

Occasional Papers

الدراسات المصرية

Arab Studies

Arabistik

Nr.7

Ed. Rüdiger Lohlker

Institut für Orientalistik der Universität Wien

Oriental Institute University of Vienna

January 2016

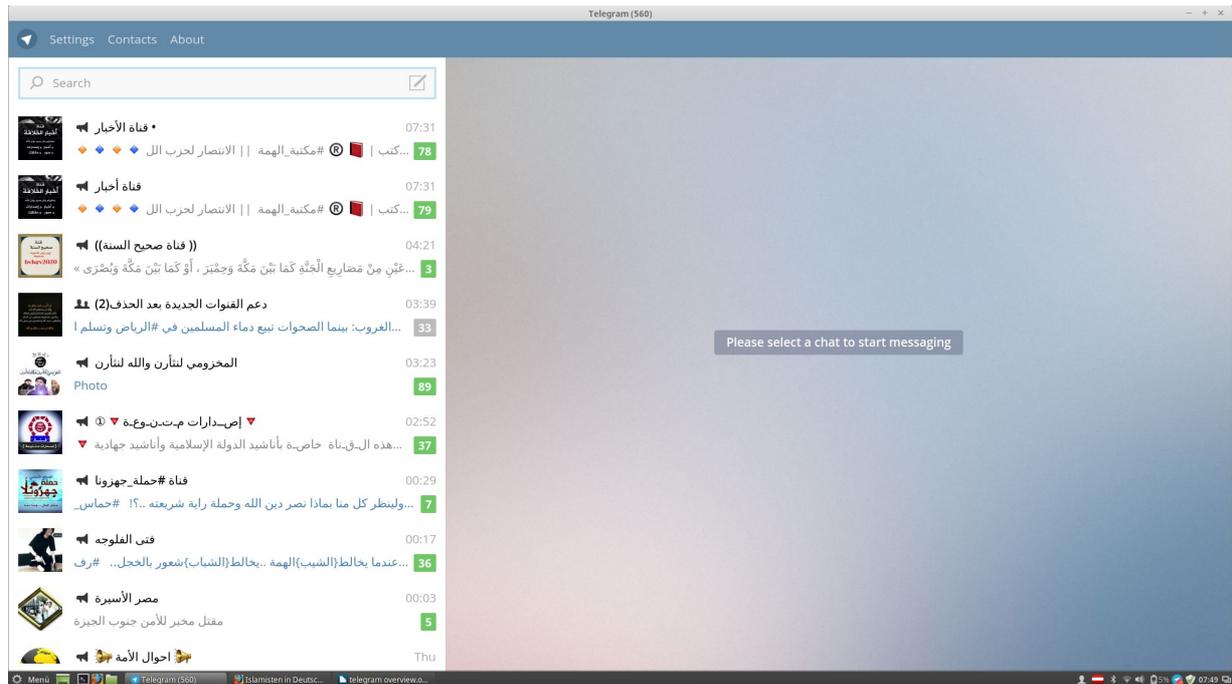
Telegrams against wishful thinking

Rüdiger Lohlker

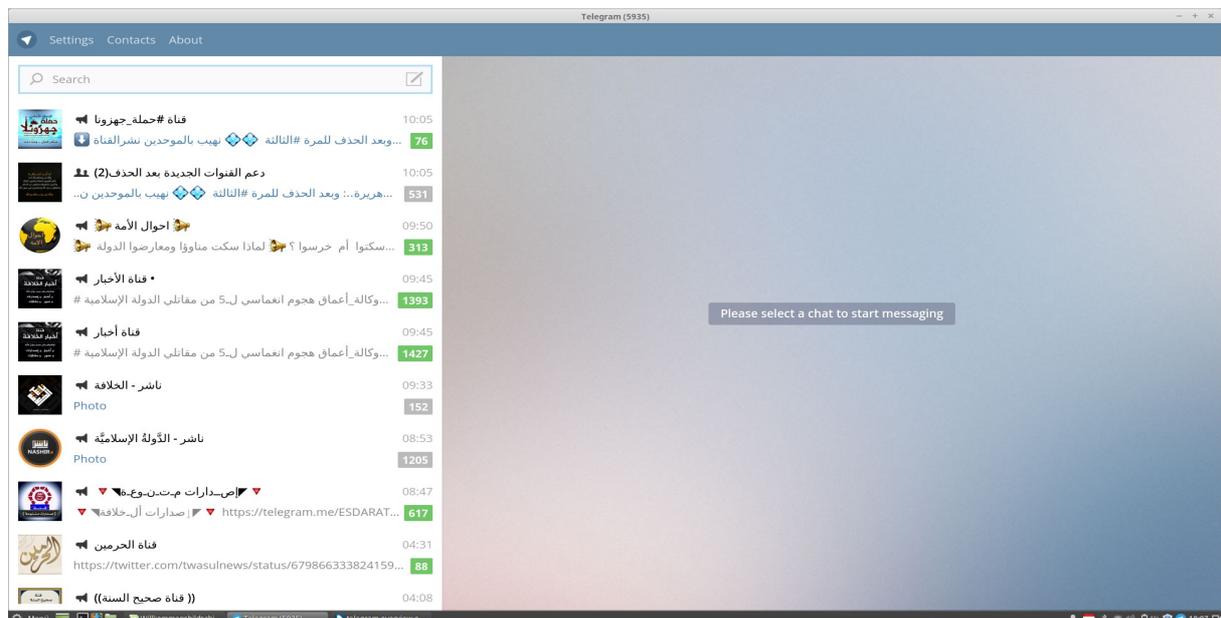
There are rumours that IS propaganda efforts are reduced by recent airstrikes. Interestingly these news didn't reach the people who are producing for IS. The following remarks give an overview based on a selected group of IS related channels or channels etc. recommended by IS channels. Taking a selection of the activity of IS-related channels and bots in December 2015 we see a rise of activity, not a decline.

Some screenshots:

December 11, 2015



December 24, 2015



A preliminary analysis shows the rise of postings – including cross-posting – in the period reviewed here. The selection includes regular IS news channels, photo channels, and miscellaneous data. The overall increase is evident:

229 (December 11, 2015)

5716 (December 29, 2015)

channel	December 11, 2015	December 18, 2015	December 24, 2015	December 29, 2015
qanat al-akhbar	79	848	1427	1940
da'm al-qanawat al-jadida bada al-hadhf	33	297	531	772
qanat #hamla jahizuna	7	46	76	142
qanat al-haramayn	4	46	88	126
umm 'Abd Allah al-Jazarawiyya	5	49	80	180
infugrafik	3	3	8	52
nashir al-dawla al-islamiyya	61	683	1205	1710
is-darat-m-t-n-w-'a-	37	434	617	794

And there is a world of propaganda taking place outside the usual Web platforms. IS is frequently distributing leaflets, brochures, on display, e. g., during public meetings. And there is a FM station broadcasting a lot of material according to the news reported issued:

Source: telegram.me (accessed December 10, 2015)



Evidently the use of different communication channels by IS and the shift from one platform of communication to another one still occurs. The usual – very limited and anecdotic – analysis of Jihadist online activities doesn't lend itself to an understanding of the «swarmcast» (Ali Fisher) movement of online Jihadism.