

In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

An Interior [Media] Leaflet

[3]

Information Security

Muharram 1437

Among the very important issues that media personnel should understand, realize, and learn is information security. They should take practical precautions to prevent the occurrence of any mistake that might lead to the penetration of the group or to the leak of information or material to the enemy.

It is not hidden from you that the media bureau is a huge storage that contains information that not all of the individuals inside the group have such as private messages, raw images and videos, the exterior policy of the Islamic State, and other issues that we need to be keen to avoid having them fallen into the enemy's hands. Therefore, media personnel brother, you need to pay attention to this side [information security], quickly take the necessary practical precautions, and abide by the directions of the [Media] Monitoring Committee to maintain control over this topic, by God's permission.

There are a number of indications in the Sirah [life] of the Prophet which show that the Prophet took care of this side.

Reflect on what Abu Bakr [al-Siddiq, the 1st caliph] did when he ordered his son 'Abdullah to pay attention to what the people were saying in Mecca about him and the Prophet (peace be upon him) and to convey this information to them at night.

Also, the Messenger (peace be upon him) and his companion Abu Bakr hid the information of their departure [from Mecca] from all other people, except for those whom they needed such as Asma bint Abu Bakr [Abu Bakr's daughter] who used to bring them food, 'Ali bin Abu Talib [Muhammad's cousin] who used to provide funds for them, and few other people who had to know for the mission to have succeeded.

The Messenger (peace be upon him) and Abu Bakr al-Siddiq were very keen about information security. Despite choosing Thawr cave as their safe haven, they made sure to remove the trace of 'Abdullah and Asma, as it was mentioned in the Sirah by Ibn Hisham: "Amir bin Fuharah ordered somebody to shepherd his sheep during the daytime then have them rest close to him to remove any trace because Arabs were so good at following any traces."

❖ Therefore, we want all brothers of the media bureaus to abide by the following and apply them practically:

1- Encryption: Is a complex step processed by a specific app that prevents others from reaching your saved files.

- There are a lot of encryption apps, but we advise you to use “TrueCrypt” app. [You can find] the app attached along with a description of it.
- Encrypt all materials you have: raw release projects or any materials related to your media jihad that you have saved in a hard drive, memory flash, or inside your devices.

2- Storing files and memory cards and safe deletion of them:

- Make a copy of the raw materials.
- Do a secure deletion of the raw materials from flash sticks, memory cards, or interior memory of the camera after transforming them to prevent recovering them by using “Eraser” app. The app is attached along with a description of it.
- Erase the hard disk of memory cards, flash sticks, and hard drives to prevent recovering them by using “CCleaner” app, attached is the app along with a description of it.

3- Secure communication: Using a secure communication method that prevent others from spying or listening to them.

- Use the “Pidgin” app when talking about important matters or conveying private messages and also when communicating with the media bureaus. It is worth noting that this app provides a secure and encrypted communication method for you.
- Use Telegram through Tor for the remote wilayat.

4- Internet systems:

- **Abide by the directions of the General Committee in the order number "1743" with the subject "The Prohibition of the Use of Internet."**
- Remove the Wi-Fi [connection] from the media office.
- Connect a specific number of devices through a “LAN” cable, which are the only devices that should be connected to the Internet, and prohibit the opening of encrypted files from them.
- Prevent connecting the editing machine to the Internet.
- The Internet system should be installed away from the office and use a publisher [translator’s note: the work used here is *nashir*. It is not clear if the author meant Nashir the institution or the word nashir in Arabic which means publisher] to deliver Internet to the work place “point to point.”

5- Social media networks:

- Do not reveal your identity, your work, or the fact that you are an Islamic State soldier on social media networks.
- Do not use nicknames that you were known by before.
- Do not communicate with any supporter or any group outside the lands of the Islamic State as an Islamic State media personnel or soldier.

And God knows the best...