



International Center for the Study of Violent Extremism



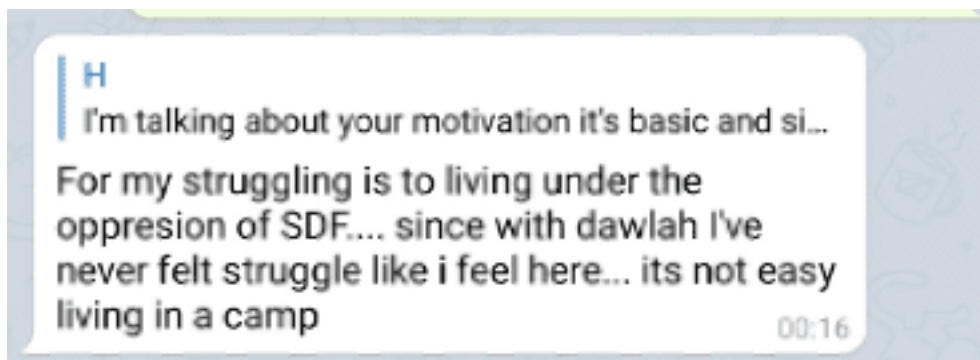
ISIS-Linked Digital Activism and Sympathy-Raising on Behalf of ISIS Women Held in SDF Camps

Anne Speckhard and Mona Thakker

As published in [Homeland Security Today](#):

As the ISIS foreign women languish in the overcrowded Syrian Democratic Forces [SDF] administered camps of Al Roj and Al Hol housing without adequate and regular access to health care, food and potable water, their endurance to live in these constantly deteriorating conditions and commitment to the Islamic *sabar* (i.e. perseverance and persistence) that ISIS taught appear to be withering. This is evidenced by the many hopeless women on Telegram group chats who continue to vent their frustrations online. One posting of an ISIS woman in the

camps stands out, as it states, “Living under Dawlah (when discussed in the context of ISIS’s last strong hold of Baghouz) was never a struggle. What is not easy is living under the oppression of SDF in the camps.” Posts like this show the ISIS women frustrated by captivity, but also, as is often the case for those who have lived under oppression, forgetting in the face of present hardships the past hardships of tyranny. This woman in particular appears to have forgotten the constant bombardments and snipers that often indiscriminately targeted civilians, women and their families living in dug-out holes under the ground with only a piece of plastic as roofing in order to avoid bombs when housing became scarce in Baghouz, not to mention those who literally starved to death when the food supply was cut off and basic supplies became scarce and food prices became astronomical. Many ISIS members who survived [Baghouz interviewed by the first author](#) recall extreme hardships and now cry over their dead and injured who fell in Baghouz. Foreign ISIS members who survived all the way to Baghouz also often vented [in research interviews with the first author](#) their anger at the Iraqi and Syrian leaders who did not suffer, but had Kia trucks, money and gold and food stores, including American Snickers candy bars and Coca Colas. They remain angry at the many of the local ISIS leaders who escaped before the foreigners were finally allowed to surrender and express feelings of resentment that they were used by these ISIS leaders. Perhaps this woman is one of the privileged who did not face such hardships in Baghouz, or perhaps it is a representation of just how hard the camps have become.



For instance, as depicted above, one wife of an ISIS fighter who was “martyred” in Baghouz states that the real oppression she faces is in the camp.

That said, for some ISIS women, the wounds of losing their loved ones in their last ISIS vestige of Baghouz to the bloodshed of attacks from all sides, including the U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, are still fresh as they continue expressing feelings of vengeance, lucidly sketching details on Facebook about their last days of staying underground before their eventual surrender to the SDF. This painful throwback to the past for some pro-ISIS women appears to trigger and reinforce loyalty toward the brutal terror group. The importance of clinging on to their last stand is also reflected in the naming of one funding channel as “Baghouz,” which narrates stories about the martyrdom of the mujahedeen to garner more sympathy and support.

I remember too and running from tires when I'd just given birth the day before. Hasbuna Allah wa n3mal wakeel. May they burn how they burnt the muslimeen.

2 h Like Reply



Subhan Allah ukhti...that is so difficult..

2 h Like Reply

Amin..

Look at them now!.. The reason why i got very scared because the front and the back of my (tent khandaq) that was made of plastic catch on fire, and you know that when something catch on fire it goes very fast.. So I had ro run for my life. Alhamdullilah we have Allah and they have nothing...

1 h Like Reply



Yeah all of our tents were makeshift made out of of hasira and qimash .. wallah my heart hurts when I think about it

48 m Like Reply



The hardships for the ISIS women and their children detained in Camp al Hol are real. For instance, water supplies to the region keep getting cut [off from the pumping station held by](#)

Turkish-backed rebel groups, meaning that water tankers deliver murky, questionable water. Likewise, fresh food stores can only be had through purchase, meaning the women need money to buy such. Likewise, with the transfer of women from al Hol to al Roj Camp, many of the ISIS women have become very concerned about the strict and controlling new regimes in Camp Roj, where contraband telephones are being confiscated, women are under stricter control and not allowed to wear black burkas or cover their faces with niqab anymore as depicted in the screen shot below:

The infidels have opened a new camp for da'ia from Europe. The name of the camp is ROJ ESVED:

ROJ ESVED:

- This camp is foreseen for Muslims who migrated from the developed countries, Allahu alem, in other words, the first World.
- In this Camp What we call Libas-Shari, that is, Khimar, Veil is completely forbidden.
- It was forbidden to wear black in this Camp. It is forbidden to wear even black clothes.
- In this Camp, one soldier will keep ribat between every five Tents.
- There will be a De-radicalization process in this camp for 6 months. So the majors will be brainwashed (!) (May Allah give Azza and Jelle the strength to resist). After the end of 6 months, they would deliver the sisters they saw radicalization to their countries of origin.

That's all I have learned.

Yesterday, the infidels took 7 sisters from Germany. There was also a sister of Turkish origin from Germany. Baci although it regardless of infidels citizen of Turkey with her three children in her helter-skelter they took.

Ya Lord, help these sisters. We cannot do anything. O my beautiful God, send your help .. Break the bondage chains of all captive brothers. Give back to those who oppress Muslims as much as possible.
Allahumma amen ...

"Goodness is not that you turn your faces to the east and west. The real good is that one does that who believes in Allah, the Hereafter, the angels, the books, and the prophets. and spent malt like the slaves prayer is charity gives fulfills its



TURKISH

ENGLISH



Many of the women posting from al Hol, and those who have messaged the first author from al Roj, also know that the latter is not an easy location from which to escape. Indeed, some claim that the new more restrictive section in Camp al Roj is the black hole out of which you can't come out. As a result, they see their escape from Camp al Hol in the near futures as their only chance to attain what they perceive as freedom. Hence their desperate attempts to hide and try to evade attempts to transfer them. In fact, while the [SDF is undertaking the transfer of approximately 400 ISIS women and their children to the newly fortified and robustly monitored security extension of al Roj camp](#), the ISIS women in Turkish language on Facebook continue to groan about the recurrent SDF night raids in Camp al Hol, which are taking place to find women who are trying to evade being transferred to Camp al Roj by hiding in other women's tents. The transfers, according to the ISIS women's postings, have triggered renewed fears for these women of the permanent communication blackout that may occur when contraband telephones are no longer as available in camp al Roj, dashed their residual hope of being released by the remaining ISIS fighters "breaking down the prison walls" or of escaping from Camp al Hol via smuggling, as had occurred on a weekly basis until a recent SDF crackdown started detecting and stopping them. These ISIS women's concerns in both camps, shared on social media and messaging apps, are shared below:

#Roj Camp

Yesterday one new group of sisters arrived in the morning after being forcibly abducted from Al Hol along with serving 10 days in prison. When they arrived they were searched and all their shar3i clothes were taken from them ... one by one they were taken in tahqiq (interrogation) lasting 2 hours. While the rest of the group waited in the hot sun with their children.

A sister from the main Roj Camp who tried to speak to the new sisters from a distance and through the fence, was confronted with beatings by a soldier. We are firmly forbidden to approach our sisters arriving from the Camp Al Hol.

They used heavy means to separate us and try to de-radicalize all Muslim women from the 2 camps combined:

- ban on mixing the 2 camps
- construction of the concrete wall
- multiplication of fences as well as military supervision.

Even the clothing and food aid brought by the sisters in the main camp were not passed on to them.



Allah never breaks the promises. 15:02

Allah the All-Knowing.... 15:03

H
The sisters have a phone in al roj? What do they t...
For new sections, nobody own phone. We just
contact with the sisters in older roj. Not for
new sections. 15:03

Distressed ISIS women from the al Hol camp claim in Turkish and Russian language Telegram groups that they haven't heard from the families that have been recently transferred there, thus they realize that there most likely is a much more serious security regime in Camp al Roj, which is indeed the case, and that there will be a communication blackout once transferred. Pro-ISIS women on Facebook also complain about what they call restrictions of religious freedoms, with the SDF enforcing a ban on black niqabs and burkas in the new sections of Camp al Roj, something which makes it much easier for the camp authorities to keep control as well as keep track of the identities and of these foreign women. It should be noted that a member of the Autonomous Administration of North East Syria's (AANES) security forces was stabbed in the back by one woman in a group of women all dressed in black burqas and niqabs and it was not at first apparent who had carried out the stabbing, thus there are very real and pressing security concerns for being able to readily identify the women who have up to now been allowed to cover their faces.



AN SDF SECURITY GUARD WHO WAS STABBED BY AN ISIS WOMAN. HE SURVIVED THE ATTACK.

The women in Camp al Hol were also registered in recent months with biomarkers and photographs, an overdue process after the chaotic overcrowding that happened with the sudden influx of ISIS women with the fall of Hajin and Baghouz into Camp al Hol.

The women posting from Camp al Hol further complain that the SDF allegedly tasked other non-European ISIS women also held in the camp to track the tent numbers and the ID cards of European women, this in turn to bargain for the former's release from the camps. But this, according to the ISIS women's posts, turned out to be an ill-fated move, as when the pro-ISIS women in the camp learned about this abortive scheme, they turned hyper-cautious, hired a hacker to unmask this plot and across all channels started disseminating "awareness campaigns" about the suspicious intelligence agents of SDF working from amongst the women in the camp. This dubious propaganda campaign put out by the ISIS women also promotes viewing UN aid organizations, construction workers, shopkeepers and medical personnel through suspicious eyes and labeling them as intelligence agents, working on the ground for the SDF. Indeed, as the moderate women from the al Hol "annex," where foreign ISIS women and their children are held, express their reservations against sharia law and have been caught helping SDF with gathering intelligence in alleged hopes of their release, the cohort of other radical mothers try their best to ostracize these women. They also attempt to break them down through dismantling their tents and burning their belongings. In one of the posts, an admin on

Telegram indirectly claims that in this way “other sisters” gave a “befitting reply to the enemies of Allah.”

It was reported from reliable sources lastnight was called take care the jassous night.

I think everyone in the camp became fed up of her and her disgusting behaviour and with the will and aid of Allah sisters gave her a reminder of what happens when the limits of Allah is crossed, not long after her allies (askari) came checking tents and they returned this morning with her out of her garments, a sister gave her naseeha and loud enough for all her neighbors to hear she responded in arabic, she doesnt need garment and she dont want shariah of Allah!!!... she was speaking so loud even the disgusting pigs told her be quiet. And she and her family was escorted out the camp...

Its sad when i hear these stories only making me kneel and bow down to Allah swt even more, The fire of jahanam is real Jannah is real and The words of Allah is also real.....

I personally asked about the history of these women and it was reported they were very good at first and no one can say how when and why they started to be allies of these enemies of Allah.

May Allah give us a good end and never turn our hearts against the allies of Allah but keep us firm and grant us good in dunya and akhirah

SAY AMEEN.....🙏🙏🙏🙏



#ElHol ⚠ ATTENTION ⚠

Shaima [REDACTED] (Umm [REDACTED])

Safiya [REDACTED] (Umm [REDACTED])

And their mother, Umm Talha [REDACTED]

They work for intelligence and now one of them works in the PKK shop, working with two Kurds Abu [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], spies for the intelligence service.

She is the one who sells information about the whereabouts of European sisters who want to escape so that their tents gets raided and as a result get

transferred to the new section of Al Qaeda known as "Silin Al-Aswad" meaning the

30 Ola Aseer Aka Layla Lady Al Hol, 21:49

🚫🚫 Live from Alhol

Raids, barking dogs, lights, askari dogs walking on the ground, spies, spies pretending to be from UN for data collection, spies pretending doctors, spies pretending to be cleaners, spies pretending to be construction workers al hulmustan.

May Allah send us aid from places we never expected.

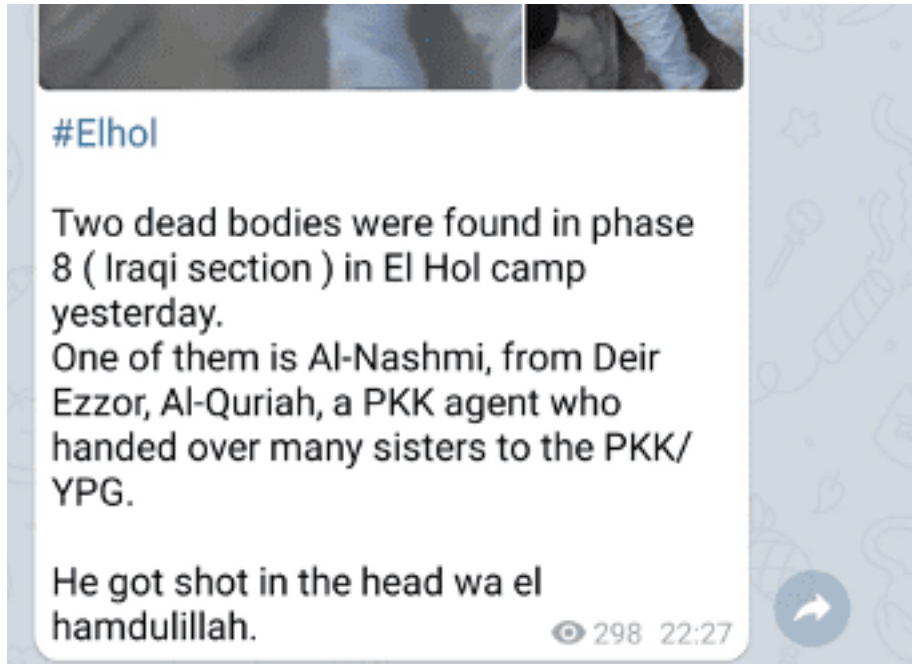
Out numbered by many, and since when we needed numbers for Allah to give victory to the believers.

Unarmed women and children of alhol resisting humiliation of not wearing niqab, having a small hijab just below the breast, resisting being beaten and humiliated would you like this to be the faith of your own blood sister daughter or mother, and the world turns a blind eye except but very few.

Subhanallah the only thing that brings us sabr is through the words of Allah he says;

As a part of these awareness campaigns, depicted above, these ISIS women launched a new propaganda video warning of how an Iraqi counter-terrorism agent, masquerading as an ISIS smuggler, failed to extract information and money from a woman who wanted to be smuggled out of the camp. After learning about this betrayal, some pro-ISIS women also fumed at other women in the camp for letting out sensitive information about other “European sisters” and “selling their imam to Kurdish apostates.” Some posted of how these angered sisters had stormed in the tents of the women who had acted as informers and set ablaze their belongings

and clothes after which the next morning the guards came to the scene to restore order in Camp al Hol. The dangers in this camp cannot be underestimated [as killings happen regularly](#). Below in the screenshot a pro-ISIS woman in the Iraqi section of Al Hol camp states that a “high level PKK agent” in the camp was recently killed.



A 6-minute video titled *Exposing Iraqi Rafidis* (an ISIS derogatory term for Shia Muslims) widely circulated across all funding pages and also by decentralized funders and their fake apps amplifies the already heightened threat perceptions among ISIS women in Camp al Hol. This heightened awareness among the ISIS women might also hamper the intelligence gathering of the SDF as more women have now understood the danger of revealing their purported identities to smugglers promising escapes who might actually work as undercover SDF agents. The periodic surfacing of videos of women getting caught on camera in the water tanker smuggling schemes, some released by the security forces of the AANES, further adds to this trust deficit.

Their heightened vigilance and awareness of their precarious surroundings particularly with the security crackdown and transfers to the stricter Camp al Roj, the constant attempts at escaping and the renewed attempts of prison breaks show how the male prisoners and foreign women are either completely desperate or still recalcitrant to come to terms with the harsh reality of accepting their life as prisoners. As the ISIS women in Camp al Hol and their helpers in the West reinvigorate their efforts to fundraise to help them to make their way out of camps, their male counterparts, who have also been detained in deplorable conditions in Hasakah’s AlSina prison seem to have reached their breaking point as well and in recent weeks have [attempted prison breaks or escapes by digging tunnels with the help of metal pieces procured from damaging their metal bedframes](#).

[←](#) Tweet

الصناعة في مدينة الحسكة ، حيث حاول
السجناء الفرار عبر حفر نفق باستخدام قطع
معدينية من أسرة النوم .

Translated from Arabic by Google

Thwarting the attempt to escape the
ISIS terrorist from Al-Sinaa prison in
Al-Hasakah city, where prisoners tried to
escape by digging a tunnel using metal
pieces from the sleeping beds.



6,596 views

13:34 · 14 Sep 20 · [Twitter for Android](#)

24 Retweets **2** Quote Tweets **77** Likes




Tweet your reply



[One recently stood up GoFundMe fundraiser circulated in ISIS-linked Facebook groups and in messaging apps](#) doesn't make specific mention of the camps or of ISIS women but instead innocently proclaims that it will send money for "providing the sisters and their children with safe and secured shelter from the oppressed situation, clean food and help them with other daily basic needs they have." However, given it is being circulated in ISIS groups alongside photos of beheadings that are glorified, it's more likely that this new donation drive kickstarted by "Fisabilillah Sisters" who hail from New York City with an ambitious target of soliciting donations of up to \$13,000 is raising money for attempts at ex-filtering ISIS women and children from the detention camps. The fundraiser, which attempts to appear as a social cause, claims that women in the camps in Syria are "being raped, tortured, children snatched away and many of them literally dig the bins to feed a morsel of food to the orphans under their care." Appealing to sympathy and duty of Western Muslims the fundraisers write, "All of you brothers and sisters who claim to love the prophet's (saw) sunnah, for how long will you keep on creating hashtags #savetheummah and not change the situation of the oppressed with your hands when it's at the ease of your fingertips today?"

Fundraiser For Widowed Sisters And Orphans



 Sisters Fisabilillah is organizing this fundraiser.

\$151 raised of \$13,000 goal

6 donors 7 shares 6 followers

 **Share**

 **Donate now**

 Son of Sunnah
\$10 · 5 hrs

 Anonymous
\$10 · 11 hrs

 bilal tahir
\$50 · 12 hrs

Rumor mills operated from inside Camp al Hol by pro-ISIS women churning dubious and concerning news about the SDF's conduct with women and the view of the new security camp extensions in al Roj as a dungeon have added to a heightened urgency among these pro-ISIS women to devise quick and cautious ways to make their ways out of the camps before they are transferred to their new camp destination. Interestingly, where the women from Camp al Hol label this transfer as a "de-radicalization move of Kuffar," the Kurdish officials as reported by Rudaw reveal that al Hol residents who were chosen after they were carefully monitored by the authorities to transfer [were deemed "less dangerous."](#) However, the ISIS women themselves monitored in discussions on social media and in messaging apps by Mona Thakkar of ICSVE

insist that the transferred women are those who violated the camp rules (through their violent actions by attacking, stealing, stabbing or talking to ISIS). It's unclear how the decisions to transfer are actually being made but according to the ISIS women it's based on dangerousness. If true, however, dangerousness may decrease in Camp al Roj as they are no longer allowed to hide behind black niqabs and communicate with the outside over contraband phones.

The concern of the treatment of these women and their children during their reshuffling/resettlement to al Roj was also highlighted by the Australian Save the Children director Mat Tinkler as he took to Twitter to raise his opposition to forced transfers, which grew out of his dolor after hearing of [10 Australian kids and mothers being snatched and handcuffed and their belongings being destroyed.](#)



Mat Tinkler @TinklerMat · Sep 6

Disturbing news from Al-Hol camp in NE Syria, with 10 Aussie kids reportedly snatched from their tents, mothers handcuffed, belongings destroyed & no understanding of their whereabouts or wellbeing. Innocent kids don't deserve this, they should be repatriated to Australia ASAP



kamalle dabboussy @kmal1967 · Sep 5

Father's Day was hard enough, my daughter trapped and ignored by @ScottMorrisonMP. Today I wake with the news that 10 Aust kids are missing. tents, beds, & clothes destroyed. No one in Govt can tell me if they are alive? Bring them home #alhol #auspol @MarisePayne. Before a death

[Show this thread](#)



In this regard, the camp residents have repeatedly been perturbed by the guards' occasional mishandling of small children. However, these complaints must be placed in the context of an overtaxed SDF dealing with understaffing in a chaotic and overcrowded camp in which the women are hiding and also often armed, as all have access to kitchen knives that have in the past been used to stab security personnel.

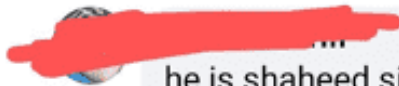
It's also noteworthy that the women who escaped from al Hol and made their way to Idlib have also been at the forefront of flashy funding efforts pleading to the ummah to come forward to give sadaqah (charity) for their sisters. But among those who escaped and sit ensconced in Idlib

are many who hate ISIS and have entered into arguments with staunch takfiri women by being disgruntled about the group making bold statements like “I was till the end of Dawah and Baghdadi left us in prison while being safe in Idlib and we were under bombs.” They further lament that ISIS killed its own brothers and left them in the lurch. The sarcastic response to this by a pro-ISIS woman was to ask whether she received protection from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the jihadist group controlling Idlib.



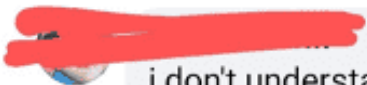
that ISIS, Boko Haram, al-Shabab, Al-Qaeda and anyone like them ALL cling to the Khawarij ideology and bring nothing but destruction.

2w Like Reply



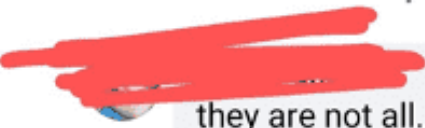
he is shaheed since 3 years ago or 4... he was on the right aqedah...

2w Like Reply



i don't understand you.. i was in dawla until the end.. i was in baghuez.. under bombs and got injured..

2w Like Reply



they are not all.. but there where a lot of them ghuluu takfir.. if anybody spoke agains baghdaadi.. then they get killed.. I KNOW I WAS THERE

2w Like Reply




Shariin Shariin there are many people like u who spread lies upon good people
Where are u now? Having good life



Write

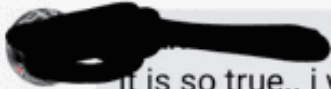
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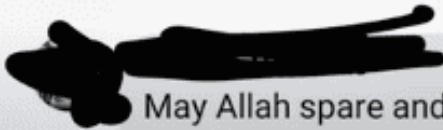
other things. The Scholars of the religion have made it very clear that groups such as ISIS are indeed those such individuals.

2w Like Reply



it is so true.. i was in dawla.. and i know ... they do takfir on everybody.. and how baghdadi left us in prison.. he was in idlib safe and sound.. and we under bombs.. hasbun ALLAH wa ni3mal wakil.. and so many sisters still are die hard isis... these people killed true brothers.. their own soldiers.. they turtored them.. and they left us.. alhamdulillah ALLAH freed majority of us.. they dont like it if a brother other than dawla takes them out of prison.. no leave them there.. why because we will marry murtadeen accordig to them.. i hate the evil amongst them.. but there were alao good men and may ALLAH accept them.. like my own little brother ❤️

2w Like Reply



May Allah spare and guide your little brother to the correct



Write a reply...



Female ISIS stalwarts from the camp, and elsewhere, whose Facebook profiles are usually littered with their emotional posts about their painful life as captives, also took some time out to post in celebration of the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and called on waging global jihad, temporarily muting their agony into the few seconds of fervent rage and happiness.

In summary, it's important to note that as these women tread carefully amid new security protocols, devising new ways and employing sophisticated strategies to make their hushed exit from the camps, one thing is clear. They have been successful, as was ISIS itself in years past, in coming up with convincing explanations to garner assistance from all over the world by weaponizing principal Islamic obligations to rally a reasonable amount of support for their cause.

These fundraisers and the fact that ISIS women in the camps still manage to communicate from them and garner sympathy for being held prisoners create a worrisome hangover of ISIS's cruel Caliphate, with continued sympathy for its members still extended as far as Australia, the UK and U.S., where it appears that stalwart ISIS supporters continue to channel funding appeals on Facebook for their sisters thousands of miles away. This alone should be a strong argument for speedy repatriation efforts by Western countries to end the ability of ISIS to tug at the heartstrings of new and old supporters to still act from afar on behalf of this heinous group.

Reference for this article: Speckhard, Anne and Thakker, Mona. (September 23, 2020). ISIS-Linked Digital Activism and Sympathy-Raising on Behalf of ISIS Women Held in SDF Camps. [*Homeland Security Today*](#)

About the authors:

Anne Speckhard, Ph.D., is Director of the International Center for the Study of Violent Extremism (ICSVE) and serves as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown University School of Medicine. She has interviewed over 700 terrorists, their family members and supporters in various parts of the world including in Western Europe, the Balkans, Central Asia, the Former Soviet Union and the Middle East. In the past five years, she has interviewed 245 ISIS defectors, returnees and prisoners as well as 16 al Shabaab cadres and their family members (n=25) as well as ideologues (n=2), studying their trajectories into and out of terrorism, their experiences inside ISIS (and al Shabaab), as well as developing the *Breaking the ISIS Brand Counter Narrative Project* materials from these interviews which includes over 200 short counter narrative videos of terrorists denouncing their groups as un-Islamic, corrupt and brutal which have been used in over 150 Facebook and Instagram campaigns globally. She has also been training key stakeholders in law enforcement, intelligence, educators, and other countering violent extremism professionals, both locally and internationally, on the psychology of terrorism, the use of counter-narrative messaging materials produced by ICSVE as well as studying the use of children as violent actors by groups such as ISIS. Dr. Speckhard has given consultations and police trainings to U.S., German, UK, Dutch, Austrian, Swiss, Belgian, Danish, Iraqi, Jordanian and Thai national police and security officials, among others, as well as trainings

to elite hostage negotiation teams. She also consults to foreign governments on issues of terrorist prevention and interventions and repatriation and rehabilitation of ISIS foreign fighters, wives and children. In 2007, she was responsible for designing the psychological and Islamic challenge aspects of the Detainee Rehabilitation Program in Iraq to be applied to 20,000 + detainees and 800 juveniles. She is a sought after counterterrorism expert and has consulted to NATO, OSCE, the EU Commission and EU Parliament, European and other foreign governments and to the U.S. Senate & House, Departments of State, Defense, Justice, Homeland Security, Health & Human Services, CIA, and FBI and appeared on CNN, BBC, NPR, Fox News, MSNBC, CTV, CBC and in Time, The New York Times, The Washington Post, London Times and many other publications. She regularly writes a column for Homeland Security Today and speaks and publishes on the topics of the psychology of radicalization and terrorism and is the author of several books, including *Talking to Terrorists*, *Bride of ISIS*, *Undercover Jihadi* and *ISIS Defectors: Inside Stories of the Terrorist Caliphate*. Her publications are found here: <https://georgetown.academia.edu/AnneSpeckhard>Website: and on the ICSVE website <http://www.icsve.org>
Follow @AnneSpeckhard

Mona Thakkar is a Junior Research Fellow at ICSVE exploring the dominant narratives and propaganda setting strategies of jihadist groups of ISIS, Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham and others through social media, as well as analyzing the impact of the ISIS resurgence and ideological clashes of militant jihadist groups on the geopolitics of the Idlib theatre, and other security-related developments in Iraq and Syria. Mona holds a Bachelor's degree in Mass Media with specialization in Journalism. Currently, she is pursuing her Master's in International Relations from Manipal Academy of Higher Education in India. She has previously worked as a West Asian foreign policy research intern at the Centre for Public Policy Research, India, and as a fixer/translator for German publications like Swiss Radio, Fernsehen and Tages Zeitung. Mona is fluent in English, German, Hindi and Arabic.