

Jihadist Snapshot: Daesh & AQ Trends

MONTHLY INFOGRAPHIC #03

Moonshot collected and analyzed over **800** posts across pro-Daesh and pro-al-Qaeda (AQ) channels on encrypted platforms during the month of April. This infographic illustrates the discourses identified, providing a summary of the primary topics and an analysis of the narratives disseminated by the two groups and their supporters.

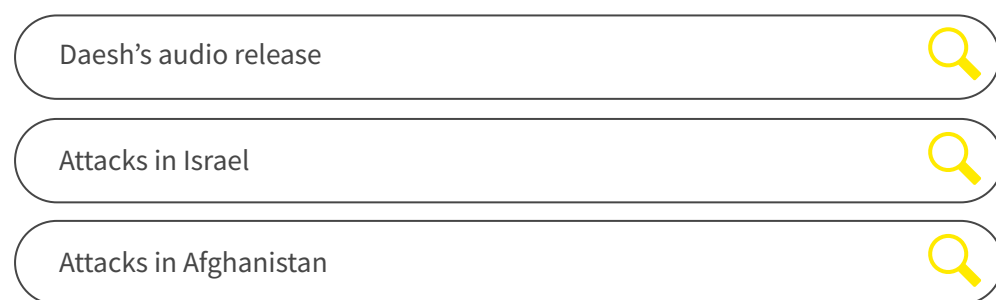
Key findings

- For the first time since February 2022, discussion of developments in Ukraine was not one of the three dominant themes for pro-Daesh channels, while still featuring prominently within pro-AQ channels.
- Attacks witnessed in Israel in April were a more popular theme on pro-AQ channels than on pro-Daesh channels, whereas the reverse was true for attacks in Israel in March. It was the most popular theme of discussion within pro-AQ channels, accounting for **40%** of their total output in April, compared to **5%** in March. In pro-Daesh channels, this was the second-most discussed theme with approximately **11%** of their output detailing the incidents, compared to **15%** in March.



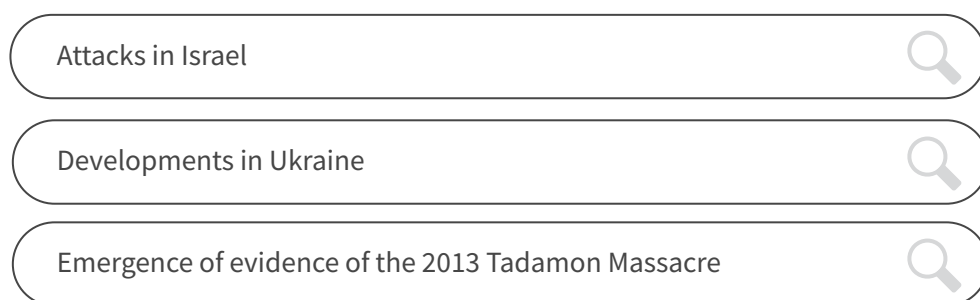
Daesh

The three main narratives discussed across pro-Daesh channels were:



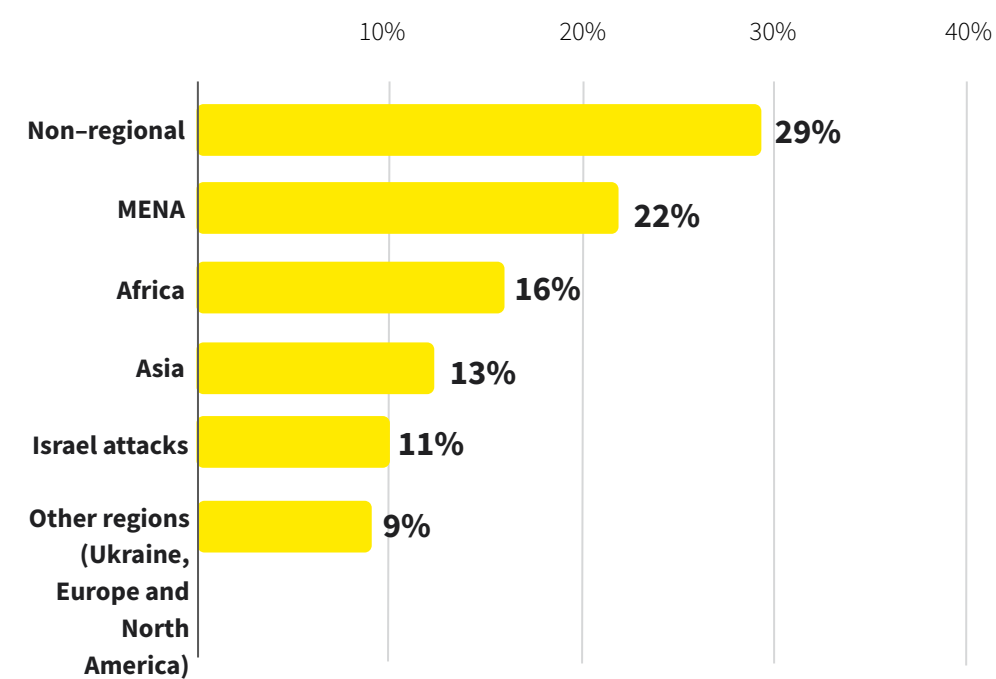
Al-Qaeda (AQ)

The three main narratives discussed across pro-AQ channels were:

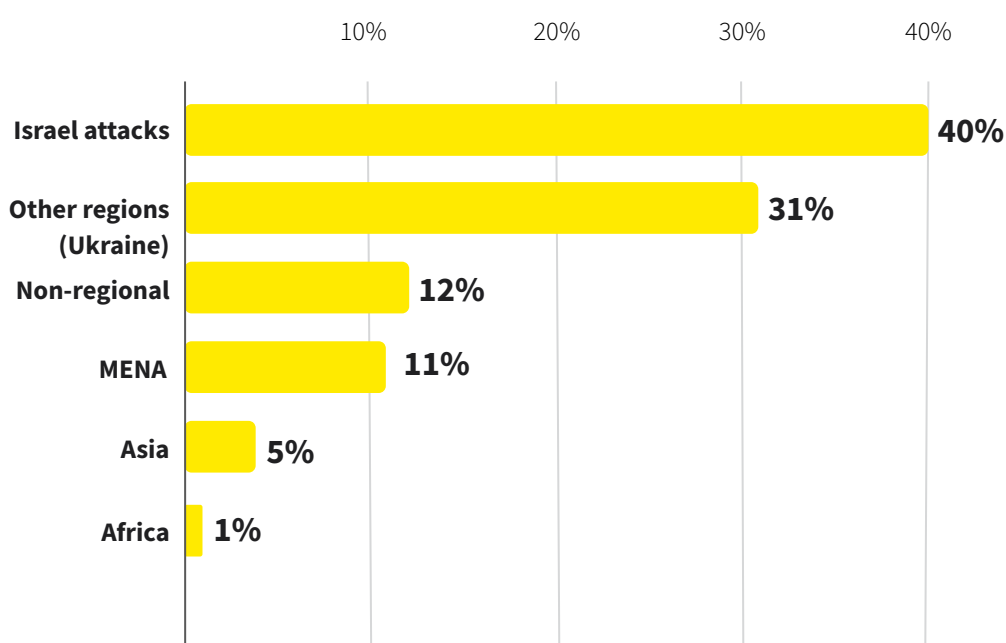


Moonshot assessed all relevant posts circulated on pro-Daesh channels and pro-AQ channels and identified their relevance to geographic regions. Posts classified as regional were focused on events taking place in specific countries/regions. Posts identified as non-regional were not linked to a physical event or were primarily significant to each group's global narratives. Posts regarding attacks in Israel were included as a distinct category, due to the high volume of posts recorded.

Daesh's Regional vs. Non-regional posts



AQ's Regional vs. Non-regional posts



Daesh's audio release and the "Battle of Revenge for the Two Sheikhs"

On April 17, Daesh's al-Furqan media outlet released a speech, titled "Fight Them, Allah Will Punish Them by Your Hand", by Daesh's new spokesman, Abu Omar al-Muhajir. The speech announced the commencement of the "Battle of Revenge for the Two Sheikhs" to avenge the death of the group's former leader, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, and spokesman, Abu Hamza al-Qurayshi. **20%** of posts from pro-Daesh audiences discussed this topic. Of these, a higher volume of posts celebrated the speech (**88%**) than the announcement of the "battle" (**12%**).

1. Moonshot's analysis of posts regarding the "Battle of Revenge for the Two Sheikhs" only included posts referring to the overall "battle", which were published after the immediate 48-hour period surrounding the speech's release. Posts discussing attacks carried out in the name of the "battle" were analyzed on a regional basis.

Attacks in Israel

Throughout April 2022, violence continued in Israel and Palestine, ongoing since March 2022:

- On April 7, a Palestinian gunman, Raad Hazem, killed three people and injured six others in an attack targeting a bar in Tel Aviv.
- On April 15, Israeli security forces attacked the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, injuring 180 Palestinians according to the UN and three members of the Israeli security forces according to Israeli media.
- Between April 19-21, Hamas militants and the Israeli Air Force exchanged fire in the Gaza Strip.

Following the April 7 attack, AQ supporters praised Hazem for his attack, labeling it a "heroic operation". Regarding the attack on al-Aqsa and the violence in Gaza, AQ supporters condemned the international community and Muslim-majority countries for allegedly "deceptive" diplomatic responses, calling for violent action as the only way to defend the mosque, Palestine and Muslims more broadly. Overall, posts discussing attacks in Israel comprised **40%** of the total number of posts on pro-AQ channels in April.