**Supplementary material**

***Dabiq*: ethical approval, collection, and storage**

A broader research project funded by the British Academy (grant number pf170092), which included the analysis of *Dabiq*, received ethical approval from the University of Birmingham (Application for Ethical Review ERN\_17-0761). In the United Kingdom, possession of terrorist magazines without reasonable excuse constitutes an offence under the Terrorism Act 2006 (UK Government 2006). As such, the West Midlands Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit was informed of the researchers’ intentions prior to the magazines being obtained. Furthermore, the magazines were carefully stored on encrypted drives and were only accessed by the named researcher within carefully managed environments.

**Interviews with locals: ethical approval, collection, and storage**

The research plan received ethical approval from two sources: the Graduate Institute, Geneva and the project funder, the Swiss National Science Foundation (grant number P0GEP1\_178426). At the Graduate Institute, Geneva, the main researcher involved in fieldwork submitted a research plan, including a section on ethics, which was formally approved in February 2018. The project was funded by a Doc.CH Swiss National Science Foundation project grant, and the application included a specific section on ethics. The application went through two rounds of peer review evaluation by both the cantonal ‘Geneva Evaluation Commission’ and then the federal ‘Doc.CH Evaluation Commission Social Sciences’. Part of this process involved an interview with the ‘Doc.CH Evaluation Commission Social Sciences’ who approved the project in March 2018.

Verbal informed consent was given by each interviewee and the interviews were conducted in Arabic or English depending on the preference of the interviewee. Due to data security challenges, the interviews were not recorded or transcribed. Notes were taken during the interviews and then subsequently written up and stored online in ProtonMail. Due to the highly sensitive nature of the information recorded, the researcher never travelled abroad or internally with any interview notes. The interviewees were located primarily through a snowball sampling method with some significant differences in the three countries the researcher conducted interviews in. The civilians who had lived in IS-controlled territory were initially located through NGOs and CSOs that currently run interventions and programs in post-IS areas or with refugees and IDPs from IS-controlled territory. Due to previous work experience in Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey, the researcher had the networks and contacts in these organisations to facilitate introductions to civilians who met the criteria of having lived in an IS controlled area and were willing to speak to an outsider. After these initial contacts through NGOs and CSOs, the researcher met additional interviewees through a snowball sampling approach (i.e. recommendations of further persons from the interviewees themselves).

In each country, the researcher conducted interviewees with civilians in or around refugee and IDP camps. The only refugee camp the researcher entered was in Lebanon, which required to enter with the permission of the authorities who controlled the camp. The permission was organised by local NGOs operating in the camp. In Iraq and Turkey, the researcher did not enter camps but met interviewees in the premises of local NGOs located outside the camp. The process of finding civilians who worked for IS differed from the approach of interviewing civilians who had no relationship to IS. In both Iraq and Turkey, the researcher worked with Iraqi and Syrian fixers, recommended to the researcher by other academics or who the researcher has previously worked with in country, who have personal connections with these persons and could facilitate introductions. There are significant risks to the interviewees by admitting their involvement with IS (however limited) and therefore it required an introduction to a local contact to vouch for our respective security. As well as using local ‘fixers’, the researcher also met civilians who had worked for IS through the personal contacts of colleagues who have conducted work on similar areas.

The researcher conducted face-to-face interviews in Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey to ensure as diverse a geographic pool of interviewees as possible. In Iraq, the researcher conducted interviews in the following locations: Erbil, Dohuk, Zahle, Sulaymaniyah, Sharya refugee camp and Shikhan refugee camp where the researcher primarily spoke to interviewees from IS’s northern and central Iraqi provinces (Nineveh, Dijla, al-Furat and Kirkuk). In Lebanon, the researcher conducted interviews in Greater Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon, Akkar, Burj al Barajneh refugee camp and Ein al Helweh refugee camp, mainly with IS members and civilians from IS’s western Syrian provinces (Idlib, Hims and Aleppo). In Turkey, the researcher conducted interviews in Gaziantep, Sanliurfah, Reyhanli and Istanbul, primarily with interviewees who lived and worked in IS’s northern Syrian provinces (Raqqa, al-Barakah and Homs).

The interviews were conducted in Arabic or English and lasted between thirty minutes and two hours. The semi-structured interview schedule was composed of three groups of questions related to (i) the period of IS’s control of the area, (ii) security, courts, and laws under IS, and (iii) basic services, healthcare, and education under IS. This schedule was applied flexibly to account for the broad background of the interviewees, allowing them to focus on particular areas or to recount aspects of IS’s governance that were more pertinent to their experiences. Depending on the interviewees’ reactions and experiences, the order of the questions was adapted and some subjects were entirely skipped in order to retain interviewees’ trust, to prevent re-traumatization, and to ensure the safety of both interviewees and the researcher.