



Communiqué from the "Iraqi Martyrs Brigades"

January 10, 2008

"The Official Declaration of the Establishment of the Iraqi Martyrs Brigades (IMB)." Dated January 10, 2008



[This document is the translation of an official Arabic-language communiqué obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English on behalf of NEFA's TerrorWatch subscription service. This translation is provided for educational and informational purposes only. For more information on the activities of prominent Sunni insurgent groups in Iraq, see "State of the Sunni Insurgency in Iraq: August 2007" (<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/iraqreport0807.pdf>).]

"In the name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Compassionate... We thank Allah... and offer prayers to his Prophet Mohammed, his family, and friends."

"The courageous mujahideen of the IMB were among the first to take up arms in order to defend the sacred places of Iraq. Their main concern was to liberate our land and safeguard our honor which had been besmirched by the occupation. These fighters have worked towards restoring the independence of Iraq while relying on Shariah and contemporary laws... Our clerics have previously agreed that fighting the enemies who are attacking Muslim countries—by any means necessary—is a duty in and of itself. International contemporary laws maintain the same view as well. Defending yourself against an oppressor is merely common sense for the popular masses."

"Initially, these fighting men were working on behalf of various separate jihadi factions. However, after a while, and as the situation developed, some of the [jihadi] factions deviated from our general guiding principles. As a result, their priorities changed and their forces were infiltrated by the occupation forces and its allies. Therefore, those who still cared about their slogans and banners decided to meet and establish this current project. Since day one, they have all been fighting against the Zionist-American assault on Iraq. These men, with Allah's guidance, have chosen the name, 'the Iraqi Martyrs Brigades' (IMB). These brigades have occasionally operated under various other names based upon the names of courageous martyrs who have fought to protect Islam and Muslims in Iraq."



"The goal of the IMB is to liberate Iraq from every vestige of the occupation and to bring unity and independence to Iraq. The Iraqi people should also hold sovereign control over the country's resources, water, and territory. They will further work towards implementing Islam in Iraq and spreading peace and justice, so that Iraq will become a model for the entire world. The announcement of the formation [of the IMB] is not an attempt to challenge the holy efforts of all the other sincere jihadi factions. To the contrary, it shall complement them. Everyone has a role to play and Allah knows best..."