

## **Al-Baghdadi Denounces 'Polytheistic' Iraqi Elections, Announces 'Campaign'**

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[Please note: Images may have been removed from this document. Page numbers have been added.]

On 18 March, a forum participant posted a message on a jihadist website along with links to a 9-minute 47-second audio message by the Amir of the Islamic State of Iraq, Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi, entitled "The Sermon of the Soldier on the Axe of Al-Khalil Campaign to Break the Idol of Democracy and Polytheistic Elections in Iraq." In it, Al-Baghdadi condemns the Iraqi elections as "the paganism of today" and announces the launch of the "Axe of Al-Khalil Campaign." The audio message was produced by the Al-Furqan Establishment for Media Production and disseminated by the Al-Fajr Media Center.

A translation of the message follows:

"In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate...

" Statement on the 'Axe of Al-Khalil' Campaign to Break the Idol of Democracy and the Polytheistic Elections in Iraq

"The Exalted said: 'And by Allah, I have a plan for your idols after ye go away and turn your backs. So he broke them to pieces, (all) but the biggest of them, that they might turn (and address themselves) to it' (Koranic verses, Al-Anbiya, 21:57-58). Praise be to God, Lord of all creation. Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and companions.

"Shaykh Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi (may God protect him) sent a clear message in his speech on the truth of the crime in which a trap is laid for Islam and its people in this country. In response to the large campaign of misguidance, the likes of which we have never seen, and in which all the nations of non-belief and their poisoned media organs have contributed (along with the satanic masquerading of the deceitful scholars who issue decrees meant to misguide), a coordinated military campaign has been launched (by the grace of God) in Baghdad and across Iraq to break the idol of 'democracy' and the polytheistic elections it spawned.

"The Commander of the Faithful (may God protect him) sent a message to the soldiers and amirs of the Islamic State of Iraq announcing the launch of this blessed campaign. In it, he moved them to thwart this vile conspiracy and break its idol that is worshipped in derogation of God. It has been named the Axe of Al-Khalil Campaign, as a good omen taken from the axe of the friend of God, Ibrahim, who used it to smash the idols of the polytheists. 'And who turns away from the religion of Abraham but such as debase their souls with folly? Him we chose and rendered pure in this world. And he will be in the Hereafter in the ranks of the righteous' (Koranic verse, Al-Baqarah, 2:130).

"Despite all the security measures the Crusaders and the dwarves of the Green Zone boasted of, the men of the Islamic State of Iraq were able to reach their targets and strike at the security plan in the heart of Baghdad and the cities on Election Day. The satellite television channels and the propaganda machine, despite all their measures to ignore events and to erase the facts, aired just a fraction (of what happened). Thanks and praise be to God.

"The vanguard of the campaign began operations shortly after the speech by the Commander of the Faithful (may God protect him), targeting the headquarters of the polytheist parties, which played a large role in enticing Muslims through various satanic means to participate in this crime. Among the headquarters targeted in Baghdad at the start of this campaign were: the Accord Front headquarters in the Al-Mada'in area, the Kurdistan Democratic Party headquarters in area 52, the National Dialogue Front headquarters in the Al-A'thamiyyah area, the Iraqi Communist Party headquarters in Al-Andalus Square, the Iraqi 'Islamic' Party headquarters in Hayy Al-Salikh, the Iraqi National Unity party headquarters in Hayy al-Hittin, the Iraqi Constitutional Party general headquarters in Hayy al-Mansur (as well as two other headquarters belonging to the party in Hayy al-Karadah and Hayy al-Jihad), the Free Labor and Iraqi National Salvation Coalition headquarters in Hayy al-Qahirah, and the Association of Iraqi Scholars and Educated headquarters in Hayy al-Mansur, in addition to other headquarters and locations targeted by military units, where they cut off the heads of non-belief. These sites will be published in subsequent reports.

"And now, the audio message by Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi (may God protect him), the Amir of the Islamic State of Iraq, which addresses the soldiers and amirs of the (Islamic) State (of Iraq) announcing the launch of the Axe of al-Khalil Campaign.

"(Links)

"God is Great. 'But honor belongs to Allah and His messenger, and to the believers, but the hypocrites know not' (partial Koranic verse, Al-Munafiqun, 63:8).

" Ministry of Information / Islamic State of Iraq

"Source: Al-Fajr Media Center."

A translation of the audio follows:

(Recitation of Koranic verse) "In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate..."There is for you an excellent example (to follow) in Abraham and those with him, when they said to their people: We are clear of you and of whatever ye worship besides Allah. We have rejected you, and there has arisen, between us and you, enmity and hatred for ever, unless ye believe in Allah and Him alone. But not when Abraham said to his father: I will pray for forgiveness for thee, though I have no power (to get) aught on thy behalf from Allah. (They prayed): Our Lord, in Thee do we trust, and to Thee do we turn in repentance, to Thee is (our) final goal. Our Lord! Make us not a (test and) trial for the unbelievers, but forgive us, our Lord, for Thou art the Exalted in Might, the Wise "" (Koranic verses, Al-Mumtahinah, 60:4-5).

"(Narrator) The Al-Furqan Establishment (for Media Production) is pleased to present an audio message by the Commander of the Faithful, Shaykh Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi (may God protect him), entitled The Sermon of the Soldier on the Axe of Al-Khalil Campaign to Break the Idol of Democracy and Polytheistic Elections in Iraq.

"(Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi): Praise be to God. We praise Him and seek help in Him. He who is guided by God cannot be led astray, and those who lead men astray are given no guidance. I testify that there is no god but God alone, and He has no equal. And I testify that Muhammad is His servant and messenger. God the Exalted said: 'There is for you an excellent example (to follow) in Abraham and those with him' (partial Koranic verse, Al-Mumtahinah, 60:4) (in terms

abiding by faith and monotheism and carrying out all the duties that requires, as Al-Sa'di said, may God protect him). It is from the tradition of Khalil (refers to Abraham) (may the peace be upon him) that he swore to God that he would smash the gods of his people when they were not looking so that they would perhaps learn and stop. He said: And by Allah, I have a plan for your idols after ye go away and turn your backs. So he broke them to pieces, (all) but the biggest of them, that they might turn (and address themselves) to it' (Koranic verse, Al-Anbiya, 21:57-58).

"Al-Shinqiti (may God have mercy on him) said in (the book) Adwa al-bayan : 'He did not simply forbid them to worship idols and prove that they are neither helpful nor harmful. He went further, and he broke them into pieces.'

"O mujahidin: Today, your mission of preventing the elections is a prophetic one, even if people are enthusiastic about them and they incessantly thronged to participate in them. (These elections) are like the fire that dazzles the foolish and ignorant with its light. If they enter it, they are burned and killed. So your aim and demand, O soldiers of God, are those of the prophets and the messengers: to prevent people from entering the fire, even if they want to and even if you have to use force. This is better for their religion and their world. This is so they will not have to bite their fingers in regret once it is too late.

"In the Hadith, the prophet Hurayrah (may God be pleased with him) heard the messenger of God (may the prayers and peace of God be upon him) say: 'I am like the man who lit a fire. When it let everything around him, the moths were drawn to it and they began to fall in. So the man had to forcefully keep them from diving into the fire. So I am keeping you from the fire as they dive into it' (Hadith). Muslim related: He said I am like (the man) and you are like (the moths). I am keeping you from the fire. Stay away from the fire. You are resisting and trying to dive into the fire (Hadith). Imam al-Nawawi said: 'The meaning of this Hadith is that he (may the prayers and peace of God be upon him) likened the plunge of the ignorant and the dissidents (through their sins and desires) into the fire of the Hereafter and (the prophet's) forcefully keeping them from (plunging into the fire), to the indiscriminate plunging of the moths into the fire of worldly life. Both the ignorant and the moths were intent on killing themselves, striving toward that (aim) with their ignorance.'

"O soldiers of creed, you must do all you can keep (them from plunging into the fire). This is jihad. This is piety. Abu-Su'ud (may God have mercy on him) said in his interpretation The Right of Piety : '(Piety) is doing all you can to carry out a duty.' After this, the result is up to God. We are the workers of God, and we work under His command and in accordance with His Shari'ah. God willing, we will be granted success in what we have striven for. It was what we wish and hope for. We reckon, by the grace of God, that it be so. Let God not shame us, as He is the Kind, the Giver of all good.

"And if the Wise one, through His wisdom, wished that it not be that way, then it is so. For there is no resisting His wisdom or questioning His judgment. Al-Tabari said: 'The right thing to do is to have confidence in God Almighty, depend on Him, and leave everything up to Him. The worshiper needs to do everything he can for his religion and life (as he is commanded to do). He needs to not listen to the imposters who tell him to surrender to the enemies, refuse to strive for success and achievements, and refuse to address the problems. That is ignorance and a violation of what God commanded, and opposes the ruling of the messenger of God in his Ummah.'

"We reckon that He is leading you during this stage, which is the prophetic work. They are brothers of the best of our men (morally and religiously). They know more than you about waging jihad against our enemy, which is why we appointed them amirs over you. Listen and

obey them and never let them down. A person (is defined) by his brothers. The Sahih, related by Ibn Umar (may God be pleased with them), says that the prophet (may the peace and mercy of God be upon him) said: 'Listening and obedience are duties unless ordered to commit a sin' (Hadith). And in Sahih Muslim, Abu-Hurairah (may God be pleased with him) said: 'The messenger of God (may the peace and prayers of God be upon him) said: We are to listen and obey in our pleasure and displeasure, in our adversity and prosperity, even when somebody is given preference over us' (Hadith).

"We advise the brothers, the amirs of the soldiers, to have mercy on them, watch out for them, and protect them as much as they can, without being hindered by cowardice or deadly recklessness. O worshipers of God, we reckon that with the grace of God, destroying the idols of the elections will be beneficial to Islam and Muslims. With the help of God, you will then witness a fundamental change in the nature of the ongoing war, but in favor of the religion of God and His Sunni soldiers and worshipers.

"We reckon that this is the best military action we have taken since the beginning of the blessed march of this jihad on this free and proud land. We name this campaign 'The Axe of Al-Khalil' in honor of the axe of Al-Khalil Ibrahim, who used it to destroy the idols of the pagans of old. With the help of God, you will destroy the paganism of today: the so-called democracy and the polytheist elections. O soldiers of God, move forward in the name of God. I ask God to aid you and accept for supplications for this blessed work. It is true that our prophet used to say: 'O God, with you I fight and attack' (Hadith). There is no strength or power but in God. O God, help them and do not help others against them. Grant them victory and do not let them be defeated. Allow them to deceive, but do not let them be deluded. Guide them, and grant them victory over those who oppress them. O God, let us be grateful to you. Let us mention you. Let us be fearful of you. Let us be obedient to you. My Lord, accept our repentance, erase our sins, and respond to our prayers. O God, make us steadfast. Guide our hearts and tongues. Erase the rancor in our hearts. O God, the One who sent down His Book, the Mover of the clouds, the Defeater of the clans: defeat them and grant us victory over them. 'And Allah hath full power and control over His affairs, but most among mankind know it not' (Partial Koranic verse, Yusuf, 12:21)."