**ISIL (ISIS, IS, DAESH)**

**Useful background information:**

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is a Sunni Islamist [rebel group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_active_rebel_groups#Groups_which_control_territory) that controls territory in [Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) and [Syria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria) and also operates in eastern Libya, the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt, and other areas of the Middle East, [North Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Africa), [South Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia), and [Southeast Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Asia). The group's Arabic name transliteration is ad-Dawlah al-Islāmīyah fil 'Irāq wa ash-Shām leading to the Arabic acronym Da´ish or DAESH. The name is also commonly translated as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria or Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham and abbreviated ISIS. In June 2014 the group renamed itself the Islamic State (IS) but the new name has been widely criticized and condemned, with the UN, various governments, and mainstream Muslim groups refusing to use it.

From at least 2004 a significant goal of the group has been the foundation of an [Islamic state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_state). Specifically, ISIL has sought to establish itself as a [caliphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate), an Islamic state led by a group of religious authorities under a supreme leader—[caliph](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliph)—who is believed to be the successor to [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad). In June 2014, ISIL published a document in which it claimed to have traced the lineage of its leader [Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Bakr_al-Baghdadi) back to Muhammad, and upon proclaiming a new caliphate on 29 June, the group appointed al-Baghdadi as its [caliph](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliph). As caliph, he demands the allegiance of all devout Muslims [worldwide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worldwide_caliphate) according to Islamic jurisprudence

The [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) has held ISIL responsible for human rights abuses and war crimes, and [Amnesty International](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amnesty_International) has reported ethnic cleansing by the group on a "historic scale". The group has been [designated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_designated_terrorist_organizations) as a [terrorist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorist) organization by the [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations), the [European Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union), the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Indonesia, Canada, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the [UAE](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UAE), Egypt, India, and Russia. Over 60 countries are directly or indirectly waging war against ISIL.

ISIL is a [Sunni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni) [extremist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_extremism) group. It follows an extreme interpretation of Islam, promotes religious violence, and regards those who do not agree with its interpretations as infidels. ISIL's philosophy is well represented by the symbolism in the [Black Standard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Standard) variant of the legendary battle flag of Muhammad that it has adopted. The flag shows the seal of the [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) within a white circle, with the phrase above it, "[There is no God but Allah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahada)". Such symbolism has been said to point to ISIL's belief that it represents the restoration of the [caliphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate) of early Islam, with all of the political, religious and eschatological ramifications that this would imply.

ISIL is known for its well-funded web and social media propaganda, which includes Internet videos of the beheadings of soldiers, civilians, journalists, and aid workers (ISIL beheading incidents).

**Agenda:**

* discussing the latest development of ISIS and its activities,
* creation of broad coalition of states to put a stop to ISIS,
* coordination its activities to avoid conflicts between coalition members,
* suggesting the steps (military, political, economic, etc.) to undermine the influence of ISIS and its elimination.

**Listening/Watching**

ISIL explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EMUSzWoJYY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djD7nl3JMwA>

Terrifying facts about ISIL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1e0M-FlGuE>

Origin of ISIL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NND2kacY2TY>

Rise of ISIL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzmO6RWy1v8>

Origins of ISIL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuYwc20zwxQ>