

MSc SECINTEL Independent Study (Dissertation)



CHARLES UNIVERSITY

**Jihadism in Italy: an analysis of the Islamic
State-inspired radicalisation process of Anas
El Abboubi and Maria Giulia Sergio**

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ABSTRACT

The terrorist group known as IS (The Islamic State) has been remarkably successful in recruiting young European Muslims, including Italians, into joining its armed jihad. IS skilfully uses Islamist narratives to exploit the vulnerability of aggrieved individuals, which raises important questions regarding the role of Islam in the radicalisation process. This dissertation conducts an analytical inquiry into the journey to radicalism of two young Italian jihadists, Anas El Abboubi and Maria Giulia Sergio, in an attempt to present qualified supportive evidence for the claim that Islam is used as a justification factor rather than being the primary motivator in the adoption of radical beliefs. The purpose of this study is to investigate how the two subjects internalise IS's framing ideology and to better understand how ordinary narratives of discrimination and other non-ideological grievances are hidden behind Islamist discourse. With the analysis of the selected case studies, this research aims at highlighting that the phenomenon of homegrown radicalisation is not religious, but rather that religion serves as an ideological contour for the legitimisation of the terrorist group's message.