

ISIS DEFECTORS

**Inside Stories of
the Terrorist Caliphate**



Anne Speckhard & Ahmet S. Yayla

“Some stories deserve to be told. And some truth is more terrifying than any fiction. This book is both.” —**Abigail Rodriguez**, Documentary filmmaker and VP of Development, Outrun the Sun Productions

“A key component of defeating ISIS is telling the world what ISIS is really like—from the inside. By having ISIS defectors tell their stories, Anne Speckhard and Ahmet Yayla are doing a great service with their new book.”—**Peter Bergen**, CNN’s National Security Analyst

“Two intrepid researchers set out to hunt down disenchanted ISIS cadres who dared to speak out & denounce the so-called Islamic State.” —**Rita Cosby**, Emmy-Winning TV and Radio Host

“Anne Speckhard, the American psychologist and Ahmet Yayla, the Turkish police officer, are a unique research team; by collecting authentic defector voices they have exposed, like nobody before them, the moral depravity of the Daesh ‘Caliphate’...I cannot think of a stronger counter-narrative.” —**Prof. Em. Alex P. Schmid**, *Perspectives on Terrorism*

“This book belongs on the shelf of anyone with an interest in the phenomena of ISIS and its legions of young recruits.”—**Carol Rollie Flynn**, Former Senior CIA Executive

“Anne Speckhard and Ahmet S. Yayla have given us one of the best—if not THE best—look into the twisted world of ISIS/Daesh, detailing the process of these interviewees’ recruitment, fighting, torture and brutality, eventual disillusionment and attempts at defection.” —**Dr. Alistair D. Edgar**, Ex. Dir., Academic Council on the UN System

“This brilliant work is definitely another milestone in the right direction towards an evidenced-base approach to preventing and countering violent extremism.” —**Maqsood Kruse**, Executive Director, Hedayah

“Much needed fieldwork, and not without risk!” —**Stephen van den Bosch**, Superintendent Dutch National Police, CVE Specialist

“Dr. Speckhard and Ahmet Yayla finally rip the tawdry mask from the much-vaunted ISIS mystique. This is a bold, essential work of truth-telling.” —**U.S. Ambassador Alberto Fernandez** (Ret.), Former Coordinator for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications (CSCC), U.S. State Dept., Vice President Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI)

“Anne Speckhard and Ahmet Yayla’s report of their daring and courageous interviews of ISIS defectors exposes important insights into the group’s recruitment process that are crucial to countering violent extremism work.”

—**Sara Zeiger**, Hedayah

“Nothing beats the inside view and now you have one—of ISIS. Brace yourselves.”—**Mubin Shaikh**, Counter-terrorism Expert, coauthor of *Undercover Jihadi: Inside the Toronto 18*

ISBN 978-1-935866-71-8



Isis Defectors: Inside Stories of the Terrorist Caliphate

Please see at Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Isis-Defectors-Stories-Terrorist-Caliphate/dp/1935866710?ie=UTF8&ref=asap_bc

The authors hadn't intended to put themselves in danger but that's what happened as they interviewed an unprecedented thirty-two battle-hardened defectors about the gritty details of life inside ISIS. With unparalleled breadth, depth and access, *ISIS Defectors: Inside Stories of the Terrorist Caliphate* offers a compelling view of ISIS from men, women and teens now in hiding, having escaped the most brutal terrorist group in recent history. They were fighters and commanders, wives of fighters-living and dead, female enforcers, and Cubs of the Caliphate, including a child who volunteered and almost got sent as a suicide bomber at age thirteen. They discuss motivations for joining and defecting, and delve into news-making topics: coercing children to become suicide bombers; brides of ISIS and the brutal female morality police; Yazidi and Sunni sex slaves held in massive compounds where fighters use them at will; privilege bestowed on foreign fighters; prisoners kept for the sole purpose of beheading by new inductees. The defectors shared a startling array of photos and videos from personal cell phones and many are included in the digital version of this book. An unexpected subplot unfolded when Dr. Yayla found himself tailed by ISIS, and Dr. Speckhard barely missed two suicide attacks. But the authors are not deterred. As counter-terrorism experts with specialties in research psychology and law enforcement, they see ISIS as more than a terrorist group. ISIS is a brand that falsely sells dignity and purpose, justice and the restoration of glory-to vulnerable recruits-masterfully recruiting some 30,000 members online. It's the biggest influx of foreign fighters to a terrorist haven in history. Using the defectors own words, the authors intend to break the ISIS brand. They have videotaped these interviews to edit them into short clips, memes and tweets for an online counter-offensive. Speckhard and Yayla state that disillusioned ISIS defectors are the most influential tool for countering ISIS propaganda. The persuasive voices of these defectors and the resulting videos will soon invade ISIS chat rooms where their propaganda thrives. With over one thousand active investigations in the U.S. across all 50 states, discrediting ISIS ideology is essential to stopping it.

First Published 2016
By Advances Press, LLC
McLean, VA

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Editor -Susan K Barnett, impact-communications.com
Cover Design- Jessica Speckhard, SpeckhardSavc.com
Book Publicist - Susan K Barnett, impact-communications.com
Cover photo courtesy of Islamic State
Interior Photos courtesy of ISIS Defectors and Islamic State

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2016944462

ISBN 978-1-935866-71-8- ISIS Defectors - Hardcover
ISBN 978-1-935866-72-5- ISIS Defectors -e-pub

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