



## **AQIM Claims “Battle of Zouerate” in Mauritania**

**September 22, 2008**

### **Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Islamic Maghreb: “The Battle of Zouerate in Mauritania.”**

**Dated: September 22, 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>.]*

“...In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful... We are pleased to bring news to our Muslim nation of the successful battle carried out the lions of the Islamic Maghreb under the command of Shaykh Abdel Hamid Abu Zaid. They targeted a convoy of the Mauritanian army forces in the region of Zouerate, on Sunday, 14 Ramadan 1429 [September 14, 2008]. The mujahideen have succeeded, with the blessing of Allah, in eliminating 12 soldiers, including the leader of the division. They have also plundered vehicles, a DshK [anti-aircraft weapon], 10 submachine guns, 2 PKs, and a quantity of ammunition. After [the battle], they returned to their bases safe and sound thanks to Allah.”

“This attack was carried out to avenge the oppressed prisoners in the Mauritanian jails... Those pure men, who have become sudden victims... [of] the new collaborators of the leaders of the new crusader war. This battle has been executed as a clear message to the governing military regime: your sins against the nation in general and against the Muslim youth in particular will not pass without punishment. We say to the soldiers of the Mauritanian army who are forced against their will by the military criminals to fight the Al-Qaida organization in response to the orders of the crusaders: seek repentance from Allah, and do join the ranks of this army which collaborates with the Jews and the Christians. Your persisting presence amongst its ranks is an approval of the mechanism of oppression, corruption and destruction... a strengthening of the Jewish and crusader presence in the country... and helping to keep the Israeli flag fluttering above the skies of beloved Nouakchott.”

“Oh, our nation in Islamic Mauritania and Al-Rabat: don’t encourage your sons [to join] the ranks of the apostates. Prevent them from serving as an obedient apparatus in the hands of evil in order to fight Allah and his envoy under the slogan of ‘fighting terrorism and radicalism.’”

“We also wish to draw public attention to the fact that, until now, our organization had not taken responsibility for this operation. The claim of responsibility which has been discussed by various media sources and published on the Sahara Media website is a fake and fraudulent announcement. Furthermore, we repeat our caution that all of our official statements are published solely via the Al-Fajr Media Center, and that is the only source which is authorized to do so.”

“Allahu Akhbar... The honor goes to Allah, his messenger, and to the mujahideen.”