



## **The Mujahideen Army Rejects “Slander” from Abu Hamza al-Muhajir November 2, 2008**

### **The Mujahideen Army in Iraq: “A Response to the Allegations of Abu Hamza al-Muhajir Concerning the Mujahideen Army and its Commander.”**

**Dated: November 2, 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. For more information on Abu Hamza al-Muhajir and the “Islamic State of Iraq”, see “State of the Sunni Insurgency in Iraq: August 2007” (<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/iraqreport0807.pdf>).]*

“In these difficult times for the jihadi movement in Iraq, at a time when the infidels have sworn allegiance to their disbelief and are standing together, there are some commanders from certain jihadi factions who are eager to do nothing more than to stab the mujahideen in their backs and to besmirch their names, out of hateful partisan motives that have blinded their vision—to the extent that that they are no longer acting out of concern for jihad, the Islamic nation, and our religion. They are only occupied with the interests of their own faction, party, or the various apostate plans that they have conspired amongst themselves. In a remarkably despicable act and with an odd sense of timing, Abu Hamza al-Muhajir has stood against us and has launched at us the harshest accusation that one could ever expect from such an individual—which is none other than that ‘most of us have turned into apostates with regards to respecting the religion of Allah’—as [Abu Hamza] stated, ‘He [the Mujahideen Army commander] began issuing orders to kill the brothers, and he became an ally of the Awakening movements. He even spent the night at the house of Shathar Abdul Salem, commander of the Awakening movement in Taji... Those of them who are engaged in the Awakening movements—which are the majority of them—are equal to the people of apostasy.’ That is what he said as a response to questions that were posted by some of the jihadi [Internet] forums.”

“We therefore reject this hideous slander and these clear fabrications, and we wish to respond to the one who uttered them, so that every Muslim will know that these lies have harmed the honor of thousands of righteous mujahideen... mujahideen who wish to die in Allah’s path as much as ordinary people wish to live, many of whom are leading the way to almighty Allah and have proven their commitment to jihad by shedding their blood, or else [languishing] behind the bars of the occupation—and many whose boats were burned and whose sword scabbards broken... We ought to dare Abu Hamza to beg Allah to curse the one who is lying about the following points which were mentioned in his speech:”

“1.) His claim that the commander of the [Mujahideen] Army, or whichever person he was addressing during his speech, has pledged allegiance to the Awakening movements, and that this person has begun ordering the killing of Al-Qaida members.”

“2.) [His claim] that the commander of the [Mujahideen] Army, or whichever person he was addressing, had entered the home of Shathar, or has ever even met with him.”

“3.) [His claim] that the majority of [fighters from] the Mujahideen Army have become involved with the Awakening movements.”

“Before responding in detail to what Abu Hamza has said, and before exposing the truth behind his lies and the distortion in his words—especially since he cited the commander of our organization when he knows that the one who met with him was our current deputy commander, and this will be detailed in a later announcement, if Allah wills it—we hereby call upon him to repent to Allah for what he has said. Abu Hamza, haven't you read the words of [the Prophet], peace be upon him: 'Whoever speaks wrongly of a believer, Allah will bring upon him the flames of hellfire until he regrets what he has said.' Well then, haven't you said things about us that were untrue? Don't you fear this Hadith of Allah's messenger, peace be upon him? Haven't you read the words of [the Prophet], peace be upon him: 'If a worshiper says something without proving it, he risks falling into a greater hellfire than what lies in the corners of the earth?' Aren't you afraid that you will burn in a greater hellfire than what lies in the corners of the earth? May Allah save us all from that fate. Repent to Allah and exonerate yourself before those you have offended and what you have said about them... or else, everyone who has been harmed by your words will become your sworn enemies until the Day of Judgment. We will all eventually stand in Allah's court...”

“Everyone who cares about the state of the jihad in Iraq and its proper course need to know this: these people have devoted themselves to [creating] lies and maintaining them... We warned them about their actions and about our experiences in dealing with them throughout the past two years of occupation. If we truly desired to gather together all of their lies, falsifications, and fabrications, it would have amounted to an enormous book. They accuse people of doing things that they themselves are guilty of. Abu Hamza's false allegation against us—that we have killed [Al-Qaida fighters] and have fought against them—is essentially exactly what they did to us, especially following the declaration of the the so-called Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). They persisted in accusing others with various allegations: sometimes, it was ignorance; at other times, it was apostasy. [Abu Omar] al-Baghdadi described the jihadi factions as being insurgents, and issued various expressions and judgments that were used as an excuse for their followers to kill many fellow mujahideen out of tyranny, aggressive ambition, foolishness, and ignorance. And, by Allah, they were the ones who published fatwahs that ordered killing—and it was us who were the targets of that killing, and it was our blood that was shed. Where then is our fatwah that ordered the killing of Al-Qaida members, according to what [Abu Hamza] has alleged? And who exactly did we [allegedly] kill as a result of this fatwah? Furthermore, the mere fact that he would even say such things is an indication of how he has allowed our blood and the [blood of the] brothers in the Mujahideen Army [to be spilled] ever since he accused us of being apostates. Therefore, he owes us some explanations.”

“Additionally, we also have some other evidence that we have kept silent about until now, hoping that these people would repent or take back their words. Abu Hamza should invoke Allah if this is correct. The frontline and the factions within it which maintain the path of jihad can testify to the truthfulness of what we say, and the falsehood of what he claims. Moreover, the method of the Mujahideen Army is known to all—everyone knows that we are very cautious when it comes to [the sanctity of] Muslim blood, especially that of the mujahideen. Although we think that some individuals have acted as fanatics by spilling the blood of innocents, we have announced in the past that [spilling] their blood in turn is prohibited unless it is specifically proved beyond any doubt that they are the guilty party and deserving of punishment. We even published several declarations about the apostasy of those who fought against [Al-Qaida], as it provided support for the crusaders. [This was published] as a response to those who were guilty of this and who had joined the jihad in order to defend themselves and in reaction to their insults.”

“If we thought it was legitimate to kill [Al-Qaida] members, we would have reacted the same day that they killed Abu Zaid, the Mujahideen Army commander in charge of the northern region, during the first days of Eid al-Fitr 1428 [October 2007]. We are about to elaborate on the

circumstances of this incident... if Allah wills, along with other incidents in which the blood of members of the Mujahideen Army was permitted [to be spilled]. At the time, Abu Hamza didn't pay any attention to our call to stop the aggression and to arbitrate [the dispute] according to the laws of Allah. [Unfortunately], we are not preoccupied with our main interest—the jihad against the occupying enemy. In order to prevent our enemies from gloating over us—and since we know that the enemy is striving... for us to drag our conflicts [with Al-Qaida] into the spotlight and quarrel with them in the media, we should try to focus our fight against the crusaders and their followers. That is the only reason why we kept silent about their actions and the crimes that their followers have committed against the [Mujahideen] Army and its members. We didn't kill a single one of them, although we could have if we had wanted to. When they became frantic, we remained level-headed; when they were aggressive, we held ourselves back; when they acted like tyrants, we abstained. They persisted with their hostile actions against what Allah determined to be acceptable in the field, [which they did] out of envy and evil, especially after we made a commitment to the brothers from other factions that we would act in a moderate way—and denounced the methodology of fanaticism, of which they are the central pillar. We condemned the method of armistices and the Awakening movements that were proposed by the occupation on the advice of the [Iraqi] Islamic Party and others who were supposed to be part of the jihad. Some factions have fallen into this [trap] and, in so doing, have deviated from the path of jihad in order to follow to other routes and paths that differ from that of Allah. We have declared our opinion concerning these two paths more than once, especially in religious journals in which we published our opinion of the Awakening movements, judging these projects and anyone who supports them to be apostates. We do not think that Abu Hamza is ignorant of this fact, but he nonetheless seems to believe that by randomly throwing out accusations against others, that will somehow make his fabrications come true and his imaginary illusions become real. [He believes] that those who disobey him are either infidels or apostates, and he spares no one but himself and those who follow him."

"In order to prevent our enemy from gloating over us and finding joy in the trials of others, and so that our brothers won't be upset, we announce that we continue to maintain our allegiance to Allah—none shall dissuade us from the path of jihad, not a deceitful ally nor the abuse of our enemies. The fire of the crusaders will not break our spirits; and neither will the hostility of the Persians, nor the treachery of the apostates, nor the flimsiness of the armistices, nor the fanaticism of the fanatics. We will not make armistices or conduct negotiations. Our swords shall be pointed at the crusaders and their collaborators. Those among our brothers who act belligerently toward us, be warned that the book of Allah and the Sunnah of his messenger, peace be upon him, will stand between us as an arbitrator in our disagreements. The battlefield is our witness and is evidence that disgraces those who turn their backs and praises those who persist with jihad..."