



## **“Interview with an ISI Soldier in Iraq”**

**January 4, 2008**

### **Transcript of a Live Q&A Session with a Soldier from Al-Qaida’s “Islamic State of Iraq” on the Paltalk Chat Network – January 4, 2008**



*[This document is the edited translation of an Arabic-language Paltalk chat session obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English by ceifIT LTD 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>.)]*

Q: “Are we near to the complete American withdrawal from the land of Iraq?”

A: “The only circumstance whereupon the crusaders will leave is when their last soldier has been decapitated.”

Q: “Has the relationship with the Islamic Army in Iraq (IAI) become antagonistic across the entire breadth of the battlefield and in all regions?”

A: “Unfortunately, the Islamic Army has come to its own end.”

Q: “Have you reached a mutual understanding or reconciliation with the 1920 Revolution Brigades, in accordance with its recent statement?”

A: “Yes, that has occurred.”

Q: “What is the status of the Islamic State in southern Baghdad?”

A: “My brother, there are battles and signs of courage in southern Baghdad the likes of which have never been seen before.”

Q: “Does the Islamic State of Iraq have a strategic plan to gain control over the entire territory of Iraq, to spread its influence, and to convince the mujahideen to join it?”

A: “Of course, absolutely, my brother.”

Q: “Has the State gained control over Anbar province, Mosul, and northern [Iraq]?”

A: “As for Mosul, the answer is yes. In Anbar, there has been a tactical withdrawal and additionally, there is the potential to do everything covertly. As Shaykh Abu Hamza al-Muhajir—may Allah protect him—has said, we are in charge of the initiative [in the fighting] in Anbar province.”

Q: “The Americans say that the average number of jihad operations has decreased recently, what is the reason for this?”

A: “Yes, there might have been a decrease, but not as the Zionists describe it. There are simply fewer operations in one district, and more in another.”

Q: “Is there a possibility of another war with those who have abandoned our religion (the Shiites), and what is their current status?”

A: “My brother, the Shiites are cowards. They suffered a terrible defeat, praise be to Allah, but the danger from them persists, and we ask Allah to protect the Sunnis from their hatred.”

Q: "Is there a way for us to join you?"

A: "Yes, be truthful to Allah and you will see how you can join us with his help and power."

Q: "What is your viewpoint regarding the Association of Muslim Scholars in Iraq?"

A: "Don't ask about our point of view [of them], ask about theirs [of us]!"

Q: "Is the Ansar al-Islam organization in the progress of merging on their way to pledge alliance to the state, Allah willing?"

A: "If Allah wills it, we ask Allah to protect them, for they have true faith, praise be to Allah."

Q: "Is it possible to use the reconciliation with the 1920 Revolution Brigades in order to establish a general military accord that will receive the endorsement of a representative of the Association of Muslim Scholars, [such as] Hareth al-Dari?"

A: "I don't think so—but praise be to Allah, this was indeed the case in Abu Ghraib. You have already heard the news about the explosion of a car bomb there, which was carried out by the Islamic State of Iraq."

Q: "Is the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI) a military force or merely concerned with self-publicity?"

A: "With regards to the jihad, it is only about self-publicity."

Q: "May Allah protect you, does the Badr Corps have a strong relationship with the Americans?"

A: "The former are Shiites, and the latter are crusaders. There is no difference between them, and their relationship is strong. They share the same faith."

Q: "Do you foresee the escalation of operations in the near future?"

A: "If Allah wills it. May America be defeated with the help of Allah."

Q: "What is the future plan to manage the resources of the Islamic State of Iraq—the oil, and so on?"

A: "My brother, forgive me, I don't know."

Q: "What is the status of the soldiers of the Islamic State in the Azamiya neighborhood?"

A: "My brother, some particular brothers have withdrawn from there, and there are other brothers who still operate there—witness the news about the bombing of a Salvation Front [Awakening Council] base used by those who have abandoned our religion."

Q: "What is your view regarding the tribes and the regions where the Zionists have not yet entered?"

A: "Our publications have clarified our position on the tribes. Those tribes are our tribes, we are their sons, and there are many regions where the enemy has not yet entered."

Q: "A senior leader of the American forces announced that their military units will withdraw, entirely from the Anbar province, and explained further that Iraqi forces would takeover the areas where the Americans will leave—is the Islamic State of Iraq aware of this situation?"

A: "By the will of Allah, everybody knows about the failings of these contrivances [Iraqi army units], and that a single attack by a group of mujahideen will conquer an entire region."

Q: "Is there a powerful Iranian presence within the [Iraqi] police and army?"

A: "Yes."

Q: "Do you intend to broaden the scope of jihad outside Iraq, as did our martyr al-Zarqawi with the help of Allah?"

A: "If it is the will of Allah."

Q: "May peace and Allah's mercy be upon you. Regarding the 'Al-Qaida' and 'Zarqawi' rockets—the development of which was announced by the Islamic State of Iraq, may Allah make it

victorious—have you begun deploying them? And also my dear brother mujahid, what about your use of chemical weapons—is there any way to use them against the crusaders and apostate dogs? May Allah protect you and provide you with his support.”

A: “My dear brother, salvos of our rockets are fired day and night at the crusaders, and some of them were used in Baquba.”

Q: “What is the percent of foreigners among you? Are there still people who come and join you, and what about operations aimed at freeing the prisoners?”

A: “They number 200 people as mentioned by Abu Omar [al-Baghdadi], may Allah protect him...”

Q: “What is the size of the territory controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq?”

A: “The Islamic State of Iraq can be found everywhere, in every part of the beloved land of Mesopotamia.”

Q: “What exactly is the truth about the Iraqi Hamas organization—did it really fight alongside the Americans against the soldiers of the Islamic State?”

A: “Yes, my brother. Hamas has disgraced itself, and may they follow in the same lead as the 1920 Revolution Brigades.”

Q: “Which is the largest jihad movement [in Iraq]?”

A: “The Islamic State of Iraq, and this is apparent to those who are both near and far.”

Q: “What effect did the speech by Shaykh Usama Bin Laden have on the mujahideen of the Islamic State of Iraq?”

A: “It was like the opening shot.”

Q: “Do the Salvation Fronts possess any real power, and has [that power] grown?”

A: “My brother, I swear, you make me laugh. What Salvation? They are cowards, and they have been exhausted, praise be to Allah. They are a disease that Allah has begun to cure us from with the hands of the monotheists.”

Q: “Do the mujahideen know they have supporters like those who are in this chat room [on Paltalk] right now?”

A: “Yes, definitely.”

Q: “Does the Islamic State have the ability to produce weapons? Does it have heavy weapons?”

A: “Yes, there are various kinds of weapons, especially those which were stolen from the crusaders and apostates themselves.”

Q: “What is your opinion about the phase that will follow the withdrawal of the crusaders—will the Shiites gain control over the army or will there be struggles among them?”

A: “Yes, my brother, there will be struggles [among them].”

Q: “Have you noticed any withdrawals by the enemy—especially after it was stated that America would not leave more than 50,000 soldiers [in Iraq]? Do you notice any intention of that kind on the ground—in the nature of the actions carried out by the American army in Iraq, etc.?”

A: “Of course, my brother. Sooner or later, the crusaders will withdraw, and you will witness what will happen...”

Q: “Are there other jihad organizations which fight alongside the Islamic State apart from Ansar al-Islam?”

A: “Yes.”

Q: “Are there joint operations taking place with Ansar al-Sunnah?”

A: “Yes.”

Q: "How do you deal with crusader or Shiite spies?"

A: "They deserve to be slaughtered."

Q: "Are there forces from Arab and Islamic countries that fight alongside the crusaders?"

A: "Yes."

Q: "What is the truth about the American bases which are now being built in Iraq, and where are they being built?"

A: "At the moment, these details are unclear."

Q: "Regarding the Mujahideen Army [a.k.a. Jaish al-Mujahideen]—is there any news about it? We heard about how its former leader, Muhind Khalaf al-Alyan, is the son of a parliamentary delegate...?"

A: "No, my brother, they are not the same, and they will prevail—just wait and see."

Q: "With the help of Allah, the Americans will withdraw from Iraq at the beginning of next year. Are precautionary arrangements being taken, as the jihad organizations did in Afghanistan?"

A: "My brother, unfortunately, that which we sought to avoid has already befallen us... with the help of Allah, after the withdrawal, only the supporters of al-Tawheed will remain."

Q: "Do you collaborate with the mujahideen in Afghanistan?"

A: "By Allah, I don't know."

Q: "Is there a way to free our prisoners?"

A: "Yes, like what happened in Badoush and Abu Ghraib and many other places."

Q: "Do you have relations with any governments outside Iraq?"

A: "Yes, the Taliban government."