



Statement from the Ansar al-Sunnah Army November 28, 2007

Statement from the Ansar al-Sunnah Army (JAAS) Declaring a Reversion Back to Their "Previous Name" Ansar al-Islam Dated November 28, 2007



[This document is the edited transcript of an Arabic-language communiqué obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch news service. This translation is provided for educational and informational purposes only. For more information on Ansar al-Sunnah and its links with other Iraqi insurgent groups, see "State of the Sunni Insurgency in Iraq: August 2007" (<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/iraqreport0807.pdf>).]

"A statement on behalf of the leadership of the Ansar al-Sunnah organization to all Muslims... The leadership of Ansar al-Sunnah has mutually agreed upon reverting back to the group's former name; Ansar al-Islam. The following is a letter to all Muslims from the leader of Ansar al-Islam, Abu Abdullah al-Hassan Bin Mahmud al-Shafi."

"I thank Allah for dispatching you—those who are proud of Islam, who are spreading its principles, and who are following the path of jihad in order to spread Islam... You are the best soldiers and allies of our organization... I do wish to inform you about a matter that shall benefit both us and our religion. Support Islam and Allah shall support you, so follow the orders of Ansar Al-Islam because you know our goal is mighty indeed."

"Dear mujahideen brothers, as of today, we are facing many bloody conflicts, both internally and externally. These battles have mostly manifested themselves in the east and especially in Iraq. American policymakers are interested in limiting and demilitarizing jihad by modifying many of the guiding principles behind political and armed groups. [This has been done] in order to reduce the significance of jihad from its current meaning as legitimate armed resistance to merely movements—[such as by convincing] the Iraqi resistance to recognize international law and [extracting] promises from them to participate in the political process. The American administration is achieving its goals with treacherous excuses that seem to justify or legitimize their goals. Muslim clerics have previously demonstrated that such actions are prohibited... The American scheme aims to control the various movements while abolishing their independence in order to achieve security for Israel and reshape the balance of power in the Middle East. Neighboring states look at the territory of Iraq as a place to settle personal grievances and as a haven of ethnic and political conflict. These countries have managed to recruit armed groups hiding under Islamic slogans in order to implement their own priorities. These goals include increasing their presence and influence inside Iraq while limiting jihad and stopping it from spreading into their own societies. These countries use the aforementioned armed groups to



deter those who are opposed to the spread of apostate Iranian influence over Arab countries and those who opposed to Iraq turning into a mere province of the Iranian empire.”

“Nowadays, there are only a few true organizations that believe in the principles of establishing an Islamic state or in fighting for one. Also, there are precious few groups who will fight against the apostates... Brothers in Allah, the initial declaration establishing the Ansar al-Islam organization was an obligatory and righteous endeavor for every Muslim. It was also recognized that the Muslim public at large was required to take an integral role in such an organization, and those who were properly qualified could certainly help lead it. Therefore, the official declaration of the founding of the Ansar al-Islam movement took place in [2001]... Iraqi clerics witnessed and wrote about... the legitimacy, path, and principles of our group, issuing a signed statement that concluded it was a duty for any Muslim to join such an organization.”

“Ansar al-Islam was the second-most important target for the American military forces [which invaded Iraq] based upon the report of Secretary of State [Colin Powell] presented to the United Nations. On [March 21, 2003], our group engaged in military battles against the American army and its supporters. After a period of fighting back against the American assault, the leadership of Ansar al-Islam decided to withdraw. As a result, the American army and the apostates took control of the area. Shortly thereafter, Allah enabled us to rearrange our movement and we returned in Iraq under the new name of Ansar al-Sunnah. Due to certain realities on the battlefield, we had to expand our operations, while modifying our tactics, in order to confront the American enemy and its supporters. Our ultimate goal in rejoining the jihad was to engage our brothers in mandatory jihad, to prepare and organize their men, and to spread principles of Shariah amongst Sunnis. As a result, they increased their pressure and strikes on the enemy... Indeed, with the help of Allah, the mujahideen succeeded in many of the clashes, battles, ambushes, strikes, and suicide attacks. They were also pioneers in using improvised explosive devices (IEDs). They were joined by competent mujahideen brothers, some of whom were arrested and others who achieved martyrdom... During that time, the main goal was to fight and monitor enemy movements, and the battlefield was dominated by gang-type fighting...”

“O’ Soldiers of Iraq: the enemy has managed to implement his conspiracy against the so-called insurgent groups by hopelessly preoccupying them with matters other their intended goals. In order to stop the enemy from achieving his mission, we must stand united behind our banner. We must work hard to restore the trust of the mujahideen in their jihad while relying on the teachings of established Islamic clergy. We should avoid unnecessary internal battles that serve to do nothing more than empowering our enemy’s political agenda, along with the apostate Iraqi government and the supporters of their regime. The Sunni people in Iraq are our people. Certain individuals should not take it upon themselves to negotiate on behalf of the jihad and the Sunni people. Moreover, they should not be participating in conspiracies planned by the intelligence agencies of neighboring states because their actions will result in negotiations of one form or another for our surrender. There is a need to ensure the continuation of armed jihad and to end this era of weakness... Those who remain loyal to the cause should unite under one banner... furthermore, the path [of jihad] and its principles should be preserved... Given our responsibility in maintaining the principles of Islam, the unity of Muslims, and to deal with existential issues that shall determine our survival, we have decided to continue our work under the name of the Ansar al-Islam organization. This name shall be the official name used in all future communiqués and statements...”

“Dear Muslims: [participating in] the American conspiracy in Iraq... is prohibited based upon Shariah law. Any individual or group which participates in such an agenda is essentially serving the agenda of the oppressors and legitimizing it. In addition, they stand against jihad and the mujahideen and reinterpret Islamic laws whose meaning is already clear. We inform you that neither these current issues nor all the conspiracies will stop us from continuing on our path. Our fight against the occupying Americans and their supporters shall continue until their presence is abolished from our land.”