
Welcome from the Editors

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to announce the release of Volume XIII, Issue 1 (February 2019) of *Perspectives on Terrorism*, available now at: <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/PoT>.

Our free and independent online journal is a publication of the Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI) and the Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA) of Leiden University's Campus The Hague. Now in its thirteenth year, *Perspectives on Terrorism* has over 8,200 regular e-mail subscribers and many more occasional readers and website visitors worldwide. The Articles of its six annual issues are fully peer reviewed by external referees while its Research and Policy Notes, Special Correspondence and other content are subject to internal editorial quality control.

The articles of this Special Issue are the products of a conference held in Oslo 18-19 October 2018, entitled "Jihadism after the Caliphate". The conference was organized by the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI), in cooperation with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It brought together leading specialists on the Islamic State and al-Qaida, along with senior policymakers and government analysts from Norway and other countries.

This Special Issue on the evolution and future trajectory of the Islamic State has been prepared by Guest Editor Truls H. Tønnessen and his colleagues at FFI, in collaboration with Co-Editors James J.F. Forest and Alex P. Schmid. In his introduction to the issue, he argues that the primary strength of the Islamic State is its ability and willingness to exploit conflicts that exist independently of the group, and that specific historical circumstances enabled the dramatic rise of the Islamic State. This is followed by Cole Bunzel's analysis of ideological infighting within the Islamic State. Ahmed Hashim explains how one of the group's key traditional strengths has been its ability to relocate to other areas that offered opportunities for territorial control, while Vera Mironova examines critical human resources dimensions of the group. Assad Almohammad and Charlie Winter offer unique insights about Islamic State's Director of General Security, focusing in particular on his role in media production, which is then followed by Charlie Winter's analysis of two key Islamic State doctrinal texts on media jihad.

The following articles examine the Islamic State's challenges in specific countries, beginning with Aaron Zelin's analysis of the group's setbacks in Tunisia. Then Elisabeth Kendall describes how and why the Islamic State is struggling for traction in Yemen, and this section concludes with Jacob Zenn's comparative analysis of Islamic State affiliate groups in Nigeria and the Philippines.

This issue of *Perspectives on Terrorism* also features a Research Note by Christine Fair and Samta Salva examining Muslims' support for suicide bombings in West Africa.

In addition, the Resources section includes our regular contributions from Joshua Sinai (book reviews), Judith Tinnes (bibliographies), Ryan Scrivens (theses), Berto Jongman (web resources), and Reinier Bergema (conference calendar). We also provide our annual Words of Appreciation to all the peer reviewers, Editorial Board members and others who volunteer their time and expertise to make this open-source journal respected and valuable to the scholarly community.