Activity of ISIS in Libya

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Abstract

This article analyzes the activities of an “Islamic state” in Libya. The author focuses on the expansion of extremists on all Libyan territory, as well as neighboring countries.

Keywords: The expansion of the extremists, Libya, “Islamic state”, Sunnis, illegal migration, the tribes of the Arab Maghreb.
Introduction

The rapid spread of the influence of the group "Islamic state" (IS) in Libya, and shaping it controls cells in the cities of Benghazi, Derna, Sirte and Tripoli, allowed its leaders to announce the "Vilayet Barca" Education in the east, in the central areas - "Vilayet Fezzan" and to the west - "Vilayet of Tripoli," which swore allegiance to the caliph Abu Bakr Baghdadi groups [1]. In addition, numerous attacks on police stations in Tripoli refinery in Al-Ghani, diplomatic missions of foreign states, the kidnapping of foreigners threatening to turn Libya into a springboard for an attack on Europe, as well as violence in February 2015 of the Egyptian Coptic and workers Ethiopian Christians in April 2015 [2] showed that the IS has become an important factor in the Libyan conflict, actually turned into a third force after Islamist coalition "Dawn of Libya" and secular forces participating in the operation "Dignity", led by General Khalifa Hafta [3].

Main part

The total number of the IS supporters in Libya reached 3 thousand people. One of the leaders of this group is considered to be "Arab Afghan", active fighter against the regime of Gaddafi, the former military commander of Tripoli, one of the leaders of the former "Libyan Islamic Fighting Group" and the current Islamist party "Al-Watan" Abdelhakim Bel Haj. Currently this jihadist directs IS camps in eastern Libya (city of Derna). In addition A. Belhadj active role in the spread of the influence of IG in Libya played emissaries of its leader: Iraqi Abu Nabil - Anbar whose real name Wisam Abd Zubeidi, Saudi and Abu Habib Dzhazraui that on the basis of returning from Syria and Iraq to 300 militants from the Battar Brigade in April 2014 established in Deurne radical group "shura Council of Muslim youth." During fierce fighting with local Islamists from the "Martyrs Brigades Abu Salim", focused on the "al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb", we were able to establish complete control over the city, declaring it the capital of the "Vilayet Barca" [4]. At the same time, the leaders of this group in the propagation of their influence in Libya come not only in armed clashes with local radical formations, but also actively work to attract them to his side. In particular, thanks to the sermons Turkial-Binali, known as Abu Sufian Silmi and Abu Humamal-Atari, a group of militants based in Deurne Islamist group "Ansar al-Sharia" left its ranks and joined the IS. It should be noted that the grouping of the same name by Islamists of Benghazi remained faithful to AQIM [5].

Expansion of IS continues in Libya, where rebels are trying to establish full control over Sirte. May 29, 2015 they were able to capture the former Air Force base "Gardabya", 12 km from the city and get off at the approaches to Misrata where concentrated large forces of the Islamist movement, "Dawn of Libya", to support the Government Khalifa Gueyla settled in Tripoli (Khalifaal-Ghweil) [6].

May 31, 2015 at the entrance of Misurata, a suicide bomber blew up from IS car bomb that caused the death of four and wounding 20 people. This terrorist attack forced the "Dawn of Libya" to regroup and retreat. However, it is believed by Western experts, despite the clashes, both sides are not interested in an escalation of armed confrontation with each other, taking into account whether they have a common enemy in the person of General H. Haftorah coalition supporting a secular government led by Abdullahal-Thinni, stationed in Tobruk [7].

IS leaders hope to attract through negotiations "Dawn of Libya" at their side. If successful, they plan to become a major force in the confrontation with the forces of General H. Haftorah. At the same time, they will seek to take the oath of allegiance to Abu Bakr Baghdadi from other jihadist organizations, not only Libya, but also in Egypt, Tunisia and...
Algeria, where the parallel with AQIM is active. However, leaders of the "Dawn of Libya" is not yet ready for such an alliance, fearing their discredit in the eyes of the inter-national community, leading an active fight against extremists.

**Conclusion**

Possible EU peacekeeping operation in Libya, as well as the bombing of the Egyptian Air Force position of radical Islamists in Sods area and other strongholds of the IS in this country may trigger influx into the ranks of this group of new entrants, opposes foreign intervention [8].

However, in the way of further expansion of the IG in Libya, its leaders will inevitably face a number of difficulties that can slow down its expansion. In particular, the position of the group in this country is fundamentally different from the positions held by it in Syria and Iraq, these countries were able to capture the militants IS large areas of discrimination of Sunnis, for which the grouping has become a means of restoring their power and influence. In Libya, the Sunnis make up the vast majority of the population. Thus, according to Western experts, despite the strengthening of the position in the country in the near future the IS is unable to expand its influence in Syria and Iraq.

In addition, the Libyan tribes play an important role, with only local interests related to the receipt of income from oil, arms smuggling, illegal drug trafficking and illegal migration to Western Europe.

However, the threat of the further spread of the IS's influence in Libya and turning its territory into a base for the expansion of this group in the neighboring countries and Western Europe is real, which requires the unification of all forces opposed to this plague of the XXI century [9].
References

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