

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE



SYMBOL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

Officer Awareness Bulletin

Intelligence on Trending Symbols

9 November 2015



(LES) Emblems of the Islamic State's Provinces - Russian Airliner Incident

(LES) Islamic State Provinces - When the Islamic State claimed territory in Iraq and Syria it subdivided the countries into multiple wilayah (provinces), largely based on preexisting governance boundaries. When jihadist groups in other countries declare their allegiance to the Islamic State, meet the criteria and are formally accepted by the IS leader al-Baghdadi, the Islamic State considers the group to be one of its provinces and gives it support. Currently, the Islamic State claims 38 provincial divisions including those in Iraq and Syria. The Islamic State's Sinai Province claimed responsibility for the downing of Russia's Metrojet Flight 9268 in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on 31 October 2015.

- **(LES) IS Sinai Province** aka Wilayat Sinai, Wilāyat Saynā', Islamic State in the Sinai, formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (ABM) [Supporters of Jerusalem] is a Salafi jihadist group that has been active since 2011. IS Sinai Province is the IS affiliate based in Egypt's northeastern Sinai on the border with Gaza. The group has committed numerous deadly attacks and killed hundreds of policemen and military personnel. They have been designated as a terrorist organization by Egypt, the UAE, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- **(LES) Symbolism of Date of Airliner Incident** - Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis formally swore allegiance (Bay'a) to the Islamic State, changing their name to Sinai Province (Wilayat Sinai) on the 17th of Muharram 1436 of the Islamic Calendar [10 November 2014]. The bombing of the Russian airliner occurred on the one year anniversary of their oath of allegiance to the Islamic State on the 17th of Muharram 1437 [31 October 2015]. Symbolism is a hallmark of jihadist attacks and groups often attempt to strike on anniversaries or commemorative dates that hold symbolic meaning to the group. In one of several messages taking responsibility for the attack IS Sinai Province linked its attack on the Russian airliner to the anniversary of swearing allegiance to al Baghdadi.



Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (ABM) Emblem




Islamic State Sinai Province Emblem



Sinai Province Emblem [IS Media Office]





BREAKING NEWS RUSSIAN PLANE DOWNED, OVER 220 RUSSIAN CRUSADERS PERISH ABOARD.

ISLAMIC STATE
SAYNA' 17 Muharram 1437

THE SOLDIERS OF THE KHILAFAH WERE ABLE TO DOWN A RUSSIAN PLANE OVER WILAYAT SAYNA'. IT WAS CARRYING MORE THAN 220 RUSSIAN CRUSADERS. ALL OF THEM WERE KILLED, AND PRAISE IS FOR ALLAH. THIS IS TO SHOW THE RUSSIANS AND WHOEVER ALLIES WITH THEM THAT THEY SHALL HAVE NO SAFETY IN MUSLIM LANDS OR AIRSPACE, AND THAT THEIR DAILY KILLING OF DOZENS IN SHAM VIA THEIR AIRSTRIKES SHALL RESULT IN THEIR DEMISE. AS THEY KILL, THEY WILL BE KILLED BY THE PERMISSION OF ALLAH. ALLAH IS IN CONTROL, THOUGH MOST PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW.

IS Sinai Province claimed responsibility for downing the Russian Airliner in a statement that was circulated on Twitter and also posted on the Amaq website, which acts as a semi-official news agency for ISIS.

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(LES) EMBLEMS OF THE ISLAMIC STATE'S PROVINCES - RUSSIAN AIRLINER INCIDENT

(LES) IS Sinai Province Tactics & Weapons: The majority of the group's operations have taken place in North Sinai and they have previously directed many of their attacks towards Israel. The group has also claimed attacks in the mainland through affiliated cells. IS Sinai Province is known to be the strongest and best coordinated group in Egypt, and is in possession of advanced weaponry, including man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS), rocket-propelled grenades, Grad rockets, mortars and Russian-made Kornet anti-tank missiles. Tactics include guerilla warfare, multiple gas pipeline bombings, assassinations, drive by shootings, suicide bombings, vehicle-borne IED's and bombings of police, military and security facilities. Similar to the Islamic State in Syria, they use brutal tactics against civilians and have adopted the Islamic State's tactic of beheading those they designate spies or traitors. Since swearing allegiance to the Islamic State they have received support financially and tactically from ISIS in heavy weapons and artillery.

- **(LES) Use of MANPADS & Missiles** - IS Sinai Province released a video in Sept. 2015 demonstrating that they have advanced missiles. The video depicts the groups use of what appears to be an SA-18 Igla anti-aircraft missile. In a massive assault in July 2015 fighters used numerous anti-aircraft missiles. In Jan. 2014 they used a MANPAD to shoot down an Egyptian military helicopter. In July 2015 they claimed responsibility for a missile attack on an Egyptian naval patrol boat. Although the Russian airliner would have been well out of range of these weapons, IS Sinai Province has used a number of sophisticated explosive devices so the creation and deployment of a small but effective improvised explosive device would fall within their capabilities.
- **(LES) Murder of William Henderson** - Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis [IS Sinai Province] took credit for the murder of William Henderson, an American who was killed on Aug. 6, 2014. On its official Twitter page they posted a photograph of various identification cards belonging to Henderson (see picture below). The pictured documents include his employee cards for Qarun Petroleum Company and the Apache Corporation, as well as his passport. It was reported that Henderson was killed in a carjacking.



Islamic State Flag aka Black Flag of Tawheed, the Black Standard, Al-Rāya



(LES) The information in this bulletin is provided to assist law enforcement and investigative agencies in identifying symbolism associated with designated terrorist organizations. In the event that any of these symbols are observed in conjunction with suspicious activity law enforcement should follow established protocols. Report prepared by the Symbol Intelligence Group. For additional information about the Symbol Intelligence Group visit our website at www.symbolintelligence.com

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(LES) EMBLEMS OF THE ISLAMIC STATE'S PROVINCES - RUSSIAN AIRLINER INCIDENT

(LES) Islamic State's Provinces Emblems - The Islamic State initially claimed territory in Iraq and Syria, subdividing each country into multiple wilayah (provinces). On 13 November 2014 Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared the creation of several new provinces in Libya, Algeria, Egypt, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. In January 2015, in Afghanistan-Pakistan, in March 2015 in Northern Nigeria and in June 2015 a North Caucasus province was announced. Provinces represent a formalized annexation model where the Islamic State expands outside its base and gains authority over satellite groups and territory outside Iraq and Syria. The success of this model is evident in the dozens of jihadist groups around the world pledging their allegiance to al-Baghdadi and applying for provincial status. The Islamic State maintains a strict process in order to be officially considered one of the caliphate's provinces and receive IS support. Similar to gangs, those applying for and maintaining IS province status earn their street cred by carrying out attacks or acts of brutality as a sign of loyalty and commitment to the IS. When a group is acknowledged as an Islamic State province its name and symbols are rebranded signifying that they are official arms of the IS in those countries. The following are some of the emblems of the Islamic State's provinces.

Khorasan Province Afghanistan and Pakistan	West Africa Province Nigeria	San'a Province Yemen	Tunis Province Tunisia	Najd Province Saudi Arabia	Tripolitania Province Libya
Lahej Province Yemen	Sinai Province Egypt	Al-Haramain Province Saudi Arabia	Al-Jazeera Province Syria	Barqa Province Libya	Algerian Province Algeria
Anbar Province Iraq	Falluja Province Iraq	Baghdad Province Iraq	Northern Baghdad Province Iraq	Diyala Province Iraq	Kirkuk Province Iraq
Haleb (Aleppo) Province Syria	Furat (Euphrates) Province Iraq and Syria	Hims (Homs) Province Syria	Raqqah Province Syria	Damascus Province Syria	Barakah Province Syria

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