Research Paper
on Terrorism and Exclusivism (REPTEX)

No. 1

Attacks in Barcelona

August 2017
If we are thinking about the recent attacks in Spain focussing on Barcelona we may remember that we could read at April, 4, 2017 a post at the telegram-channel *ad-dawla al-islamiyya* saying:

“Don’t you know that Barcelona was ruled by the Arabs for 185 years and its governor was appointed by the Umayyad caliph in Damascus!!!”

The post was illustrated by a picture from Barcelona:
The official declaration of IS was very short just claiming that the people who attacked in Barcelona were soldiers of the Islamic State and did so following the call to find targets in the countries of the anti-IS coalition (August 17, 2017; al-A’maq).

Other posts address directly the Spanish people saying: “This is only a small part of a much larger bill that will be presented to you.”

One post is warning “the brothers” against possible arrests in Morocco the way it happened after the Bataclan and other attacks in Paris. Another post starts “Fear is instilled into the heart of Europe, now in Spain, attack after attack.” Then bragging about the casualties and the breakdown of intelligence not being able to stop such an attack. And we now find a “province (wilaya, IS speak) Barcelona”

A longer text with the title “The attack in Barcelona in Spain” starts with two quotations from the Quran that call for the killing of “polytheists” (mushrikin) saying that IS and its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi proclaimed the duty to kill the outlawed unbelievers (kuffar) in the “land of unbelief” (dar al-kufr).

The killed IS-leader al-’Adnani is quoted that there true believers IS-style in Europe and North America who open the “door of [military] jihad” when the “door of migration (bab al-hijra)” to regions controlled by IS is closed for them.

“These trustworthy calls were heard by the “lions of the caliphate in the “lands of unbelief”. Today the great attack in crusading Spain in the area of Barcelona was carried out” and many people were killed or injured.
The author then quotes an older scholar who says there is no distinction to be made between combatants and non-combatants. A Wahhabi scholar from the 19th/20th century is quoted saying that in principle killing unbelievers is allowed. This is another proof for the family resemblance between Wahhabism and Jihadism, easily substantiated by the number of theological tracts republished by IS.

The author understands this quotations as a legitimation for killing “the unbelievers” everywhere.

Victory, the author says, of the true believer (=followers of IS) is promised by God. A quite optimistic worldview instead of the depression dominating the realm of IS, as we are told by the pundits.

To remind us and the scholars proclaiming the perpetual decline of IS online propaganda just a random selection of al-A’maq short posts so dear to journalists and experts:

- two drones of the Iraqi army downed
- killing of one Egyptian police officer
- killing of one Iraqi police officer and wounding two by an IED
- suicide operation and clashes close to Mosul
- clashes in Mosul
- destroying an Abrams tank near Mosul
- killing of six members of the Iraqi forces, historical center of Mosul
- destroying an armoured personnel carrier, type BMP, of the PKK close to at-Tabqa
- killing of a member of the intelligence service, area of Tikrit
- killing of two members of the Iraqi forces and destroying of one Hummer close to Mosul

All posts issued at telegram, channel baghdad al-khilafa, at 23:03-23:04, April 8, just an impression of the overwhelming decline of IS – if you believe the experts.

For Barcelona (and other European countries) it means attacks are to be expected, but don't
panic!