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1. 2015

1.1 October

About (2015-10-20 22:12)

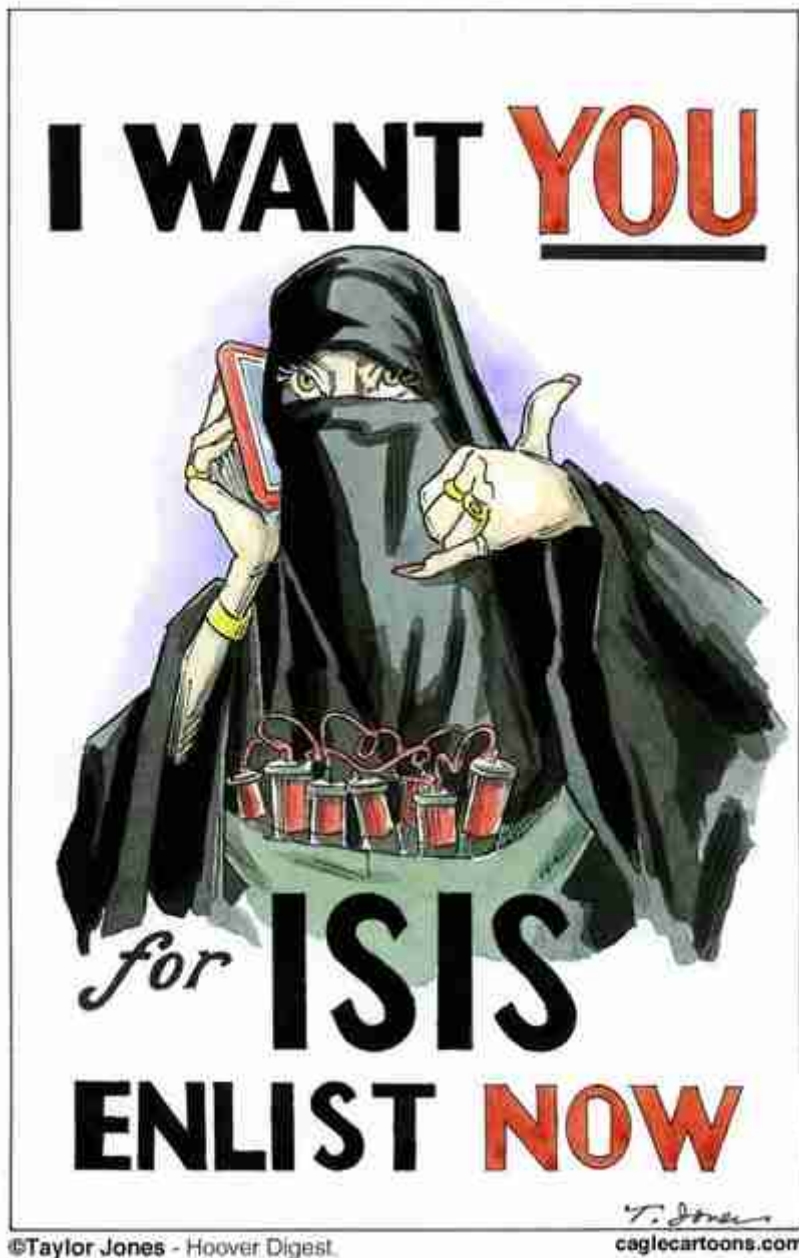
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1.2 November

ISIS : Who & How? (2015-11-03 15:00)

Felton, Deonna Fall 2015

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has become one of the biggest and most powerful terrorist organizations we have seen in history. The Islamic militant group has taken over and demolished land that stretches from northern Iraq all the way to Syria. Forcing thousands to flee from their home or die if they do not convert. The group's goal is to establish an "Islamic caliphate" state governed in accordance to Islamic law. ISIS is known for its brutality including mass killings, beheadings, rape and much more indescribable terror.



Despite all the gruesome acts the organization has caused, it is growing faster than ever with thousands fleeing from their homes to join ISIS in Syria. However as the months pass we are noticing that there are not just followers in Syria, but followers around the world. Told to stay put and perform gruesome acts in their own country. Humanity is thrown for a curve ball, unable to predict what type of person will join the group next. Some recruits are expected while others not so much. Some family members completely in shock, describe their as normal, having tons of friends, loved life. Yet gone with a blink of an eye to join the mass murders disguised among humanity.

But How do they do it?

How are they able to recruit thousands while still conducting war in Syria?

Can they reach my child?

This blog will dive into these questions examining ISIS and their recruiting techniques with personal stories, videos, and more.

Luring Western Girls Into Jihad (2015-11-09 21:23)

Felton, Deonna Fall 2015

In recent months researchers have noticed a significant amount of followers to be adolescent women. How could such innocent young girls submit to live in a war zone? CNN takes a look inside ISIS recruitment techniques and explores the women of ISIS. Researchers are tracking over 100 women through online platforms to understand the surge in female recruits.

Among the women of ISIS is Shams a 27-year-old Wife and mother runs a blog showing what life is like for women in ISIS.

Shams or "bird of Jannah" a doctor from Malaysia is said to have traveled to Syria via turkey in February of 2014. Just after two months of being in Syria she meets and gets married to an ISIS fighter all in the same day. She romanticizes her life with her husband, how she found sisterhood and faith.

Her blog writes :

"He looked at me, our eyes catches each others'. I had palpitation that is faster than the speed of light," she wrote.

"He smiled. And he asked a question that I shall never forget for the rest of my life. "Can we get married today? After Asr?

"Deep inside my heart shouted, 'noooo'. But I have no idea why I answered 'Yes'."

Many young teens including three young schoolgirls from London that recently fled, use shams as a guide to what they might expect once they arrive in Syria. Shams goes into detail revealing what you will need from shoes, to perfume, to undergarments. Shams gives lonely girls looking for belonging ; and the lust to be apart of something bigger giving them that extra push that they might not have had before. Shams explains that there a hundreds of soldiers looking for wives and it is easy to get married once you are there. She urges young women to be apart of jihad in the fight for Allah.

Shams is just one of the many recruiters that ISIS has used to get supporters. It's hard for researchers to pinpoint what type of women are lured into the recruiting network but with many of women like Shams on the Internet it becomes that much harder to stop the process.

IN THE SKIN OF A JIHADIST (2015-11-13 22:49)

Felton, Deonna Fall 2015

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In the skin of the jihadist a book about a young journalist who enters the ISIS recruitment network vividly portrays what it's like for young women and how men lure them to come to Syria.

Eager to know more about how the Isis recruitment network was luring young girls author Anna Erelle goes undercover and creates a Facebook avatar as "Melodie" a recent convert to Islam. She writes

"I've done a lot of work on radical Islam and tried to interview as many people as I could. I saw the impact of digital propaganda on God's newly minted soldiers, but I still didn't understand what drove them. Over the course of a few weeks, they threw away their lives, convinced they'd never look back."

After a couple of months of sharing and reposting ISIS propaganda videos Melodie gets a message from Abu Biel an ISIS fighter that she's seen in videos who speaks perfect French. At the time she doesn't know that Abu Biel is the right hand man of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi leader of the terrorist organization.

Biel first messages wrote "Salaam alaikum, sister. I see you watched my video. It's gone viral!" he wrote. "Are you Muslim? What do you think about mujahideen? Last question: Are you thinking about coming to Syria?" Melodie replies giving him little information, Biel then immediately asks to Skype.

About a month goes by of skyping and chatting with Biel. On the second day, after meeting Melodie, Biel asks her to marry him and come join him in Syria. He writes: "Syria is amazing. We have everything here. Masha'Allah, you have to believe me: it's paradise! A lot of women fantasize about us were Allah's warriors."

Biel pulls all the tricks calling Melodie beautiful inside and out having known nothing about her.

The true riveting story is a great example of the tactics these men use to make young girls give up their lives for what they believe to be "love". If Melodie was real author Erelle writes she would have defiantly fallen for his trap, like much of the other young girls that have left for Syria. Researchers claim that there are hundreds of ISIS fighters on the dark web waiting for young girls just like Melodie.

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Propaganda Video's (2015-11-28 00:50)

Felton, Deonna Fall 2015

It all started with the ISIS video of James Foley an american, kneeling, emotionless wearing bright orange. His executioner standing behind him masked in all black with a knife. The video watched thousands of times was a demand for the U.S. to stop airstrikes in Iraq.

Since then the group has released several videos similar to this one, but with more grotesque acts such as drowning individuals in cages, burning, and throwing people off of balconies. However, before these videos no one knew who ISIS was. With strategic intent these videos made ISIS a household name and gave rise to the group aiding them in their popularity.

Terrorism experts claim that the videos are a tactic, to obtain specific outcomes such as deferring U.S. airstrikes, recruit new fighters and sow terror among enemies.

But who would watch such graphic terrible videos and want to join the group?

The Answer - Way more people than you think.

While most would find these videos unjust and wrong, many men see it as masculinity in its best light. The videos humiliating victims show a sign of great power. Giving men the idea that if they join the group they can protect, provide, and control.

Nonetheless the Social Media experts knew that gruesome videos wouldn't inspire everyone to join their group. So ISIS began to release recruitment videos like the latest video "There is no life without Jihad." This video takes a different approach using personal heartfelt speeches from english speaking Britain and Australian Jihadist. The video aimed western muslims encourages Muslims around the world to join them in their Jihad.



One Jihadi says " I know how you feel living in the West you feel depressed, trust me when I say the only cure for this depression is life with Jihad." He goes on further adding "Open the Quran open the jihad and everything will become clear to you." "You will soon realize that everything that you sacrifice for Allah he will give back to you 700 times".

Another Britain joins in " When watching this video ask yourself is this the life that I have chosen."

"All my brothers come to Jihad and feel the honor we are feeling, feel the happiness we are feeling."

The video ends with all five Jihadist laughing and hugging each other depicting friendship and happiness.

1.3 December

Social Media Masterminds (2015-12-02 17:15)

Felton, Deonna Fall 2015

"They have far surpassed any jihadist organization anywhere in the world in their ability to run a very sophisticated media operation in multiple languages and high-quality video" said Charles Lister, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution in Doha, to the Times.

After 9/11 Al-Queda began releasing propaganda videos broadcasted through local TV's with bad quality videos and scratchy audio that would eventually get to America weeks later. Now, however terrorism has evolved and is seen on a whole new level. High Quality HD videos shot with drones casting beheadings and mass killings are instantly uploaded to youtube. Once the video is uploaded the groups announces it to their thousands of followers with a tweet and a hashtag.

Now the video is trending on twitter, Facebook, and websites and you can do everything but escape it.

ISIS has used social media to recruit individuals from all different ages from over the world, and it's working. The organization uses almost every social media website including Facebook, twitter, interest, whatsapp, youtube, kik, wordpress, tumblr, and askfm.

Their social media tactics are working so well the FBI issued out a warning to law enforcement agencies that IS recruiting efforts are trending with young Americans.

Many researchers claim that the reason their social media efforts are so effective is because ISIS and its followers were raised in this technology era, and understand how to talk to people through these mediums.

ISIS fighters post pictures of hanging out with cats, taking selfies with rayban sunglasses, eating dinner, or donating toys to children. All of which portray their lives to be normal and luxurious.

ISIS looks for an individuals weakness and taps into that weakness by providing life with jihad.

Are you depressed? ISIS can fix that.

Are you lonely? Come join Jihad and brotherhood.

Are you searching for purpose? Come join us in the fight for Allah.

"They're a bunch of killers with good social media," Obama said, speaking at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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