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Interesting & balanced interview with [#AQIM](#)'s Shura member
Hisham Abu Akram translated & presented by Al-Risalah, here an
excerpt [#Algeria](#)

QUESTION 5: WHAT IS THE SITUATION OF JIHAD IN ALGERIA CURRENTLY?

Were we to assess the situation of Jihad currently, we may say it is in its autumn season, and that the Mujahideen have clearly deteriorated on the ground, due to several reasons we sum up as follows:

- The Mujahideen are still paying the price of GIA's deviation and are paying the price of its mistakes, because the crimes they committed against the people cannot be forgotten. They violated the honors of chaste women, spilled forbidden blood, and looted property, unjustly and in a way that is approved neither by Shariah nor by logic.



- This made the general public turn away from supporting Jihad. It was in this way that the Mujahideen lost the most important factors for the success of guerilla warfare. It is a fact that guerilla warfare is based on the idea that whoever gains the support of the people shall win. Unfortunately, most people today are not with the Mujahideen. Various segments of them are against the Mujahideen.

-Therefore, the Algerian regime capitalized on this detail in the best way possible, helped in that by the financial affluence it experienced (more than 200 million dollars in Algerian currency reserves), which it used to win over public loyalty and to mobilize them against the Mujahideen, with great success.

With the long journey of about a quarter of a century of Jihad in Algeria, people get tired, especially after the Algerian regime withdrew the political cover, as they say, on this war. It considered the surrender of the Islamic army an implicit recognition by the front that the question of the coup was



“However, thanks to Allah, despite the trials and tribulations experienced by the Mujahideen in Algeria, they persevered and remained firm like the mountains.

something now of the past. Then the tyrannical regime attempted to pull the Shariah cover, for which they mobilized and invited to Algeria hundreds of Islamic preachers and intellectuals to prove the error, deviation, and futility of the war waged by the terrorists.

-The tyrants used the policy of the carrot and the stick towards the people. They imposed deterrent punishment, imprisonment as a minimum, upon whoever dealt with the Mujahideen, including those who did not report to have seen them in such and such a place. In return, whoever assisted or provided information against the Mujahideen were offered gifts and rewards, to such a point that a reward for providing useful information to kill the Mujahideen was worth 500 million and good housing, and that was a large sum and a very tempting reward.

-These offers made the Mujahideen experience a strong siege on all sides. And considering the limited number of people joining Jihad and the fierce war of extermination undertaken by the generals loyal to France who control Algeria, the Mujahideen greatly decreased in number and quality. But it is also a fact that war is not a field trip, but rather a mill that exhausts commanders and soldiers together.

However, thanks to Allah, despite the trials and tribulations experienced by the Mujahideen in Algeria, they persevered and remained firm like the mountains and they settled to the point that their slogan became: “Better death than lowliness” and: “By Allah, we regret not the hostility against the apostates or the fight against them at all”.

QUESTION 6:
WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF JIHAD
IN MALI AND LIBYA ON JIHAD IN
ALGERIA?

The Mujahideen's idea and original goal when they entered the Sahara was to make it a back base to support Jihad in Algeria. The situation changed after good results were obtained. Then efforts started to be made to move jihadi ideology by means of da'wa to the people of the residents of the Saharan areas, until it became, thanks to Allah, one of the battlegrounds of jihad. Some of our children became an example of command and sacrifice for this faith. They are today fighting the sponsor of the Cross, France, and its satanic alliance that it brought from its old colonies. Also, the people are asking for the application of Shariah. The ideologies of Sufi schools dominated those regions before then.

Sheikh Abu al-Laith al-Libi, may Allah have mercy on him, said: "Among the blessings of Jihad in Algeria is that the jihadi ideology spread in the Greater Sahara, which is a good deed credited to the Mujahideen in Algeria".

For that reason, the effect was positive. Jihad was purely Algerian, but today, thanks to Allah, it has become widespread throughout the Islamic Maghreb. But to say the least, the effect of Jihad in Mali and Libya on Algeria scattered the enemy forces and opened new sources of mobilization.

This was certainly at the expense of vacating the Algerian field from some of its cadres who were instrumental in establishing the rules for the Jihad in those Saharan territories. This is not something negative, but rather the price to pay in order to spread da'wa and Jihad. Very few among the companions of the Prophet (PBUH) died in Medina. In fact, most of them were scattered in the cities for da'wa to Jihad.



QUESTION 7:
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER JAMA'AT AL-DAWLA ANNOUNCED THEIR
EXPANSION INTO ALGERIA?

As you know, since Jama'at al-Dawla announced their expansion into Sham, and since it decided to sabotage the jihadi project and lead it towards extremism, it has been working to sabotage the battlefields. No field has been spared by it. It has a hand in the sabotage of every field and in affecting it. The field of Algeria is not an exception. It has had an echo. Some youths took to it and declared their allegiance to Jama'at al-Dawla and separated from the organization with the same excuses formulated by al-Adnani such as the deviation of al-Qaeda and other broken claims repeated by the followers of the Islamic State.

As for the degree of their effect, yes they had a negative effect on the ground, because the territory and the Mujahideen originally were complaining of weakness and deterioration. They came to them to drive a new wedge in the body of the Mujahideen which was already covered with wounds in the first place.

However, we can say today that the Islamic State in Algeria is over. Its name and design are finished, because it was born through a still birth. No matter how the organization of disbelief and crime attempts to resuscitate it in the media, it was born premature and disfigured. Praise and grace be to Allah, no established Mujahid joined them. No official or commander from the Algerian Jihad who experienced the meaning of dispersion of the ranks and knew the significance of adopting the method of excess anew pledged allegiance to it. They were burned by the fire of excess, or better said, they still experience the effects of its fire and the sting of its fangs.

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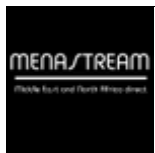
Replying to

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Abu Akram admits the failure of jihad in Algeria and also points at regimes successes and strategies in countering the insurgency..

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..despite the shortcomings in the base area, Abu Akram adverts to how AQIM thrives and has made inroads elsewhere

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..Abu Akram further provides a retrospective on jihadism in Algeria dating back to 1979 with the formation of the first armed group..

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..formed by Sheikh Mustafa Bui'li with the group becoming active in the early 80s

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Additionally, Abu Akram touches the subject of "the rise and fall" of ISIS in Algeria and in particular the accession of Katibat al-Ansar