

Excerpts from “Race Towards Good”

Al-Hayat Media Center

November 22, 2014

*This video, which was produced by the Islamic State’s al-Hayat Media Center, shows Islamic State fighters training Kazakh and Central Asian children to fight as jihadists and adopt the group’s violent interpretation of Islam. It provides a glimpse into the tactics that the Islamic State uses to indoctrinate children under their control, including Yazidi boys abducted during the 2014 Yazidi Genocide, to become child soldiers for their organization.*

**Teacher:** They’ve [the children] completed lessons in [the] Qur’an, *Tajweed*,<sup>1</sup> and the Arabic language. They will move on to do physical and military training... until they get older and pound the thrones of the *tawaghit* [idolatrous rulers]. With Allah’s permission, they are the next generation. They are the ones who will shake the earth and spread this precious *deen*<sup>2</sup> to all regions of the earth.

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**Interviewer:** What’s your name?

**Child:** Abdullah.

**Interviewer:** Where are you from?

**Child:** Kazakhstan.

**Interviewer:** Where are you right now?

**Child:** In the Islamic *Khilafah*.<sup>3</sup>

**Interviewer:** What are you doing?

**Child:** Right now, I’m training in the camp.

**Interviewer:** Who is your leader?

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<sup>1</sup> *Tajweed* refers to the rules regarding the proper pronunciation and recitation of letters and words in the Qur’an.

<sup>2</sup> In this context, *deen* means “religion,” more specifically the religion of Islam.

<sup>3</sup> *Khilafah* is the Arabic word for “caliphate,” which denotes an Islamic state or empire that is ruled by a “caliph.”

**Child:** Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.<sup>4</sup>

**Interviewer:** Who will you be in the future, *insha 'allah* [God willing]?

**Child:** I will be the one who slaughters you, O *kuffar*.<sup>5</sup> I will be a *mujahid* [jihadist], *insha 'allah*.

**Interviewer:** God has willed it.

....

**Child:** In this training camp, we learn the Noble Qur'an, the Arabic language, *Tajweed*, and *Fiqh*.<sup>6</sup> We learn all this only for the pleasure of Allah. Right now, we're training in the camp. We're going to kill you, O *kuffar*. *Insha 'allah* we'll slaughter you. *Takbir! Allahu Akbar!*<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was the leader of the Islamic State from 2010 until his death during a U.S. counterterrorism operation in 2019. Under his leadership, the jihadist group conquered large swathes of Iraq and Syria, declared itself a "caliphate," and evolved into a worldwide organization.

<sup>5</sup> *Kuffar* means "unbelievers" or "infidels."

<sup>6</sup> *Fiqh* refers to Islamic jurisprudence, which is the theory, practice, and understanding of Islamic law.

<sup>7</sup> *Takbir* is both a word and the name of the Arabic phrase *Allahu Akbar*, which means "God is the greatest." The word *takbir* is commonly said before the phrase *Allahu Akbar*.