



The Ansar al-Islam Organization in Iraq: “The Book of Truth”

July 14, 2008

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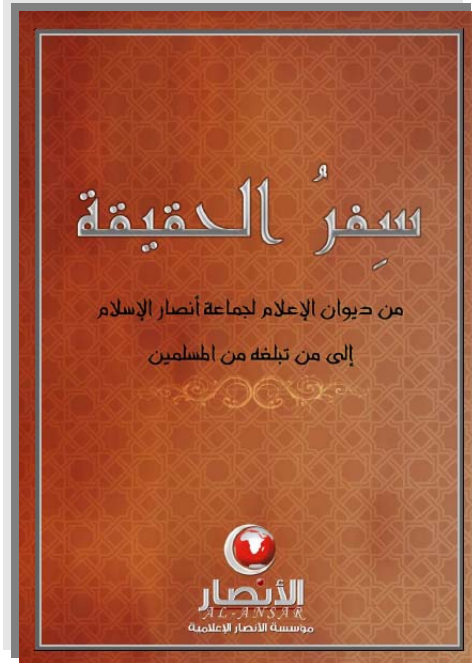


[This document is the edited transcript of an Arabic-language communiqué obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch news service. This translation is provided for educational and informational purposes only. For more information on Ansar al-Sunnah and its links with other Iraqi insurgent groups, see “State of the Sunni Insurgency in Iraq: August 2007” (<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/iraqreport0807.pdf>).

“After the passage of more than five years from the beginning of the blessed jihad, we offer you this summarized article about the war that was waged by America and its helpers against the Muslims in Iraq. This is an article that tries to give answers to some of the questions surrounding the story of the people in the jihadi area and knowledge of the change or the sudden change that has happened to the jihad in the struggle zone. We have accompanied the events from their very beginning with detailed reports on what has been happening in the area and political interpretations to it. Today, after this period has passed, the positions and the methods in the area have appeared, so we have the duty to present most of the clarifications to clarify the positions and the events in our words. We live this event like others who have walked the road in the battlefield...”

“Before beginning, there is no other way for us than to return to the past for a while and especially to (the time) when America first decided to occupy Iraq... After the crusader troops gained control over the Iraqi land... [and] the crusaders’ troops were flushed with joy over the victory of their military forces, they presumed for themselves that it was over and that victory had been decided. The United States thought that they had won, and this hope encouraged them; however, they faced something they did not take into consideration, which prevented them from fulfilling their goals, reaching their targets and carrying out their program. This was, of course, the existence of a group of mujahideen in the cause of Allah, who opposed this American conquest, and who gathered the disparate groups of the faithful from among the people of al-Tawheed, who spread the jihadi consciousness across all sections of Iraqi society, who incited [people] to fight the Americans, and who opened the doors of holy jihad in Iraq. Allah blessed the people of the Sunnah in Iraq in maintaining this holy precept...”

“[By] the fourth stage [of the Iraqi insurgency] in 2007, the occupiers had prepared a concept for a new plan, through which he would be able to purify the ranks of the jihad, relying upon his



previous policy which focused upon 'penetration.' After the enemy annihilated many of the Sunni youths and their fighters and disarmed several factions and turned them political, the enemy moved on to convince some of the Sunni clans in Al-Anbar to abandon the fighting against the Americans, offering them some facilitations and support, and promises to help them restore the tribal control over their lands as a first step, and then add their forces to the lines of the army and the police..."

"Thus, the first to have extended their hand to the occupiers in Al-Anbar were some of the tribal chiefs of nationalist and secularist nature, and those with interests which are linked with the American plan. During the formation of these councils, they squeezed themselves into them, claiming that they were merely trying to protect themselves and their lands, with direct support from the Americans. When the fighting with the Americans lasted for longer and longer, and when they strived to consolidate their basic principles with those of the collaborationist government - then submission, surrender to the reality, and the understanding that dealing with the conquest is a reality that cannot be ignored, have spread among the exhausted and those with interests. They raised the motto of 'pragmatism', in which they mean that America has become an actual truth and there is no way but to deal with her and submit to this reality. This plan also aimed to convince all the tribes that it is impossible to act in these lands, unless they will pass through the American gateway..."

"This stage is characterized by drafting the dormant armed cells to spread anarchy and random killings among the Sunnis, and control the weak by force. The state of anonymous killing, which the occupiers and his supporters used against the mujahideen and the Sunnis in general, had spread and was pinned on the mujahideen in order to instigate the people against them and destroy the jihad, and recruit the tribes to fight the mujahideen. The term of terror has spread, although the mujahideen were utterly innocent of this behavior. Joining the path of the Salvation Councils was not a general thing in the beginning, but it was rather tribal tendencies to join this path, out of desire to avenge the killing of a relative (who was either an agent, or a spy, or something else), or to join for the sake of limited interests, or when there was someone who was a genuine collaborator. Despite the obstacles and pressures that the jihadi organizations had suffered from, they were able, by the grace of Allah, to remain firm about the course of action and focus on two main factors. First, continuity—to strike the American forces and their supporters, and not abandon this factor, and improve the military competence in order to continue the fighting. Secondly, methodology—to remain firm about the method and to work on the reasons to raise the results; to deeply examine the problems of the field, contain most of them and solve the crises... The enemy hoped to carry out his plan in causing fights among the factions and the [jihad] organizations in the Sunni areas. The factions were led by stooges whose loyalty is to America, and the [jihad] organizations were following an Islamic Shariah methodology. The factions began to incite the [jihad] organizations to kill their members and torment them, in order to exert pressure upon them... For our part, so that truth will prevail and to ward off the false, we informed the brothers in command of the jihadi organizations at the time, and we made sure of the truth and verified it. We asked them about these specific incidents, and they assured us that they knew nothing about them—and even added that they did not think that way, and they would not order these acts to be carried out. They also assured us that they were not pleased with these matters..."

"Using this method, the enemies tried to penetrate the ranks of the mujahideen, tear them apart, eliminate their enthusiasm, and isolate them from the Muslim masses, in order to corrupt with this policy of theirs what the mujahideen have harvested with their jihad. However, by the grace of almighty Allah, the Sunnis only embraced the mujahideen more lovingly, and the ranks stood out before these people - the truth was revealed and the falsehood had disappeared - truly it was bound to vanish. It was discovered that the aim of the aforementioned strife was, firstly, to wipe out the good influences of the jihad in the hearts of the Muslims; and, secondly, to upset the relations between the Muslims and the mujahideen."

“In regards to our position concerning the events that occurred and the way we dealt with them, our commanders sent a special message to the mujahideen brothers warning them to keep out of infighting and to prevent armed clashes from breaking out among them... America was endeavoring to achieve her goal, which is destroying the jihad and taking her revenge against the mujahideen who act in the name of terror. She tried to pin crimes on the mujahideen, intending to cause the Sunnis to submit to ‘pragmatism’ by misrepresenting the facts and falsifying the events that had occurred. They explained to the public that the victims were in fact the soldiers, and the American soldiers and his followers lead the way towards good and peace!!! This method aims to first shake the concepts of the true religion (jihad) in the Sunni areas, and then to convince [Sunnis] to submit to the American demands to change their jihadi ways, while explaining to them the necessity of dealing with the occupiers in order to secure their safety and their control over their lands. Through this, the occupiers will be able to recruit the Sunni common people to confront the jihad under the motto of ‘fighting the jihad’...”

“After the firmly-established thrones of the oppressors have held control of the wealth and dreams of the Muslims for so long, Allah sent the jihad (the true duty) to break the oppressors and uproot their thrones. The calls of ‘Allahu Akhbar’ by the mujahideen in Iraq have awakened their brothers in the neighboring states, and the intelligence [services] of the neighboring states have devoted themselves to a plan called ‘protecting national security’, which—although of American origin—aims to limit the fighting to concepts of nationalist resistance that are acknowledged internationally, and which can be controlled and guided—and which can be employed to contain the cracks, in order to prevent the apostate [Shiite] influences to extend to the eastern provinces in the Gulf Emirates, which are inhabited by a majority of apostates and Iranian emigrants...”

“When the American forces began to execute this plot, which was negotiated with these stooges, a form of a random arrest was used to accomplish it. They agreed with their agent, Abu Azzam Thamer al-Tamimi, to arrange a plan to bring down Abu Wael, ‘arrest’ him, and sign an agreement with him and with one of the commanders of the armed factions in the American camps—so that they [Abu Wael and the other commander] would be able to justify themselves before the mujahideen in the future and say that the signing was done under pressure and force. The contents of the agreement were a plan to form a front that would encompass all the resistance factions, excluding Al-Qaida, in order to justify the continued American aggression against the Sunnis based on the presence of Al-Qaida. Then, the front would enter direct and indirect negotiations with the American forces, as they will be considered as representatives of the Iraqi resistance. The American forces forced Abu Wael to present the plot before the leadership and the commander of the Ansar al-Islam Organization, and they replied with a conclusive negative response, and forbid him from proposing this idea again.”

“When Abu Wael learned of the leadership’s decision and that they had rejected the plan, he offered an alternate plan of uniting with the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI) and the Mujahideen Army, and then forming a united front that would encompass all the factions. It should be noted that the plan of uniting with the two aforementioned factions was presented previously, but due to disputes over the course of action between us and them the plan was rejected. The main reasons for the rejection were that the plan would change the goal of the union—we share different opinions about the issues of domination, constitution, political participation in the apostate government and parliaments, and the underlying concepts behind jihad. That is because we believe in isolation and separation, and we believe that only Allah is entitled to make laws, and we believe that the Quran and the Sunnah are the sole sources for legislation, and we forbid the participation in the governments of infidelity, opposition, and apostasy. We do not believe that parliaments are considered as legitimate legislative councils by Allah the Praised. For us, the jihad is attacking, repelling, and eliminating the oppressors, firmly establishing the authority of Allah and the sovereignty of his law, protecting the nation, securing the rights of the Muslims, and removing the injustice from the oppressed.”

“Therefore, we had our calculated misgivings, agreed by all of us, about the aforementioned plan of union, after the source of the plan and of its financing became evident to the members of the

organization, as well as its true goal, and for that reason it was unanimously rejected at that time by the leadership and the fighters. But this time, Abu Wael insisted upon the plan and he was trying with effort to achieve the formation of this front. He tried to convince us that the aforementioned factions had changed, and that they were prepared to accept the terms that we would set... The leadership of Ansar al-Islam rejected the plan of the united front too and considered it an illegitimate plan. Much to their bewilderment, [Abu Wael and the others] turned to distorting, raising chaos, deceiving, instigating the people in order to sow discord among the ranks, trying to gather the sheep farthest from the flock to their side, meddling with questionable and unfounded doubts before the truth, in addition to falsely assuming leadership, and playing the role of the responsible and decision-maker regarding several matters, in the name of the 'Shariah Committee of the Ansar al-Sunnah Army.'"

"On 21 Rabi al-Awwal 1428 (April 9, 2007), Abu Wael and Abu Sajjad made a decision to separate from the [Ansar al-Islam] organization, after they despaired of their attempts to persuade the organization to enter this kind of plan. They arranged several meetings with the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI) and several other factions inside Iraq and outside of it. The last of these meetings, and the one in which it was agreed to form the front and declare it, was in the state of Qatar—in the presence of various Arab propaganda mouthpieces based in the Gulf emirates. The front was formed, and some of the main principles adopted by the front included: firstly, to fight Al-Qaida, for it is considered a group of fanatics in regards to their course of action, ideology, and organization, and because [Al-Qaida] had persecuted members of the front in the past. The front attributed a vengeful quality to the fight against Al-Qaida, and [framed it as] a legalistic retribution. It has charged its people with the necessity of fighting Al-Qaida, and thus began a campaign of attacks in Arab Jabbur, Al-Ameriya, Al-Ghazalia, Diyala, and other places. Secondly, to entirely abandon the concept of jihad, to have total faith in the secular 'law of legitimate resistance', to spread sanctity over the geographical borders, and to agree to divide the Muslim nation into separate peoples—in contradiction with the Islamic concept of unity of the nation and unity of the land. Thirdly, the front has actively participated in driving the Sunni situation into a crisis and actually fought Sunni jihadi groups, and it demonstrated how empty and divided the ranks of the Sunnis are... [The front] was just another tool in the hand of the occupation forces, and a part of its equation of balance of powers."

"Right after that other fronts have appeared, such as the 'Reform and Jihad Front' and the 'Front for Jihad and Change.' The majority of the members of these fronts were from the former Iraqi army, and matters have developed in these fronts when some of them formed political entities, such as 'The Political Council of the Iraqi Resistance'..."

"The first signs of the positions of these fronts were revealed, following the events of Al-Ameriya, Diyala, and Al-Ramadi... as a guarantee to strengthening the relations of the front with America. Then the hands that support the plan of the front began to pour enormous funds into the field, in order to draw the people and the tribes that support the jihad to the fronts, by claiming to strengthen the ranks of the Sunnah and defend it. Thus, the fronts recruited the people in the Sunni areas and formed councils similar to the Salvation Council in Al-Anbar... The fronts have withdrawn from their attack using the mottos of the jihad and they deceived the public in such an imaginary manner, which cannot stand firmly before the real and actual truth that lies in the field..."

"All these people, and especially the Islamic Party, did not limit themselves to participating in the conquest of Iraq, but moreover, they presented a distorted and modified version Islam according to the American plan, as several of them overstepped all bounds and abandoned the duty of jihad. They began to battle the mujahideen who fight on behalf of Allah and to launch ruthless attacks against them. They published fatwahas that ruled that the mujahideen are corrupting the earth and swore to the government and to the occupation that the mujahideen are dissenters and corrupters. They allow them to kill [the mujahideen], imprison them, torment them and sign death sentences that are given by the government of the Green Zone with all the generosity they have. Not only that, but things reached a point that they deify themselves over Allah and

decreed that this group of mujahideen are not martyrs and they shall not enter paradise! They began to call the Muslim people to cooperate with the security agencies of the apostate government and the Americans by revealing the secrets of the mujahideen and informing on them, under the pretext of cooperation against the terror or protecting the interests of the Muslims.”

“In conclusion we say... the traditions of Allah are determined and for his worshippers they shall not be changed... Everyone is busy with his world and his interests, and they have forgotten how America has killed the Muslims, destroyed them, exiled them, and they have no strength and no power, save in Allah. Their surrender to America is not at the expense of fighting the Iranian influence in the area by motive of devoutness and legitimate policy, but it is at the expense of the message of the jihad and the sacrifices of the Muslims. In that, America only wanted to create a power balance and to dissuade the [Shiites] in case she would enter a war with Iran with all the necessary precautions, having the Awakening movements, the councils, and the fronts under her control. Have you forgotten the days when the Muslims were slaughtered by the apostates, while the Americans were watching and listening? O’ praise be to Allah, how the tables have turned!”

“In presenting these facts and examples, we only want the people to know that the true nature of the mujahideen contradicts the nature which our enemies try to project among the people. It is our right to defend the reputation of the mujahideen against all the lies and distortions that have been leveled at them, so that their nature which is presented before the people will be the pure and true nature that they once had and still have, with the permission of Allah. It is an impenetrable stronghold in the faces of the Americans and the apostates who want to distort the identity of the Muslims and make them deviate from their religion and ideology, and we shall protect Islam and the Muslims with our hearts. Our Lord the Praised and Exalted has given the mujahideen [the power] to snap the spine of the strongest military power in the world...”