

## **How ISIS Communicates On YouTube**

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Most of my friends and associates are aware that I was attending the university and majoring in Emergency Management with a specialty of Terrorism. Over the years I have taken a host of different courses which center around the topic of terrorism and terrorists in particular. Some of the subjects which I have studied in the past include how Israel handles their terrorist threats, classes on getting into the mind of the terrorist and many other diverse topics relating to these horrid groups. In this short article I will attempt to identify the hazard associated with the terror group ISIS and their activities on YouTube.

YouTube is Google's video streaming social platform that is not only user friendly but open to anyone with access to an internet connection. I have personally found YouTube to be a major benefit in researching everything from topics relating to history, survival or a host of different studies which I have undertaken. Although I may find it useful for many legitimate areas of review there are also some organizations which use this excellent tool for evil gains. One such group is The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant also known as ISIS.

This evil organizations actions on YouTube has been revealed by the use of two easily obtained computer programs, the eGLYPH and a web crawler. ISIS Content on YouTube was identified by researchers used these two computer programs in order to conduct a limited search for 229 previously identified ISIS terror-related videos. This study, which lasted from March 8, 2018 to June 8, 2018, returned a wealth of knowledge relating to ISIS and their use of video propagand content.

During this three-month period, it was discovered that ISIS uploaded 1,348 ISIS videos to YouTube with a total view count of 163,391 views. Of those videos listed 24% remained on YouTube for a period exceeding two hours and receiving 148,590 views during that time frame. There were 76% of the videos which remained on YouTube for less than the two-hour period and they received 14,801 views. In total there were 278 accounts which uploaded the 1,348 videos. These are frightening figures and it would seem to indicate that ISIS is communication in plain sight right before our eyes.

Since these discoveries, YouTube/Google has begun enforcing their policies and guidelines more stringently. YouTube attempts to remove videos as quickly as they can however as the figures show even a video online with a life span of less than two hours is still able to achieve a high number of views.