



Audio Statement from Abu Omar al-Baghdadi April 14, 2008

Audio Statement from Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, the “Amir al-Mumineen” (“Leader of the Faithful”) of Al-Qaida’s “Islamic State of Iraq” Released on April 14, 2008



[This document is the edited transcript of an Arabic-language audio recording 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 Abu Omar al-Baghdadi and the “Islamic State of Iraq”, see “State of the Sunni Insurgency in Iraq: August 2007” (<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/iraqreport0807.pdf>).]

“...The Al-Furqan Foundation is pleased to present an audio message from the Amir al-Mumineen, Shaykh Abu Omar al-Baghdadi (may Allah protect him) under the title, ‘The Solid Structure.’”

“Praise be to Allah, we praise him and ask him for guidance and forgiveness... Allah, may he be exalted, has said, ‘Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it, but it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knows, and ye know not’ (Quran, 2:216). In these times, we are witnessing the anniversary of a mournful disaster—the anniversary of the occupation of Iraq and the fall of pure Baghdad, seized by the hands of the cross worshippers and the [Shiites]... Five years have passed since the occupation of Iraq, and what have we been able to harvest compared to our enemies? In summary, the enemy has reaped disappointment, shame and loss. They have declared, lying as usual, that their casualties has exceeded only about four thousand, ignoring the dead from the mercenaries of the various security contractors.”

“Five years have come to pass, and they have witnessed an unprecedented defeat—their prestige has been erased, the noses of their soldiers have been rubbed in the dirt, and nobody has any fear [of them] any more. Their resources have been exhausted, and they are facing an unprecedented economic collapse. Still, they arrogantly persist, even though they know that they will lose the war and that victory will go to the Islam and its army. Five years of this blessed jihad have come to pass, and, all praise be to Allah, we are still holding fast to our religion and marching on the path of jihad while bearing the flag of al-Tawheed, the flag of [the Shahada]. As these years have passed, our soldiers continue to depart for our Lord. They never changed or converted their beliefs and the trials and tribulations which they faced have only increased their purity. They have neither been deceived by the small numbers of their supporters nor by the slander of those who have deserted them in their hour of need. Five years have passed, during which Allah has conferred distinction upon his ranks and revealed what was previously hidden in their hearts. He exposed the errors of those under various banners claiming to be of the Salafi methodology, but who are today only remnants of the Jahiliyyah [era of ignorance]. Whoever is killed under this flag has died a death of ignorant foolishness...”

“...Yet, what has torn my heart and caused me deep pain and grief for the Sunnis is the news, which has reached us all, about the fighting among the [Shiites] in southern and central Iraq, and the current position of the tribes in central and southern Iraq regarding the Mahdi Army, despite the fact that this Army is clearly an agent of Iran. Its leader permanently resides there, and it is the devils of Qom [in Iran] who provide its weapons, equipment, and training for its men—all to

collect the profits of the [Shiite] state ruling over Iraq, to stand in the face of any Sunni demand (whether peacefully or militarily), and to once again be able to rule over Mesopotamia. Despite the fact that the tribes of southern and central Iraq know that the struggle with the [Shiites] has no relation to religious beliefs or the presence of the occupiers—and that is merely a struggle over money and power which stems from the illicit trade of petroleum, estimated at fourteen billion dollars per year (according to official statements)—these tribes of southern and central Iraq stood alongside their sons from the Mahdi Army and other [groups], refusing to allow the Shiites to fall into internal conflict. For this purpose, they held demonstrations, they shouted slogans, and mediators were sent in to find a solution to this conflict, and how to divide the ‘cake’ of Iraq and its oil.”

“Yet, at the same time, we have discovered that several Sunni tribes have joined hands with the American occupiers, the likes of John, George, and al-Maliki, to kill the sons of the Sunni tribes—to kill Omar, Mohammed, and Ahmed. They have described their own mujahideen sons as scum and filth. This was clearly expressed by the agent leaders of the Awakening Councils, led by the son of Ali Sulaiman, Iraq’s most notorious agent and traitor. As if al-Rishawi was living up to his own credo, and leading the fight against the mujahideen (the sons of honorable tribes)—and not actually a highway robber and villain known to all the people of al-Anbar.”

“I can tell you, these concerns were brought to my attention by several Shaykhs from noble tribes, and they asked me, ‘how long will this Sunni infighting last? Is it not the time for us to turn our weapons only toward the occupier?’ I was overjoyed by their position, and with their brothers in the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), they found what they were looking for, and more. After some discussion, an agreement was reached on a joint mission to end the so-called ‘infighting in the Sunni regions between sons of various tribes.’ It especially became necessary to do this after the situation reached the point at which some tribes had actually formed units of assassins among the police seeking to eliminate mujahideen from among their own tribe. This included those who had freed by the Americans, turning the joy of their families at their release into sadness and inflaming the ongoing infighting between sons of the same tribe. This is exactly what happened recently with the tribes of al-Jughafa, who—in broad daylight—publicly executed several of the heroes from their own tribe, though perhaps a different branch of it. They have also killed heroes from the tribes of Buhayat, al-Hadithiyin, al-Juwaina, al-Zawiyin, and Abu Nimr. The same atrocities were committed by the Abu Mahal tribe with the heroes from the tribes of Jadaan, al-Tarabala, and al-Saffal.”

“The Shaykhs said that the American army and its allies have driven the tribes into a quagmire called the ‘National Forces’ and the ‘Tribal Awakening Councils.’ They called them to offer them pleasant dreams and sealed the deal in the beginning by paying large sums of money to certain tribal Shaykhs and volunteers who are loyal to the Awakening Councils. After they managed to enlist everyone in their sinister plan, they washed their hands of the situation, ended the salaries, and began talking about contracts for three months or six months, explicitly telling them, ‘now you have no choice but to cooperate with us or else have your heads chopped off by the Islamic State for fighting against them. You have become clear targets for them, and there is no one to protect you other than the Americans.’ I have stressed it to the tribal shaykhs that the cause of all the problems in the Sunni regions is the Iraqi Islamic Party, its entourage of evil clerics and some tribal shaykhs, and their repeated lies ever since they first entered the sinister political system. What was the result? An American soldier stood with his shoe on Muhsin Abdul-Hamid’s head for twenty minutes, and Tareq al-Hashimi visited the prison and cried like a woman. He was not able to free even a single prisoner—despite being the so-called ‘Vice-President of the Republic’! And what made things even worse was his statement that ‘most of those in prison are underaged youths who have been sexually assaulted.’ Nevertheless, the Islamic Party completely refuses to demand the withdrawal of the occupiers, and considers it a crime.”

“The real question is: why is the withdrawal of the occupiers a crime? Are the Sunnis ruling the country in fear of losing control of it? Or do they fear for the financial profits of the Sunnis? What religious law permits this demand by these criminals? By Allah, even Buddhism would not accept

this occupation nor tolerate their presence, and it was for this reason that they fought the Americans in Vietnam. Tell me—what religion do this man and his party follow? Or is it that he fears the mujahideen, whom he has blamed for every shortcoming and formed apostate Awakening Councils to fight against them, claiming that they are murderous villains? I would like to ask the members of the honorable tribes: how many of your sons are in the prisons of the Islamic State, or 'Al-Qaida', as they call it? And how many of your sons are held captive in the prisons of the invading crusading forces, and in the prisons of the Shiite regime? How many of your women are prisoners in the prisons of the Islamic state? And how many of your women are held captive in the prisons of the crusader forces and the Shiite regime? And, finally, how many of your women have been violated by the men of the Islamic state, god forbid, and how many women have been violated by the crusader forces? And how many by the bitter [Shiites]? I think that if you have honestly answered these questions, you will know who the real criminal is and who it is that must be fought and confronted with force of arms."

"By Allah... I ask you, don't you know how many times we have broken into the prisons at Abu Gharib, Badoush, and elsewhere, seeking to free our sons—and that dozens of our sons were killed in this effort? The killing of Shaykh Abu Anas al-Shami outside the walls of Abu Gharib prison in Radwaniyya did not take place so long ago for you to have forgotten. By Allah... I ask you, don't you know that we have taken hostages from among the American, British, Russian soldiers, and others—and our only demand was that they free Muslim women from the prisons, just this one? We swear, and swear again... that not a single hostage was ransomed for money, despite our dire need of it. We had no other goal or a demand other than freeing the women and children from the prisons. As for the male [prisoners], they can only be liberated by other men. Are we equal to those who intentionally published photographs of Sunni women being degraded at the hands of the cross worshippers and the [Shiites]? Meanwhile, the Awakening Council soldiers and the Islamic Party are busy watching their own backs, fearing security threats from the mujahideen."

"Then, after all of the above, al-Rishawi and his supporters from the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI) and the Iraqi Islamic Party have claimed that we are bigger criminals than the Americans and the [Shiites], anointing upon themselves permission to kill the honorable mujahideen sons, and putting themselves and their fellow tribesman at the disposal of Hadi al-Ameri and Petraeus. Indeed, the now condemned and buried al-Rishawi once begged his master, the bearer of the cross Bush, for his treacherous complicity in the presence Mamoun Jassem, leader of the Islamic Party in Anbar Province: 'We are your allies in Iraq. You can rely on us. Don't abandon us.' Bush then smiled from ear to ear, unable to believe what he was being told but filled with joy at his new allies. He [Bush] replied, 'No, no, we will not abandon you!' Tell me, my nation, is it not the military campaign of the cross bearers which has violated our honor, spilled our blood, imprisoned our sons, humiliated our elders, terrorized our children, and destroyed our homes? So tell me then, why do the collaborators from the Awakening Councils and their treacherous allies from some resistance groups want to be allies of the crusaders, begging them to stand by their side?"

"...We say, by Allah, we have never killed anyone other than American agents and the attacking instruments and protectors of the occupiers—such as the police, army, and the Awakening Councils, which are the essence of the problem. The question must be asked: how many times have they been able to prevent the Americans or the Shiites from imprisoning our sons and women in order that they can come now and boast of defending the rights of the Sunnis? Or are they in actuality the ones who protect the regime which violates our dignity and imprisons our sons? Their leader, the vice-president [Tareq al-Hashimi] is so incompetent that he cannot even free a single prisoner! And how many Sunnis have actually joined the army and police forces of the Shiite regime? Three percent? Five percent? Surely, not any more than that! The root cause of the problems in the Sunni regions is those people. Most of the Sunni tribesmen are either with the mujahideen, or actively support them—and would never consent to protecting the patrols of the crusader occupiers, let alone their mere presence."

“Hence, an agreement was reaching regarding the following:”

“1.) The formation of a committee of faithful religious scholars, those who never expressed support for the occupiers or the Shiite regime, those known for their wisdom and good reputation, and those without any kind of affiliation to apostate governments in neighboring countries. This committee will preside and render judgments over every dispute in the Sunni regions, whether between tribes, between mujahideen, etc.”

“2.) The religious scholars and honorable tribal shaykhs must take the initiative and encourage Sunni tribesmen to abandon the army and police forces of the Shiite state—as well as the Awakening Councils—so that the weapons of the Sunnis can be collectively turned towards the crusader occupiers and their agents.”

“3.) The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), may Allah preserve it, pledges to offer amnesty to all of those from the army, police, and Awakening Councils who agree to cease fighting the mujahideen before being captured... Moreover, each tribe will commit itself to rejecting the unilateral actions of certain tribesmen and to punishing anyone who tries to drive the Sunnis into a bottomless pit, leaving the crusader occupiers free to roam our country and toy with our honor.”

“4.) Committees of religious scholars, tribal shaykhs, and mujahideen representatives will be established in every region in order to supervise local affairs according to Islamic Shariah.”

“5.) An Islamic supreme court will be established, which will be responsible for rendering judgment on every quarrel—from the moment of the release of this message—according to Islamic Shariah law.”

“6.) The Islamic State of Iraq and other jihadi organizations pledge to hand over to the above-mentioned committee any person who has been proven in accordance with Shariah law to have spilled innocent Muslim blood.”

“7.) A supreme administrative committee will be established to carry out the above-described plan of action—led by the Amir of the Islamic State of Iraq [Abu Omar al-Baghdadi] and with the support of other Amirs [commanders] from every faction which has refused to become involved in the infidel political process, nor the apostate Awakening Councils...”

“Finally, this agreement will remain mere ink on paper unless it is adopted and implemented by religious scholars and the tribal shaykhs, at least in regions where it is possible to enforce this agreement as a whole without the exclusion of any of its provisions.”

“On this occasion, I must take the opportunity to thank my comrades and my brothers—the shaykhs and tribesmen of the north, in Ninewah and its surrounding areas [i.e. Mosul]—for resisting efforts to pressure them into forming an apostate army to fight against mujahideen from their own tribes. This steadfastness helped foil their evil plan which would have resulted in the the killing and violating of many Sunnis in Mosul. On the first day of the beginning of security operations in Basrah, a representative of the [Muqtada] al-Sadr bloc complained, ‘why are they targeting the peaceful city of Basrah and leaving Mosul alone?’ As a result, on the first day of the operations in Basrah, a delegation composed of senior devils from the Badr Corps visited Iran—led by the criminal governor of Babel Province Hadi al-Ameri, along with Ali al-Adeeb and Hassan Al Saneed. There, a deal was struck to end the campaign on Basrah, and to direct all the weapons of the regime and the Shiites at the Sunnis, in their own home—Mosul—their fortress and source of numerical strength. Suddenly it was announced that operations in Basrah were being called off, and al-Maliki announced that all of the nonstop raids and arrests targeting the Mahdi Army would be stopped—the same people who he described yesterday on video aired by all satellite channels as ‘smugglers, killers and criminals—a criminal gang worse than Al-Qaida.’ All of a sudden, [Muqtada] al-Sadr’s movement became a respected and distinguished political party, and its followers were hailed and praised. The plot behind this crime was conceived in Iran, and only hours after arriving home from there, the criminal Badr Organization leader and Parliament member Hassan al-Saneed announced that, this time, the assault would be on the city of Mosul.”

“First of all, gives this criminal the right to declare such an initiative? He is a member of the parliament—not the defense minister, not the Interior Minister, nor part of the security forces. Or is it enough that he simply belongs to the Badr Corps? At the same time, we observe the Iraqi

Accordance Front—which claims to be Sunni—making vigorous efforts to end the assault on the Mahdi Army for the sake of saving Shiite blood. But as for the lives of the Sunnis in Diyala and elsewhere, their blood has no such worth. This Front continues to protect and fight side-by-side with the occupiers, and they are truly more Shiite than even the Shiites themselves. Secondly, did the military campaign against Mosul ever actually cease? Indeed, you can see that it is raging at its strongest! A clear example of this was the massacre in the Zanjili neighborhood[in Mosul], which was carried out by soldiers from all segments of the apostate army—Shiite, Jewish, and Kurd. There was a much greater number of casualties [in Zanjili] than all of the Shiite dead and wounded they have suffered during all their six-day battles.”

“O’ Sunnis, awaken! Indeed, what is being plotted for you is of great concern! You will suffer great shame and humiliation if you will abandon your mujahideen sons. They are a part of you, they work for you, they are the source of your power and glory, and the secret of your strength. Beware of following the Islamic Party and its devils in the political process. I swear by Allah, they are beating the drums for the extermination of the Sunnis in Mosul—and, moreover, it has been confirmed to us that those who are working to resume the sinful massacres in Mosul, after they succeeded in sparing Shiite bloodshed in the south, and especially that of their masters in the Mahdi Army. O’ Sunnis, stand as one against the occupiers and anyone who aids him—whatever his apparent affiliation of appearance may be. Allah forbid, you will never support the crusaders or those who protect them, for you are the nation of pride and courage, the most familiar with war. The mujahideen come from among you, and you are their true leaders. Put an end to the crimes of the crusaders and occupiers and the greedy ambitions of the Shiites, and resist the plots of the Jews and the Peshmerga. Defend your religion, your land, and your dignity—otherwise, we will have a thousand ‘Abirs’ and ‘Sabrins’ [Iraqi women who were violated]. The case of our sister Abdiyya who was raped by her Shiite neighbor did not take place so long ago for you to have forgotten.”

“This is an initiative we have undertaken along with some of your brothers from the tribal shaykhs. Place your hands in ours and stand shoulder to shoulder with us so that we can direct our weapons at the occupiers and anyone who dares to fight us at their behest. Do not refuse this offer of reconciliation, for if you forsake us, our Lord in the heavens will surely grant us victory... O’ Allah! Cause us to live and die as Muslims, and join us with the righteous, without shame nor failing any of your tests. O’ Allah! Kill the infidels who reject your messengers and who distract people from your path, and rain down upon them various forms of severe torment. O’ Allah! Kill the infidels who were given the Scripture. O’ Lord of Truth.”

“Your brother, Abu Omar al-Quraishi al-Baghdadi.”