



AQIM Claims Kidnapping of Two Austrian Tourists in Tunisia

March 10, 2008

Al-Qaida's Committee in the Islamic Maghreb: "A Claim of Responsibility for the Kidnapping of the Austrian Tourists in Tunisia." Dated: March 10, 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>.]

"...Praise be to Allah for helping his servants, strengthening his army, and defeating the dissenters... Due solely to the kindness of Allah, a unit from the courageous mujahideen was able to penetrate deep into the territory of the country of Tunisia and was able to kidnap two Austrian tourists on Friday 15 Safar 1429 (February 22, 2008). The first is a man named 'Wolfgang Ebner' who works as a consultant and carries a passport numbered H-6527092. He lives in Lonrouve. The second hostage is a woman named 'Andrea Kloiber' who works as a nurse and carries a passport numbered P-2479219."

"We inform the public that the two hostages are in good health, and are being treated well according to Islamic law. Furthermore, we warn Austria that any military action launched by the apostates in Algiers in a bid to free the two hostages will put their lives in danger, and we are not responsible if you [ignore] this warning. Furthermore, if Allah wills it, we will soon publish a declaration outlining the mujahideen demands for freeing the two Austrian tourists. With the help of Allah, we will never grow tired or weary of marching on the road of jihad and death in order to help the weak and oppressed and in order to save the Islamic nation... We direct a message to the Western tourists who flow in waves to the country of Tunisia, seeking to enjoy themselves while our brothers in Gaza are simultaneously being slaughtered by the Jews with help from the Western world... and while their governments kill our brothers across every region: the mujahideen have already demonstrated their resolve in the past... and the apostate Tunisian government cannot and will not ever be able to protect you, Allah willing. The hands of the mujahideen can reach you wherever you are in the country of Tunisia, so study this lesson carefully."