



## **AQIM Offers Deadline Extension on Austrian Hostages**

**March 17, 2008**

### **Al-Qaida's Committee in the Islamic Maghreb: "The Mujahideen Grant Austria an Additional Week to Meet Their Demands."**

**Dated: March 17, 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>.]*

"...Following the expiration of the three-day period given to the state of Austria to resolve the issue of the two kidnapped tourists—and after we accepted the request of the negotiating delegation—we wish to inform the public that the mujahideen have decided to grant Austria an additional week-long extension, starting last night at midnight. This is the final chance offered by the mujahideen (to the Austrians) to keep a clean conscience in dealing with the two families of the kidnapped persons and the Austrian people, and [this was agreed upon in order] to give the Austrian government sufficient time to meet our legitimate demands."

"We say to them: in the same way that you strive to free your citizens, we strive in every way to free our captive brothers. While your citizens are treated well by us because our religion obliges us to treat prisoners this way, simultaneously, our brothers are subjected to the worst kinds of torture, oppression, and abuse in the darkness of prison."

"We say to the various parties interested in this issue: the mujahideen will hold Austria, Tunisia, and Algeria responsible for the lives of the hostages in the event that our deadline expires without our demands being met. They [the mujahideen] stress to these parties: any military attempt to free the hostages will fail, Allah willing, and will result in the immediate execution of the hostages. Allahu Akhbar, Allahu Akhbar, Allahu Akhbar, and the honor goes to Allah, his messenger, and to the mujahideen."