

IRAQ Cyber Monitor™

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“The ‘Submission’ Party suspends all its contacts with the Americans following the assassination of a leader in Hamas of Iraq”

ANALYSIS: This October 26, 2008 thread, which appeared on the Faloja chat room forum, presents a report of an American raid on houses belonging to leading members of the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP). The IIP is a predominantly Sunni Islamist party that is part of the current Shia-dominated government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. The Faloja forum is affiliated with the branch of the insurgency that supports violent jihad and the Islamic State of Iraq (ISOI), an organization that represents the radical Islamist strain of the Iraqi insurgency and which maintains links to al-Qaeda (AQ) in Iraq and other violent salafi movements. Members of the Faloja forum have been scathingly critical of the IIP for participating in what they see as a Shia-led puppet regime that is beholden to U.S. and Iranian interests, which include dividing Iraq and undermining Sunni influence in the country. Commentary from the forum condemns the Islamic Party together with the Americans (2, 3). Hamas of Iraq has no relation to the Palestinian Islamist movement that also goes by the same name. Boldface text is presented below as it appeared online.

TRANSLATION:

The Iraqi Islamic Party headed by Tariq al-Hashemi, vice president of the Republic, announced on Saturday the suspension of ‘all its official contacts’ with the Americans after an American and Iraqi force raided a house near Fallujah, leading to the arrest of five others, whom the party said were leading members in the party.

The American army said that the operation it carried out resulted in the arrest of a leader in the armed groups that fight against the American presence and the death of another. A statement by the party, which is the most prominent entity in the bloc of the Parliamentary Consensus Front, said that ‘a large number of American soldiers along with forces of the Iraqi

About Helios Global’s Iraq Cyber Monitor

Understanding the complexities of war, politics, and society in Iraq requires a nuanced approach that takes into account new media such as extremist Web sites and chat room forums. With this in mind, Helios Global developed the Iraq Cyber Monitor, an unclassified open-source intelligence product designed to help illuminate the situation in Iraq from a militant perspective through translation and expert analysis of Arabic-language primary source material that appears online.

To learn more about the Iraq Cyber Monitor or Helios Global’s other capabilities, please visit our Web site at www.heliosglobal.com or write to contact@heliosglobalinc.com.

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army approached from outside the province (Anbar) with heavy air cover and in a military operation lasting hours raided a group of households in the Halabsa region near Fallujah on Friday.

The statement added that the operation 'lead to the arrest of five men, while a sixth was martyred, killed in his bed in cold blood, and that all of those ... are leading members in the Iraqi Islamic Party in Fallujah'

The statement said: 'in light of that, the Iraqi Islamic Party has decided to suspend all official civilian and military contacts with the Americans until the party receives a convincing explanation of what happened, accompanied by an official apology. The statement added that the party is demanding that the American army 'offer the aggressors up to justice, commit to stopping the campaign of harassment to which the party is subjected, compensate the victims, and release the five detainees immediately.' The party said in its statement: 'The hostility of the American forces to the Iraqi Islamic Party in Anbar in general and Fallujah in particular has become real and clear The hidden political objectives behind it are clear to any neutral observer.'

The American army said in a statement on Friday that **a joint force of the American and Iraqi army carried out the operation and that it had targeted a military leader in Hamas, which is the abbreviated name for the armed groups calling themselves the Islamic Resistance Movement, which target the foreign presence in the country in their operations.**

(2) The spell has turned against the magician, and the Rejectionists and their Crusader brothers have turned against the Sahwaji 'Ijrami' ['criminal,' a play on 'Islamic'] Party and the 'Ijrami' Army, dog of the Crusaders – may God's curse be on them all.

(3) O, God, strike the oppressors by means of the oppressors. O, God, destroy the Hamas of hypocrisy, the dogs of Jami, and the 'Submission' Party. O, God, turn the Americans against the 'Submission' Party and the 'Submission' Army.



Caption above reads: "In spite of the subjugation, the pain, the homelessness and the hardships...I will live with my head held high, even though I were wrapped in a shroud....The Islamic State of Iraq"

"An appeal to the brothers in the Islamic Faloja and Boraq al-Jaysh al-Islami [the Islamic Army] networks"

ANALYSIS: This October 26, 2008 thread, presented but not initiated on the Boraq forum, appeals for the administrators of the mutually hostile Boraq and Faloja forums to ban discussion threads which criticize the fighters and members of both organizations, and for a reconciliation among the groups for the sake of furthering their common goal of ending the occupation. The Boraq forum is popular among supporters of the Iraqi and Arab nationalist strain of the Iraqi insurgency that includes the Islamic Army in Iraq (IAI). In contrast, Faloja represents the radical Islamist strain that is aligned with groups such as ISOI and AQ. Some responses are supportive (2); a response by a Boraq administrator supports reconciliation in principle but takes the opportunity to attack the Faloja forum (3).

TRANSLATION:

... My honorable brothers in the Islamic Faloja and Boraq al-Jaysh al-Islami networks, administration, supervisors, and members

I address my appeal to you, you guardians of the media fronts and voice of the mujahideen which chants the truth, in a brief message ... which I hope you will lend an ear to, for God knows the integrity of my intention

My dear brothers in al-Faloja and Boraq al-Jaysh al-Islami, no one exaggerates when he describes your role in supporting the jihad and its people and the support you offer for your brothers the mujahideen in the land of glory, Mesopotamia (may God restore it to its people vaunting the banner of tawheed). You have transmitted the news of the mujahideen and their attacks; you have broken the suffocating blockade imposed by the sons of the Cross and their Rejectionist supporters; and you have carried the torches of true religion and the cry of truth to disperse the darkness of the occupation and break its bonds on the media: God reward you. Our supplications for you are that the Lord of the Throne of Glory will supply you and empower you over your enemies

My dear friends ... what breaks the hearts of the muwahhideen [those who declare tawheed, the oneness of God] and the supporters of the mujahideen is to see the threads which slander this group, and which spread the fire sparked by revilers in the chat rooms in malicious ways for which they have practiced and trained. The biggest disaster is how some of the brothers are pulled into these threads which insult the State and the Army, and which embolden them against the mujahideen in Iraq to a degree bordering rudeness, malice, and offensiveness.

My honorable brothers, I single out the administration of Faloja and al-Boraq ... to initiate a ban on topics that slander the Islamic State of Iraq and the Islamic Army on both their forums and Web sites to deter the defamers, the ignorant, the foolish, and the careless, that this may be a sign of goodness leading to reconciliation and the cessation of hatred and dissension, and that all this may lead to victory from God

Your brother ...



The logo in the lower left corner represents the Islamic Army in Iraq (IAI)

Please forward the message to the brothers in al-Faloja and Boraq al-Jaysh al-Islami

(2) O, God, unite their hearts ... unite their ranks, and give them victory over the nation of heretics.

(3) [Faloja administrator] By God, brothers, we have sworn by the Lord of the seven heavens and the earth that we will not frustrate our brothers the mujahideen because we are among them, and we support them with everything we possess; we are on the lookout for anyone allowing himself to be tempted into slandering the mujahideen whoever they may be. However, we address a message to anyone with a criticism, real request for clarification, or clear request whose objective is not to defame either directly or indirectly, to send a private message to the website administrators ... and it will be forwarded conscientiously to whom the matter concerns, God willing!

However, recently we have seen an ugly, scathing attack, and by God it is no deviation from the truth to say that the forum [Fallujah] is falsely named for the pure mujahid city which has dealt and still deals the adherents of heresy the most bitter of defeats.

I ask God to correct them, but there is no comparison between the 'Aloja' ['infidel,' a play on Faloja] forms and Boraq al-Jaysh al-Islami, even if you find that it is on the level of reaction and retribution by me and my fellow administrators in writing it and not keeping silence about it. However, you will find long threads stained with the blood of the mujahideen; we see them snatching at the flesh of the mujahideen in talk that has no basis in truth—mere opinions, fancies, and devilish interpretations. I say this with regret, for we find [these threads] numbering ten or more pages! I ask God to end the hatred and unite all the righteous ones who struggle [jihad] to support the faith and the cause of Truth ...!

“The jihadist Nakhba [Elite] Media presents: The text of an interview with the War Minister in the Islamic State of Iraq”

ANALYSIS: This October 24, 2008 thread on the Hanein forum presents the full text of an interview with Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, the war minister for the ISOI; in response to 18 questions, he offers the ISOI's perspective on the background to the organization of the ISOI, its relations with other insurgent factions, the criticism leveled against it for its heavy-handed treatment of Sunni opponents which led to the creation of the Awakening Councils, and its involvement in terrorism outside Iraq. Abu Hamza takes credit for the failed terrorist attack against the airport in Scotland in June 2007 and also threatens the United Kingdom, United States, and Australia with future strikes. Blue text is presented below as it appeared online.

TRANSLATION:

...1. [Honorable Sheikh, can you summarize for us the circumstances which preceded your declaration of the Islamic State?](#)

... First, everyone should know, as we have asserted again and again, that we are fighting to exalt the word of God, and this cannot be except through governance and command, so the establishment of the Islamic State in Iraq was a goal for us all since we fired the first shot against the occupier and its supporters

From the political standpoint, the Kurds became independent in a state in the North, while the voices of the Badr Brigade and its allies were ascendant in the federation of the central and south ... so the political scene is that the Kurds have an enterprise, and the Rejectionists have an enterprise, so the Islamic State is our enterprise for the Sunnis

2. [The consensus of the people is that you should have waited until the occupier's departure before agreeing on the declaration of the Islamic State, so what is your response?](#)

We have said before that we reached the same point that we had been planning on for a long time; the strange thing is that those with the corrupt programs and calling for nationalism had reached the same conclusion; they wanted to pick the fruit of jihad which we had watered with our blood and protected with our lives. We received confirmed reports of a conspiracy

being woven by the Islamic Party with a party in the 'honest' resistance ... to declare a Sunni region under the Rejectionist state on the pretext that its governance would be independent and would protect the rights of the Sunnis. The Americans were willing, even pushing in this direction; there was another attempt by another party, but less serious than the first, so a critical decision was necessary, and that is what happened.

Also, timing [a declaration] with the departure of the occupier was proven by the experience in Afghanistan to be the worst timing, which we fully recognized. Some parties were storing weapons and preparing security groups for the day when the occupier would leave; they would launch one missile and hoard 10. We learned this from some who repented and swore allegiance to us ... sometimes they would shout that the day to fight against us was approaching After the departure of the occupier, the equation would be: a group of secularists, nationalists, and Baathists which had not exerted itself in real fighting would have the money, weapons, and men, while the mujahideen in the path of God would leave exhausted with wounds, having used up their money and weapons, and the outcome of the equation in this case: a nationalist secular government and the removal of the faith and its people; this is what has happened in all the conflicts which have occurred in modern times when its fruit – the fruit of jihad- fell into malicious hands as in Algeria, Egypt, the Maghreb, and Pakistan; praise God, the enterprise of the Islamic State has foiled all their plans

3. Did you move toward contacting the resistance groups before declaring the State?

God witnesses that we tried to, and all the groups know this perfectly well except for one faction which was completely involved in the political process ... unfortunately, we were unable to meet with some of them before the declaration of the State ... the call was first of all for an alliance of good people; we believed that such an alliance could not be deterred ... even after the declaration of the state, we contacted them and continued to say: '... this is your enterprise and the enterprise of the Community ... we have given up the names of our groups and abandoned their individual commands for the welfare of this great enterprise.' We told everyone: 'our hearts are open to all criticism and modification pertaining to this enterprise, there are only two matters we cannot go back on: the State and its emir

The response of the emir of Jaysh al-Mujahideen [Army of the Mujahideen] ... 'Sheikh, if we don't all come to this enterprise, then I am one of your soldiers ... and we exchanged gifts, but three months after this meeting he suddenly turned around and started issuing fatwas [religious rulings] authorizing the killing of the brothers and allying with the Sahwat Nevertheless, our hands and hearts remained open to members of Jaysh al-Mujahideen, for we realized that some of them were displeased with the actions of their emirs

As for the Twenties Revolution, we informed them of the declaration of the enterprise, but did not invite them because their call is to nationalism, while our call is to Islam Nevertheless, we fought most of their soldiers and emirs after the declaration of the State, side by side with the Sahwat, although we are sure that their general command did not order them to do this

4. After the declaration, did any of the jihadist groups pledge allegiance to the State?

If the enemies have told the truth, the self-styled Salih al-Mutlaq came out on one of the satellite states sounding the alarm and warning the Americans and the apostates: "that the resistance groups are fading in favor of al-Qaeda," and that was the case, for in the first weeks of the State's declaration, around one thousand fighters joined the State's army; praise God, we absorbed more than 80 percent of the mujahideen on the ground from all the groups without exception.

5. Did a group of tribal sheikhs really pledge their loyalty to the State?

We could honestly say that 70 percent of the Sunni tribal sheikhs pledged loyalty to the Islamic State and its emir, after entering into an alliance; we have a considerable number of those pledges written and recorded

6. Did you force the people and the armed groups into pledging loyalty to the Islamic State?

The enterprise of the Islamic State is new to the Community; its rulings are mysterious to many of the scholars, so what about the general public? We do not oblige or force the people to do anything which they do not deduce [from the Sharia] All that we did was

to organize operations in the areas liberated by the State's soldiers with their blood; after we liberated the areas, many people rush there, and we suddenly find them there ... some of them want to launch rockets against the enemy from heavily populated areas ... while some take advantage of the security and protection to bring prisoners and sacrifice them In organizing operations inside these operations, we did some things which angered some people and which they considered as forcing them to swear loyalty, but by God it is not so...

As for the claim of some that they had the victory and power in those areas, is it reasonable that the weak should compel the strong? For undoubtedly victory belonged to the State of Islam and its men, which gives us the legal [Shari'] right to organize our affairs there

8. Some claim that you target the general Sunni public, the tribal sheikhs, the leaders of prayer in the mosques, and officers in the former Iraqi army; what is your response?

People have thrown amazing descriptions of great crimes against us, and accused us of excess, ignorance, permitting the shedding of inviolate blood ... they have even said that we are not circumcised; according to them or some of them, we do not belong to the community of Muslims. We have suffered not because of the occupying heretic and his mercenary helpers ... but rather have we suffered and grieved for those whom we consider our base, our support, the keepers of our honor

Regarding the lie that we target the general Sunni public, where are the men of our army from? And who has embraced our jihad? Who has stood in the face of the occupier? Are they not the general Sunni public? Isn't it stupid to say that we target the father, the uncle, the brother, the tribe ...? And are we Buddhists or Majis [Zoroastrians] to target the leaders of prayer, the lamps of guidance and the lights of righteousness ...? And why do our brothers think well of themselves but not of us? Isn't it enough that the blood of our men has flowed in streams for you to know the rightness of our course and the truth of our approach? Unless you or others reject – and I don't think so – our right to kill a collaborating sheikh like the sheikhs of the Sahwat or an imam [prayer leader] for heresy and apostasy; these we are honored to behead Did you not rejoice in the death of Abu Reesha or the apostate al-Jubaili?

9. You are accused of trying to cause a civil war in Iraq on the evidence of Sheikh Abu Musab's...letter to Sheikh Osama ... circulated in the media by the Americans; what do you say?

First ... the organization [al-Qaeda] was trying to repel the Magi Rejectionist aggression against the Sunnis which began ... the first day that the occupier entered No infant or helpless sheikh was safe from their criminality; they demolished our mosques, burned our homes, and insulted our dignity, so we had no choice but to repel the aggression of those criminals. We targeted their leading figures and broke their army ... we stood with the people of our faith with all that we possess; we gave them weapons and encouraged them to remain steadfast; we showed them the danger of those Magi

11. Is it true that you use a lot of martyrdom [suicide] operations without a real military justification?

... The leaders in the field determine this, for they know best how to fight and what is required for the struggle to protect the blood of their brothers and the blood of the Muslims; anyway, dozens of the operations which are announced as martyrdom operations are not really so.

12. Do you urge women and children to perform martyrdom operations?

This is a scandalous lie. Regarding children, we do not accept anyone who has not reached puberty into our army. As for women, the ruling [according to the Sharia] on jihad for women in a jihad of defense is known; nevertheless, the Emir of the Believers has time and again said that we do not permit a woman to carry out a martyrdom operation except in cases where men cannot do so, and on condition that her religion and her honor are safe from the slightest harm and with the greatest care and security precautions for her. Any commander who disregards these conditions is subjected to the Sharia court...Also, the malicious media scares people with this subject, for most of the operations which the enemy states are carried out by women are a lie and falsification, and the objective of this is known: to affront the honor of the Sunnis.

13. Some accuse you of being the reason for the Sahwat project – what is the degree of truth in that?

We have previously stated that the real reason behind the Sahwat project is the existence of the Islamic State ... for after the declaration of the State, the Islamic enterprise converged with the nationalist enterprise, which have been adopted nearly all across the spectrum in Iraq It is nothing strange that all these blocs have been formed following the declaration of the Islamic State

14. Would you accept the repentance of the Sahwat?

Of course, for the door of repentance is open, which the Emir of the Believers has stated time and again; however, this must be in accordance with the established Sharia principles for the repentance of apostate armed groups

15. You are accused of having a relationship with the Iranian regime, as testified by the case of the Iranian consul who was released ...

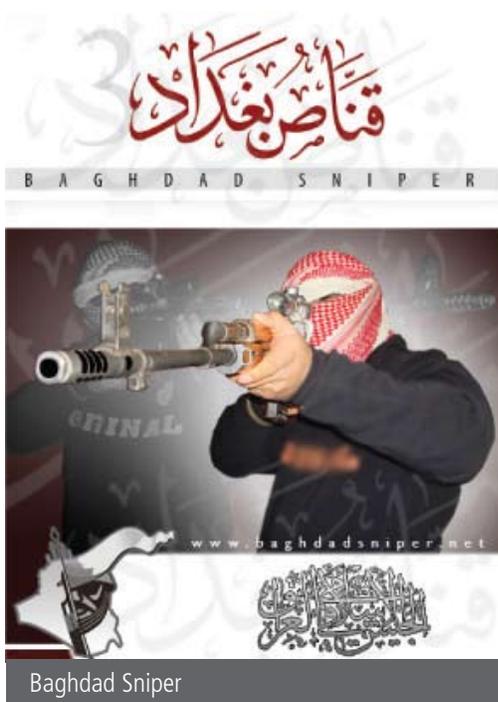
This is a futile lie which blew back in the face of those who told it, for we targeted three Iranian diplomats near the Karaj hospital; we targeted the Iranian embassy several times; we targeted a group of Iranian intelligence operatives in Karbala, and the account of the destruction of their bus is known”

16. This leads us to another question: Do you have military actions outside Iraq, in western countries for example? Do you intend to target western interests?

The Cross is fighting us on our own doorstep, so shouldn't we fight it on its doorstep? All the countries which have participated in their aggression against Iraq and their crimes against our people are a legitimate target for us Then, we have indeed carried out many actions outside Iraq; we mention in particular the latest operation in Britain, which was partially carried out against the airport, but the rest of which was not carried out due to a mistake made by one of the brothers days before the operation, for he made contact and informed that the operation was about to take place. However, we tell the leaders of Britain, America, and Australia of what is coming ... for by God's help they will not be able to deter it or discover it

(2) O, God, support our brothers the mujahideen in the Islamic State of Iraq and their brothers in Mesopotamia. O, God, support our brothers the mujahideen everywhere”

(3) O, God, guide the leaders of the jihad to the Truth and unite their hearts; put fitna [internal dissension] under the feet of the mujahideen



Baghdad Sniper



“The Jihadist Nakhba Media/the text of the speech by the Emir of the Believers: The eulogy of the martyr Abu Qaswara al-Maghrebi”

ANALYSIS: This October 22, 2008 thread presents the text of a speech given by Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, the purported leader of the ISOI on the occasion of the death of the senior ISOI commander in Mosul, Abu Qaswara, a Swedish citizen. In accordance with the glorification of martyrdom among radical Islamists, al-Baghdadi congratulates Abu Qaswara for being considered worthy of martyrdom and urges his fellow militants to follow his example in turning their backs on their homes and loved ones for God’s sake, and to avenge his loss by continuing their violent struggle against ‘heretics and apostates.’

TRANSLATION:

... The Most High has said: ‘Do not reckon those who have been killed in the path of God as dead, but living and provided for with their Lord, rejoicing in what God has given them of His grace ...’ We offer condolences and congratulations to the men of the State of Islam, especially the knights of the North, on the martyrdom of one of the luminaries of the State, a skilled builder zealous of its construction; the great, beloved knight, Abu Qaswara, has dismounted from the steed of glory to mount the steed of honor.

The departure of Abu Qaswara, the Emir of the North, was painful and harsh, but I rejoice for him because I know that he desired and strove to die in this path, the path of jihad and the belief in tawheed, without alternative, change, or exaggeration. I rejoiced because God has dignified him and chosen him for martyrdom, among his soldiers saying to them with the most truthful tongue: ‘Here I, your Emir, fight and detonate my explosive belt in defense of my faith, adhering to my path, working according to the instructions of my emir; let whoever loves us hold fast to his faith, take up the banner, and move the ranks forward saying ‘the eyes of the cowards shall not sleep.’

Abu Qaswa [sic] died as a martyr ... after a long journey on the path of jihad which began in the camps of Afghanistan, for all knew Talha al-Maghrebi as one who loved those who kept the faith even if they were miserly and cowardly, and hated those who corrupted it even if they were generous and brave.

Abu Qaswara tossed his Swedish nationality into the trash bin, which is one whose shiny tidbits many desire; he did not rely on a European wife and five children as beautiful as the moon; indeed, he left them although he loved them ... he did not see his children in three years, but after removing them to a place where he calculated they would be closer to their Guardian then in the land of heresy.

This is the creed for which he was concerned and for which he fought, and for the cause of which he died: ‘There is no god but God, Muhammed is the messenger of God.’

Stand firm, you knights of the North and men of the State of Islam, in what our beloved Abu Qaswara died for, for it is a shame in a knight to be enticed by a beautiful wife or a child crying at his feet ... Abu Qaswara died leaving behind his brothers, men who know how to avenge his blood; he loved them and they loved him; he honored them and they honored him; let them not remain idle after him and neglect to avenge him.

Let whoever loved the martyr, followed his path, and suffered at his death, be righteous and fight ... to avenge his brother and kill any heretic, whether an apostate or an occupying heretic, for I know that your leader used to love the blood of the collaborators and traitors, especially the ‘Satanic’ Party

Your brother Abu Omar al-Qirshi al-Baghdad

Your brothers in

The jihadist Nakhba Media

(2) We ask God to let him dwell in His heavens; O, God, provide us what you have provided to our brother, O, Lord of the worlds.

(3) May God Most High have mercy on him and keep our emir Abu Omar.



Caption above reads: "Urgent: The end for the tyrant Bush. The end of submissiveness to the West and Zionism in the first days of the New Year...Great rejoicing reigns throughout the world and especially the Arab world...Western disapproval at the timing of Bush's death"

"A martyrdom operation against the convoy of the Minister for Labor and Social Affairs in Baghdad"

ANALYSIS: This October 24, 2008 thread presents the report of a suicide attack targeting a senior member of the Iraqi government which caused many civilian casualties. Operations resulting in harm to civilians have cost the Iraqi insurgency much of its popularity; response from the forum expresses skepticism that radical Islamists were involved (3, 6); one eyewitness to the event speculated that an American convoy was the intended target (2); another respondent criticized the use of the term 'suicide bomber' rather than 'martyrdom seeker' in reference to the attack (5).

TRANSLATION:

'Baghdad/The Voices of Iraq: In Baghdad, according to an Iraqi police source, a martyrdom seeker with a wired vehicle targeted the convoy of the Minister for Labor and Social Affairs, Mahmoud al-Sheikh Radhi, on Thursday in Tahrir Square, causing the death of 10 people including three of the Minister's bodyguards, and the wounding of 20 others. Meanwhile, in Diyala, according to a police source, a woman was killed and another man and woman were injured in accidental shooting by the American forces in ... central Ba'qouba.'

(2) The explosion happened in front of me – at 8 o'clock in the morning a blue landcruise [sic] car at the Sharji Gate, Tahrir Square. I was in the car on the Jumhurriya ['Republic'] Bridge – before I got off the bridge, the terrible explosion happened right before my eyes. I think the suicide bomber was targeting a convoy of the Americans because as soon as the Americans got off the bridge, the explosion happened. A lot of people died in the explosion because the Sharji Gate is crowded in the morning.

- (3) ... Is this operation is intended to distort the image of the mujahideen, or is one of the factions behind it?
- (4) [In response to #1] True, my honored brother – after this explosion an IED exploded against the police, in other words, there was an IED explosion.
- (5) [In response to #2] [W]hen the word ‘suicide bomber’ comes out of the mouth of someone claiming to support the mujahideen, instead of the word ‘martyr’! Fear God, my brother.
- (6) [T]he operation has not been claimed by anyone – it may be a settling of scores among the Rejectionists [Shia] themselves; maybe nobody blew himself up, maybe it’s a device and nothing more. Not every report can be believed, my honored brother.



Caption above reads: "You will view 135 jihadist operations in the 10th video release of the Islamic Army in Iraq: Khams Hamiya ... The Islamic Army in Iraq represents the Iraqi nationalist strain of the Sunni Arab insurgency.

"An appeal to the mujahid factions: Beware the repentant Sahwat"

ANALYSIS: The subject of the Awakening Councils appears frequently in the extremist forums; supporters of violent jihad in Iraq have long acknowledged the damage done to their cause by the Sahwat, many of whose members were formerly members of insurgent factions. This October 18, 2008 thread speculates on the role of the Sahwat as the Iraqi government takes over responsibility for the Councils from the American forces. The writer warns jihadist supporters that Sahwat members who find no satisfactory role in the reformed armed forces or civilian bureaucracy will try to re-join the insurgent factions, and urges the factions to develop a system to identify and screen out such "repentant" Sahwat members on the grounds that they will be used as spies. Response from the forum ranges from agreement that those who have fought against the mujahideen should never again be trusted (6) to support for their re-admittance into the insurgency because repentance and forgiveness are fundamental tenets of Islam (2, 4, 5). One response inadvertently illustrates the interchangeability of the extremist forums (3). Red and blue text is presented below as it appeared online.

TRANSLATION:

... First, the writing of this article was postponed for when the blessed Hanein network was restored, praise God for its safe return.

All of us see now, following the handover of the Sahwat file to the Safavid [Iranian] government and its adherents, that it wants to close the Sahwat file permanently.

Furthermore, we know that the Rejectionists [Shia] do not want any Sunni force to be armed, whether the mujahideen or even those belonging to the Sahwat who have sold themselves for the dollar. Also, the government has made clear that only 20 percent of the Sahwat will be absorbed into the police force and the army, and the rest can keep their phosphorous bands to work as laborers in cleaning or any civilian jobs, under the command naturally of Rejectionist or pro-Zionist Kurdish managers

Some of the factions' sector commanders [emirs] will reject them for several reasons: for rebelling against them, for killing their mujahideen, or for lack of trust in them because whoever betrays once may betray again; while some others among these Sahwat will feel longing for a faction which they split off from and try to come back to the faction. Of course, returning is easy because some of the sector commanders may feel sorry for him, forgive him, and let him bear arms again. This has happened in fact, as the spokesman for the Sa'ad [bin Abu Waqqas] Army mentioned in an interview about the repentance of some of the Sahwat, and here is the great disaster.

The Americans will not give up on them as easily as you imagine; they are not so foolish as to abandon the Sahwat this way, or abandon their collaborators in this fashion. You will see what they will do with them and what the second chapter of this novel is – !! It is to delude the factions into believing they have repented and returned to their former work; indeed, they may raise their weapons in the Americans' face, but indirectly, for their filthy role will be [to spy on the mujahid factions](#).

Yes, my brothers and sisters, this is their next role; the Americans will be informed of where the IEDs are planted; they will inform the Americans when the mortars will be launched at them; they will inform the Americans when and where the incursions will happen; indeed, they will tell the Americans where the mujahideen are. Do you understand now the filthy next role of the Sahwat? If anyone refuses them and doesn't let them return to the sectors where the mujahideen are located, they will go to other sectors, other provinces, or even other factions. Do you see the coming disaster for the mujahideen?

Now let's come to the solution: The first solution: It may be impossible or nearly so, but the mujahideen do not acknowledge the impossible; if they wanted to continue, it's a proposed option to coordinate among the factions regarding the names of those who have split off from them and joined the Sahwat, in lists distributed among the factions and the sectors or on the Net. Or they can leak them out without mentioning the name of the faction if they are worried about exposure on the internet, under another sign-on name and without mentioning the faction, preferably with a picture because the name may be falsified.

I have told you that this may be nearly impossible, but it is not impossible.

The second solution: for the Sahwat which really want to repent to come together from the different provinces and form a faction or front ... if they want to fight the Americans again; this is the solution I view as most sound, because the trust between them and their factions has been shaken, and their hands have been soiled with the blood of the mujahideen, and we should count this against them.

Your brother/ Abu Omar al-Kurdi

(2) A simple observation which should be mentioned: in a release two years ago by the State of Islam, a number of individuals from the police, the army, and the Sahwah repented, and the State accepted this. A number of factions do so, and not the Sa'ad bin Abu Waqqas Army. The idea should be clear, so that those who sow fitna [dissension, chaos] do not take it as an opening to attack the honor of the mujahideen from the Sa'ad bin Abu Waqqas Army. This should be clarified. This is the first thing Then, my brother, God is the Forgiving, the Merciful, so should we forbid them from repenting? If they are sincere and wish to repent, then welcome them again; let them take the oath and be checked out according to the intelligence practices of every faction.

Thirdly, my brother, regarding display on the Internet, I don't think that's a good idea for the same reason as the above point, and also to protect his family and return this repentant one to God. God bless you, it's a good topic...

(1b) ... What is expressed in my article is my point of view, for the situation in Iraq is very grave, and the jihad is on the point of collapsing. I will explain this, my honorable brother, in another article, God willing, in the coming days The intent ... of this article is for the mujahid factions to be careful and take precautions, but as for the case of the Sahwaji names, this would be among the factions, with coordination among them.

'The believer is not stung from the same hole twice.'

(3) That's amazing, for ten minutes I've been thinking 'where's the response to this topic' –

I remembered I responded to it on Faloja [another extremist network], and it's here – I got mixed up between Faloja and Hanein – greetings, my brother, God bless you.

(4) The repentant should be dealt with according to the rules and precepts of the Islamic Sharia, taking into consideration the degree and level of his fault, for the life story of the Prophet is full of stories of the repentant, which should be the first criterion for dealing with [them], apart from either exaggeration or neglect; we can view the repentant from different angles: 1- The Sharia view drawn from the Book [the Quran] and the Sunna [model of the Prophet]; 2- The realistic view drawn from the current reality, taking into account the time, place, advantage and disadvantage; 3- the individuality of each repentant person, his position, personality, the extent of his effect on his people, and the degree to which they obeyed him. God knows best.

(5) ... First of all, the door of repentance is open to all, for God knows best what one's intentions are. However, practical arrangements are necessary on the ground. The first thing is for the repentant one to turn over all his weapons to the mujahideen and give them all the information he knows which may benefit the mujahideen. Then the request of this repentant one should be studied; if he is truthful, he may be accepted and given a precious opportunity to disown his apostasy, or if he is not accepted, the mujahideen may in that case be spared more of his wickedness

(6) I don't think that anyone can trust them after what they have done. May God reward you for this article, my brother



Caption above reads: "You will meet the adversary with God, Abu Hassan, so there is no fear neither sadness." The graphic represents the IA.

"God is great—one of the mujahideen carries out a bold, distinctive operation"

ANALYSIS: This October 25, 2008 thread on the Hanein forum presents a news item, unreported in the mainstream media, of an attack by an individual insurgent on a private security convoy which allegedly resulted in the destruction of a vehicle and the death of all its passengers. According to the story, bystanders challenged the police who attempted to detain the insurgent and enabled his escape. The apparent purpose of this report is to counter the impression that the insurgency is weakening and losing popular support. Response from the forum expresses approval (2).

TRANSLATION:

A resistance fighter attacks a security company convoy and destroys one of its four-wheel-drive vehicles with thermal grenade

The Haqq [Truth] Agency – special report

In a bold, distinctive operation which confirms the strong presence of the resistance factions and the courage of the sons of occupied Iraq who flock to their banner, but which received

no response in any of the local, Arab, or foreign media, eyewitnesses told a correspondent for the Haqq Agency ... that a resistance fighter had attacked the convoy of one of the private foreign security companies in Iraq, destroyed one of its four-wheeled vehicles, and killed all the elements of the company aboard it; this was in the Dhalu'iyya area of north Baghdad.

They added that the resistance fighter had attacked the convey as it was passing along the main street in the Khazraj district of Dhalu'iyya at 11 a.m. last Sunday, using a thermal grenade which burned and destroyed one of the convoy's vehicles and killed all on board. According to eyewitnesses, they may have numbered no less than three or four people belonging to the security company. They stated that the convoy did not stop after the attack and left the destroyed vehicle and their dead colleagues, moving on for fear of being subjected to another attack.

They revealed that forces from the government police came to the place of the attack and tried to capture the resistance fighter who had carried it out, but the people of the Khazraj area close to the place challenged them, asking: 'Why do you want to capture the resistance fighter? He targeted the occupation and its mercenaries, he didn't target you.' The police responded: 'He carried out the attack in a civilian area and exposed their lives to danger.' The local people answered: 'We are the civilians, and we are pleased and happy at what the resistance fighter did; we won't let you capture him at any cost.' When the police found themselves in a difficult position ... they withdrew and abandoned the matter, enabling the resistance fighter to withdraw to an unknown place after carrying out an operation which generated a wave of joy among the people and joined the scenes of great courage and sacrifice ... which reflect the true image of the armed Iraqi resistance factions, which the occupation and their allies are trying to distort by all possible means."

(2) God is great – a lovely report. May God support the mujahideen.



“The founding statement for a union of forces to liberate Iraq”

ANALYSIS: This October 12, 2008 report on the Rafidain [Mesopotamia] Web site affiliated with the Baathist nationalist strain of the insurgency announces the formation of a front calling itself the Union of Forces for the Liberation of Iraq, and itemizes the front’s founding principles. The Web site has a news format which permits commentary, but does not include a chat forum. No comments were submitted in response to this statement.

TRANSLATION:

... To / our proud Iraqi people

To: The Arab and Islamic communities and all the forces which love freedom and peace and believe in Iraq’s right to liberation, independence, and sovereignty

For five years, our people have suffered under the yoke of the Anglo-American occupation and what has come out of it: a divisive constitution, abhorrent sharing arrangements, looting of our wealth, violation of our dignity, killing, exile, marginalization, uprooting, and exclusion; this has been met with five years of fighting by our free Iraqi people and its forces which oppose and resist the occupation for salvation from this historic hardship. It has not lost one day without fighting the occupier, its projects and outcomes, and it has lacked nothing but unity under the tent of working for the nation. Working as a front has become an objective, historic necessity required by the war of liberation before it can take on a political or ideological form; on this basis, independent nationalist forces, parties, movements, and individuals have been motivated to constitute their union, pledging among themselves and the people not to withhold anything in the cause of their freedom, sovereignty, and unity, and declaring the following principles:

1. Absolute rejection of the occupation and foreign influence, rejection of all the consequences resulting from its insolence, and working to end it.
2. Rejection of all agreements and treaties which infringe upon the sovereignty and independence of Iraq and loot its national wealth, holding them void and illegal.
3. Support for resistance to the occupation by all available means.
4. Affirmation of Iraq’s territorial unity and the unity of its people and its Islamic, Arab identity, and rejection of the political process based on sectarian and ethnic sharing arrangements.
5. Guaranteeing the rights of the Kurds, Turkmens, Assyrians, Yazidis, and Sabeans...and complete, perfect equality for all the Iraqis in accordance with the rights and duties of citizenship.
6. Rejection of the terrorism practiced by the occupying states, including terrorism by the state, by the parties represented under the banner of the occupation, and by the other organizations which target the life, property, and security of the Iraqi people.
7. The union believes in the national liberation project on the basis of liberation, democracy, and the establishment of a state of law, the peaceful transition of authority, and guaranteeing human rights and public freedoms.
8. The rebuilding of the Iraqi army on national, professional bases to protect Iraq’s independence and sovereignty and defend its interests; the dissolution of the militias as operating outside the framework of the law.
9. Iraq’s commitment to membership in the United Nations and the Arab League while concurrently moving to build fraternal relations with Arab regions and establishing good-neighborly relations with other states on the principle of guaranteeing shared interests and mutual respect for sovereignty; the rejection of foreign intervention in Iraq’s affairs by any party or through any means.

For the sake of liberation and independence ... the union ... invites all bearing the title of opposition and resistance to the occupation to unite, cooperate, and coordinate according to these principles, and its door remains open to them.

To our patient, struggling [mujahid] people: the emergence of the union of the forces for the liberation of Iraq has taken place at a time when the people are up to their necks in troubles, but we affirm our complete confidence that the darkness of occupation and subjugation is passing, by the power of the Lord of glory, by the blood of the martyrs, and by the efforts of the well-doers; the duration of wickedness is only an hour, while your turn, the turn of Truth lasts to the Final Hour.

The Union of Forces for the Liberation of Iraq

Baghdad/20 October/2008

20 Shawwal 1429 [Hijri]



Caption above reads: "The Lions of Tawheed [declaring the Oneness of God]—How excellent the creed is, and how excellent this motto."

"One thousand and one pictures from the life of the mujahideen in the Sa'ad bin Abu Waqqas Army (the fifth installment)"

ANALYSIS: This October 18, 2008 thread on the Hanein forum presents the fifth installment in the release of archived photographs of the Sa'ad bin Abu Waqqas Army. Each release includes approximately three dozen photos; the date which appears most frequently is 2006, although several are undated. The release seems to be a public relations move by the insurgent faction; response from the forum expresses formulaic support (2). The photos are presented below as they appeared online.

TRANSLATION:

May God keep you, you lions of tawheed in the Sa'ad Army. May God ensure your aim and your victory over your enemies, the heretics and apostates.







