

“Daeshi.” This puts those targeted potentially under threat from the security forces and from family members of people killed by Islamists who may be seeking revenge.

Non-offensive alternative terms: اصولين (English translation: *fanatic*); جماعت اصوليه / *jamaat usuli* (English translation: *fundamentalist / reformist group*)

2. خوارج / Khawarij

Other spellings and related references: خارجي / *khariji* (singular); كلاب النار / *kalaab alnaar* (English translation: *fire / hell dogs*); دواعش / *Daeshi*; ارهابي / *iirhabiayn* (English translation: *terrorist*); كلاب الضالة / *kalaab dalih* (English translation: *stray dogs*); مرتد / *murtad* (English translation: *apostate*)

Sample Posts:



Definition: This term has its origins in the first century of Islam as the name of an early fundamentalist sect that revolted against the caliph in power at the time²⁴ and parted ways from the dominant Islamic practice. The term experienced a resurgence during the 2011 revolution in Libya and the other Arab Spring uprisings and continues to be used in the present-day Libyan context. It has evolved to describe someone who misuses Islam by participating in an extremist or radical group. Some respondents described this term as equivalent to the term “terrorist” and essentially interchangeable with this word and the term “Daeshi.” A narrower explanation from the focus groups defines “khawarij” as any armed group or member of an armed group that doesn’t obey the state leader or person in power. Some respondents reported that it is used more broadly to disparage anyone who is viewed as incorrectly following Islam; several noted that it is often used in this way by Madkhali-Salafi adherents, a conservative Sunni (Salafi) Muslim group that has been gaining influence throughout Libya in recent years.²⁵ Several focus group participants noted that the term has been used to justify violent actions against opponents. For example, one participant in the Tripoli focus group stated that the term “was used in the war in the east of Libya; groups were labeled as that [khawarij] regardless, whether they are or not, and many groups were executed by the LNA.”

Why it’s offensive and inflammatory: The term “khawarij” is used to imply or indicate that someone has deviated from the Islamic path by acting against the state or by disobeying a leader. As a result, those identified as “khawarij” are no longer considered a part of Muslim