



## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- In the video, we learn that, “Taking advantage of the power vacuum left by the complete US withdrawal from Iraq in 2011 and the Syrian Civil War that began that same year, Baghdadi and his lieutenants greatly expanded the size and scope of the organization.” How do you think that this was possible? Do you think that the Obama administration shares some degree of culpability for the rise and spread of ISIS? Why or why not?
- Later, Mr. Joscelyn explains that, “ISIS is attempting to resurrect an empire similar to those that arose in Islam’s early history. These empires were referred to as ‘caliphates’ and led by a ‘Caliph,’ the Muslims’ chief ruler...” Why do you think that ISIS is trying to make a caliphate? Do you think that a primitive and brutal caliphate like this has any kind of place in the modern world? Why or why not?
- We then learn that, “ISIS relies on a rich Islamic mythology, with citations from Islamic texts, to justify its actions and portray itself as the true heirs of Mohammed.” Do you think that ISIS is a legitimate form of the Islamic faith or is ISIS a murderous band of terrorists attempting to cloak their group in legitimacy through selective and carefully chosen religious text and interpretation of that text- in effect ‘hijacking’ the true Islamic faith? Explain.
- Mr. Joscelyn further informs us that, “Just over one year after Baghdadi’s announcement [of expanding the ISIS caliphate], the Islamic State’s “provinces” had already engaged in hundreds of terrorist attacks. On Oct. 31, 2015, for example, the Islamic State’s “province” in Sinai brought down a Russian airliner, killing all 224 people on board.” What do you think is the significance and consequence of ISIS expanding its reach? Who do you think should be responsible for responding in some way to the existence and threat of ISIS? Why?
- At the end of the video, Mr. Joscelyn concludes that, “Should it lose significant ground in Iraq and Syria, its caliphate claim will become tenuous, severely damaging its legitimacy in the eyes of many Muslims. How this might happen is a key question for the United States, Europe, Asia and many in the Arab World. But this much we know: It will take much more than air attacks.” What do you think Mr. Joscelyn means by that? How would you suggest handling the threat of ISIS?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: al-Khansa brigade

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Female ISIS Police Squad Brutally Murders Breastfeeding Mother,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What is the al-Khansa brigade? Why do they exist? What do they do? What happened to the Iraqi women who were caught with unveiled faces?
- Do you think that a group who commits such violence, ostensibly under the auspices of faith-based texts, can rightly be called a ‘religion?’ Why or why not? Do you think that these (mostly) Western people are really doing this for some ‘higher purpose,’ or do you think that they are actually bloodthirsty sociopaths? Explain. Would you want to live in such an area and under such conditions? Why or why not?
- Mr. Joscelyn informs us in the video that, “Their propaganda videos use Islam’s early history to frame their actions as part of an ongoing conflict with the “Crusaders.” ISIS’s leaders want their followers to believe they are fighting as part of this same religious war.” What purpose do you think getting believers to buy into the notion of continuing a holy war serves for the leadership of ISIS? Do you think that some of these believers who are being manipulated are victims of ISIS as well? Why or why not?



# QUIZ

## WHAT DOES ISIS WANT?

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- 1. Al Qaeda in Iraq was rebranded as which of the following:**
  - a. Hamas
  - b. The Islamic State of the Middle East
  - c. Al Qaeda for Iraqis
  - d. The Islamic State of Iraq
  
- 2. Most of ISIS's victims are \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. Sunni Muslims
  - b. Shiite Muslims
  - c. Sufis
  - d. None of the above.
  
- 3. ISIS considers any Muslim who does not swear an oath of allegiance to Baghdadi an "infidel."**
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
- 4. ISIS is attempting to \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. defeat al Qaeda
  - b. eradicate only Christians.
  - c. unite Sunni and Shiite Muslims.
  - d. become a permanent totalitarian state.
  
- 5. Who is ISIS's current leader?**
  - a. Saddam Hussein
  - b. Abu Musab al Zarqawi
  - c. Osama bin Laden
  - d. Abu Bakr al Baghdadi



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://punchingbagpost.com/female-isis-police-squad-brutally-murders-breastfeeding-mother/>

## Female ISIS Police Squad Brutally Murders Breastfeeding Mother

Posted on Friday the 1st of January 2016, by Alice Greene : Guest Writer



Women against women: the al-Khansa brigade

While American law gives us the right to bear arms, Sharia law strips women of the freedom of *bare arms*, legs, and hair. The all-female ISIS police force known as the “al-Kahnsa brigade” enforces these strict modesty rules and this week gained national attention when they murdered a breastfeeding mother.

Since Sharia Law forbids men from punishing women, they created the all-women police force al-Kahnsa to do it for them. Stories of al-Kahnsa’s brutality first hit the news in 2014. More stories have surfaced as civilians flee areas under ISIS control. Most women in the brigade are foreigners, young wives of immigrants from Moroccan, Tunisian, British, and French nationalities.

The mother in question was caught breastfeeding her baby in Raqqa, Syria. According to the brigade, the woman’s actions violated “public purity.” The mother was mutilated and then murdered.

“An [ISIS] policewoman took the baby, gave it to another woman, and then killed the mother,” explains an onlooker.

Enforcement is particularly strict in Raqqa, the city that has been declared capital of the ISIS caliphate. Dress code violations are common. Even colored sequins and fake diamonds are forbidden. Women must be clad entirely in black.

Earlier this year, members of al-Kahnsa in Mosul punished 15 Iraqi women who were caught with unveiled faces by dousing them with acid. The disfigurement is permanent. A couple more chilling examples of al-Kahnsa brutality:

“I once saw a woman at a market and she lifted her niqab [face veil] to inspect the vegetables,” says Salih, age 77. “An ISIS policewoman saw her and beat her. She was bleeding so badly that she died on the way to the hospital.”

The brigade is known for torturing women with a pronged device known as a “biter” that is clamped onto the breasts. A woman named Batol explains her experience: “I was in the market buying a few items when the Khansa battalion came and arrested me on the grounds that the niqab which I was wearing does not meet Sharia requirement because it was transparent.”

She was taken to the force’s headquarters and asked to choose a torture device. Batol chose the biter because she had never heard of it. “...they brought a sharp object that has a lot of teeth and held me, placing it on my chest and pressing it strongly. I screamed from pain and I was badly injured...I felt then that my femininity has been destroyed completely...I was not the only one that was tortured with this instrument, there were a lot of women in the headquarters and their situation was tragic.”