



Four ISIS-linked Salafi-Jihadi groups in Philippines released a video on June 21, 2016 including an official logo for ISIS in Philippines, implying direct affiliation with ISIS. The four groups in the video are the Abu Khubayb Brigade, the Jundallah Battalion, the Abu Sadr Battalion, and the Abu Dujana Brigade. The video included fighters speaking either from Philippines or from Raqqa, Syria. The fighters announced that groups in Philippines have both consolidated as one organization and are operating under an emir, Abu Abdullah al-Filipini aka Isnilon Hapilon, which would meet two prerequisites for official wilayats outlined by ISIS's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2014. Isnilon Hapilon is the leader of Abu Sayyaf Group, a former associate of al-Qaeda that pledged bayat to Baghdadi twice between 2014 and 2016. ISIS's official weekly newsletter al-Naba also referred to Hapilon as a commander in Philippines in April 2016, indicating a previous endorsement by ISIS. The groups in the video are operationally capable and conducting attacks, some likely including fighters that have returned from Syria. ISIS began to claim attacks by these groups in Philippines in April 2016. ISIS has not announced Wilayat Philippines officially, but it may do so as part of its Ramadan campaign to demonstrate that it continues to expand to new regions. ISIS may declare additional wilayats during Ramadan, for example in Bangladesh, where similar prerequisites have already been met.

1. Filipino forces killed 14 militants in clashes with ISIS-linked Abu Sayyaf Group fighters on **Jolo Island, Philippines** on April 23, 2016 in an attempt to rescue foreign hostages. Abu Sayyaf Group killed Canadian hostage John Ridsdel on Jolo on April 25, 2016 despite security forces' efforts. The group released a video of his beheading on May 3, 2016. The group traditionally relies on kidnappings as a source of income.
2. Filipino forces clashed with pro-ISIS Ansar al Khilafa Philippines (AKP) fighters in **Sarangani, Philippines** on April 28, 2016. The Philippine military claimed it killed over 50 pro-ISIS militants from the Maute Group in **Lanao del Sur Province** on May 30, 2016.
3. Filipino authorities conducted a raid against pro-ISIS Ansar al-Khilafa Philippines (AKP) in **Maasim, Mindanao**, killing two militants on April 30, 2016. Authorities uncovered a weapons cache during the raid, which reportedly included rocket-propelled grenades, materials for making IEDs, and an ISIS flag.
4. Indonesian security forces clashed with the pro-ISIS East Indonesia Mujahideen in **Central Sulawesi** on May 15, 2016. Security officials claim the group now has less than 25 members.
5. **Malaysian** authorities arrested 14 suspected ISIS militants linked to funding Abu Sayyaf Group and ISIS in Philippines on May 22, 2016. Some were tied to the same Malaysian recruiter based in Syria - Muhammad Wanndy Mohamed Jedi - as 15 suspects arrested on March 24, 2016 indicating that Wanndy has a vast network in the region. Ties to ISIS central may also indicate an ability of Malaysian cells to carry out sophisticated spectacular attacks in the region.
6. Indonesian police arrested eight suspected ISIS-affiliated militants in two separate raids in **Surabaya, Java** on June 8 and 16, 2016. Authorities seized explosives, including an SVEST, and claimed militants were reportedly planning attacks on police or public targets during Ramadan. One of those arrested reportedly had links to Abu Jandal, a known Indonesian fighting in Syria.
7. The Philippine government deployed 5,000 troops to combat ISIS-linked Abu Sayyaf Group in **Sulu, Philippines** on June 17, 2016 in response to recent kidnappings and beheadings by the group. This deployment is larger than previous attempts to subdue the Abu Sayyaf Group, suggesting that the Philippine government may be reassessing an escalated threat from the group due to its accumulating ties to ISIS.
8. ISIS claimed three attacks in **Basilan, Philippines** in May and June 2016. It first claimed an attack against Filipino forces in Masulo area on May 9, 2016. It later claimed militants detonated an IED, killing seven Filipino forces in al-Barka area, marking its first explosive attack claim in Philippines on May 20, 2016. ISIS also claimed to kill two Filipino soldiers in clashes in Barangay area on June 6, 2016.