulders fall the burden of removing the prisoners and spoils, and the groups that are most worn out from the battles, and then the last to be pulled out should be the active in the fighting, with few burdens and most capable of withdrawing and transferring.

And all these matters are subject to the organizations of the expedition, its aims and results, as there may occur an incident that pushes the mujahideen to change the organizations put in place, but generally speaking, the presence of organization that may be modified remains better than the lack of existence of organization absolutely: something from which chaos in withdrawal may arise, being a cause of reduction of gains of the mujahideen from the expedition, or the realization of gains for the

enemy, on account of which they may brag before their supporters with false claims about foiling the expedition and inflict damage on the attacking mujahideen.

Securing the exits

And as we have spoken previously on the issue of holding the entrances to secure the assault, it is necessary to secure the exits until the end of the attack and the going out of the last of the mujahideen from the area, or in order to prevent the enemy from entering them until the withdrawal of the brothers from it is completed. And in accordance with the withdrawal plan put in place previously, the amir of the expedition sets out the exits that will be held by any means and until the last moment, and the others in which diversion is sufficient, or whose loss does not impact the course of the operation because the paths leading to them from the outside are secured by units cutting off the route for example.

Safe shelters

It is beneficial when there are supporters for the mujahideen in the area that safe shelters [safe houses] should be secured within the region to which the mujahideen who have not managed to withdraw for some reason can come to take refuge, or to shelter the wounded whom it has been difficult to evacuate, and that is so that they can remain in them until it is possible to get them out from the area by a safe means.

Diversion

And the preference is that the withdrawal should be under cover of diversion operations, inside the attack zone or on its peripheries, in that some of the units complete the clash operation and give the impression to the enemy that they desire to attack new areas, while the mujahideen carrying out the attack will have begun to evacuate the area gradually that does not result in a sudden stop to the clashes. Then the distraction units withdraw by an appropriate way after receiving the order to do so when the safe withdrawal operation is completed.

Avoiding the enemies on the way

And likewise the plan is affected by the extent of the force of the enemy and the speed of its response to the attack and the nature of this response, for if it is expected that the enemy reinforcements will resort to attempting to surround the area to besiege the mujahideen inside it, it is preferable that there should be a reserve force on the outside of the area prepared to break the siege upon them, or that the exit of the mujahideen from the area should be in the form of strong groups that are capable- by the permission of God Almighty- of breaking the siege and getting out of it by force.

And if it is expected that ambushes will be put in place on the paths, it is preferred for a reconnaissance force to precede the mujahideen to explore the route, and that the withdrawing forces should be in the form of strong groups organized in a way that makes them capable of striking the ambushes.

And if it is expected that aircraft will enter, it is preferable for the brothers not to withdraw in the form of convoys but rather in a dispersed sense that prevents their direction from being defined to pursue them and strike their convoys, and likewise camouflage against aircraft by concealing armed elements on the vehicles as far as possible.

As for if the enemy are weak and dispersed and the attack is in an area remote from their main forces, the mujahideen will have their own free space for the timing and method of withdrawal, and these matters are all subject to the assessments of the mujahideen before and during the attack.

Conclusion

What we have put forward in this series is a representation of ideas drawn from the different experiences of the mujahideen, and it is not a unified model for work to be implemented in its entirety, for the object of putting forward these ideas is to draw attention to this important method of the methods of fighting against the disbelievers and apostates, and give an overview of its most important aspects [This is a list of techniques and not a prescription of actions.]. This is so that we may leave to the amirs of the mujahideen in every field consideration as to what is appropriate or them, and build on these principles innovative plans that may continuously surprise the enemies, and prevent them from expecting a set method of attacks by the mujahideen for which they devise counter-plans they continuously develop.

And what must be affirmed here is the importance of leadership and hearing and obeying, for these operations, in view of their great speed, require high precision on the part of the unified leadership for the different groups of the mujahideen. And this matter cannot be realized except through making available the system of "hearing in contact" through active contacts between the amirs and soldiers, and the realization of obedience on the part of the mujahideen in general to the expedition's leadership, from the moment they set out from their bases until they return to the safe areas, and the amir announces the end of the expedition.

So any act of disobedience or unjustified slacking in implementing the orders on the part of the mujahideen in one of the groups may lead to that whose consequence is not to be commended from the ruining of the work of other groups, or exposing them to danger, or even making the expedition fail in its entirety, and preventing the mujahideen from picking its fruit for whose sake they have expended much sweat, wealth and blood.

And by good preparation and appropriate implementation of the expedition, its aims can be realized by the permission of God Almighty. And God indeed supports the one who supports Him. Indeed God is powerful, mighty. And praise be to God the Lord of the Worlds.