



AQIM Issues Terms for Release of Two Austrian Hostages

March 13, 2008

Al-Qaida's Committee in the Islamic Maghreb: "Terms of the Mujahideen for Freeing the Austrians." Dated: March 13, 2008



[This document is the translation of an official Arabic-language communiqué obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English by ceifIT LTD on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch subscription service. This translation is provided for educational and informational purposes only. For more information on Al-Qaida's Committee in the Islamic Maghreb and its involvement in recent terror attacks, see the NEFA report "Two Decades of Jihad in Algeria: the GIA, GSPC, and Al-Qaida": <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/nefagspc0507.pdf>.]

"...We are announcing in this declaration the terms of the mujahideen to the Austrian government for freeing the Austrian tourists 'Wolfgang Ebner' and 'Andrea Kloiber.' The mujahideen demand the release of some of our prisoners who were captured in Tunis and Algeria in return for freeing the two hostages. The list of names of our prisoners has already been given to the negotiating delegation. Conversely, the mujahideen have given the Austrian authorities a deadline of three days to reply to this demand, beginning on midnight Thursday, March 13, 2008. Therefore, if the deadline passes and there is no response to our demands, only the Austrian state will be responsible for the mortal fate of the two hostages. We say to them: as much as you are worried about the well-being of your civilians, we are also concerned about liberating our brothers who have been tortured in the most vile ways, tormented and oppressed in the prisons of green Tunis! And in [the prisons of] white Algiers! All with the help of Western nations—and solely because they [the brothers] have sworn to be slaves of Allah and have boldly stepped forward with their blood and sacrifices to confront the new crusader onslaught against Islam. We ask the families of the hostages and the general public in Austria to put pressure on their government to accept the terms of the mujahideen in order to save the lives of the two tourists. Likewise, we are calling on Western tourists to avoid visiting the Muslim countries of North Africa, and we have fulfilled the obligation of giving you fair warning. Allahu Akhbar, Allahu Akhbar... the honor goes to Allah, his prophet, and to the mujahideen. Here are pictures of the mujahideen kidnapers, including the commander, Shaykh Amy Abdel Hamid Abu Zaid."



"Inside Tunisian Territory"



"Outside Tunisian Territory"