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LEARNING ABOUT THE ISLAMIC STATE'S FOUNDATION OF THOUGHT BY READING THE ONLINE RUMIYAH MAGAZINE

***Abstract:** Rumiyah, which replaces the Dabiq magazine, is an online magazine used by the Islamic State (IS). It is released in ten languages with attractive content and form aiming at specific objects. Rumiyah shows the IS's effort on the electronic front. Through the magazine, the IS's ideas and goals are clearly expressed. In particular, theological interpretation sends the message of the IS to the whole world that the IS will set up a global religion which just obeys Allah through violence. It is noteworthy that the theological interpretation of the IS is not true to the Islamic doctrine, the values and spirits that Islamic civilization has created over the past century. Thus, the article focuses on analysing the content and purpose of theological thought of the Rumiyah magazine (through research on the four issues in 2016) in comparison with the The Qur'an, thereby contributing to identification this international terrorist organization.*

***Keywords:** Islamic State, IS's theology, Rumiyah.*

1. Overview of the Islamist State's history of establishment and development

1.1. Establishment

In 2003, after President Saddam Hussein, a representative of the Sunni Islam demonination, was overthrown by the United State at the Iraq war, the Shiah came to power. Some Sunni Islamists rebelled against the US military presence in the Middle East.

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In October 2004, Abu Musab Al-Zaqawi, a leader of this force, pledged his allegiance to Osama bin Laden, established the “Jihad of Islam in Mesopotamia” (Thánh chiến Islam giáo miền Lưỡng Hà) AQI.

In 2006, AQI gathered many other rebel groups and formed the “Mujahideen Shura Council”. After Al-Zaqawi was killed, this organization was divided. One group of them merged with other movement groups to establish ISI (Islamic State of Iraq). This organization officially separated from AQI with the goal of freeing Sunni people in Iraq from Shiah people and foreigners in 2007.

In 2014, after capturing a large territory of Iraq, IS declared the founding of the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), placed the capital at Ar-Raqqah, Syria. The “Khaliph” of the Islamic State calls Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi¹.

However, according many sources of information, the birth of IS has the sponsorship and support of the US in order to counter with the Islamist states that have an opposite view of the US like Iran and pro-Russian governments at Middle East. Then, this organization turned back against the US and the West, considered them as foreign nations who have to pay the price either for being pagan² or for intervening in the Middle East³.

Regardless of the formation is spontaneous, indispensable or backed, the IS is a political organization with extreme measures, terrorism on behalf of Islam.

1.2. The purpose of the IS

The goal of the IS is establishment a united Islamist State throughout the Middle East. The values of Islam will be restored as the first period of Islam, the era of the Prophet. Shariah law will be applied to maintain the purity of Islam and to punish secular Islamist nations or Shiah followers who do not convert to Sunni. Moreover, the IS also wants to dominate the world with all possible measures, including jihad.

1.3. The basis for existence

1.3.1. Economy

The IS has been survived by anonymous donations of Islamist radical groups fighting against Syrian President Bashar Al- Assad; Gulf Arabic countries such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait; extremist individuals, businessmen, wealthy families and royal members in the Middle East. The IS effectively uses the banking system of Qatar and Kuwait to receive the secret funding. This organization also has income by selling crude oil of occupied oilfields, robbed antiques of museums, institutes or selling women and children, increasing taxes on occupied places, kidnapping for ransom. The IS is estimated possess \$ 2 billion, it is the richest terrorist group in the world.

1.3.2. Mass media

As formation and operation in the era of globalization, unlike the previous terrorist groups, the IS has paid special attention to the propagation and use of electronic systems and the Internet to serve the declaration, transmission and spread of its influences.

The IS approaches most of the mass media today. This organization distributes images via social networks, uses smart phone applications, publishes videos, magazines online such as: Twitter, Kik, WhatsApp and Skype. Thereby, the IS employers can chat secretly with potential warriors to convince them to join the IS organization⁴. In addition, IS developed a software called “The Dawn of Glad Tidings”, it is one of the successes in communication of the IS. The application brings the entire IS warrior’s life (not only through wars but it is also their normal daily life) to the external world, it can be called Twitter but it is replaced by the Arabic⁵.

In order to disseminate information, the IS has a Media Center called Al Hayat, which is responsible for uploading and distributing the IS’s videos. These videos are distributed in large numbers, professionally invested. In terms of content, the organization has videos call for fighting, savage content videos to spread fear into the world as well as attract violent lovers.

Deriving from Al Hayat center, the IS has published a magazine called *Dabiq* since July 2014. *Dabiq* was published monthly with 60 to 80 pages. All magazines are color printed with professional designed images. The content of *Dabiq* is rich, praising to Allah, articles about IS and its victories. According to *Dabiq*, celebrities are radical Islamist militants fighting for the IS's ideals. The IS showed the images of violence and death to honestly describe its actions⁶.

After discontinuing *Dabiq* in 2016, IS released a new online publication called *Rumiyah*, its theological ideology governs and directs IS communication messages to date.

2. Background and basic information about *Rumiyah* magazine

2.1. Background

Rumiyah is a “descendant” of *Dabiq* magazine. The magazine is released every few months (according to the Islamic calendar), its capacity is smaller than *Dabiq*, meaning the average number of pages is 40 pages compared to 60 pages of the old magazine. In 2016, *Rumiyah* released 4 issues.

Unlike the previous online media publications, focusing only on specific geographical areas, *Rumiyah* released in 10 languages: English, German, French, Russian, Bosnian, Kurdish, Afghani, Turkish, Uighur (Xinjiang - China), Bahasa (Indonesia). These are common languages of warriors, of Muslim communities in the world that are targeted to recruit by IS⁷.

The name **Rumiyah** in Arabic measures **Rome**, so the English version is also called **Rome Magazine**. This name showed the goal of IS: to destroy, to conquer and to be Rome's owner, including Rome of modern time and of the Roman Empire, the predecessor of all Western civilization. In fact, the name *Rumiyah* was extracted from a Hadith referring to Muhammad's words in the battle between the Islamists and the Rome's warriors at Aleppo of Sirya (now *Dabiq*), that Muslims would conquer both Constantinople and Rome⁸.

In this spirit, IS changed the name of magazine online from *Dabiq* to *Rumiyah*. However, this is also a change of IS's terrorist tactics.

Specifically, Dabiq is a province of Syria, it plays an important role because according to IS, the final battle of the Doomsday between the West and the Muslim army will take place at Dabiq. However, at the end of 2016, the IS realized the risk of losing this territory, so it launched a new magazine called Rumiya. The IS implied that the war does not only take place in the Middle East but it will also expand to the West.

It also measures that the *IS transmits ambitious messages to occupy the West on their territory and proceeds to establish a unified worldwide Muslim community*⁹.

Rumiya was immediately released after the important event the death of the spokesman Abu Muhammad al-Adnan. Under the leadership of the new spokesperson Abul Hasan Al-Muhajir and an elaborate investment in content and form, the IS affirmed its ambition to compete with Western media.

In addition, in the context of being lost a quarter occupied territory compared to early 2015 by the United States and its coalition countries, the IS changed tactics in using media, focusing on theological interpretation. It is considered as an optimal strategy. And Rumiya magazine was born in such contexts¹⁰.

Rumiya targets three main subjects: 1) Soldiers of the IS's military and its supporters; 2) Enemies of the IS (people who oppose the IS, people of other religions or no religion, Muslims of Shiah and especially Westerners); and 3) Potential warriors from Muslim communities around the world, especially Muslim minority communities in Western countries and war zones¹¹.

Rumiya's basic content includes: Reporting and praising individuals with many "trophy" or "martyrdom" in terrorist activities; Explaining and justifying the "righteous" religious purpose of terrorist acts based on quotations from the Islamist teachings; Criticizing, calling for attacks on the IS's enemy groups; and guiding tactics to implement terrorist attacks.

Based on the study of Rumiya magazine in 2016 (4 issues), it can be said that *the theological ideology in many articles justified the*

organization's terrorist act. Each issue of this magazine explained the actions, goals, and jihad calls of the IS as the guidance of Allah, Muhammad and the Qur'an.

3. Theological thought of the IS through online magazine Rumiya

The theological interpretation of Rumiya revolves around four basic contents: 1) Absolute, unique faith in Allah; 2) Towards the ideal model - Muhammad; 3) The goal of building the unique and unified Muslim community (Ummah); 4) Measures of use- Jihad.

3.1. The thought of Allah is Absolute and Supreme, humanbeings have no free will

Rumiya's writings confirmed that the IS's theological basis is Islam- an absolute, monotheistic religion. It measures that people only believe in Allah. Everyone who believes in all others besides Allah is unacceptable, and the IS's followers must eliminate these "disbelievers".

In the issue 1, the article *The Religion of Islam and the Jama'ah of the Muslims*, part 1, pages 4-6, the IS explains this view. Accordingly, humankind has no choice, has to obey Allah and Allah alone: "If someone seeks for other religion outside Islam, his wish will never be approved by Allah, and he will be one of the losers in the next life"¹².

Therefore, Rumiya interpreted a human being who is not allowed to believe in all others besides Allah, The Only Supreme One (Tawhid). According to the IS, believing in Allah alone measures standing up to fight with the pagans until conquering all people in the world, converting them to Islam¹³.

The IS has also repeatedly criticized and called for attacks on disbelievers of Tawhid (arguing that this is the most important obligation of the requirements, the greatest thing of all worship forms of Islam), because they are sinners and enemies of Allah. According to this argument, if there is Tawhid in the world, there cannot be disbelievers. According to the IS, the disbelievers include: The infidels (kuffar / kafir) and the apostates (murtaddin).

According to this argument, *if there is Tawhid in the world, there is no disbeliever*. According to IS, the disbelievers include: The pagans (kuffar/kafir) and the religious traitors (murtaddin). More specifically, they are: polytheists or idolaters (mushrikin), crusaders- Westerners or Christians, Shiah people (rafida), Sunni people fighter for the West (sahwat), authoritarian leaders of Muslim countries (tawagheet), and rebellious Muslim scholars (taghut scholars).

These people, according to the theological interpretation of IS, are the enemies of Allah and must be destroyed. Therefore, if someone is a faithful believer of Allah, believe in the Only and Absolute Supreme, he/she has to fight to eliminate those who do not believe in Allah, or believe in all others besides Him, until there are no longer these people on Earth. And just like that, believers can prove true faith¹⁴.

In fact, the faith in the Supreme One is the common point of Jews, Christians and Muslims. Although the monotheistic ideological thoughts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam are different, the original tradition of these three religions and historical practice has proved that followers of these three religions believe in the Supreme One, they still have the free will to choose how to become believers of their Supreme Being. For Islam, the The Qur'an also confirms it.

Indeed, the Qur'an emphasizes that Allah created humanbeings and arranged their fate, however in the life process, humankind have the free will to choose moral or immoral behavior, believe or disbelieve, become a righteous or unrighteous person. Allah created the heavens and the Earth, all things, the Divine Law for people to follow, just brings good and moral things to humanbeings and the Earth. He is the One who created for *men the Hearing to hear, the Vision to see and the Conscience to understand*¹⁵. Therefore, people are guided and self-selected to do good deeds, to avoid bad, sinful, injustice things.

For disbelievers, Allah knows that most people will not trust Him¹⁶. And Allah advises that they should be left, alienated¹⁷. Because for disbelievers, there is no way to help them¹⁸, each person will have to take responsibility for his/her faith¹⁹. There is no coercion in religion.

Certainly, the Truth is always different from misleading²⁰, people are free to choose belief²¹, people are free to choose belief that believe or disbelieve²².

However, the IS concludes the other Muslims and Islamic regimes as non-believers (takfir), if they do not follow its religious doctrine. While the Qur'an does not "indicate" that thing: *To establish religion and do not divide it (into denominations)*²³. Those who have divided their religion into sects, You don't do anything with them. Their work is just related to Allah. Then, He will let them know what they have done²⁴. And never become those who have divided (religion) and contested each other, after acquiring clear evidence and they are those who will receive a tremendous punishment²⁵. No one is allowed to kill people of other faiths in the name of Allah, someone intentionally kill a person of faith who will be punished in eternal Hell of fire²⁶, must be given to Allah²⁷. Because only Allah can forgive or punish sinners²⁸ and it will happen on the Judgment Day. Allah uses the Qur'an to lead all people who follow His Satisfaction to the path of peace and to bring them away from the dark path to light, to guide them follow the Straight Path²⁹. The Qur'an indicates that all the crimes on the Earth and under the sea have been made by bad behavior of humankind; and any misfortune falls upon a human being as it is caused by their own hands (and Allah has forgiven a lot)³⁰.

Thus, in comparison with the Islam doctrine, the IS's interpretations are completely misleading. For example, the IS completely denies the free will of the human being, while the Qur'an specified, humanbeings have been given full conditions to be able to choose their own actions in the life process by Allah. Therefore, if people have faith, they will follow the righteous path, completely submit to Allah, emulate to do good deeds. For people who go wrong way, have no faith, do bad things, they will be judged by Allah on the Judgment Day. On that day, if someone repents of his/her sins, it will be forgiven by Allah, if they still do not know about their sins, they will be punished, Allah will not harm them, they will harm their souls³¹. No one has the right to persecute another person's religion.

All judgment should be left to Allah, because only Allah has the power to understand everything, Allah is the King of Justice of the Judgment Day.

It can be said that IS has deliberately explained the theology of Islam in an extreme way in order to serve its plots and ambitions. This organization has gone far beyond Allah's teachings. The preaching words have gone against the values of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Aesthetic of humanbeings. Everyday, every hour it has created terror for life on Earth. Its terrorist acts have never followed the spirit of Purenness of words in the Qur'an. Therefore, the IS could never represent the hearts and minds of more than a billion Muslims who are serving God.

In four issues of Rumiya magazines, the IS always called for warriors to be patient, to overcome the difficult obstacles that Allah has set to come to the final victory. In this theological interpretation, the IS affirmed that Allah is empowering the warriors to come to victory or challenging their faith. It measures, whether the IS wins or loses in battles, this organization is going to victory. This is a very sophisticated theological interpretation, through this interpretation the IS has overcome the current losses and difficulties.

The IS calls believers have to put absolute faith in the destiny (Qadar) that has been given by Allah to each person to patiently overcome difficulties. Specifically, believing in the final victory when the IS defeat America and the West and establish an Islamist state all over the world.

The issue 1 and 2 cited the same sentence in Hadith: "Whoever sees from his leader something he dislikes then let him be patient, for indeed he who splits from the Jama'ah so much as a hand span and then dies, then it is a death of jahiliyyah"³².

The issue 3, the article *This is what Allah and his Messenger promised us*, with the content of the call to jihad, the leader Al-Baghdadi cited Surah 8:45,46 in the Qur'an: "O you who believe! When you encounter an enemy, stand firm and remember Allah much that you may be successful. Obey Allah and His Messenger, and do not

dispute, lest you falter and your strength departs; and be patient. Indeed, Allah is with the patient”³³.

In this issue, Al-Baghdadi emphasized that there should be no internal disagreements or with your leader, absolutely obey the leaders, be patient, because Allah has promised to be on the side of the righteous people, the final victory will belong to the IS by IS always fighting for Allah. Al-Baghdadi confirmed that fighting against all non-Muslims, non-Sunni, because you (the warriors) have nothing but the Islam State is protecting your religion (Islam). This is “what Allah and His Messenger promised us”³⁴.

Rumiyah, the issue 1, pages from 14 to 17, has an article praising the life and achievements of Abu Mansur al-Muhajir or Ezzit Raad, an Australian who joined the IS in 2013, Raad *was persistent, when having difficulties, always believed in Qadar, in the arrangement of Allah*. The IS explained that these difficulties are just the challenges Allah posed to the believers, if they overcome, Allah will bring them to the final victory. The magazine described Raad’s victories in Iraq when he murdered and wounded 90 people, with the conclusion: Allah will bestow Raad the highest position in Heaven ³⁵.

The issue 4 has 3 articles focused on patience as a virtue to get the final victory. The article *Stories of victory after patience*, pages from 28 to 39, recounted 4 battles in the history of the Islamist army in the Middle Ages conquering lands of the Middle East and affirmed that thanks to perseverance that led to victory of the Islamist army³⁶. This example has two sides, on the one hand, the IS has misrepresented the instructions in the Qur’an on the virtue of patience. On the other hand, It was also a strategy for calling and recruiting troops. In the Qur’an, Allah always reminds people why perseverance / patience is important. According to Allah, people will face many challenges in daily life such as fear, hunger, loss of property, life and crops³⁷, however, people who are patient do not need to worry because they are the ones led by Allah to follow the right path, the righteous path³⁸. Moreover, Allah indicated that earthly life is just like a play and a game, everything on Earth made by Allah is just to decorate³⁹, its purpose is to challenge patience of

mankind, only people who have faith, good deeds can be entered the Eternal Garden (Heaven)⁴⁰.

Patience is also emphasized when Allah's followers deal with people who do not have faith in life⁴¹, and sometimes patience with those who deny what Muhammad transmitted from God. In such situations, Allah advises people to be patient, undiscouraged, because Allah will judge all things fairly on the Day of Judgment⁴².

Thus, patience is a virtue that Allah encourages people to face difficulties and injustices in daily life, as well as, to be more flexible towards religious dissidents. Patience always goes along with goodness, forgiveness, endurance all uncertainties, truths, devotion, using property for righteousness and repentance, etc.,⁴³. Therefore, practising the virtue of patience allows people to do many good things, to wait until the day Allah will judge merit, sin⁴⁴.

However, the IS has done against the harmonious doctrines as mentioned above to justify its ambitions. By thoroughly applying the right to self-interpret Islam's doctrine- the Fiqh⁴⁵ (in the fourth reference- every Muslim has the right to interpret the Qur'an), the IS misinterpreted the virtue of patience in favor for this organization. The IS advises believers to be patient and to believe in the arrangement of Allah, it measures that it needs to overcome the current difficulties to maintain the faith, Allah will ensure the final victory.

This is a point that *has been emphasized many times* in the issue four in 2016. It is consistent with the situation of anti-terrorist front led by the US in the Middle East. The IS may have been and will be lose its occupied territories but it might never give up the theological deduction in order to maintain the trust of soldiers as well as to recruit extremists.

3.2. The Prophet Muhammad's example: need to follow the action and words of the Prophet in all circumstances

Rumiyah magazine used to the Prophet by the name Muhammad or "The Messenger of Allah". The name Muhammad appeared in verses cited from Qur'an and Hadith.

According to the IS, Muhammad is the Allah's messenger, so his words are truths. In addition, Muhammad is considered as an ideal model for Muslims to follow, so his actions were respectable. It is noteworthy that, the IS mainly cited the Muhammad's actions and words that call for fighting in the context of being suppressed, forced to protect their faith at the first period. Based on that words, the IS affirmed that *believers must fight like Muhammad in the past*.

In Rumiya magazine, No.2, the article *Brutality and Severity towards the Kuffar*, part 1: *In the Sirah of the Prophet* (pages 22-23), the IS listed all of Muhammad's actions and words in the self-defense struggles in Muslim history to draw a portrait of the prophet: *He is the prophet of mercy, he is also the prophet of slaughter*. Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, His followers love each other and harshly treat disbelievers [the Qur'an: 48:29]. The IS relies on it to assert that the unique way to prove faith to Allah is to follow Muhammad, if the Prophet fought the oppressors, today the IS will destroy disbelievers until Islam becomes the unique religion in the world, "O you who have believed, fight those disbelievers near you and let them find brutality in you" [the Qur'an: 9: 123]⁴⁶.

In fact, the IS has painted a fake portrait of the Prophet. Because Muhammad was a living testimony of love and tolerance all his life. It is clearly that the allegation has ruined reputation of the Prophet when arguing that "*he is also the prophet of slaughter*".

The Qur'an also affirmed that Muhammad was just a Predictor who was sent⁴⁷, and there were no words that forced believers to follow all things that Muhammad had done. Because people are free to choose whether they will be righteous or unrighteous, the Prophet's life is the choice of each person to appropriate to the situations in life.

The IS, claiming to be a descendant of Muhammad, has defied all historical truths and destroyed the Prophet's image. It has instigated believers- extremist warriors to kill, slaughter, spread fear over humanity in the name of "following the example" of Muhammad.

In the end of *Brutality and Severity towards the Kuffar*, IS also confirmed *views of taghut scholars against the teachings of Islam*; the

advice of love both believers and disbelievers is a surrender to the enemy. According to IS, the best way is killing all the enemies of Allah as Muhammad did in the past⁴⁸.

It can be said that the IS *has completely dismissed the role of Islamist true scholars*, who are defending Islam's study, protecting the image of the Prophet, calling for peace, selflessness and religious tolerance; it also measures rejecting the role of those who are writing the history of Islam- the history of the great civilization and religion of mankind.

The issue 4, pages 2-3, the article *Hijrah Does Not Cease as Long as the Kuffar Are Fought* indicated *believers must perform migration tasks*. This is an IS's propaganda tactic for recruiting soldiers and increasing influence. The IS cited many passages from Hadith and the Qur'an about Muhammad's journey and followers from Mecca to Yathrib, which was changed to Medina.

Based on the historical basis, the IS asserted the need of migration for Allah, and for imitating Muhammad. The destination is emphasized that it is not necessarily "Iraq and Sham" (Eastern Mediterranean region) that could be anywhere such as Libya, Khurasan, Yemen, Sinai, West Africa, or lands under the IS's control in the East and the West⁴⁹.

In fact, the Qur'an said that *whoever migrates for the cause of Allah and for his Messenger to find many places for refugees on the Earth*⁵⁰. Migration for righteous reasons measures refugees caused by natural disasters and enemies, etc., Allah taught that Righteousness measures to have faith in Allah, to do good deeds and do not lie.

It can be said that the IS has taken advantage, exploited many official documents of Islamic history and anecdotes of Muhammad's life as propaganda for its terrorist purpose.

However, this theological interpretation did not place the event in its historical context. The IS did not place instructions of the Qur'an or Hadith in historical context. In the 7th century, Muhammad raised the Islamist banner to unify the Arabian Peninsula, to restructure the

economy, society, faith and morality which was declining. Establishing a new religion for a divided community, never having a religion of its own community, while the great religions of other communities formed early on the Arabian Peninsula, Muhammad obviously met many opposing forces. To protect the faith, the Islamist community and Muhammad was forced to use various measures to protect what He and his followers built.

The great migration (Hijra) in 622 was also one of indispensable efforts of Muhammad. Muhammad's role was absolutely established when arriving Medina: the Messenger became the head of state-religion and had an important influence on the religious and political unification of the Arabian Peninsula. In other words, there was a change on this peninsula that created a golden age of religion, economy, politics, culture, art, science and education.

Moreover, the Qur'an is structured backwards over time, so it is necessary to read from the end upside down to understand correctly the Islamic history. The transmitted commandments of Allah to Muhammad are not the same at each different period. In the early period in Mecca, the period of religious and political consolidation on the Arabian Peninsula, the last part of the Qur'an had the passage: *He is the One who sent His Messenger, brought the Directive and the Religion of Truth to win all religions*⁵¹. In the later period, the religious and political unification mission was completed, Allah's commandments contain a spirit of religious tolerance, without religious coercion⁵². It measures that the commandments are also changed flexibly in accordance with the historical context.

However, when interpreting the Prophet's life and example, the historical contexts were not mentioned by IS. Those who in the name of religion Islam, want to revive the golden period of this religion who do not follow Signs of Allah. Because *He is the One who gave the Qur'an to Muhammad with specific sentences. They are the foundation of the scriptures. Therefore, those who have a deviant idea to follow the general statement that seek to divide and find a way to explain its meaning, who are not the faithfuls*⁵³.

3.3. The unique global Muslim community under the political and religious leadership of a patriarch

According to the IS, *the goal that Islam must aim at is to build Ummah- the unified, unique Muslim community over the world under the leadership of a religious and political leader.*

The IS considers itself as a pioneering force to gather warriors to fight for a global Muslim community, *Islam is the unique religion in the world, and everyone submits to the unique Islamist leader.* And every Muslim must be responsible for turning the world into such a religious community.

Therefore, the IS called for killing the enemies who try to divide Ummah's unity.

In the issue 1, the article *The Religion of Islam and the Jama'ah of the Muslims*, part 2, from 6 to 8 pages, the IS confirmed that Muslims are forced to gather under the banner of a single man to fight for the future of an Islamist community that dominates the world. This article cited many verses in the Qur'an such as: The truth is that Allah loves those who fight for God as a single entity (61: 4), or the sentences in Hadith as *"Whoever comes to you wanting to break your strength or divide your unity while your matter is altogether under a single man, then kill him"*⁵⁴.

The IS called on Muslims to fulfill their duty to leave the secular country, to emigrate, to submit to a single Islamist and political leader to destroy disbelievers and re-establish the solidarity of a global united Islamist community⁵⁵.

In the issue 4, there is an interview Shaykh Abu Hudhayfah al-Muhajir- a leader of an occupied land by the IS in Libya, about the political institutions of the current democratic states in the world. Abu Hudhayfah al-Muhajir clearly expressed his opposition and stated that the political institutions were inappropriate, to be overthrown to build a global Islamist state, the state of the faithfuls with their Muslim leaders⁵⁶.

In fact, IS has deliberately "molded" the term *Ummah* into an extreme thought. Meanwhile, the Qur'an emphasizes that *Ummah is*

understood as a great world- where all people live peacefully, prosperously, and share common values. This is the interreligious spirit, the desire for a world without hatred, war, conflict in every religion, and Islam is not an exception.

The Qur'an indicated that Allah wants to build a great world. Because, animals or humanbeings can't live without forming herds, communities⁵⁷. Thus, since the beginning, He created a unique and unified great world. Humanity has divided its work (unity) into many sects; each denomination will be in chaos in a certain period⁵⁸.

He can make them to be a united community again, but He gives people a choice to follow righteous or unrighteous religion: He (Allah) was able to make you to be the unique community (Ummah), but He did not do that because He wanted to challenge you with what He has given to you. Therefore, ***please emulate to do good deeds***⁵⁹.

Because according to him, *all will be finally united into an Ummah, the unique religious community, but it must be a community with a neutral mindset*⁶⁰, *a community that invites people to come to goodness and asks them to do good deeds and prevent them from doing brutality, not dividing religion and disputing each other*⁶¹. However, if humanbeings split themselves into many denominations, do not interfere (including violence), finally, Allah will do His work on Judgment Day⁶².

Thus, the reference to the Qur'an shows that the IS has shown extreme, conservative motivation and thought on culture and religion- a trend that humanity has been condemning, fighting.

It is noteworthy that *the extreme, violent thought has been an effective tool of recruiting warriors*. In the context of globalization, this process has brought undesirable impacts on the marginal class in society. On this occasion, the IS has recruited this class to join the IS army with the promise to bring them an equal society without racism, religious discrimination. In other words, *the IS has provided dissatisfied person a new hope and a noble task of reestablishing the world order, struggling to eliminate the oppression*. It explains why a

large number of militants joining this extreme organization are western citizens or the third generation of Muslims born and brought up in the West.

3.4. Measures of implementing faith: Jihad at the highest level

The articles in the Rumiya magazine were ultimately aimed at calling for *Jihad*. Remarkably, the Jihad concept in the Muslim tradition has been abused and misinterpreted by the IS. The IS had considered Jihad as a holy war in writings. According to IS, implementing jihad is the most precious act of worship Allah⁶³.

The IS did not only call for a general battle, it also had articles with specific instructions how to perform attacks and kill people to achieve goals.

In addition, the IS also had many articles to praise the “victory” of soldiers in Jihad to “inspire” for bloodshed. *Istishhadi*- Martyrdom is a common word in the articles that praised the achievements of IS on the battle.

For example, in the section *Operations* of 4 issues, the IS praised the IS’s warriors who sacrificed for Allah. Small piece of news about attacks in many different places around the world described how terrorist acts, used weapons, and the number of people died. And terrorists are hailed as heroes honored on the “golden board”⁶⁴.

In the article *The Kafir’s Blood is Halal for You, So Shed It* of the issue 1, the content testified to the correctness of unforgiving killing the Allah’s enemies, IS confirmed that *But Allah did not only command the “fighting” of disbelievers, as if to say He only wants us to conduct frontline operations against them. Rather, He has also ordered that they be slain wherever they may be-on or off the battlefield*⁶⁵. *Muslims currently living in Dar al-Kufr must be reminded that the blood of the disbelievers is halal, and killing them is a form of worship to Allah, the Lord, King, and God of mankind. This includes the businessman riding to work in a taxicab, the young adults (post-pubescent “children”) engaged in sports activities in the park, and the old man waiting in line to buy a sandwich. Indeed, even the*

*blood of the kafir street vendor selling flowers to those passing by is halal to shed – and striking terror into the hearts of all disbelievers is a Muslim's duty*⁶⁶.

The IS encouraged followers to conduct terrorist acts in the name of “worship to Allah” and “being allowed by Allah”, the goal of killing is not only soldiers in the Middle East's battles it is also civilians who live anywhere if they do not comply with the “righteous religion” given by the IS.

Moreover, the IS also provides detailed instructions on how to conduct terrorist attacks of “lone wolves”, to encourage single, unorganized terrorist activities in *Just Terror Tactics*, a knife attack in Rumiayah, issue 2, part 1 and a truck attack in Rumiayah, issue 3, part 2. In these articles, the IS noted that supporters should not use the phrase “lone wolf attack”, it should call the attacks carried out individually in Western countries as “just terror operations”. The articles clarified what weapons should and should not be used, how to plan, to conduct and how to overcome the “insecure” mentality of a killer, etc,.. And to justify the terrorist act, the IS declared that Allah always encouraged terrorist acts⁶⁷.

In fact, the history of Islam from the past to the present has proved, and a true Muslim knows that interpretations of the IS about “Jihad for Allah” *are not right to the spirit of Jihad that has been clearly defined in the Islamic teachings*. “Jihad” in Arabic measures a inner struggle. As every major religion in the world, according to Islam, this struggle is understood with the most common meaning being the inner struggle that every believer must overcome. This is a self-effort of every believer to overcome the ego and desire; a way to help them overcome their temptations and desires so they can devote heart and soul to Allah's will.

According to the Qur'an, the use of Jihad: self-defense after being oppressed, if those who oppress people wrongly on Earth without good reason, despite the right and truth⁶⁸ it will be blamed. Because, according to Allah, whoever kills an innocent person is considered as killing all humanity and who saves a life is to save all humanity⁶⁹.

In another less popular sense, Jihad may be a struggle between individuals and external forces, the goal is to protect faith and freedom of religious practice; or Jihad is also proposed to protect Islam and to enforce Islamic law on a social level (such as indoctrination and religious protection).

In the case Islam and Islamic communities are threatened by a force, believers can use many different measures to prevent and to repel it, but it always priority to resolve disputes by peaceful measures. If it needs an armed struggle, this struggle is only a self-defense, and it can only be launched by an Islamic leader, with consensus of Islamic scholars. And if this war of self-defense does take place, the warriors should not harm innocent people, especially women, children and the disabled⁷⁰.

The Qur'an clearly stipulates that killing innocent people, robbing wealth led loss for innocent people, suicide is considered as sin acts and is not accepted by Allah⁷¹, because human life has been made holy by Allah.

On the contrary, killing and terrorism is encouraged by the IS and followers perform it under the name of Allah (the Qur'an explains those who lie and blame Allah are those who do wrong things⁷²).

The righteous act of self-defense is also mentioned in the Qur'an, but this action is only allowed when there is intentional harassment of another force. However, the self-defense is not allowed to exceed the limit and the self-defense forces must forgive the enemy when they stop harassing⁷³. The Qur'an also shows that Allah teaches that people bear no resentment against resentment, forgive whenever possible⁷⁴.

Thus, military action is just allowed if it is the purpose of self-defense, harming innocent people is a prohibition, propagating to harm innocent people is a sin, and priority of a peaceful, tolerant measure.

The provisions of the Qur'an suggest that the IS's theological interpretation aimed at encouraging violence and terrorism in the name of Allah to be completely unfounded.

When researching the Rumiya magazine and witnessing the terrorist activities of this organization in the world in 2016 and in 2017, it can be said that *there is a tight unity between the targets and measures of this terrorist organization. Through goals and measures, the IS has testified that it is not a state, a religion or a religious entity, it is merely a political movement/organization on behalf of religion.*

Remarkably, the IS's arguments have had a significant impact on those who have extreme thoughts around the world. It is noteworthy that the IS has expanded the target, mode and scope of terrorism, from recruiting to promoting terrorist actions aimed at killing "disbelievers" (civilians in Western countries) through Rumiya. For these reasons, this terrorist organization is a threat to human security and global security.

Conclusion

Islam is currently the second largest religion in the world and it is the fastest growing religion in the past decades. Therefore, in the next decades, it is expected that the number of Muslims will overcome other religions to become the largest religion in the world. It is a challenge and also an opportunity for the Muslim to gain consensus in the fight against terrorist organizations on behalf of this religion.

The Islamic state organization is taking advantage of the freedom in the interpretation of the Islamic law to deliberately misinterpret the Qur'an in order to serve the political ambition of holding religious authority in the Islamic world.

Interpretations of Islamic doctrine in Rumiya Magazine sent the message of the IS to the world that the IS will establish a global religion, only submit to Allah, though it must use violent measures. The IS has "molded" and distorted the Islam's doctrine to form the IS's theological ideology. It is noteworthy that the theological interpretations of IS are not true to the spirit of Islam, to the values that the Islamic civilization has created over the past century. In addition, the terrorist organization on behalf of religion has been threatening human and global security.

Therefore, through the arguments and practical actions of the IS as analyzed above, it can be emphasized that the IS is just a political organization in the name of religion, it is not a state of religion or a religious entity./.

NOTES:

- 1 https://vi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nh%C3%A0_n%C6%B0%E1%BB%9Bc_H%E1%BB%93i_gi%C3%A1o_Iraq_v%C3%A0_Levant;
http://btgcp.gov.vn/Plus.aspx/vi/News/38/0/240/0/6809/Vai_net_ve_To_chuc_Nha_nuoc_Hoi_giao_tu_xung_IS_Phan_I
- 2 According to this organization, all non-Muslims/ countries do not follow Islam to be considered as pagans and must be killed.
- 3 https://vi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nh%C3%A0_n%C6%B0%E1%BB%9Bc_H%E1%BB%93i_gi%C3%A1o_Iraq_v%C3%A0_Levant.
- 4 http://www.ispionline.it/sites/default/files/pubblicazioni/twitter_and_jihad_en.pdf
- 5 http://btgcp.gov.vn/Plus.aspx/vi/News/38/0/241/0/6099/Mat_tran_thu_hai_cua_Nha_nuoc_Hoi_giao
- 6 <https://clarionproject.org/islamic-state-isis-isis-propaganda-magazine-dabiq-50/>
- 7 <http://www.css.ethz.ch/en/services/digital-library/articles/article.html/f8a5b90d-29e3-47bb-a643-307673409cc5/pdf>
- 8 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumiyah_\(magazine\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumiyah_(magazine));
<https://www.thedailybeast.com/an-isis-plot-to-blow-up-notre-dame-cathedral-and-rule-the-world>.
- 9 <http://www.css.ethz.ch/en/services/digital-library/articles/article.html/f8a5b90d-29e3-47bb-a643-307673409cc5/pdf>
- 10 http://www.ispionline.it/sites/default/files/pubblicazioni/twitter_and_jihad_en.pdf; <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-propaganda-terror-group-losses-syria-iraq-a7228286.html>.
- 11 <http://www.css.ethz.ch/en/services/digital-library/articles/article.html/f8a5b90d-29e3-47bb-a643-307673409cc5/pdf>.
- 12 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), Publishing house. Tôn giáo, Hà Nội, 3:85.
- 13 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 1*, p.5, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 14 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 1*, p.6, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 15 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 23:78.
- 16 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 12:103.
- 17 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 32:30.
- 18 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 27:81; 30:52, 53.
- 19 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 6:164; 10:44, 54; 27:4,5; 29:23; 30:9; 31:23, 24.

- 20 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 2:256; 3:20.
- 21 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 17:84; 109:6.
- 22 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 18:29.
- 23 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 42: 13.
- 24 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 6: 159; 23: 53,54.
- 25 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 3: 105.
- 26 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 4:92,93.
- 27 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 26:217, 3:141.
- 28 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 3:128.
- 29 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 5:16.
- 30 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 30:41, 42:30.
- 31 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 30:9.
- 32 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 1*, p. 8, 20, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 33 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 3*, p. 8, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 34 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 3*, pp. 4-9, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 35 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 3*, pp. 14-17, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 36 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 4*, pp. 28-30, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 37 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 2:155.
- 38 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 2:155,157.
- 39 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 18:7,28.
- 40 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 3:17,120.
- 41 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 7:87.
- 42 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 30:58,60.
- 43 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 3:17; 41:35.
- 44 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 18:30,31; 42:43.
- 45 Fihq is the principle of interpretation of Islamic law based on 4 reference sources: The Qur'an, Sharia law, the consensus of the scholars, the inference of the individuals.
- 46 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 2*, p.23, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 47 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sdd, 22:49.
- 48 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 2*, p. 23, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 49 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 4*, pp. 2-3, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 50 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 4:100.

- 51 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 48:28.
- 52 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 2:256; 3:20.
- 53 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 3: 7,12.
- 54 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 1*, p.8, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 55 *ibid*.
- 56 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 4*, pp.10-13, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 57 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 6:38
- 58 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 10: 19; 23: 52, 53, 54.
- 59 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 5: 48
- 60 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 2:143.
- 61 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 3:104,105.
- 62 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 23: 53, 54;42: 13, 14, 15, 16.
- 63 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 1*, p. 33, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 64 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 1*, pp. 22-26; *Issue 2*, pp. 32-34; *Issue 3*, pp. 42-44; *Issue 4*, pp. 34-37, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 65 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 1*, p. 35, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 66 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 1*, p. 36, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 67 *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 2*, pp. 12-13; *Issue 3*, pp. 10-13, <http://clarionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Rumiyah-ISIS-Magazine-1st-issue.pdf>.
- 68 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 42: 42.
- 69 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 5:32.
- 70 Kabbani S. M. H. và Hendricks S. S. , *Jihad: A Misunderstood Concept from Islam - What Jihad is, and is not*, <http://islamicsupremecouncil.org/understanding-islam/legal-rulings/5-jihad-a-misunderstood-concept-from-islam.html?start=9b>.
- 71 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 6:151; 26:181-183; 2:195; 6:151.
- 72 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, Sđđ, 3:191.
- 73 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 190-193
- 74 *The Qur'an (Meaning and content)* (2001), *ibid*, 42:40.

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 5. Islamic State (2016), *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 2*, Al Hayat Media Center.
 6. Islamic State (2016), *Rumiyah Online Magazine Issue 3*, Al Hayat Media Center.
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 14. http://btgcp.gov.vn/Plus.aspx/vi/News/38/0/241/0/6099/Mat_tran_thu_hai_cua_Nha_nuoc_Hoi_giao.
 15. <https://clarionproject.org/islamic-state-isis-isil-propaganda-magazine-dabiq>.
 16. <http://www.css.ethz.ch/en/services/digital-library/articles/article.html/f8a5b90d-29e3-47bb-a643-307673409cc5/pdf>.
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