

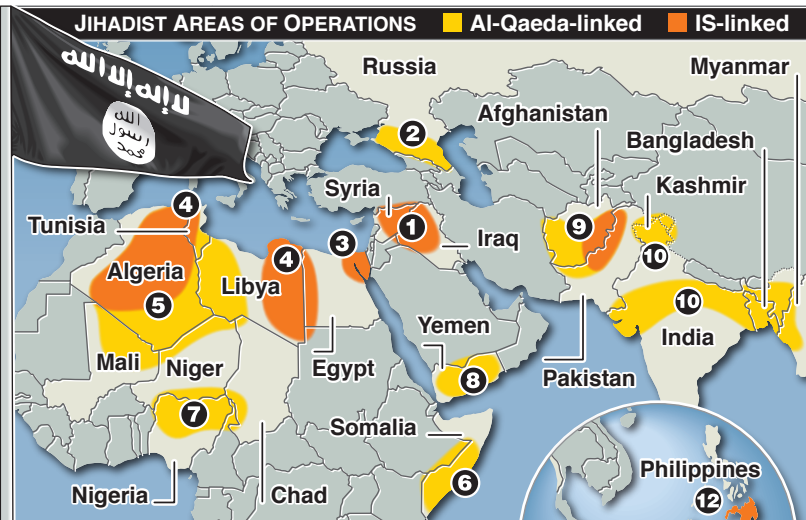
# IS challenging al-Qaeda for jihadist supremacy

The Islamic State (IS) group appears to be gaining the upper hand in the battle for global jihadist leadership, with international militant organisations increasingly rethinking their allegiance to al-Qaeda

JIHADIST AREAS OF OPERATIONS

■ Al-Qaeda-linked

■ IS-linked



**1 Islamic State:** Group reportedly forming alliance with *Nusra Front* – Syrian offshoot of al-Qaeda – to fight attacks by U.S. and its allies

**2 Caucasus Emirate:** Islamist network with ties to al-Qaeda, but many former members fight with IS

**3 Ansar Bait al-Maqdis:** Active in Sinai, with growing links to IS

**4 Ansar al-Sharia:** Branches in Libya and Tunisia expressing allegiance to IS

**5 Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and affiliates:** Algeria-based *Jund al-Khalifa* has broken away from main North African jihadist organisation to unite with IS

**6 Al-Shabaab:** Recent U.S. killing of leader could prompt group to join IS

**7 Boko Haram**  
Linked to AQIM

**8 Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP):** Has announced “solidarity” with IS fighters

**9 Taliban:** Pakistani branch pledging support for IS and urging all Islamists to unite to repel Western attacks

**10 Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS):** New branch seeks to assert Muslim rule in region

**11 Jamaah Ansharut Tauhid**  
Successor to *Jemaah Islamiyah* – group linked to 2002 Bali bombings

**12 Abu Sayyaf:** Formerly al-Qaeda-aligned, now loyal to IS

