

Jihadist Snapshot: Daesh & AQ Trends

MONTHLY INFOGRAPHIC #01

Moonshot collected and analyzed over **600** posts across pro-Daesh and pro-al-Qaeda (AQ) channels on encrypted platforms. This infographic covers discourses propagated in February 2022. It summarizes the primary topics of discussion and analyzes the narratives disseminated by the two groups and their supporters in Arabic and English.



Daesh

The three main narratives discussed across Daesh channels were:

- Developments in Ukraine
- The death of Daesh leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi
- Daesh's activity in West Africa

Moonshot assessed all relevant posts circulated on pro-Daesh channels and identified their relevance to geographic regions. Posts classified as regional were focused on events taking place in specific countries/regions. Posts identified as non-regional were not linked to a physical event or were primarily significant for Daesh's global narratives. Posts regarding Ukraine were included in a separate category.



Al-Qaeda

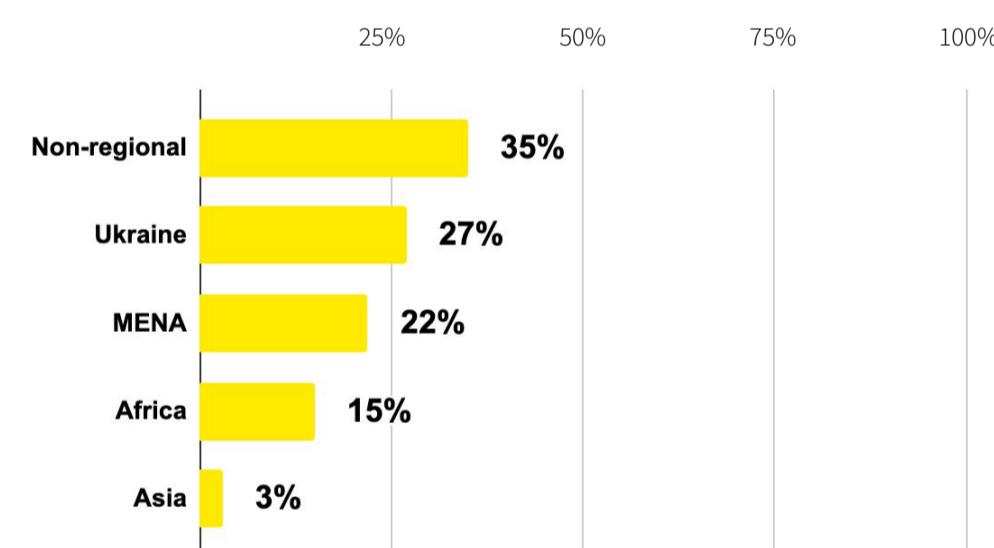
The three main narratives discussed across Al-Qaeda channels were:

- Developments in Ukraine
- The death of Daesh leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi
- Al-Shabaab's attacks in East Africa

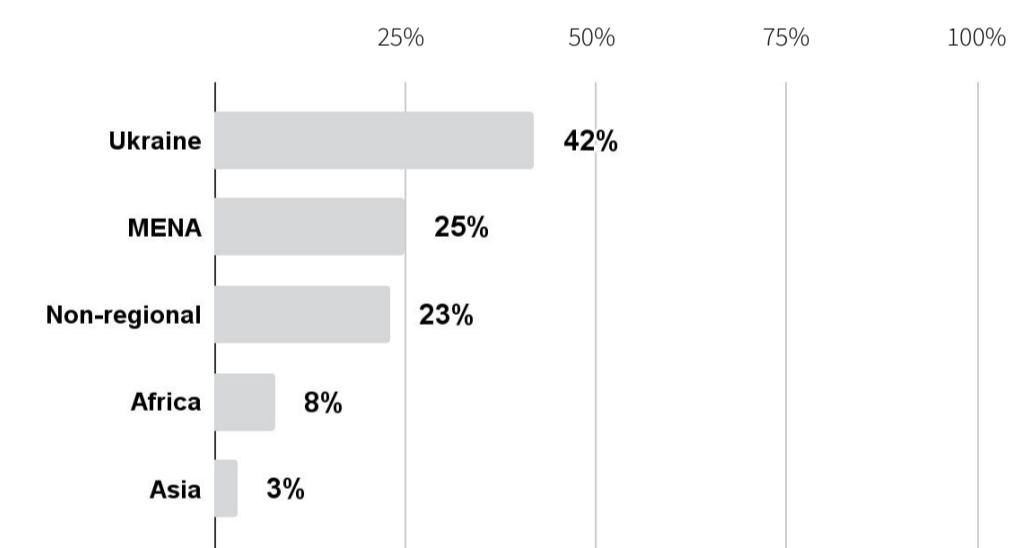
Moonshot also analyzed all identified relevant posts on pro-AQ channels according to their geographic focus. Posts classified as regional only included those in which the concerned geographic location was of primary significance to the event referenced in the post. Posts identified as non-regional were those not linked to a physical location or whose primary significance involved AQ's wider global narratives. Posts regarding Ukraine were included in a separate category.



Daesh's Regional vs. Non-regional posts



AQ's Regional vs. Non-regional posts



Pro-Daesh channels started posting about Ukraine on February 7. The volume of posts was initially low.



Discussion surrounding developments in Ukraine increased in the week prior to February 14, before peaking during the week of February 21 - when the number of relevant posts increased by **1,525%** in comparison to those identified between February 7-13.

Between February 21-27, approximately **79%** of all relevant posts from pro-Daesh channels discussed Ukraine.



Pro-AQ channels started posting about Ukraine on February 1.

Cumulatively, the period February 1-23 generated 26% of the total monthly relevant posts concerning Ukraine; February 24 alone generated **38%** of the total posts; and February 25-28 generated **36%** of total posts.

Discussion surrounding developments in Ukraine remained low but constant until February 23, after which the number of relevant posts increased sharply before peaking on February 24 when Russian forces invaded Ukraine.