



Audio Statement from Abu Omar al-Baghdadi December 4, 2007

Audio Statement from Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, the “Amir al-Mumineen” (“Leader of the Faithful”) of Al-Qaida’s “Islamic State of Iraq” Released on December 4, 2007



[This document is the edited transcript of an Arabic-language audio recording 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 Abu Omar al-Baghdadi and the “Islamic State of Iraq”, see “State of the Sunni Insurgency in Iraq: August 2007” (<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/iraqreport0807.pdf>).]

“A Message by Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, leader of the Islamic State of Iraq, peace be upon him, titled: ‘As for the foam - it will vanish.’”

“It has been over a year since the foundation of the Islamic State of Iraq, which is a tremendous accomplishment. No doubt this has been the most difficult period in the history for the establishment of such states, and regarding this, I would like to make a few points. First, we offer our appreciation and thanks to our families, who are the finest. One who praises them cannot comprehend the limits of their grace, and one who swims in the sea of their praises cannot find the shore—they are rightfully the most honorable of people. And if this was not enough, their mujahideen sons have deployed along the frontiers until their enemy was defeated, so much so that the enemy’s mind has become damaged and he has fabricated these amazing lies, claiming that the mujahideen have all come from foreign countries... Unfortunately, the apostates have helped spread their lies and have erected a banner in the name of ‘national resistance’, making Iraq’s natural resources—the water and oil in particular—free for anyone who has Iraqi citizenship. And why wouldn’t they? For they are the same ones who declared that Iraq belongs to all Iraqis, even the apostates, and that everyone should have equal rights—no matter whether they are Sunni or Shiite...”

“O’ believers, according to our faith, every Muslim is our brother and every apostate is our enemy, even if he is an Iraqi. The immigrants [foreign fighters] in Iraq today have forsaken the pleasures of this world and they have been rushing to meet their Lord after sacrificing their money and souls—sometimes when martyred in battle and sometimes while exploding themselves in the ranks of the enemy—and by now, only 200 of them are left in our beloved Iraq. Al-Qaida’s leader Abu Hamza al-Muhajir publicly announced his oath of allegiance, and the organization formally became the Islamic State of Iraq. Today, they are among its most reliable soldiers and most capable fighting units. And they tell you that the ISI’s soldiers are foreigners, and they lie until you believe them—although you can see for yourselves that these are your own sons...”

“Certainly, we are aware that the heretics would rejoice if our organization and the rest of the blessed groups [which comprise the ISI] were to return to their old names and if the name of the ISI were to disappear, for this is exactly what your agents have declared. In the name of Allah, do you believe that the one who explodes himself in the ranks of the enemy killing dozens of them, and the one who orders him to do so, are Persian agents?! Where are your senses?! Are those who defeated the Shiites from the Mahdi Army and the Badr Brigade also Persian Agents?! And if you want nothing but lies, then you will also believe that the Mahdi Army and the Badr Brigades

are all free Iraqis and are not the agents of Iran. While we were [defeating the Shiites], most of the other Salafis sat around, watched, and even condemned us. Suddenly, they have become the ones who are loyally fighting the Persians—and, conversely, the ISI and its soldiers have turned into the agents attempting to spread lies. Now, they themselves want to negotiate with the apostate Persians and the crusaders in the Islamic lands... and for this, we have found them beyond Jordan and Saudi Arabia, alongside the Zionist godfather in the region, Mubarak, and the Mahdi Army.”

“According to their political program, their aim is to return refugees to their native areas, compensate them, and grant them security. Based on this logic, apostate refugees would be re-settled in Mosul, and if any of them died in the war, they would receive a reward—perhaps even doubled to account for moral compensation. Furthermore, those who oppose them will be thrown to the dogs, even if they are from the mujahideen. And while deep in reflection over their own treachery, they have overlooked a trivial religious matter: offensive jihad, fighting the apostates in their own homelands. According to their political program, their aim is to establish good relations with countries around the world based upon common interests—whereas, the meaning of offensive jihad is attacking the enemy in his homeland. They even disobeyed their own shaykh, Salman al-Awdah, who criticized secularism and communism when he stated that obeying the infidels had taken the form of alliances with powerful states in exchange for favors from them, and that this could not be undertaken without abandoning jihad.”

“Secondly, Slaves of Allah, please be aware that once the American occupier invaded our land, humiliated our dignity, and seized our possessions, jihad became an obligatory duty for every Muslim. Our scholars have already said that if jihad becomes obligatory when the infidels reach even the mountains of the Muslim states—far away from any inhabited location—then it becomes even more so when they reach Baghdad... Each Muslim must join the cause of jihad and assist it with action, word, and money, as much as he can afford. Anyone who is able to and refrains from taking action is a sinner. Shaykh Ahmad Shakir wrote in his book that cooperation with the British is regarded as complete and unforgivable heresy, no matter who does it and at what level... O’ Nation of Islam, we Muslims are the most deserving of victory, especially after our land was occupied and our dignity assailed. Be careful not to sell your future for a fistful of coins.”

“Third, we address those who are making up false allegations about the Islamic State [of Iraq], those who have blamed us for being the cause of disunity amongst our people, and who have called our actions despicable. We reply to them, is collective apostasy the natural cause of a fault in leadership or methodology, or does it derive from ignorance or inappropriate conduct towards others, [even by] the most senior ones? And we say to those people: beware! ... If we admit that we are wrong, then we admit that the Prophet was wrong. Is the faith of the tribal leaders today purer than that of those of the past? This is a big lie. The reasons for apostasy in the past and in the present include: first, arrogance and ignorant pride... Second: money. Third: a lack of faith... [and] strong doubts held by weak souls... Contemporary media outlets—including satellite news channels, newspapers, and [other] infidel propaganda tools... are carrying out a despicable campaign in order to discredit Islam, launching their arrows at the ‘Global Salafi Jihad Movement’ and emphasizing the danger it poses for them and for the Zionist state—and the center of its power and where [the global salafi jihad movement] is most dangerously concentrated is Iraq.”

“O’ nation of Islam, nation of courage and dignity, the soldiers of the Islamic nation are able to overcome their enemies—numbering one million soldiers, according to their formal statements, more than half of which are engaged in a direct war with the Islamic nation. They have declared that more than 300,000 soldiers served as part of the occupation, according to the latest statements of the Jewish reporter Seymour Hersh on Al-Jazeera. The American army officially includes more than 160,000 soldiers; private military enterprises total 180,000 soldiers—and that is in addition to thousands of other soldiers from Korea, Poland, Australia, and other nations. As for the size of the Iraqi security forces: 300,000 policemen, 280,000 national guardsmen, and more than 70,000 collaborators and a few thousand traitors.”

“O’ nation of Islam, we are fighting the longest and hardest war that Islam has ever known, one marked by many casualties and quarrelling. We inform you today that the current status of the Islamic State of Iraq is actually improving, contrary to the claims of Allah’s enemies, who are trying to mislead the mujahideen the jihad warriors. According to their statements, local districts have begun falling into the hands of the traitors. I can report that the treachery of some Shaykhs is limited to parts of the al-Dulaimi and al-Jabbur tribes. After all, who was it that killed [Shaykh Abdul Sattar] al-Rishawi? A member of his own family. And the al-Jabbur [tribe] can take pride in the fact that Muharib al-Jabburi—who was among the founding fathers of the ISI—is their son. In Kirkuk, the lions of the ISI have stood alongside noble local clans as they have confronted the crimes of the Peshmerga and apostates... and were victorious. In Salahudeen [province], the local inhabitants have proven that they are [faithful warriors]... They have displayed the [same] nobility in Tikrit, Baiji... Yathrib, and al-Dalawiyya. In Diyala, with the help of Allah, the enemy was only able to gain control over small parts of Baquba while working in cooperation with Iraqi Hamas and the Iraqi Islamic Party. As for the lions in the north—Nineveh, Tel Afar, and Al-Jazeera—I am confident that they will retaliate and liberate the holy places, and the enemy will concede that the Muslims are in control of the area. As for Baghdad, the lions there are as steadfast as mountains and are overcoming their enemies... And in Anbar [province], the tribal leaders have renounced their treachery after they realized that the enemy deceived them. Further treachery is only still persisting in the region of Ramadi, where the fight is still ongoing despite the lies of the media. As for the west, the situation is very good, and in the south, the land has been purified of the corruption of the traitors.”

“Hence, we declare the establishment of the ‘Al-Sadeeq Brigade for the Killing of All Infidels’, and this comes after the execution of several trial operations by soldiers from this unit, including the assassination of municipal leaders—such as Abu Raghail [Abdul Sattar] al-Rishawi, the agent al-Jabburi, the liar al-Tamimi, al-Shammari, and Abu Bilal; in the provinces of Anbar, Salahudeen, Mosul, and Fallujah. O’ soldiers of the Al-Sadeeq Brigade, be faithful to the religion of Allah and know that Allah has imbued us with the qualities of jihad... O’, soldiers of Allah, uproot this evil seedling and purify the land of it. Be patient in your struggle, sacrifice yourself in order to kill them, and remember that the existence of this faith depends on loyalty, making hijra [emigrating], and jihad. These principles cannot be achieved if the Muslims fail to renounce their tribal loyalty in favor of their religious one. Carry out intensive operations targeting the criminals with these priorities in mind: first, protect those regions which Allah has entrusted us with, and do not underestimate the efforts and sacrifices of your brothers, for [the enemy] rejoices over every piece of land they think they have established control over, while insisting that we have no control over any piece of land at all. Second, [you must] prevent wealthy clans, who seek to gain false honor, from receiving support. Third, protect the Sunnis from the evil of those who have abandoned their religion and their corruption... Fourth, uproot the traitors who follow the invaders, return back to jihad, and eliminate the head of the snake—the American invaders and that believe the conquerors of the land, return to Jihad and eliminate the head of the snake—the American occupiers and the [servants of Iran]. Fifth, unite the ranks of the Sunnis and restore the dignity of the religious clerics and shaykhs.”

“Therefore, we announce the beginning of a new offensive that will be concluded on January 29, 2008, and will be named in honor of the martyr Abu Umar al-Kurdi, who was sentenced to death during the Baath regime and was executed by the apostate [Iraqi] government with the approval of Tarek al-Hashemi. This offensive will be based on bombs and improvised explosive devices, and it will target the apostate agents and all of those fighting in the ranks of our enemy. I call upon every jihad fighter in Iraq who seeks paradise, especially those who are the soldiers of the Islamic State of Iraq: each soldier must blow up at least 3 explosive charges during this offensive, including hand grenades, booby-trapped bombs, and the most desirable of all—suicide attacks. Anyone who has already decided to martyr themselves in a suicide attack should execute their attacks during this period—and anyone who is still hesitating and in need of preparation, we will benefit them by stating that this type of operation [suicide bombings] is the most painful for the enemy and has the most expansive, painful, and terrifying impact upon the enemy.”

“They themselves acknowledge that they are unable to stop anyone who wishes to carry out a suicide attack from doing so. Their forces and infrastructure are unable to prevent them, and those who need extra help should realize that there is nothing easier than penetrating the enemy ranks in order to terrify them, or to ambush and attack their vehicles with hand grenades. Aren’t you as proud as other Muslims when our heroes plant explosive charges under the vehicles of the enemy in broad daylight? As for those who are not able to plant explosive devices, they should strive to kill, in any way possible, at least 3 of those who have abandoned their religion in the place of a single explosive attack. The enemy is now gasping for his final breaths and will only suffer further losses and humiliation in this world, and later in hell. Allahu Akhbar, your brother, Abu Omar al-Quraishi al-Baghdadi.”