



Fatah al-Islam: “Our Activities in the Wake of Nahr al-Bared”

December 8, 2008

Fatah al-Islam in Lebanon: “An Explanation of Our Activities in the Aftermath of the Departure from Nahr al-Bared.”

Dated: December 8, 2008



[This document is the edited transcript of an Arabic-language audio recording 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. On August 9, 2007, the U.S. government named Fatah al-Islam as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) entity for its “unprovoked attacks” on Lebanese security forces and “the recent hostilities in the Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp.”]

“In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful... This is an explanatory manifesto about the events that have befallen the Fatah al-Islam organization since its departure from the Nahr al-Bared camp:”

“The mujahid Shaykh Shakir al-Absi, commander of the Fatah al-Islam organization, and several other brothers succeeded in leaving the Nahr al-Bared camp after, thanks to Allah, they managed to break through the siege which was imposed upon them. They sought shelter from their good brothers, who did their best to provide them with accommodations and were very pleasant in offering their support. At that time, the shaykh and his followers desperately needed that support and they spent nearly two months living in a tiny room, without access to any sunlight or fresh air. During this whole period, they chatted with each other very quietly, expecting the soldiers of the cross and their helpers to burst in at any moment. However, Allah was with them. Among the brothers there were several who were wounded, and even the shaykh had broken his leg while he was fleeing the camp. When this period was over, the shaykh and his followers decided to depart for Syria in order to allow their wounds to heal, to reestablish the [communication] channels that were cut off during the war, and to rebuild the organization... They managed to reach Syria after crossing the border with the help of some smugglers. In Syria, they suffered, since they had to sleep on the roads and in public parks, until they succeeded in contacting several of their old, intimate friends and began to sleep inside house[s] each day. And as far as the period of time that they spent sleeping in parks and on the roads [is concerned], only Allah knows how [difficult] their lives were—and yet, they stayed patient and considered all of this to be a sacrifice for which they would be rewarded in the afterlife.”

“The shaykh started contacting the brothers from the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), through people who were well-known to the ISI, and was also trying to reach the brothers in Afghanistan—though not with much success. Nonetheless, he did not abandon his mission and was working on shifting activity, organizing the ranks, and rebuilding the organization. He encountered many difficulties in the beginning, but he did not surrender to reality. He called a few good people he knew from a country which is isolated from the world, and afterwards he was able—thanks be to Allah—to rebuild the structure of the organization and to make a plan for defining targets which would help him to advance the cause of the organization. By doing so, he also gave a boost to the enthusiasm of the youth and awakened the nation from its sleep, especially in al-Shams [‘Greater Syria’]. And all of this was at his own expense, so much so that he totally neglected himself. He did not take care of his wounded leg and only came down to work to fulfill his holy

obligations—though if he had truly desired this world, it would have flocked to him and nourished him with wealth. But for one who had already rejected tempting offers in Nahr al-Bared camp and rejected everything but his duty and his weapon, it is only appropriate that he stuck with that principle...”

“One day, the shaykh made an appointment with some people who told him that they could bring him to the brothers in Iraq. He had already left to go to the meeting when he suddenly realized that it was an ambush. Two brothers were escorting him: Abu al-Shahid and Abu Ahmed, who were among those who left the Nahr al-Bared camp with him. According to several eyewitnesses, there was a bloody clash that took place for about an hour. They heard massive amounts of gunfire coming from that neighborhood, Jaramana, which was blockaded by the security forces, and any exit from or entrance to the neighborhood was forbidden. The authorities imposed a total news blackout on this issue, and we were totally unaware of the fate of the shaykh and his two escorts—whether they had been taken prisoner or if they were dead. We did not stop searching, and did everything we could in order to reveal the truth, but without success. Even now, we still do not know what has happened, although we think it is likely that they are dead. However, we do not have proof of that. Three days after the disappearance of the shaykh and his escorts, the Shura Council of the [Fatah al-Islam] organization appointed the Shaykh Abu Mohammed Oud to replace Shaykh Shakir al-Absi as commander. The latter had approved of Abu Mohammed Oud, because he knew him, his merits, and his ability to move the organization one step forward towards the accomplishment of the goals it has taken upon itself. Everybody pledged allegiance to Shaykh Abu Mohammed Oud, and a new era began in the absence of Shaykh Shakir al-Absi. The organization started to regain its power and to proliferate once again in Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine—but it proved to be a year of trials and tribulations, and the moment we were able to rid ourselves of one plight, we immediately fell into another one. And that is not because of a deficiency in our operational methods, but due to the unity of our agenda. Our enemies would not leave us alone, but we stuck to our principals... We took an oath to Allah, and then to the shaykh, that we would continue to walk along the path that he outlined for us, a path of strength that leads to acceptance by Allah. In addition, we struggled in order to reach the brothers in Afghanistan or in Iraq, but it was all for naught. Our brothers did not pay any attention to us, and the road was blocked...”

“The next story which shocked everyone other than ourselves, because we had been expecting even worse than this from such regimes, was the public display of some of the brothers from our organization, including the daughter of Shaykh Shakir, Fakullah, after they were captured by the infidels and the atheists. They were shown on Syrian television on July 11, 2008, when the purpose of this broadcast was first, to distort our image internationally, and second, to embarrass the Movement of the Future in front of its Lebanese supporters. This broadcast was a gift, presented [by the Syrians] to their allies in the Lebanese opposition. We declare—with the help of Allah—that all of the lies and the fabrications which were broadcast targeting us on Syrian television when they showed our brothers will only serve as a good favor for their allies in Lebanon, meaning the Lebanese opposition—the March 8 Alliance—especially right now in the lead-up to the parliamentary elections in Lebanon and the international tribunal looking into the death of Hariri. The March 8 Alliance is dependent on the return of Syrian influence and its penetration of Lebanon through their intelligence forces, which have begun establishing their bases in Beirut and its suburbs. This fact no longer scares anyone, and it has become a well known fact... It is well known that this movement was deeply involved in the Nahr al-Bared battle, and we have repeatedly stated that this movement is an infidel party that should not be joined, supported, or protected...”

“What was broadcast on Syrian television was meant to achieve precisely that—to support the vote of the Lebanese opposition and, in this way, to interrupt the work of the international tribunal, or at least to manipulate it. It is well known that the Syrian regime tries to keep secret every piece of information it has about every event that occurs in its country. There are even worse events and issues that have taken place in Syria than the one described on television screens, which have been hidden.”

“What, then, did this particular event, which targeted the Palestine Branch in Kfar Sousa reveal—or more accurately—conceal? The purpose is obvious to anyone who seeks to find the truth: all the attacks, the arrests, and the assassinations of those from the Salafi movement are meant to serve the American interest. Even the American raid near the Iraqi-Syrian border which targeted some mujahideen in the Abu Kamal region was coordinated between the Syrian regime and the United States military. This regime was founded upon the skulls of slaves and has been saturated with the blood of our people in Syria. The city of Hama is still bearing witness even now to the magnitude and the terror of the disgusting massacre that the infidel Alawi regime carried out against women, children, and elderly people. It demolished the mosques over the heads of worshipers, and tore and burnt copies of the Quran. In addition, in Sidnaya prison, 400 prisoners were massacred, most of them Muslims. They were executed, and copies of the Quran were desecrated. The abuse of prisoners is continuing even now. And has the world forgotten what crimes this tyrannical regime has committed against the Palestinians in Lebanon: in Tel al-Zaatar camp, al-Naba, al-Basha bridge, etc? From ripping out the bellies of women, cutting off heads, and committing genocide against these poor people. This is in addition to demolishing their homes, obliterating entire camps at a time, and other similar actions that have caused suffering among the Lebanese people at the hands of the Syrian occupation. Some of the Lebanese still feel bitterness after losing their sons, not knowing what had happened to them—whether they are alive or dead—and how many virtuous sisters are there whose honor has been violated by the scum of this malicious Alawite regime? And how many clerics are stuck in their prisons and suffer from diseases in their cells? And how many free Muslims have been locked in chains merely because they wanted to go to Iraq to defend their brothers? Etc, etc, etc...”

“It is not surprising that this regime revealed some of the members of our organization who were arrested, threatened, and abused. They were helpless prisoners, entirely at their mercy, and only repeating what they were instructed, merely to recite the lines which had been written for them. Everything that was shown on the Syrian video tape was a lie and a forgery. What our brothers said on Syrian television—that our organization is being backed by the Movement of the Future and that we have connections with that movement—is an obvious lie. Why? Because Allah protects his followers and believers, and He will reveal these lies. Does it make any sense that an organization that is receiving material support from the Movement of the Future—which is known for its material resources—would need to commit robberies in order to finance, to prepare, and to equip itself and its operations? If so, where is this alleged support from the Movement of the Future? Do you really think that whoever was providing assistance to the organization and offering it a political umbrella would be the first ones to assassinate us—in the media and in practice—in Nahr al-Bared? They were the first to give the order to liquidate our organization in the Nahr al-Bared camp. This is all ridiculous, and the Syrians will not succeed in spreading this propaganda, because whoever receives material and political support from the Movement of the Future does not need to commit robberies... With the financial resources of the Movement, those people live a life of luxury, wealth, and hedonism. We know who the real beneficiaries of the Movement [of the Future] are. Those lies will convince nobody. We want to take this opportunity in order to make it clear for the whole world that we, the Fatah al-Islam organization, reject the tyrants among the Arabs and among the non-Arabs, we reject the Syrian Baath [Party], we reject the Lebanese Movement of the Future—as well as secularism, democracy, and nationalism. We reject all the worldly notions that are contradictory to Allah’s Shariah, and we believe in Islam as a way of life and as a regime under which the whole of humanity will be joyous and successful.”

“A whole separate issue are the attempts to portray the organization and its membership—especially following the disappearance of Shaykh Shakir al-Absi—as divided by internal disagreements concerning leadership roles, etc. This is baseless. Our organization, with the help and care of Allah, is stable and strong. We speak with one voice, our body is coherent, and our hands hold the sword of truth against the enemies of the nation. We are not among those who fight for this temporary world and cheap pleasures. We will continue to be a bone in the throat of the tyrants until Allah’s Shariah shall rule over us, or until we are slain, and we will stick to this path. One of our core principles is fighting the Jews and the Americans, including their allies and

servants, their rulers, armies and supporters, in order to establish a just Islamic state. Another issue is the commission of robberies. We say, relying on Allah, that stealing money from the infidels, from the usurious banks and the institutions which belong to the infidel regimes and states, is a legal thing which Allah has permitted us to do. This money is being seized from them and instead directed towards jihad and the mujahideen in order to fulfill their needs, to buy equipment etc...”

“Finally, to the owners of the horns who rented them from the owners of the turbans, to those who sold their souls to the infidels (the Lebanese opposition and coalition)—to them and to others like them, we say: run away from Allah who resides with the mujahideen, and know that the flesh of the mujahideen is poisoned and deadly. The money that you are being paid to fight the mujahideen is like a fire that you have swallowed inside your bellies, and the bellies of your sons and supporters. On the day of resurrection, you will only have regrets and sorrow. You should know that the door of repentance is open for you. Those who desire for the nation to face humiliation and subservience for the nation, including deviation [from the truth], fraud, and surrender—know that fake respect, fake submission, and fake piety will not postpone your death, while telling the truth, sticking to it, and courage will not speed up your death. Death is determined...”

“Dear Muslim clergy, repudiate the infidels and these infidel parties and rogue leaders who have abandoned the Islamic creed, before the day comes when they will repudiate you, and you will thus lose your place in the afterlife... Honesty is honesty, dear clergy of the Muslim nation. Do not deviate and do not divert people. Bear their sins, because they can no longer bear injustice... The arrests, the prosecutions, the killings, and the displacements that are occurring nowadays in Syria and Lebanon, especially by those infidel regimes, prove the faultlessness of your path, the truth which you defend and stick to, and the lies and wrongs which you reject and fight against... We address you, and we know that the attack we are confronting, especially nowadays, is merciless, and that the infidels and their followers have come together from all over to fight us. However, brothers, this is the religion of Allah, who raised many generations that ruled over mankind with justice and charity, and later we became the most powerful nation on earth. Can we really abandon it [the religion] or surrender part of it? Of course not... We live for Allah, and therefore we will never agree to be ruled over by anything other than the Shariah of Allah. We call upon the eager, united Muslim youth to join with those who sincerely work for this religion. These years divide truth from falsehood, and the falsehood will eventually disappear. This fact is something that anyone who follows global politics would understand, anyone who witnesses how the nose of the crusaders has been broken in Afghanistan and Iraq, and how jihad is getting ready to burst forth in al-Shams [‘Greater Syria’]. The banner is now obvious: the world has been divided into two ‘camps’, as the Shaykh of the Mujahideen, Usama Bin Laden, has said: the camp of faith and the camp of the infidels. You, young people, should join with the camp of faith so that you achieve dignity in this world and honor in the afterlife.”

“We ask from Allah, blessed and exalted, to corroborate our words as the truth, to make us a sword at the necks of his enemies, and to make the hearts of the sincere believers come to us. And our last prayer is ‘all praise and thanks be to Allah’...”