



## **Audio Statement from Abu Omar al-Baghdadi February 13, 2008**

### **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 February 13, 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 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>).]*

“The Al-Furqan Media Foundation is pleased to present a recorded speech of the Amir al-Mumineen, Abu Omar al-Baghdadi—may Allah protect him—on the subject of ‘sincerity in religion’:

“...Our discussion today concerns the blessed land [of Palestine]. The most recent dangerous events in Gaza confirm to any reasonable person that the Jews and their agents have no respect for the ties of kinship or covenant towards the Muslims in Palestine. These people were subject to an unjust siege that became more and more desperate each day. This parcel of land [Palestine] has been honored by Allah... and Allah has honored the people of this land by presenting them with jihad. And the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him salvation, said: ‘A part of my people shall not cease to hold fast to the truth and conquer their enemies. Those who oppose them shall not harm them, except for the distresses that they will suffer before Allah’s order is carried out. And he was asked: ‘O’ prophet of Allah, where are they?’ And he said: ‘In Jerusalem and the surrounding regions.’”

“We believe that the heart of our dispute [with our enemies] is over our sacred rites, and the fact that the Jews and their agents, the enemies of our faith, strive principally to make people turn away from them—whether by direct conquest as in the case of Jerusalem, or with indirect occupation as in the case of the holy places in Mecca and Medina. The Jews are the essence and origin of corruption, and... the true battle against them is over control of Jerusalem. The conflict with them will continue on until the trees and stones shall fight alongside us, and the battle will result in victory for our religion and its faithful.”

“Our discussion today concerns our position on the battle with the Jews in the land of resurrection [Palestine]. But first, we must re-confirm some of the truths in which we believe and which are necessary to first understand before speaking about any solutions. First, the issue of the al-Aqsa [Mosque] is an Islamic affair which is of concern to every Muslim. It is not possible under any circumstances to constrain it within the bounds of detestable nationalism or shameful patriotism. No matter how much the merchants of al-Aqsa will try to silence every voice that seeks the truth and calls for it, every Muslim is responsible for liberating al-Aqsa—just as every Palestinian Muslim is responsible for the liberation of Iraq and Chechnya and other Islamic countries... Praise be to Allah, these truths are cherished in the hearts of the Islamic nation, and particularly in the souls of the people of Jerusalem.”

“The words of a Shaykh from Jerusalem, over a hundred years old, made me and all those in my presence cry. The Jews had asked to purchase his home and bargained with him, until they said: ‘Here is a check. Write down the sum you want, and we shall sign it.’ And so he replied, ‘I shall give you my home, on the condition that you obtain the signatures of every Muslim from all over the country, even if he is but two months old. If all of them concur that I should sell my home, then I will give it to you for free, and entrust myself in the hands of Allah!’”

“Israel is a state that was founded on the basis of religion, and so it is a religious state. Anyone who claims that it is a secular state, or that it is a secular state which has exploited religion, is lying. It is a malignant weed sown in the body of the Islamic nation, and it must be uprooted, even if the traitors have signed a thousand surrender treaties with it... We see no difference between Judaism and Zionism, and narrowing the focus of our dispute to merely the Zionists is an intentional malicious diminution. The qualities of the Jews, which the book of Allah specifies, extend beyond history, and they are passed from generation to generation...”

“The Arab nationalists, with their misbegotten Arab revolution, played a role in the foundation of the state of Israel, by virtue of their facilitation of the British Army and its entry into Jerusalem as conquerors, shattering the Islamic nation and slicing it up according to the terms of the Sykes-Picot agreement in exchange for a paltry group of dependent kingdoms in Jordan, Iraq, the Levant, and the Arabian Peninsula. Palestinian [resistance] organizations—comprised of a peculiar blend of Baathists, communists, secularists, and others—have repeatedly insisted over the space of decades that they will liberate al-Aqsa. In fact, they are the cause of the Naqba catastrophe and they are at the heart of the problem. If there is one thing that they have achieved after long years of deceit is that Allah has exposed them and their disgrace, and has humiliated them. Now it is clear to every Muslim that they are considered as the corrupt merchants of the problem!”

“The armed organizations that belong to the Muslim Brotherhood, and Hamas above all others—save for some remaining faithful from amongst the [Izzadeen] al-Qassam [Brigades]—have truly betrayed our religion and the Islamic nation, and they have abandoned the blood of the martyrs. The chain of treacheries by their political leaders has continued on for years. All of those active in the Palestinian arena know about the unjust, smothering material blockade that this leadership imposed upon the [Izzadeen] al-Qassam Brigades for a long period of time leading up to the second Palestinian Intifada. This was done in order to pressure the remaining faithful from the al-Qassam [Brigades] to submit to their woeful political decision, and it resulted in the killing and imprisonment of most of the armed, devoted members by the Jews and their agents from the treacherous [Palestinian] Authority.”

“The features of the betrayal of Hamas leadership are summarized as follows: they entered into a political process under the protection of a manmade secular constitution, and on the basis of the Oslo Accords, which surrendered over three quarters of the land of Palestine. They gave implied recognition to Israel, by their recognition of legitimacy of the [Palestinian] Authority that was established by the Oslo Accords, and their recognition of the legitimacy of its secular apostate president, the devoted agent of the Jews. They made declarations about honoring the international mandates issued by the U.N. and the mere recognition of the U.N. is a recognition of its manmade law and of the state of Israel—which is a member of the U.N.”

“They entered a peculiar alliance with the apostate regimes, and especially Egypt and Syria, abandoning the blood of their brothers who were massacred in Hama [in Syria]. [Khaled] Meshaal has described the one who butchered his brothers, the traitor Hafez al-Assad, many times as ‘a devoted Muslim, bent on supporting the Arab nation, and a guardian of Palestinian rights.’ Do Meshaal and the others not know that the Nusayri Syrian army has imposed on Muslims a history of torment in Lebanon, and especially on Palestinians living in [refugee] camps? [Yitzhak] Rabin—the slain Israeli Prime Minister—described the Syrian intervention in Lebanon as follows: ‘Israel does have any reason to deter the Syrian army from advancing deeper and deeper into Lebanon, for this army attacks the Palestinians and our intervention would only be of assistance to the Palestinians.’ An alliance with the Nusayri renegades in Syria under the claim of

liberating Palestine is a great treachery. Salahudeen [al-Ayyubi] did not enter Jerusalem victorious until he did away with the state of the Ubaidi renegades in Egypt and in Levant. The Nusayri have the worst kind of faith and they are most malicious...”

“Indeed, [ Hamas ] has abandoned all of the mujahideen, and even secretly approved the killing and expulsion of the followers of al-Tawheed. For this reason, they stated while visiting Moscow, ‘The issue of Chechnya is a private matter,’ and also stated, ‘We have nothing to do with the jihad in Iraq, and we have not, nor should we, fire one bullet in its cause.’ They said that they do not strive for society to become strictly Islamic, and hence the reason why they did not demand that the political process be handled according to Islamic law... while they were in the government, and why they failed to consult it after completely taking over Gaza. They [have displayed] rampant hostility towards the Salafi Jihadists, especially recently, and they have repeatedly undertaken serious efforts to disrupt any plans hatched by the [Salafi Jihadists]. The story of what happened between them and the Army of Islam is well-known, and the matter of the British journalist is infamous. We were informed that Army of Islam was about to be paid excellent profits by Britain, before Hamas interfered in the matter and freed the journalist. They have disregarded the sanctity of Palestinian blood...”

“As for the solution: first, we should know that it takes time to destroy what has been built over long years during the Jahiliya [era of ignorance], not to mention constructing a stalwart building that will not be swayed by the winds... Do our people in Palestine not know that the beginning of the solution is jihad, and under the pure banner of al-Tawheed, there is no difference between fighting black or white or between a Jewish infidel and a Palestinian apostate? Thus there is no difference between Olmert and his criminals and Abbas and his gang, we consider them to be the same... The other important kind that should be engaged with force, and especially their leaders, are the Rafidah [Shiites]. That cancer has already begun to infiltrate our people in Palestine, taking advantage of ignorance and poverty, and protected by a band of traitors and agents of Iran under the slogan of ‘resistance.’ They have already committed this same crime in Iraq. When was Basra considered Rafidah until recently, when it became majority [Shiite]? The villains have managed to persuade some of the tribal chiefs and leaders to follow their ideology, tempting them with material wealth, depraved pleasures, and other evil means. This has caused entire clans to become Shiite, for Shiites have only been present in Iraq for 50-70 years and no more...”

“Know this, O’ soldiers of Allah! [Shiism] is a different faith than the religion of Islam, which was expounded by Mohammed, may Allah bless him and grant him mercy. [Shiism] is a religion that is based upon worshipping other deities besides Allah. Furthermore it is based upon cheap pleasures and, through these means, it is spread. The apostates leave nothing sacred, and they have even spoken evil... about Allah Himself, about the Quran, and the Prophet...”

“Here are the things that will aid our people in their jihad against the Jews, [Shiites], and their agents. First, experts from among the followers of the Salafi path must strive to organize their efforts, and to set up an organization governed by Salafi method and belief that will take upon itself the burden of rectifying the course of events and guiding the tremors of jihad that are bursting forth from the hearts of the youth of al-Aqsa, so that the spark of their eruption will be from the youth of al-Tawheed and the mosque faithful, who maintain an active relationship with the Islamic clergy, the Shaykhs of the mosques, and the leaders of the society. Furthermore, they will take upon themselves to educate the children of the jihad about the eminent purposes of the jihad—the most important of which is to make the word of Allah supreme. They will uproot from their hearts the disgraceful notions of nationalism and patriotism and have hindered our Islamic nation for years, and have caused a Palestinian apostate to believe that his blood is sacred, while disregarding the blood of the Chechen mujahid, and regarding it as a separate, private matter...”

“The remaining faithful members of [Izzadeen] al-Qassam [Brigades] should announce their dissociation from the Hamas movement and their separation from its perverted and corrupted political leadership. We know that many of the al-Qassam youths and several of their

commanders are already fed up with the corruption of their political leaders. If it was not for the evil of this leadership and its corruption which is so far from the law of [Allah], we would never, ever, have called upon the devoted youth of the al-Qassam [Brigades] to turn against them. We consider ourselves to be among those who constantly call for unity and solidarity. Furthermore, we know that a great deal of criticism will be directed at us, especially from the press agencies that belong and submit to this organization [Hamas], but the pleasure of Allah is dearer, and the hope for reform is more important!"

"We ask wise and veteran faces among them to strive for this goal by carrying out a Dawa [missionary] campaign among the circles of the al-Qassam youth, under cover of secrecy and ensuring that none of them are overlooked. They should assemble as many people and as much weaponry as possible that will assist them in jihad, acquiring them by any means available. There is no method of guidance or advice—discreet or in public—that will convince the minds of their deviant leaders. And why would they? Their brothers in Iraqi Hamas and from the [Iraqi] Islamic Party and the Islamic Army [of Iraq] (IAI) fight today side-by-side with the crusaders against the followers of al-Tawheed. Those who refuse to believe it should listen to the al-Baghdad channel and the words of Tarek al-Hashimi and Abu Azzam al-Tamimi, deputy commander of the IAI. They throw themselves at the feet of the leaders of Iran and the Nusayri in Syria, and they boast about their close relations with Omar Sulaiman, head of Egyptian intelligence, who has shamed thousands of innocent people in Egyptian prisons..."

"As for the role of the Islamic nation in liberating al-Aqsa, it is subdivided into several roles. First, opening new battle fronts to relieve the Jewish and American pressure on our people in Palestine, along with the need to continue and reinforce the struggle on the current battlefronts, especially for those that who are facing off in direct confrontations with the American cowboys in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here, we wish to send our humble thanks to the champion heroes of Nahr al-Bared [refugee camp]. With their blood, their adherence to the truth, and their bravery against the enemy, they have written what is among the most epic battles of Islam in the Levant. They have adequately proven that a handful of supporters of al-Tawheed can cause a mortal wound in the body of the infidels. I am certain that Allah will not let the fruit of this bloodshed to pass by in vain, by his power, your blood will be the trigger of a jihad in the Levant, especially against the Jews across the three fronts: Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. We congratulate the Islamic nation on the escape of the conqueror of the cross and the Levantine knight, Shaker al-Absi. We ask Allah to make him commander of the jihad in [Lebanon], for we have heard only good things about him. He is a man of method, determination, and truth. I ask Allah to grant him success."

"Second, the Islamic nation ought to break through the barriers of disgrace which are constraining our brothers in Palestine, and to achieve this, the Palestinians in Jordan must revolt in order to break down the borders with the West Bank, and the Egyptian people—especially those in the Levantine region of the country—should revolt in order to break down the borders with their brothers in Gaza..."

"Third, the people should break the material siege that has been imposed on our people. We suggest that every Muslim store away two dollars per month from his income. Half of it will go to our people in Palestine, while the other half shall be spent on the rest of the battlefronts. This can be achieved by forming secret committees on every street corner across a narrow region in order to collect this money in cash or goods, and saving it and increasing the stockpile until the appropriate opportunity come around. Then, it will be transferred it to those entitled to it, with the help of the devoted and pious sons of the Islamic nation, and especially the Islamic clergy. We suggest that members of every mosque form an independent committee, and I warn you to act under cover of secrecy and to avoid unnecessary expansion, starting off with only those are truly committed and pious."

"Fourth, the Islamic clergy should break the barrier of fear, and from them should emerge—as one wise man has described them—"the clerical martyrs" in order to warn of the dangers posed by the apostate regimes to our religion and the world in general. They will assist the mujahideen by

providing formal legal opinions and fatwahs, and warn against continuing support for secular and defeatist organizations.”

“Fifth, the mujahideen [should be] supported with real media and propaganda in order to reveal their good deeds and offer forgiveness for their mistakes, so long as the ideology of al-Tawheed is not violated. They should be advised both secretly and publicly.”

“As for the role of the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) in the liberation of Palestine: we rest our hopes with Allah and implore him that our state to be like the state of Nuradin al-Shahid, serving as a cornerstone for the return of al-Aqsa to the bosom of the nation, and then for his disciple, Salahudeen, to enter it as a conqueror in the Battle of Hittin, and like Omar al-Farouq entered it, may Allah be pleased with him. We ask Allah for his help in allowing the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) to be the cornerstone for the return of Jerusalem. The Jews and Americans have already considered this possibility, and they have tried to stop us from accomplishing this goal in every way they can. Their fierce campaign against al-Anbar province, where our work was much more advanced, was executed because they knew that it would be easy to bombard several regions of Israel with medium-range rockets, just as the dead Saddam [Hussein] once did... because they know that some of these rockets still exist, and there is still an ability to manufacture them, as long as their target is not too specific. The crimes committed by the units loyal to the [Muslim] Brotherhood in Iraq—especially Iraqi Hamas, the Iraqi Islamic Party, and the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI)—and their formation of apostate Awakening Councils are nothing more than an effort to force us to leave al-Anbar. They are only using their direct contacts with the Americans as a means to stop us from aiding you, even from afar. But rejoice and have hope, for there is good news coming, with the help of Allah, and we will certainly not be deterred from the truth by the treacherous hindrances of the weak-hearted. Despite all of this, we are ready to assist you with what meager fortunes we have at our disposal, and we are ready to train your comrades, starting with explosive devices and concluding with manufacturing rockets...”

“Your brother, Abu Omar al-Quraishi al-Baghdadi.”