



Communiqué from "Army of al-Mustafa" April 16, 2008

"Army of al-Mustafa: A Response to Some of the Questions Raised About the Letter From One of Our Field Commanders." Dated April 16, 2008



[This document is the translation of an official Arabic-language communiqué obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English on behalf of NEFA's TerrorWatch subscription service. This translation is provided for educational and informational purposes only. For more information on Abu Omar al-Baghdadi and Al-Qaida's "Islamic State of Iraq", see "State of the Sunni Insurgency in Iraq: August 2007" (<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/iraqreport0807.pdf>).]

"In the name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Compassionate... we offer thanks to Allah and prayers for his Prophet Mohammed, his family, and friends."

"To all of the brothers who responded to our two letters—the first being a letter from one of our field commanders and the second regarding the operation that took place today—we inform you of the following:"

"1.) When we posted our statement yesterday, we were not aware of the speech by Abu Omar al-Baghdadi in which he called for the unity of jihadi activity as well as for reconciliation. By no means do we wish to sabotage efforts by Shaykh Abu Omar or any other individual. We would be delighted if such unity and collaboration took place among the various factions, and the true path of serving Allah and his goals and fighting our enemies was re-established."

"2.) We stand firm behind the letter from our field commander—although we do not seek to ignite any infighting, especially at this time, and Allah is our witness. Having said that, we are confident that the brothers from the ISI leadership are unaware of the forces inside of that organization that are aiming to spread such internal battles. We are also awaiting the official response from the brothers in the ISI."

"3.) We do not ask for anyone to compliment, criticize, or follow our path. We do not need the sympathy of any individual. Some of the responses from the brothers reveal nothing but their own ignorance of what is taking place both in the arenas of Iraq and Jihad."

"4.) When we sent that letter, it was intended for the brothers in the ISI who were involved in the matter and to those who have a desire to resolve this crisis. We would have sent that letter directly to the official administrators of the [Internet] forum, but we knew that this network is not independent in its representation of any group. Our main concern is honestly to solve this matter and to safeguard the blood of Muslims."



“5.) Some people claim that the ISI and Ansar al-Islam comprise 95% of the insurgent force in the city [of Mosul]. Even assuming that statement is true, we ask of them, do these numbers truly matter? Or is the real issue the quality and not quantity, and the commitment to attacking the enemies of Allah? It is not for one movement to marginalize another movement just because they are the largest and the strongest, since Islam in essence is a religion of equality and justice.”

“6.) We inform all of those who asked us to cease our jihadi operations that we have no problem with stopping them—but we do want you to realize that we believe in our own perseverance and determination to fight the infidels. We shall let Allah judge those who asked us to abandon our weapons, since they shall be held responsible.”

“7.) Some people claim that we (the Army of al-Mustafa) have tried very hard to associate ourselves with the ISI. We inform them that we require no such association—we are a proud jihadi organization and our history speaks for itself. We respect and appreciate all our fellow jihadi groups. We have a great following in Ninewah province and we have managed to present ourselves on the scene in Iraq with the help of our courageous soldiers who have executed major operations against the crusaders and their supporters. If we had wished to associate ourselves with the ISI, we would have pledged our allegiance to them.”

“8.) Some have suggested on various Internet forums that we will be collaborating with the Awakening Councils in the wake of our letter from yesterday. We inform them that such a thing will never happen because we have previously targeted these councils in the area of al-Ishaqi and we would have targeted them again if they had a presence in Ninewah province. We are dedicated to our principles... We thank almighty Allah almighty and offer prayers to his Prophet Mohammed, family, and friends.”