

“The Arc of Jihad”: The Ecosystem of Militancy in East, Central and Southern Africa

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The ecosystem of militancy in east, central and southern Africa comprises of a sophisticated, interconnected, fluid transnational network of actors across the region.

In the case of Tanzania and South Africa, in the absence of an official Islamic State presence, this network reveals attempts by particular individuals and groups towards affiliation and support of the Islamic State.

Studies abroad is a common history among key instigators of religious debates towards violent extremism leading up to the emergence of Islamic State affiliated groups across the region.

Along the east coast from Kenya to Mozambique, actors are linked by prior training and membership to Al-Shabaab, its various affiliates and mosques in Kenya and Tanzania.

Regional transnational networks contribute to the diversity of nationalities, expertise and attack claims processed and attributed to ISCAP in DRC and Mozambique.

While the ADF has held long established ties across the region, including with Al-Shabaab, its senior leaders and members also received education abroad in Afghanistan, Pakistan as well as training from Al-Qaeda in Sudan in the early 90s.