

Islamic State of Iraq Leader Abu-Umar Al-Baghdadi Pledges To 'Prevent' Elections

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On 12 February, a forum participant posted to a jihadist website links to a 34 minute, 23 second audio statement by the Commander of the Islamic State of Iraq, Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi. In the statement, Al-Baghdadi discusses the upcoming parliamentary elections in Iraq, saying that these elections "will be prevented in any way that is permissible and possible, at the forefront of which will be military recourse," and that what has been prepared to prevent these elections "is the greatest danger and most serious advance yet." The audio statement is produced by the Al-Furqan Media Establishment and disseminated by the Al-Fajr Media Center.

A translation of the audio statement follows:

"(Narrator) Al-Furqan Establishment (for Media Production) is happy to present an audio statement by the Commander of the Faithful, Shaykh Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi, may God protect him. The speech is entitled The Religious and Political Crime of the Election and Our Duty Toward It.

"Praise be to God. We praise him and seek refuge in him. He who is guided by God will not go astray, and he who goes astray, has no one to guide him. I testify that there is no god but God, and that Muhammad is his messenger.

"From Abu Omar al-Baghdadi to his uncles, brothers, and sons in Iraq, the land of abounding bounty and inherent kindness.

"(Al-Baghdadi) My address to you today is that of a son to his father, a brother to his brother, and a father to his children. It is an address filled with love, mercy, and compassion. Alas, it is the address of one who sees a dark danger and a torrential flood creeping up on his people and which is on the verge of destroying the land and the people, leaving nothing behind. A danger that brings between its folds a dark hatred and blind intolerance and a sick spirit induced by a corrupt and straying creed and a long conflict with our religion and our Iraq, together with a false exultation of victory.

"Brothers, we the Sunni people in Iraq, Arabs and non-Arabs, stand on the threshold of a dangerous phase to which nothing can compare. Either we remain noble and respectable, upright masters as we have always been, kings of the land and knights of the war, or be taken by the flood, the flood of the dark rejectionist hatred and the Crusader cunning. He who survives it can almost see the dead bodies of his children and brothers and the remnants of his crops and harvest, never to return. He hopes for life, humiliation and perdition undoubtedly coming to him. The danger lies in the fact that the rejectionist Shiites who turn to the Kiblah (the direction that should be faced when a Muslim prays) in deceit, but who originally are associated with the Magus, were seduced by the Crusader occupier's gathering against us with all his might. It killed our men, jailed our youths, looted our wealth, and empowered the march of the rejectionists on our homes, helped in that (endeavor) by a group of traitors and mercenaries devoid of reason and religion, among the sons and the upholders of the banner of Abu-Righal under the enticement of money, positions, and false power in the forums and satellite channels of indecency and vice.

"Today, we are witnessing a military, media, and psychological preparation for a farcical and

dangerous play called the parliamentary elections, whose first and final goal is to establish the agents of the Crusaders and the rejectionists over all of Iraq, to humiliate the Sunni people forever and drag them in the dirt, as is the case of the unfortunate Sunnis in Iran, in spite of their big number, the arduousness of their regions, the multitude of their tribes, and the strength of their economy, in addition to their control over nearly all the land and maritime passageways and borders of Iran.

"People, these elections are forbidden in the law of God. Moreover, they are political suicide and a comprehensive political crime.

"Worshippers of God, the pressure of the reality and the difficult conditions do not mean that the reality is the source of the rule. Rather it is the reality of the rule. If the Shari'ah forbids a concept or a method, then it is forbidden, and if people favor it and see salvation in it, let them know that salvation can only come from what was ordered by the Shari'ah.

"The idea of democratic elections that distinguishes it is the sovereignty of a people, whereas the core of our creed and religion is the sovereignty of the Shari'ah. The sovereignty of the people in the parliamentary electoral system consists of people exercising authority every four years. Its powers are limited to every region accrediting and selecting a person to become a member of the parliament, whom they call a legislator, who passes laws that please the people even if they contradict the rule of God. Here, there is a clear and evident contradiction of the word of the Most High. 'And this He commands: Judge thou between them by what Allah hath revealed, and follow not their vain desires, but beware of them lest they beguile thee from any of that (teaching) which Allah hath sent down to thee (Koranic verse, Al-Ma'idah, 5:49).'

"The deputies and the legislators are idols erected under a dome that submit to an unjust and wrongful law or constitution, which contradicts the Islamic law and many of the fundamentals of our true religion, and to which they refer in case of disagreements and when enacting and explicating any article or law. It is a religion that contradicts the religion of God, which called us to turn matters of disagreements to God. The Exalted said: 'O if ye differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to God and his messenger if you do believe in Allah and the last day (Koranic verse, Al-Nisa, 4:59).'

"The rule of God and referring matters to Him are among the obligations of religion and an assertion of the oneness of the Lord of the Worlds. It was narrated that Uday Bin Hatim (a Christian man who was one of his tribe's leaders) entered upon the messenger of God, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, and found him reciting the verse 'They took their rabbis and priests as lords besides God.' When Uday heard the verse, he told the prophet: 'They did not worship them,' to which the prophet answered: 'Yes, but they forbade what is allowed and allowed what has been forbidden.'

"Ibn-Kathir, may God's mercy be upon him, said: 'This is what was said by Hudhayfah Bin-al-Yaman and Abdullah Bin-Abbas and others in the interpretation of the verse, that they have followed them in what they allowed and forbade.'

"Al-Sudi said: 'They sought the advice of men and left the Book of God behind their backs.'

"As for the legislators, they are infidels without a doubt. Ibn-Kathir, may God's mercy be upon him, said in his interpretation of the words of the Exalted: 'If you were to obey them, you would indeed be pagans (Koranic verse, Al-An'am, 6:121),' meaning when you turned your backs from

the order of God and his law to someone else's law, and you gave precedence to others over him, this is polytheism.

"Al-Shinqiti, may God's mercy be upon him, said: 'It is understood from these verses without a doubt that he who follows the law of Satan, and favors his words over what the messenger came with, is a disbeliever in God, a worshipper of Satan, and one who regards Satan as God, even if Satan calls his followers what he wishes, for, as is known, the facts do not change simply by giving them names.'

"By God people, I do love you and I do love what is good for you and I am eager to protect you, but my eagerness to protect the integrity of your religion is more vehement than my eagerness to defend your world. If one comes to buy your religion, for how much would you sell it to him? Would you sell it for a barrel of oil or for enough (electricity) to light your house or for the whole world? Al-Dajjal (the Antichrist) will come one day, as it was announced by the prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, to buy your religion with gold, silver, rain, and grain. Would you sell it to him?

"If the answer is no, why do you willingly sell your religion to traitors for false promises of a life of ease, particularly when you have seen their lies many times? One should not be stung twice. You most noble people should not fall for the trick of these lying few as they falsely call it majority rule! Rather, it is a system that entrenches the rule of the mercenary minority -- the wealthy and the supported -- over the majority. Under this system, anyone over a certain age who registers has the right to elect who represents him in the most fortified of democracies. No more than 60 percent of those eligible register, and of them, no more than 70 percent go to the polls. On top of that, more than one person competes for a single seat. The result is that the winner was voted in by no more than 10 percent of the people! It is therefore truly the rule of the minority over the majority! To say that democracy is rule by the people is a lie and a great, baseless fabrication. The Magus, rejectionist Pharaoh today is employing the same trick used by the Pharaoh of Musa when he said of the prophet of God: 'His plan is to get you out of your land: then what is it ye counsel? (Koranic verse, Al-A'raf, 7:110).' He is fooling people into believing that they are partners in rule and decisionmaking!

"The political crime lies in that the Magus rejectionists today want a general authorization from us for a crime that is being plotted against us and aims to kill and divide us in the name of democracy and elections. The Magus have exploited their enormous media apparatus to deceive the Sunnis into believing that the elections are their salvation, and that they will solve all their problems. But by God, these elections are like the Golden Calf idol of the Israelites: wind blows through it and it lets out a noise that is of neither use nor harm. You, my people, are acting like the Israelites. You are spending your money and time to create an idol that harms you, but does not help you. Let your decisions regarding the liars and their god be (as is said in the Koran): 'We will certainly (melt) it in a blazing fire and scatter it broadcast in the sea! (partial Koranic verse, Al-Taha, 20:97).'

"So that the pillars of this crime could be completed, the rejectionists, with the support of the Christian occupation, united in strong blocs that guarantee they will remain in power. The Sunnis, on the other hand, joined this charade split asunder. The Sunni traitors and their collaborators crossed all boundaries and red lines, and they threw themselves into the arms of those who killed their sons and violated the honor of their women. They are the leaders of the Awakening Councils, which the media has always trumpeted as the enemies of the Safavid Iranians. Some of the downtrodden among our people believed them, and so they all willingly served the Persian Magus parties with no objections. Ali al-Hatim, whom the media calls Amir

of the Al-Dulaym tribe, joined the vile Da'wah Party, led by Nuri al-Maliki and his allies. Hamid al-Hayiss, the lying face, joined the bloodsucker of the (National) Iraq Alliance and the Badr Organization led by Ammar al-Hakim. Meanwhile, Ahmad Abu-Rishah, the stepchild of treachery and the infant of collaboration, chose to align with Jawad al-Bulani, the criminal of the Interior Ministry who continues to kill our people and violate our honor. He was joined in this cursed alliance by Ahmad Abd-al-Ghafur al-Samirra'i. Salih al-Mutlak set off a bomb when he joined the killer of the Sunnis in Fallujah, Ayad Allawi. They were joined by the liar of Mosul, the collaborator of the rejectionists, Usamah al-Nujayfi, who aroused the feelings of our people in the north with his words on the Kurds, although he is a shoe on the feet of the rejectionists.

"As for the traitors of the (Muslim Brotherhood), as we have come to know them, their religion is utilitarianism and lying. Their leaders and masters -- Tariq al-Hashimi, Rafi al-'Isawi, Dhafir al-Ani, Abd-al-Karim al-Samirra'i, and Salam al-Zawba'i (excluding their honorable tribes) -- were happy to be in this trivial charade as part of a troupe led by a rejectionist from whose fangs and claws the blood of honorable Fallujah flows. They all dance to the melodies of the screams of our children and women. The sky of their Iraqi bloc is lit by white phosphorus bombs and the smoke of chemical mortars. The strange thing is that they all dutifully went along with alliances led by clever Shiites, as followers and soldiers. How odd! Do they really wish to protect the Sunnis and their rights?

"The Accord Front, for which the muftis issued favorable decrees and the downtrodden trumpeted, is now devoid of all those who joined it. None of its three well-known leaders remains in it. No one has joined the Islamic Party, which is like a sly snake, full of poison and venom, without leaving horrified at the terrible slyness and potent venom they witnessed. Therefore, this party allied with a group of small vipers, which it raised in its burrow from the remainders of the Awakening Councils. The result will inevitably be known to all: either the scorpion will eat its young or they will all flee before it is too late. It is in this fashion that the Sunnis will go into the elections, with all the forgery that has been prepared for them, as happened in all the previous elections. So what do you think of the result? The inevitable result of the Sunnis participating in the elections will be the entrenchment of the principle that the Sunnis in Iraq are a minority that must be ruled by the rejectionist majority. The concept of disunity and dependency in the souls of their politicians and the Sunnis will be entrenched, and all their economic and political rights will be lost. The result will be that the Persians, the collaborators of Iran, will end up with more power and influence after these elections. We will end up weaker and with less influence. What can you expect from the Magus, save for more criminality, plundering of wealth, and degradation of dignity? They did this when we were at our best. So what if our situation worsens as a result of this election charade?

"Therefore, to protect the Sunnis, their religion, and their world, and before this opportunity is lost and we are left biting our fingers in regret and trying to patch back together a worn out garment, and after much counsel with scholars, the heads of the tribes, and the mujahidin of the Islamic State of Iraq, we have decided to prevent the elections (from happening) in any way that is permissible and possible, at the forefront of which will be military recourse. Friend and foe both know that we are capable, with the help of God, of reaching any site, regardless of its fortification and strength of protection surrounding it. Just ask the ministries that we have demolished in Baghdad, the hands that we have chopped off in Anbar, and the Awakening Councils that we have abducted in the cities and everywhere else. Ask the heads of the security forces leadership, which roll by the dozens daily at the hands of our men. What we have prepared in order to prevent the elections from happening is the greatest danger and most serious advance yet.

"We call on all of tribal scholars, tribal shaykhs, and educated people who find our opinion to be the correct one to stand with us. We have shown you that the Shari'ah and the mind mandate that this election charade be prevented. My people, let me take responsibility, and respond to my call. You will not regret it, with the help of God, and you will see all the good and blessings in this choice.

"Only one man among you has given you counsel. You have not known him to ever lie or commit treachery. Praise be to God, for I, whether you accept it or reject it, the son, the brother, and the father. I have drunk from the waters of the Euphrates. I was raised on its dates and I grew up on its banks. Now is the time for loyalty. This is advice to you. It is made necessary by our reality. It is meant to resurrect our situation religiously and worldly. Anyone of a good mind knows that if discord were to befall the Muslims, then religion would be corrupted, the world and the rule of the Book would be lost, and the different groups would be tortured. So fear God, oh worshippers of God.

"The Exalted said: 'O ye who believe! Fear God as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam (Koranic verse, Al-Imran, 3:102).' He also said: 'O ye who believe! Obey God, and obey the messenger, and those charged with authority among you. If ye differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to God and his messenger, if ye do believe in God and the last day: That is best, and most suitable for final determination (Koranic verse, Al-Nisa, 4:59).'

"These Koranic texts clearly indicate the path to salvation from all that has befallen the country and the worshippers: by holding fast in knowledge and deed to the Book and the Sunnah, like the pious ancestors of the Islamic nation. Unity and community are commanded by God. We have experienced with our blood how trying to repair a bitter reality with something other than the Book of God and the Sunnah of his messenger ruins more than it repairs. How many times have multiple groups of different backgrounds and objectives agreed to unite in a particular battle, only to have those with arbitrary judgment and false fundamentals abandon the fight and expose their brothers to the enemy when a gain seems near, a bounty seems easy, or when a trial befalls everyone? If you try to keep from what he thinks is a bounty, or if you ruined it for him, he will turn against you, and perhaps align with your enemy! This has and always will be the case with any group that does not operate according to the Book of God and the Sunnah of his messenger. Therefore, a call to unite the followers of truth and the bearers of its banner with the followers of falsehood and the keepers of its temple is a clear error and a great dilution of religion. The Exalted said: 'Shall We treat those who believe and work deeds of righteousness the same as those who do mischief on earth? Shall We treat those who guard against evil the same as those who turn aside from the right? (Koranic verse, Saud, 38:28).'

"We call on all mujahidin to come together under one banner, the banner of 'There is no god but God ^ Muhammad is the messenger of God,' one methodology, one amir, in one army, for one purpose: the sovereignty of the Shari'ah so that the word of God may be the highest and the word of the infidels the lowest. This is the solution to the impasse. We will find no good in religion or the world without it, for liberating the country and cutting off the source of corruption are the means to achieving the desired and reaching the great goal. It cannot be a goal in and of itself, for if we the Sunnis adhere to the Sunnah without uniting around it, we will have split over it without a doubt. And if we unite around something other than the guidance and Sunnah of the messenger of God, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, the ways of his companions, may God be pleased with them, and under any justification, we will have united around error and not guidance.

"In order to present an initiative to apply this, we ask God that it be accepted, we call for the formation of a committee of advanced scholars, which will serve as a core to unite the mujahidin and repair the state of the resistance. We ask God to grant us success in this endeavor. All those who wish to be in this committee of scholars must meet the following conditions:

"A. They must adhere to the Sunnah the way the pious ancestors of the Islamic nation did.

"B. They must be just, fair, and courageous in the commandment of God, far from desire, and of good morals.

"C. They must be among those who have fought and fight for God, and who have practiced jihad as a form of worship. This is a very important condition, for those who cram themselves in the corners of libraries, hovering over texts in order to extract solutions to problems of the rifle and bomb without seeing and learning about them will no doubt set them off in their faces and the faces of those who listen to them. In matters unrelated to jihad, they are our imams, and we respect them.

"D. They must have the approval of all the groups. They do not necessarily have to be from Iraq. Rather, they can be from any of the Muslim lands that witness a jihadist movement and a struggle between non-belief and faith, such as Afghanistan, Somalia, Chechnya, Algeria, the Arabian Peninsula, and other countries. Among them, praise be to God, are many acting people of knowledge.

"The work of the committee:

"We suggest that this committee carry out the following:

"A. Perform research regarding the state of every group or entity in Iraq, in terms of methodology, command, funding, and support. Those in the groups and blocs who are of the Sunnis can be declared as such (by the committee). Those who have faulty beliefs and methodology can be deemed as such and called to repent from heretical innovation and polytheism, to disavow themselves before God from their error, and to demonstrate this to the Islamic nation and the people so that the error is not repeated. After that, they would be welcomed as brothers, and we would sacrifice our blood for them, even if they had once shed our blood.

"B. Agree to a definitive opinion that is binding on all parties regarding how to deal with the polytheistic sects in Iraq, whether they falsely ascribe themselves to the Kiblah, such as the rejectionists, or they are infidels from the start, such as the Yazidis, the Mandaeans, or the Crusader Christians.

"C. Define the position of the entities and groups on the current ruling regimes, particularly those in the Arab and Islamic states, and demonstrate the ruling of God regarding international institutions and what is incumbent upon everyone in dealing with them and their symbols.

"D. Set the necessary regulations and rules for determining the legitimate means of expelling the occupation and purging the country of corruption.

"E. If unity and the turning of pages mandates, the committee can rule in cases of wrongfully shed blood and taken money. The committee must be given authority to command loyalty and

repel injustice, even if this concerns the amir of any group or entity, including the speaker himself. For our part, and on behalf of my brothers, for the sake of unity, we concede in every case of blood shed by us, with or without interpretation, and we will agree to pay blood money to all those who are due as soon as our material situation allows this, God willing.

"If a group agrees to these rules and conditions, we hope it will be granted success, even if the participants are few. The significance lies in the truth they bear, not the number of participants. If we agree to the above fundamentals and regulations, then putting in place the administrative, judicial, military, and media arrangements necessary to achieve full unity will be a simple affair, God willing. We hope that the hegemony of the mujahidin and their state will return, better than ever.

"In closing, we say to the soldiers of the Islamic State (of Iraq):

"God bless you. Be steadfast and unite, for we do not doubt, praise be to God, for one moment that you are the sect that fights by the commandment of God in this country. God has told us that no matter how much your enemy tricks you, deceives you with his wit, and comes at you with his power and numbers, only pain will hurt you. The enemy has no control over your end, so long as you live by the commandment of God and according to what He wishes. This is true to the saying of the messenger of God, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, as related by Muslim from Uqbah Bin-Amir, who said: 'I heard the messenger of God, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, say: A group from my nation still fights by the commandment of God. Conquering their enemy, they are unharmed by those who forsake them. They do this until Judgment Day comes.'

"To the polytheist rejectionists, those who traveled their path, and those criminal traitors who helped them, we say:

"We are God's destiny for you and the swords of God upon you. We are the soldiers of God, and the sons of the free Sunnis. You will not be able to trick or weaken us. The Sunnis are the guided leaders, the people of power and jihad, and the people of sacrifice. Their history with you and your Crusader ally foretells of them. America will not terrorize them with its sword or iron. They are the ones who have made a joke of America and of her army in front of the world, and you, the deceiving rejectionists are much weaker and viler. We have fought you, O rejectionist traitors, in the past and present. You have not one day welcomed a war with us on your own. Read the pages of history to learn that.

"Today, we are the soldiers of the Islamic State of Iraq, the soldiers of the proud Sunnis. We strike your fortresses and break your bones. We were quite close to killing or capturing a great number of Al-Maliki regime figures in a brave operation, but what God wills is done. However, we promise you much more bitter things (to come), for we have returned. Our people, the Sunnis, have begun to rally around their mujahidin sons, now that they realize the lies and cunning of the traitors and the viciousness of their designs. They have studied well the lessons of Al-Maliki and his government. They have seen how a gang of Badr Brigade or Da'wah Party criminals go to Mosul, Al-Anbar, Salah al-Din, Diyala, and the Sunni areas of Baghdad in official uniforms and take what they please, whenever they please, with no deterrence from the alleged local governments, except for a cheap request that they tell us they want our sons and women. They studied the lessons of Al-Maliki and his government well when they failed their sons in the finals of their classes on claims of cheating, whereas the honorable sons of Najaf and Karbala are assiduous students! The Sunnis have studied the lessons of the humiliation of Al-Hashimi and

Al-Mutlaq (as received), Al-Mashhadani and Al-Dulaymi before them, Al-Janabi and Al-Dayini before them, and the caravan goes on.

"They have also seen the accusations leveled against their own sons, their best men, with the allegations of Ba'thism and others. Everyone has realized that the guillotine of the rejectionists is coming for them sooner or later to avenge the blood of Al-Husayn, so they claim. Thus, they have rallied around their mujahidin sons. Today, they are in every city and village, at the heart of their tribes and people: 'He it is that hath strengthened thee with his aid and with (the company of) the believers; and (moreover) He hath put affection between their hearts: not if thou hadst spent all that is in the earth, couldst thou have produced that affection, but God hath done it, for He is Exalted in might, wise (Koranic verses, Al-Anfal, 8:62-63).'

"O God protect your worshippers, the Sunnis, and protect their religion and world. O Giver of all good, O Ye of magnificence and honor, protect their men, honor, sons, and wealth. Protect them, our Lord, from the cunning of the malicious rejectionists and the evil of their treacherous, criminal collaborators. Put affection between their hearts, make them better, and guide them by the ways of Islam.

"The last of our supplications is praise be to God, Lord of all creation.

"God has full power and control over his affairs, but most among mankind know it not.

"Your brother, Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi"