



Shariah Com. of Ansar al-Sunnah: “‘Book of Truth’ or Imaginary Fantasy?”

August 5, 2008

The Shariah Committee of the Ansar al-Sunnah Army: “A ‘Book of Truth’ or an Imaginary Fantasy?” Dated August 5, 2008



[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>).]

“In the name of Allah, the Compassionate and Merciful... To the Islamic nation in general, and to our mujahideen brothers in particular. In response to what was published in the ‘Book of Imagination and Falsehood’ rather than the ‘Book of Truth’, the media wing of the Shariah Committee of the Ansar al-Sunnah Army shall reveal the truth which was buried under the rubble of this book (and that which preceded it) as an act of trust and advice to the nation...”

“The ‘Ansar al-Islam’ Organization, may Allah reform them and forgive them, has acquainted us with a new book called ‘the Book of Truth’, through which they intended answer, according to their claims, the questions of the people. If only they would have kept silent and would not have responded, for they have loaded this book with many fantasies and lies, in addition to their various past books, and this is nothing but loads of injustice and hostility... In the past, we preferred to keep silent and not respond to these false claims, which we had encountered prior to this most recent so-called book, in order to keep from pleasing our enemies and disappointing our supporters. At the time, we said to ourselves, ‘perhaps it is a verse from the Devil and surely it would not last. Our brothers must come to their senses - there is no need for us to busy ourselves with bickering and stop our work’...”

“...Much to our regret, these people did not see the light and have crossed all red lines, acting with blind hostility and filled with ignorance. Factionalism has blinded their vision and they have severed every rope to friendship and blocked every road to reconciliation, and then went down the road of deception and distortion. In order for people not to be deceived by this book and what preceded it... we have decided that there is no other way but to explain and clarify and defend, through which the conscience would be relieved and the goal would become clear and obscurity would be eliminated... Are you [the Ansar al-Islam Organization] following the course of the rightly-guided nation or the path of the apostates? And here you are, rambling endlessly with no record of proof and not even a feeble attempt at one. It is nothing but assumptions and conjectures, for which you have no proof, and with which you have written the draft of your book and participated deliberately in the distortion of history. If only when you wrote these fantasies you would have first confirmed them in a trustworthy and acceptable way—but you are absolutely certain of the ‘truth’ which you spread, as if no wrong could ever pass through your lips...”

“The Al-Qaida Organization, otherwise known as the so-called ‘Islamic State of Iraq’ (ISI), sent an envoy to the leadership of the Reform and Jihad Front (RJF) during the first month after its establishment [approximately June 2007], in order to negotiate the formation of a joint council or

a committee in order to resolve conflicts between the Front and Al-Qaida, as the envoy claimed. We told him, 'how can we possibly do this—you have already outlawed the leaders of the Front!' He swore to Allah:"

"Your Kurdish friends from the leadership of Ansar [al-Islam] are the ones who told us about your apostasy. They blamed you for being part of an American conspiracy, and they told us that Shaykh Abu Wael was arrested by the Americans, and then was released after agreeing with the Americans to form an [insurgent] front aimed at establishing a unanimous truce between the mujahideen and [the Americans]. This is the testimony of your own organization about you; we know nothing except for what we heard from your own Kurdish brothers in the leadership [of Ansar al-Islam]."

"The man was telling the truth, because no one else could possibly fabricate this kind of lie and then spread it to other people except for you. When Shaykh Abu Wael, the head of the Shariah Committee and the Shariah judge of the [Ansar al-Islam] organization, was released from custody, the first thing he did was to visit the leader of the organization and explain to him the circumstances of the arrest, and what happened there in detail, with all his well-known honesty. He also called him to hasten his efforts to unite the voices of the mujahideen because the matter is dangerous and the enemy has reached a stage in the conflict with us which compels us to unite now more than ever. Yes, the Americans ask for a truce from every mujahideen organization they encounter, and this is a natural thing which is well revealed to everyone. They have sent you messages in the past about this through mutual circles, and you answered them positively as will be revealed in the future. In fact, they only released Shaykh Abu Wael on the condition that their message would reach you in an official manner—after he was disabled by a second blood clot in the brain, due to his maltreatment and the fact that he was denied his medications while incarcerated. They knew that his life was in danger due to the deterioration in his health. Is it reasonable that he would say: 'Absolutely not! I shall not go out and I shall remain arrested here in the prison, and I am unwilling to deliver this message'? Please note that the issue of the message is completely separate from the matter of the Front, because the Front did not exist yet, and the Americans had no knowledge of it. The plan to form a united front is an old plan, the discussions for which you were part of, and you called for it."

"When Shaykh Abu Wael informed the commander of the [Ansar al-Islam] organization about the message, the commander did not criticize him as the 'Book of Fantasy' claims. Rather, he replied, 'Let the Americans know that we are prepared to deal with them through Cameroon and Usu who are arrested in their hands'. He did not tremble as you tremble in your statements and you beat the drums and blow the horns. If the leader knew that the whole thing was a plot, why did he suggest discussing matters with the Americans through the aforementioned prisoners at the hands of the occupation, while both of them are of the leaders of the organization? When Shaykh Abu Wael informed the leader of the organization about the message, he had already performed his duty and had no vested interest in pursuing the content of the message, for he knew that this matter would not be certain and would not succeed unless the mujahideen would unanimously agree on it, or at least if most of them would."

"Regarding the matter of unity and solidarity, there was another matter that was presented apart from it, and the commander still did not blame him, but answered him after a short counsel and asked for an appointed time to meet with the leaders of the Front, in order to discuss the matter of unity. Then we gathered the leaders of the Front more than once and we informed you, and you did not show up. Then, you surprise us with your statements on the Internet that attack us and blame us without any forewarning. If you claim that you have discovered this plan to be an American stratagem, then we shall reply to you, 'How can you know that? Are you able to read minds, or did the Americans inform you of this?'"

"We assume that this is analysis and a deduction. Is it not our right and the right of the other brothers who strayed with us and, according to your claim, fell in the snare of the American trap merely because they were leaders of heroic [insurgent] organizations within the Front—is it not

our right to be consulted before you turn to the media and distort the image of your brothers and make it worse for them, after they have called upon you time and again to discuss and consult and gather together, and you did not respond to them? How far you are from respecting the rights of the brothers and the characteristic of loyalty! It was not enough for you to merely separate from us in friendly manner, and say, 'you have your work, and we have ours', praying for your brothers to succeed as they secretly pray for you. But, instead, you sent your friends with false and misleading messages to the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), in order to confuse them into wrongly believing that we are an American conspiracy designed to fight against Al-Qaida, so that they would undertake to fight us on your behalf, and they have complied with this."

"Who is sowing discord and promoting it? By this action of yours, you have taken part in sowing discord amongst the mujahideen, distorting their image, and inciting fanatics to fight against other mujahideen units with whom you disagree... You carry some of the responsibility for the blood that flowed between the mujahideen, unlike your claim that you are people of wisdom, intelligence, and piety and your assurances that you did not rush into creating discord as the 'Book of Fantasies' claims... Did we reveal to you the secret of the plot and yet still concealed it from the rest of the mujahideen and the organizations? If we revealed this to you and to no one else, then you must be our partners in this treachery, and if the Americans have revealed this to you, then you must be their partners, especially since you have praised us in one of your statements, not long after Shaykh Abu Wael was released from prison... At that time you did not claim there was an American plan or a plot—what exactly drove you hence to injustice, lies, and the denial of the virtue and the position which you had already confirmed?!"

"We demand from you proof and evidence for this false claim of yours, and if you refuse to deliver it, then by Allah, you are liars and deceivers. By doing so, you not only undermine a great nation of mujahideen who gathered under the Reform and Jihad Front (RJF), and undermine scholars who praised it, blessed it, and even witnessed its establishment—you undermine yourselves, for you have been striving with us ever since the first days of the jihad to establish this kind of front or body, yet you broke [from us] because things did not progress the way you wanted them to, and they were settled without you. You could not find a rationale with which you can revoke this body... so you assail it with these major accusations, treat (it) unjustly, and act aggressively towards it out of your own jealousy..."

"...What is this slyness, this shrewdness, this searching diagnosis, and this baffling reasoning, with which you claim that the arrest of Shaykh Abu Wael was fabricated, and was agreed upon between Abu Azzam and the Americans, so that Shaykh Abu Wael could avoid facing punishment by the mujahideen upon his return when he presented them with the American plan? Truly, if you are not ashamed, do whatever you wish, and truly we experience a crisis of character... We ask the wise among you, is there anyone who would sink this low to tamper with the facts and fake them before his brothers... in order to analyze, deduce, advise, and present a plan to lead the nation with?! How urgently do you require an Islamic Shariah court that would ensure that those who were wronged by you would be recompensed! We are certain that the Shariah court would find the one responsible for writing this drivel and being deeply pleased with it guilty of falsehood, misleading the Islamic nation, and spreading lies. And if you will not submit to this court, then we shall pray for Allah to curse you, until he shall punish the liar from between us. At this point and time, we swear to Allah the almighty that you are liars in what you said about us, so [we dare you to] swear to Allah that you speak the truth. The curse of Allah shall be upon the liars. Who are you? We say to you: who knew of you in Iraq when you came out of Kurdistan, save for through these two men whom you defame? Who justified you and paved the way for you, save for them? Who gathered the Ansar for you and the followers if not them? They have created your methodology and your path, which became more like a path of fanatics."

"The people in general and the mujahideen in particular know these two men well-enough. They have been a part of the Iraqi field of propaganda and jihad for a long time, before any of you reached the right path and learned of Islam. Everyone would testify to their history and positions, and they have been thrown into prisons and subjected to tests and trials on behalf of their

religion from the start of their youth onward. They do not need to sell their religion today if the world offers it; they are above that, without any need for boasting. In their youth, the world offered itself to them, and they rejected it, and then they sold their lives for the hereafter, and their hair turned gray.”

“With the lies that you spread about them, you only destroy yourselves, and you damage your history and degrade it... These two people know much about you, and if they were to publicize it, it would be a major and shameful humiliation, if weighed by the same balance that you use to weigh the deeds of other people... The Americans released two of your important commanders who are very dangerous to them—at the same time and under the same conditions that arouse suspicion for whoever wishes to delve into paranoia. One of them is Abu Mustafa, who formed an assassination group that focused on the leaders of the [Reform and Jihad] Front and influential people in it immediately following his release. Several leaders and mujahideen from the Front were assassinated under suspicious conditions, and this group is very likely the guilty party. So should we allege that they were released as part of a deal with the enemy for purification of the Front, and should we write such drivel, publish it in the media, and disturb the mujahideen?! Had we said that, the allegations would have been supported with rational and strong proof, but our intellect, religion, and character have persuaded us to drop the quarrel between us, and they prevent us from carelessly spreading rumors, even concerning our rivals...”

“Here we are, still keeping our patience and... you defame us with scornful accusations in public. If we could reach you in order to settle the disagreement which you created, without going to the media and dishonoring us all before the Lord, then we would not have hesitated and we would have overcome any obstacle in an effort to repair the quarrel. But, you drew away from us time and again, and refused to answer the calls for meeting and reconciliation that we tried sending to you for quite some time, and instead you began to make conjectures from afar. But it is no wonder, for we have heard from some of your commanders who dared to declare the infidelity of Shaykh al-Albani, Bin Baz, and Ibn Uthaimen, and other great scholars, well-known for their honesty... You decreed these great scholars to be infidels based upon nothing but obscure verdicts, false assumptions, and corrupt interpretations by people overcome with their own ignorance. May Allah have mercy upon the man who knows his own worth...”

“Now we are obliged to reveal some of the hidden facts, and we have many. Who sent a reply to the American commander Casey in 2006, when reconciliation was requested from you by one of the members of the Conformity Front, and your leader’s answer was: ‘we are ready?’ ...Casey informed you that he had presented the plan to Congress and that he was awaiting an official reply from the American government. Before the official reply from the American government arrived, the commander of Diyala, Abu Salim, signed a reconciliation agreement with the American field commander in order to devote himself to fighting the [Shiite] militias, and this happened directly of your own free will, with no arrests, violence or use of force. This is only a drop in the bucket of what you allow yourselves to undertake, but forbid for others. After a long delay, the reply from the American government finally arrived, and that led the Americans to release Shaykh Abu Wael so that he would deliver a message to Abu Abdullah al-Shafi in order to negotiate with him directly.”

“Regrettably, in this book of yours you have sown doubt, not certainty, and you increased disunity, and you made hearts sick more than you soothed them, at a time when the mujahideen seriously need to pull themselves together, tend to their wounds, press their ranks together and consult each other, not humiliate each other... You have distorted the image of the majority of the mujahideen, while you claim that you want to protect them and improve their image... The concerns regarding [violations of] Islamic law that were raised by many mujahideen and the fact that others kept silent without reforming or changing them were the reason for the enemy’s continued occupation over us and for our failure [to stop them].”

“We would like to recall a meeting we arranged with several people from Al-Dalawiya in the end of 2006, and we asked them, ‘How is the jihad going in your area?’, and they answered, ‘It is

suffering a strong decline.’ We asked, ‘Why is that?’ They explained that during the initial days of the jihad, the mujahideen had served a role model for the people, and the people opened the doors of their homes day and night for the mujahideen to enter whenever they wished upon returning from the fighting. When the mujahideen—or more precisely those who have infiltrated into their ranks—began attacking the people, storming their homes, stealing their money, and killing innocent people without any justification, the situation developed such that the Mufti of these fanatics in Al-Dalawiya (who is an ignorant Arab but is nonetheless loyally obeyed) issued a fatwah to all the people in Al-Dalawiya declaring them to be apostates and a sect to be avoided. Then, they laid siege to the city, food deliveries were blocked, and it was bombarded with mortars. Indeed, in many cities populated by Sunnis who once helped the mujahideen and sheltered them, the fanatics act in this same fashion. The devout mujahideen are keeping silent and do not act, for they fear rejection due to the fact that the fanatics belong to a supposedly Shariah-guided Islamically-legitimate organization! [This organization actually] draws its legitimacy from subjugation, hostility, intimidation, and vengeance against whoever refuses them. The [people from Al-Dalawiya] added, ‘Over time, the people began locking their doors to all of the mujahideen and started to discuss how to get rid of them... Perhaps the fanatics—who corrupted the jihad with their deviant methodology, their evil character, their ignorance, the multitude of their crimes, and the silence of their commanders who kept silent in the face of these injustices—perhaps they were the main reason for the failure of the jihadi movement, the loss of its constituency, its decline as the enemy simultaneously gains in superiority—[an enemy] who no doubt will hasten to take as much advantage as possible of this gap.’”

“...And here, you have turned your strength against your brothers, who stood for so long by your side with everything at their disposal—and you have accused your best friends of being infidels in the international media, after inventing imaginary stories about them and inciting every ignorant fanatic against them. You have kidnapped Abu Majed, our military commander according to the most accurate accounts, who used to be a military commander in your ranks, and you killed him only because he revealed your violations in contravention of Islamic law and because he joined us instead. Review again the recommendations of the RAND Institution and you shall discover that the most important action endorsed by the American government is the elimination of terrorism both in Iraq and globally—not through military means, but rather by focusing efforts on sowing conflicts between jihadi organizations, exacerbating them as much as possible, and then revealing them to the public. And you fell for this plan.”

“Furthermore, we were informed by a trustworthy source that you have formed assassination squads targeting senior members of the [Reform and Jihad] Front; namely, Abu Mustafa al-Kurdi and Abu Hussein al-Mosuli. You have set an ambush for these steadfast individuals, who left you and joined us. Out of the blue, you scheduled a meeting with them in order to discuss the issues, you granted them guaranteed safe passage, and then you double-crossed them and began to act aggressively towards them. You pointed your weapons at them and coerced them into disavowing the [Reform and Jihad] Front and withdrawing from it, even forcing them to testify that the Front was an American conspiracy. You video-recorded it in order to present it as proof for your lies and you spoke obscenely, as only people who have failed to accept the true essence of Islam could do. Your publication of this abominable creation played a major role in the resignation of the majority of your fighters in Baghdad, and in their decision to abandon their work with you and return to their homes.”

“And still you send terrorizing and threatening messages to whomever wishes to join us, and you are supported in this mission by sinners from fanatical groups. We have been astonished by the immorality evident in this dispute and by this terrible hostility. Why have you failed to encourage people to choose with their own minds and free will, according to their own judgment? Or is the truth limited to those in your circle, even if we accept the notion that you are somehow better guided than the rest of us? Who has given you the right to assume control over people and force them to accept what you are offering to them? Do you have authority over the nation of Islam? ...We consider this as a deviation from the path of Allah and an injustice that will condemn the

responsible party to darkness on the Day of Judgment, once he has tasted the evil consequences of his deeds in this world...”

“You should know that this fanatical ideology that you have recently been overcome by—which has led you to accuse your leaders and your former comrades of being infidels and straying from the path, to abandon them without cause, and to malevolently place them at the mercy of a mob—this ideology will surely end unhappily for you, no matter how much you try to wrap yourselves in the banners of wisdom and intelligence, and how much you pretend to appear honest, insightful, and perceptive. It will certainly not lead you to your desired goal, nor grant you acceptance in the heavens or the earth, and yet you struggle in vain to cling to it. The ideology of the fanatics contradicts the religion of Islam and the path of the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him salvation, and clashes with our very instincts, because it is based upon: making accusations against the finest among the Muslims and even against the common people; questioning their intentions; rushing to accuse them of being infidels; daring to shed their blood for the vaguest of suspicions; offering no recognition of people’s individual spirits... making things difficult for anyone who refused to join the group of the fanatics; and, considering yourselves to be a truthful organization, whereas everyone other than you is a liar and a deviant from the righteous path, no matter what good deeds they have done. You allow yourselves to do what you forbid other Muslims from doing—joining the army, the police, the Awakening [movements], and the state systems are all permissible for you, and you have a prepared justification for it (clearly, you are familiar with the matter of the police station in Heet), but when it comes to everyone else, you immediately accuse them of apostasy and abandon them, and pay no heed to any attempts at mediation or excuses. Moreover, it is a course of action based upon oppressing the people, refusing to forgive them, burdening them with a greater load than they can carry, and championing idealist mottos while ignoring the reality on the ground, which Islamic Law requires us to take account of, and [Islamic] Law has prescribed for us a tradition of gradual evolution and defined phases...”

“As an example of many other incidents, we cite for you an incident which raised an outcry from the battlefield—the same battlefield that you have injected with these thoughts which have corrupted the jihadi methodology. One of the heroes of the fanatics—accused of assassinating a pious worshipper known for his righteous ways in the neighborhood of Abu Ghraib—was arrested. During his interrogation, he confessed to the murder, and when he was asked what crime the man had committed to justify his murder, he explained that he had been revealed as an apostate for encouraging people to take part in the elections. We wanted to understand the logic that drove him to this dangerous ‘individual judgment’, so we told him, ‘Tell us of a book you read about this ideology,’ but he did not answer. We went through with him various celebrated and well-known books for the most junior of students, and he did not know any of them. We asked him, ‘Tell us the three parts of monotheism’, and he replied, ‘I do not know.’ We asked him, ‘What are the terms of ‘there is no god but Allah’ and its violations, and what are the components of polytheism?’, and he did not respond. The conditions required in accusing others of being infidels, the limitations involved, and the difference between the three kinds of accusations of disbelief are questions that had totally failed to occur to him.”

“There are many ignorant people of this kind, who resist the fatwah making the blood and honor [of fellow Muslims] sacred, and dare to sacrifice them. No one is permitted to challenge them, even with a verbal refusal, simply because they are guided by an Islamic Shariah Committee? I would not exaggerate if I said that many military field commanders are seen this way in the eyes of the people. The issues of Shariah, knowledge, and education remain inoperative in practice. These kinds of illegitimate actions by the fanatics have had a great influence on the decrease in numbers of those accepting the Salafi creed, in whose name these actions have been committed, following the astronomic rise of this great tradition by the best scholars before the occupation even began, despite the fact that the former regime [of Saddam Hussein] fought against it. It found greater acceptance in Sunni Muslim circles when it adopted the banner of jihad against the forces of the occupation before the others did, and those loyal to it offered amazing examples of sacrifice. However, the dominance of the fanatical methodology that has enshrined itself in the

Salafi creed... has had a major impact in decreasing in popular support for Salafism and spurring a rejection of those who propagate it. They oppressed the people, and also defamed them... the pain and injustice they have tasted at the hands of those who claim loyalty to the Salafi creed..."

"You have claimed in your book that you... are the only ones from the Islamic nation who truly follows the path of the Quran and Sunnah; that you are the only ones who consider any law beyond those of Allah to be invalid; that you are the only ones who are struggling to make the law of Allah supreme; and that you are the true mujahideen, free from guilt and totally without flaw. You claim that everyone aside from yourselves is misguided and an apostate collaborator... How quickly anyone who abandons his loyalty to them and joins you instead becomes righteous and forgiven, even if he is responsible for evil deeds and mortal sins! He has acquired the stamp of forgiveness and this is all water under the bridge, solely because he has pledged his allegiance to the one and only organization of truth. This is exactly the course of action adopted by fanatics. This is why you encounter hardship and difficulty in working together with others, while you claim that what has prevented you from meeting with others is that such meetings would lead to quarreling over the goals of the merger. It is true—your goal of merging together is not to comply with the orders of Allah and to obey him, but rather, it is to make the fanatics into our leaders and everyone else into their subjects. This is not guaranteed to happen as a result of such meetings..."

"There are several riddles that need solving—for example, your statement that there are several factions which are pretending to do jihad, but in fact, have deviant motivations and methods that have violated the sanctity of the mujahideen and have reached the most senior levels of the leadership hierarchies in these organizations, all in order to fulfill their goal of misappropriating the fruits of the jihad for their own mortal causes. This [claim] has created disputes that led to the distortion of the reputation of the mujahideen. And who are these violating factions? And which organizations have been the victims of these violations? And when did this happen? How did this happen? And what is the proof? Answer us directly, if you speak the truth."

"You said that the multitude of [insurgent] banners is an evil conspiracy against the jihad, and how astonishing this is! So when we called upon you to unite under one banner, why did you then insist that this was an American conspiracy?! ...As for the issue of the heretical 'innovation' of dividing the frontline into various 'factions' (meaning those which collaborate with the regime) and 'organizations' (meaning those which are Islamically legitimate): we have heard nothing from anyone about this supposedly heretical 'innovation', and how nice it would be if we could hear from you the exact names of the Islamically-legitimate organizations and the collaborating factions, and the reasons for classifying a group as either an 'organization' or a 'faction'! Or do you monopolize dominance over every right, including the right of defining terminology?!"

"These Islamically-legitimate organizations which support your path, whose commanders you asked about the accusations of needless bloodshed, who likewise denied having any knowledge of them, and who assured you that they do not consider Muslim blood to be free for the taking—you obviously know that they were lying to you, because they had already killed and murdered your men in public. You had demanded then for their leaders to punish the offenders according to Islamic law, and they paid you no attention—instead, they used intimidation, just like you do. When we asked you about the crimes you have committed against your brothers, you replied, 'We know nothing of them, and we declare ourselves to be innocent before Allah of creating strife and killing mujahideen'... Isn't it rather hypocritical for you to flatter others and act courteously towards the killers responsible for murdering many of you out of fear of their power, while you simultaneously assault your brothers and lie to them because their fear of Allah will not permit them shed your blood?! ...It should be noted that we do not claim that the factions to which you refer are completely free of hypocrites and sinners, but accusing them haphazardly in blanket fashion of being hypocrites and collaborators is the path of fanatics and tyrants."

"We ask you: who initiated these murderous crimes? Was it the Islamically-guided organizations which you were referring to, or the collaborating factions? Who killed your men in Al-Ramadi, in Al-Yusufiya, in Nineveh, and in various other areas more than two years ago, and yet you forgave

them? Was it not the Islamically-legitimate organization? Was it not you who used to say that the greatest action that Shaykh [Usama] Bin Laden could perform today would be to declare the disbanding of the Al-Qaida organization in Iraq, because it has fallen into disgrace and it has become a cover for anyone with twisted goals in order for them to achieve these goals through this infiltrated organization. The only treatment for its condition is to disband it. You sent messages to the scholars of the Arabian Peninsula to take part in this plan, and you sent messengers to Afghanistan—among whom was Abu al-Darda'a, may Allah have mercy upon him, who was dispatched in order to explain to [Usama] Bin Laden and [Dr. Ayman] al-Zawahiri the massive corruption of Al-Qaida in Iraq. When Abu al-Darda'a returned, he indicated that a delegation would be sent by al-Zawahiri to Iraq in order to confirm whether these reports were true. Then you told us that Abu Musab [al-Zarqawi], may Allah have mercy upon him, was impeding the arrival of this delegation in order to prevent the truth from being revealed. It should be noted that the era of Abu Musab should be considered to be a golden era when compared to what happened afterwards. What is the meaning of this deliberate contradiction and perversion of the truth, and its obliteration instead of its revelation?!"

"...Who killed scores of men from the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI) during the initial years of the jihad, and after that killed great numbers from the Mujahideen Army? Who began fighting the [insurgent] brigades, regarded their blood as permissible to be shed in Abu Ghraib, and murdered mujahideen in Arab Jabbur? Who ignited the most recent spark in Al-Ameriya? ...Are you the ones who are responsible for the strife, or are you absent from the frontline and drawing your understanding of events from a spidery network that reports only lies with no element of truth? Or are you deliberately distorting the crystal-clear facts in order to curry favor with the Islamically-legitimate organization?! We want a little bit of justice and reliability of knowledge. What is all this hubbub about the matter of the negotiations that went from being a simple political effort into a basic contractual issue? We ask you: is the principle of negotiating with the enemy prohibited by Islamic law, or is it permissible depending on the underlying intent, which is determined by those in power? No doubt that the latter is correct... Although we swear and emphasize that negotiation with the enemy has never taken place the level of the [Reform and Jihad] Front nor the Political Council [for Iraqi Resistance (PCIR)] despite offers to do so..."

"Did not Abu Omar al-Baghdadi declare the existence of an ongoing dialog between several resistance factions and the Americans two years ago? He said in a speech that was broadcast on Al-Jazeera, 'The Americans must understand who is the main power, with whom they should negotiate.' Does this not represent a message to the Americans that they—Al-Qaida or the Islamic State of Iraq—are the ones who are most entitled to negotiate with them and nobody else? Why was there no reddening of noses and frothing of lips then, and we heard no voice of criticism and disapproval? Or have we resorted to the law of the jungle, and injustice has evolved for us from autocracy to repression by organizations? Is this the way of the Quran and the Sunnah for which you call the people?"

"Our recommendations: know that if we failed to possess the sophisticated intellectual courage to admit to our own errors and the ability to correct them; and if we were not honest, clear, and true to Allah and to ourselves; then, we would never bother to even take one step forward. Regardless of the fact that the ideology of the fanatics was shoved upon us by our enemies, or that it flourished among us because the ignorant and foolish were in power—and because those who actually had knowledge were kept away from the frontline, for whatever the reason—a dangerous disease has spread in the body of the jihad and the minds of the mujahideen, and every mujahid who Allah has blessed with knowledge and good intentions should take part in exposing the corrupt ideology, path, and behavior. It would be a betrayal if we were to attempt to conceal our mistakes and insist upon them, drawing for ourselves and our followers a picture that contradicts reality and leads them to live in a fantasy world which prevents them from recognizing the dangers that surround them, and prevents them from thinking correctly and rationally how to overcome these dangers..."

“The policy of ‘abolishing the other for my own benefit’, the policy of ‘lie and lie until the people believe you’, [the policy of] ‘it is okay to lie to anyone who opposes you’, and [the policy of] ‘the end justifies the means’—all these policies are policies of self-benefit, and not policies of the Prophets, so how can you boast of following the path of the Prophets? It suffices for you to interpret every failure you encounter as a conspiracy and a plan of the enemy, and we do not bother to consider the catastrophes that we bring upon ourselves. The words of the poet prove true to us: the enemies do not hurt the ignorant, as the ignorant hurts himself. Yes, the enemy wants to extinguish the flames of the jihad and seeks to take revenge on the mujahideen, and he conspires to divide the ranks and infiltrate them. This is his habit, because he is the enemy. But who is it that is making things even easier for him and paving the road before him? We ourselves are, with these kind of misguided acts, minds of stone, falsifications, obvious lies, and dishonesty.”

“We ought to re-examine many incontrovertible matters that have spread among us—which did not reach us in a sensible and established way, but instead stem from rumors and claims which we have seized upon without question, because they fit pre-conceived notions in our minds. This spoils our plans for us and grants the Devil a way to divide us. We shall certainly not triumph as long as we are divided and fighting each other. Some of us oppress others, putting partisan interests above the interests of the entire nation, and this is a contradiction of the traditions of Islamic and universal victory. Our enemy is united together in fighting us. If the sticks are bound together, they will resist breaking—but if they are separate, they will break one by one.”

“...As for the [Reform and Jihad] Front, Allah knows and the respected scholars know that it was established upon lawful Islamic goals, which were declared in the statement of its founding—and these goals and foundations would only be denied by a deviant and misled individual. There is no hidden goal of fighting Al-Qaida or other groups. It was not instigated by any suspicious parties, and it is not surrounded by the lies and slander that you have spread about it... When we sat down to initially form our plan, it was not a plan for the Front, but rather a plan to create one group, into which would be blended the three organizations [the IAI, the Mujahideen Army, and the Ansar al-Sunnah Army], and it would have had a single name instead of all the previous names. You had agreed with us about this issue in the past, but a conflict broke out between several parties over certain operational methods—and that led to the plan evolving from a merger plan into a plan for a unified front under a single council, so that the Front would serve as an intermediate step leading to a single organization (which was the essence of the plan). No one had any influence over this kind of decision except for the convened leaders of the three organizations, and there was no one else with them, except for the respected scholars who witnessed and blessed this action...”