

Cheering on the Jihad:

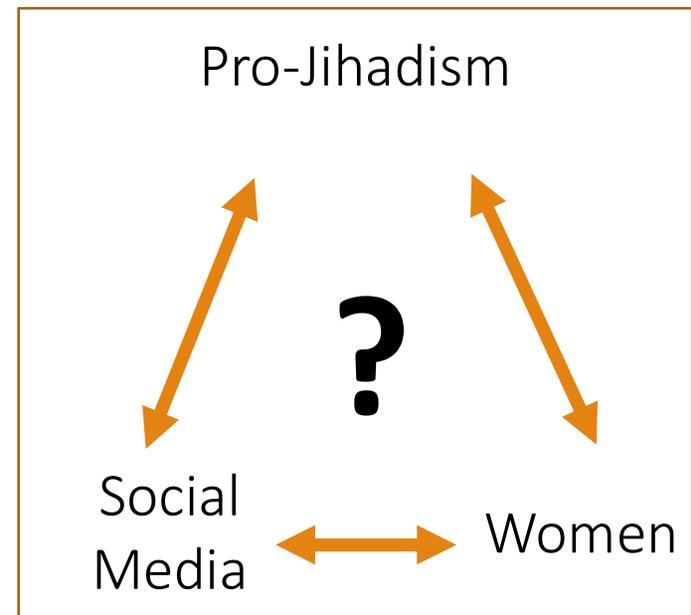
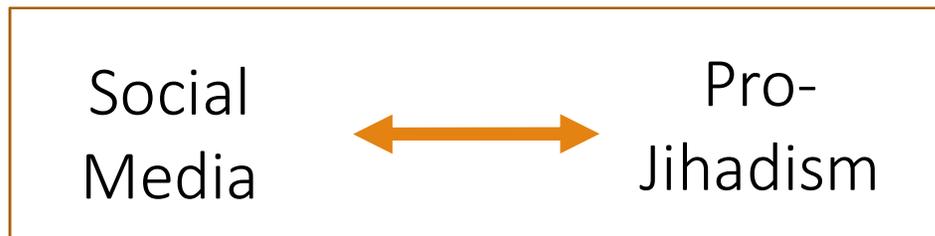
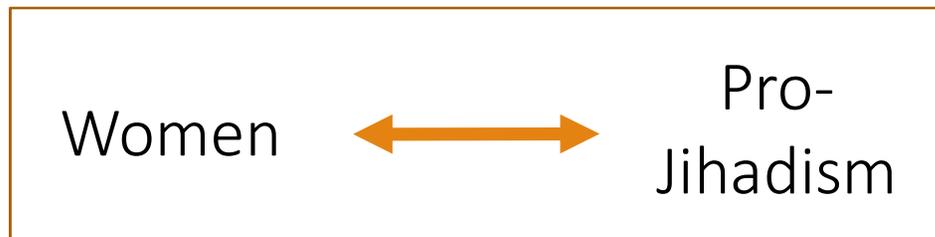
An Exploration of Women's Participation in
Online Pro-jihadist Networks

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Rationale for the Study



Research Questions

1. Can identifiable patterns of engagement by female posters be discerned based on content of posts?
2. Does the type of the jihadist group studied have any appreciable effect on female members' posting content?

Proud Muslimah! #Terrorist by birth
#LoveOurMujahideen Standing up for those being unjustly oppressed, tortured, abused, imprisoned and humiliated. طالبة العلم

Nothing to see here, move along. Waiting (impatiently) for the end. In perpetual turmoil with my self. Anti-Da3ish. Usual disclaimers apply.

📍 Lost 📍 Born on January 17

Plan of Action

To answer these questions, we developed two separate, but interrelated studies:

1. a qualitative study tracking and analyzing posting activities of 115 Twitter accounts disseminating pro-IS content, and;
2. a second qualitative study of 36 women posting within AQ-affiliated Twitter networks

Methodology

Method of Inquiry

- Qualitative Content Analysis

Data Collection

- Purposive Snowball Sampling
- Criteria for Inclusion
 1. Female
 2. Tweets in English
 3. Associated with IS or AQ



If they say "TERRORRIST," then I say this is an honor for me. Our Terrorism is praiseworthy, a divine call.

2015-05-22, 10:09 AM

Criteria for Inclusion

Tweets

- “For those who mind sisters on twitter, can u please block me if you dislike my postings?” (User #25, 2015).

User Names/Account Handles

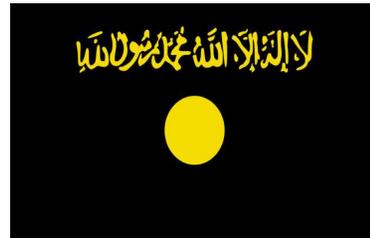
- Female *kunya* (i.e., “umm”, which means mother) and *nasab*, (i.e., “bint”, which means daughter, and “ukht”, which means sister)
- For example: @bint shann; @ukht minnie;



Criteria for Inclusion



Black
Standard



AQ Flag



JN Flag



IS Flag



Twitonomy

Date

Twitter Handles

Tweets

Date (GMT)	Name	Text	URL	Platform
11/08/2015 14:49:15	@TheTweetingZed	OH MY GOSH I couldn't have chosen a worse husband. Literally can't wait to get out of this situation. Whichever way that happens to be.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6317969200807123	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 14:51:40	@TheTweetingZed	OH MY GOSH I couldn't have chosen a worse husband. Literally can't wait to get out of this situation. Whichever way that happens to be.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6317008307718935	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 14:58:02	@TheTweetingZed	OH MY GOSH I couldn't have chosen a worse husband. Literally can't wait to get out of this situation. Whichever way that happens to be.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6317490161787796	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 08:21:04	@TheTweetingZed	The Indian Corporation https://t.co/hvY4DC3yP	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6317421098918932	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 03:41:19	@TheTweetingZed	"The victims were not known for their opposition to the regime." The Assads simply kill at will (via @TheRevolutionSeries) http://t.co/2Z6jFR81	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/631675847623740	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 20:47:08	@TheTweetingZed	Item by Sayed Qutb: http://t.co/78U021K9 (RT @_mikael)	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/63156764835720195	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 20:39:06	@TheTweetingZed	https://t.co/0KwZ6b0	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/631565866048132	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 20:37:30	@TheTweetingZed	"And it's not our fault." https://t.co/0KwW4G0am	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6315651008121212	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 20:33:14	@TheTweetingZed	A lot of tweets need to understand this. https://t.co/hvMhYq2P	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6315641200728217	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 14:11:41	@TheTweetingZed	Oh, that makes it ok then who needs to double check that they're bombing the right place it's only people's lives... https://t.co/3M0C8Y3h	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6315284802385779	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 14:01:01	@TheTweetingZed	Wow. It doesn't matter how pro Palestine you are, if you only report on the bombings in Syria when the opposition does it, you look.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6315270232180276	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 13:45:24	@TheTweetingZed	"between what is said but not meant, and what is meant but not said, most of love is lost."	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/631524810494425	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 16:30:48	@TheTweetingZed	Can you really call yourself a South African if you don't like biltong?	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/631501115306445	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 14:49:15	@TheTweetingZed	Today is a very difficult day...	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6314732429268838	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 14:21:33	@TheTweetingZed	May Allah bless him with Jannat al Firdous https://t.co/0KwZ6b0	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/631470227274752	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 11:34:11	@TheTweetingZed	Please note, his mother is still alive, but in critical condition. https://t.co/2002m40E	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6314280943805030	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 10:21:00	@TheTweetingZed	But but but... Assad is all about helping Palestinians! https://t.co/vL46q1E1E	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/631400429335641	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 10:20:05	@TheTweetingZed	May Allah grant him the reward of an accepted Hajj as well. Amen	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/631400429335641	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 10:15:46	@TheTweetingZed		https://t.co/0KwZ6b0	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 09:09:08	@TheTweetingZed	"in retaliation for rebel shelling" https://t.co/0KwZ6b0	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6314000285157808	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 09:05:01	@TheTweetingZed	in shock 4th Subhanallah	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/63139100741903564	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 08:51:27	@TheTweetingZed	Yesterday, a market in Idlib. Today, a market in Douma. https://t.co/02v1u70By	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/63138730957923854	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 08:44:47	@TheTweetingZed	inna Illahi wa inna ilayhi raj'oon. News that @Abu_Mohammed was martyred last night. May Allah accept him as a shahid.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6313868384794803	Twitter for Android
12/08/2015 08:01:08	@TheTweetingZed	The forbidden on all fronts is what will eventually make me unfollow, like, everyone.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6313954698490918	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 21:50:29	@TheTweetingZed	I think I've posted too many devastating photos today. I'll log off now. I'll amaanallah.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6312214548056484	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 21:41:48	@TheTweetingZed	"Everywhere" https://t.co/vL46q1E1E	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6311884919316697	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 21:40:29	@TheTweetingZed	"Allegedly" https://t.co/vL46q1E1E	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6311884919316697	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 21:06:05	@TheTweetingZed	WARNING: Graphic victims of the US coalition air strikes on Atmeh earlier. Expect no apology for this. #Twitterism http://t.co/Hqk62yYs	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6312099196015104	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 20:40:06	@TheTweetingZed	"I'm so tired of being angry and frustrated and afraid and in pain and depressed and full of hatred. I'm just so tired of it all.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6312043070888092	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 20:13:07	@TheTweetingZed	This is too much.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6311666679138835	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 20:08:58	@TheTweetingZed	@H0T0P don't marry a douchebag	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/63115062382323475	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 18:27:31	@TheTweetingZed	World Situation: Rapidly approaching 1/100th status.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6311200589943150	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 18:21:51	@TheTweetingZed	Keep waiting... https://t.co/vL46q1E1E	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6311688091499522	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 17:57:44	@TheTweetingZed	WARNING: Extremely Graphic! Child burnt to death as a result of Assad's bombs on a market in Idlib today. https://t.co/0BjPsm0Rt	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6311629633545216	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 17:46:10	@TheTweetingZed	Take 30 seconds to watch this now. https://t.co/vL46q1E1E	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6311598863288632	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 17:40:21	@TheTweetingZed	@Governor911 so, whoa, hey... do more kids for as long as I'm still in this marriage.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/63116223248236	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 17:36:47	@TheTweetingZed	@Governor911 regardless, may Allah bless you with happiness, contentment and pious children.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/63115710661938476	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 17:28:38	@TheTweetingZed	The more I see, the more I want to go...	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6311555746556083	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 17:24:00	@TheTweetingZed	Oh, Osama's back.	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/63115461686158160	Twitter for Android
11/08/2015 14:29:09	@TheTweetingZed	Blood is thicker than water... but oil is thicker than blood. #Iraq	https://twitter.com/TheTweetingZed/status/6311010683127808	Twitter for Android

Emotional Support

AQ User #11: [RT] Don't forget to make DUA for your brothers the Mujahideen. #Nusra #Shaam #Jihaad (April 20, 2015)

PRT FOLLOW RHE SISTER SHE'S JUST CAME BACK FOR SUSPENSION

[@baqiyafamily](#)



  19h

WHEN YOU STUCK IN DARUL KUFR
BAQIYA FAMILY IS THE BEST PLACE TO BE

Propaganda Sharing



Dissing JN & boastin Ahrar understand politics but guess wat JN understand sharia & adhere to it more strictly, So to hell wit ur politics

AQ User #21: Bomb the real terrorists→ Assad's regime ← NOT innocent civilians who have no place to run or hide. Wake up world. (August 12, 2015)



Educational Tweeting

AQ User #24: Waiting for the word "terrorism" to be removed from our vocabulary, since it has already lost all meaning & definition through wrongful & overuse (June 19, 2015)

AQ User #25: I wont do Jihad as I'm just a sister and its not fit for us women to do it [link] (May 5, 2015)



Follow

Never trust anyone when it comes to Hijrah and the issue of Jihad. The kuffar have spies implanted in most Muslim communities...



@

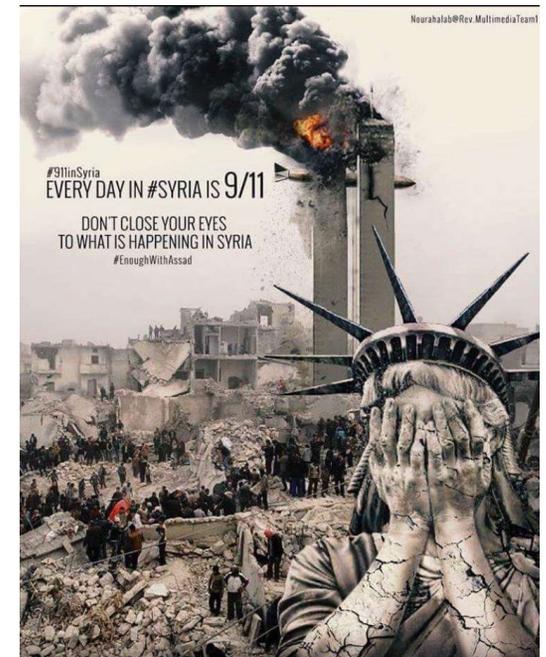
Follow

Niqab is the dress of our beloved mother, A'isha. Don't turn it into a source of fitnah by uploading your 'selfies' & by adorning your eyes.

Fundraising



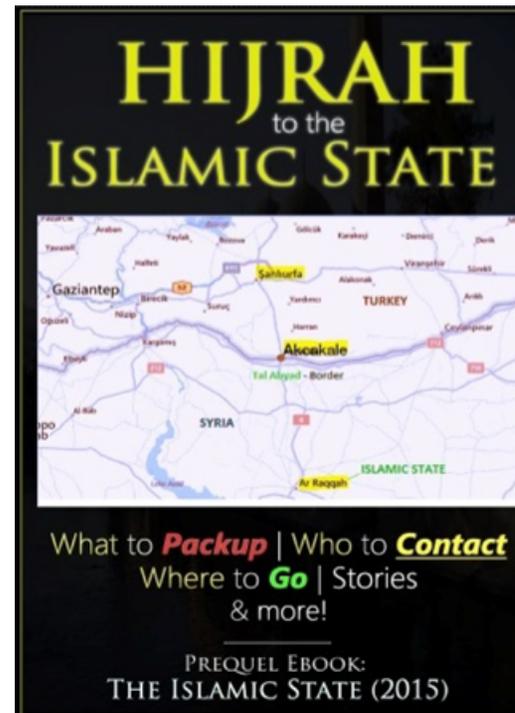
AQ User 16: "Support [mujahideen] by funding them, raising awareness on their plight, assisting their families and praying" (March 16, 2017)



Recruitment

AQ User #7: Dear sisters encourage your husbands to go for Jihād and remind him that you and his children will be in the preservation ... (August 16, 2015)

IS User: Wallahi ...My sister has just messaged me she has just got into the Islamic State!
Alhamdulillah ♥ May Allah accept her hijrah aameen!



IS instructional manuals on migrating to Syria

Support for Violence



Retweeted

If this doesn't make you smile, I don't know what will!

#Merry9/11&HaveAHappyNewYear
#Happy9/11

2015-09-10, 5:24 PM



Do I only die once in my life? So why not make its finale martyrdom?

2015-08-27, 8:45 AM

WALLAHI THE FIGHTING HAS JUST BEGUN, DIE IN YOUR RAGE O'KUFR. 🔥



AQ User #10: "A bullet a day.. Keeps the kuffar away.. 😊" (March 8, 2015)

Conclusion

Limitations

- Sample size
- Criteria for inclusion

Future Studies

- Include more social media sites
- Include more types of pro-jihadist organizations

Implications

- Policy & Social Responses
 - Increased vigilance on Twitter
 - Target AQ and IS women separately