

## **ISI Amir Al-Baghdadi Statement 'Stop Them, Do Not Kill Them'**

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

On 23 March, a forum participant posted to a jihadist website links to download a new audio statement from the amir of the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi. The statement is entitled "Stop Them, Do Not Kill Them," and is approximately 24 minutes and 7 seconds in length. The audio statement starts with excerpts taken from the statement set to jihadist chants. A speaker then announces that Al-Baghdadi will be making a statement. Al-Baghdadi clarifies the actions by the ISI on the day of the Iraqi elections. Al-Baghdadi states that "the orders to the soldiers were very precise and clear and with the unanimous agreement of the shura (consultative council) of the Islamic State (of Iraq). These (orders) were that what was wanted was to prevent Sunnis from participating in the elections, not to kill those who stubbornly go. The order was clear: stop them, do not kill them." The statement is produced by the Al-Furqan Establishment for Media Production and disseminated by Al-Fajr Media Center.

A translation of the statement follows:

"(Unidentified Speaker) In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate

"(Unidentified Speaker) They aim to extinguish God's light with their utterances: but God has willed to spread his light in all its fullness, however hateful this may be to all who deny the truth. He it is who has sent forth his apostle with (the task of) spreading guidance and the religion of truth, to the end that He make it prevail over all (false) religion, however hateful this may be to those who ascribe divinity to aught but God (Koranic verse, Al-Saff, 61:8-9).'

"(Jihadist Chant)

"(Al-Baghdadi) The enemy, prior to this day, was saying that we were cowards and only attacked and then went into hiding. This time, the date was made public, the threat was out in the open, and the meeting was in known and guarded locations. The supporters of God carried out nearly 2,000 offensive operations on that day, both directly and indirectly.

"(Jihadist Chant)

"(Al-Baghdadi) The orders to the soldiers were very precise and clear and with the unanimous agreement of the shura (consultative council) of the Islamic State (of Iraq). These (orders) were that what was wanted was to prevent Sunnis from participating in the elections, not to kill those who stubbornly go. The order was clear: stop them, do not kill them.

"(Jihadist Chant)

"(Al-Baghdadi) We declare that everything that resulted from these elections does not concern us -- the Sunnis of Iraq -- in any way. A future government comprised of murderers and traitors does not concern us. The faces of evil are still the same.

"(Jihadist Chant)

"(Al-Baghdadi) We, the mujahidin of the Islamic State, declare that we, along with our families and those who support us, will continue to pursue the occupier, its collaborators, and its agents.

"(Jihadist Chant)

"(Presenter) Al-Furqan Establishment (for Media Production) is pleased to present an audio statement by the amir of the believers, Shaykh Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi, may God protect Him. The statement is entitled 'Stop Them, Do Not Kill Them.'

"(Al-Baghdadi) Praise be to God; we thank him and seek his support. Whomever God guides cannot be misguided and whomever God misguides cannot be guided. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except God alone, without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and messenger.

"As for what follows:

"God Almighty said: 'Who doth greater wrong than one who invents falsehood against Allah, even as he is being invited to Islam? And Allah guides not those who do wrong. They aim to extinguish God's light with their utterances: but God has willed to spread his light in all its fullness, however hateful this may be to all who deny the truth. He it is who has sent forth his apostle with (the task of) spreading guidance and the religion of truth, to the end that He make it prevail over all (false) religion, however hateful this may be to those who ascribe divinity to aught but God (Koranic verse, Al-Saff, 61:7-9).'

"All the rational people were astounded by the media frenzy that preceded and accompanied the election process in Iraq. It was such that a person, who does know the situation in Iraq, thought that they were engaged in the elections of a nation whose armies are on the verge of marching on the world in conquest and occupation, instead of facing a state occupied by invading Crusader Christian forces. (Forces) that killed hundreds of thousands, displaced millions, and imprisoned, destroyed, and bombed everything good within it. The occupation still sits heavily on the chests of its people by virtue of the status quo, by virtue of their tyrannical positive law.

"By virtue of this law, Iraq is still a state (operating) under the seventh clause. In other words, it is a state occupied by the American forces. According to their own statements, there are (inaudible) today a hundred thousand soldiers and the same number of (employees of) security companies. This is more than the number (of soldiers) fighting our brothers in Afghanistan today. This huge media frenzy basically aims to (accomplish specific) matters.

"First: An attempt to reinforce the status quo and impose the acceptance of the occupiers' collaborators on a people which history bears witness to as being free, proud, rejecting injustice, and refusing prejudice. The enemy and its media tool increased the dosage of this drug that leaves Iraqis in a state of unconsciousness; it makes them numb to pain and makes them forget the humiliating reality and the bitter past.

The effect of the strong dosage of drugs has become apparent in that some Sunnis have elected he who killed their children, imprisoned their men, and destroyed their cities. (Iyad) Allawi is a collaborator of the occupiers and an ally of the Crusaders. He is a cunning rejectionist and a Zionist criminal who played a malicious and pivotal role in the occupation of Iraq. He himself acknowledged that he collaborated with 16 intelligence services for that purpose. Is it possible to

let this one prevail? And, could a free man welcome him unless he was unconscious or has lost his mind?!

"Second: A state of fear is beginning to take hold in those countries in which there are US bases with the continuation of the jihad in Iraq and in a situation that might soon resemble that of those protectorates now. This frightens and panics them, fearing that the spirit of jihad might spread to these countries. Therefore, the legitimacy of the jihad in Iraq has to be removed, by all means. These countries forget that had it not been for the effects of our jihad their heads would have been severed by the occupier's guillotine. The New Middle East project is known to everyone. Instead of repenting and expressing gratitude to those who granted them, they aim their daggers and strike both in secret and in public. God is our helper and our best ally.

"Third: An attempt to flee from the repercussions of reality and the religious rulings that affect all Muslims inside and outside Iraq. It is the duty of everyone in Iraq to fight the occupier, its helpers, and those associated with them, not only for themselves, but also for their people and those close to them who are unable to do so. This is for all people of Islam, west and east, so how then when the occupied land is Baghdad and Basra, the most pleasing to the eye, Al-Kufa, Al-Hadba, and Al-Madain?! These are cities that have a history that has been imprinted in the spirits of Muslims, the glories of conquest, and the schools of theology and language. These were written by scholars to whom every Muslim is still indebted to our present day. The goal of this propaganda is for the occupier's agents to write a new history for Iraq, filled with pages of humiliation, subservience, shame, and represented by murderers and traitors such as Al-Maliki, Al-Ja'fari, Al-Hakim, Al-Hashimi, Al-Sadr, Al-Talabani, Al-Tikriti, and Al-Barazani, may God curse and punish them in this life and in the afterlife.

"After the mujahidin agreed on the illegitimacy of these elections, we in the Islamic State (of Iraq) could not sit and weep like women and wail before an enemy that has no mercy, and in fact loves our tears and dances to our sighs of pain. We thus decided to prevent the elections. A date was set for the conflict between the supporters of God and the supporters of the devil. The enemy gathered its minions and alerted its forces. Their leader said that their date was on the day of decorations when the people will be gathered. The pharaoh and his soldiers mocked the threats of the weak and said in mockery that our threats were a worthless bubble. The enemy, prior to this day, was saying that we were cowards and only attacked and then went into hiding. This time, the date was made public, the threat was out in the open, and the meeting was in known and guarded locations. The pharaoh gathered his minions and brought forth airplanes, tanks, machine guns, and sonar equipment. The supporters of God marched forward with weak equipment and a simple cane after they spent their night weeping and begging and praying to he who has victory in his hands. They complained about their weakness and the betrayal of the near and far.

"The morning of the set day, the enemy was surprised with the weak transforming into a raging, frightening lion that turned the ground into a volcano and filled the air with fire. He terrified the hearts, sealed the lips and froze the feet. The supporters of God carried out nearly 2,000 offensive operations on that day, both directly and indirectly. Bombs were exploded, rockets and missiles were fired, and the lions marched out firing their weapons, detonating their explosive or mingling among the enemy with their (explosive) belt. This was until the enemy had to force a media blackout about what was happening after covering the first hour of the action.

"However, the orders to the soldiers were very precise and clear and with the unanimous agreement of the shura (consultative council) of the Islamic State (of Iraq). These (orders) were that what was wanted was to prevent Sunnis from participating in the elections, not to kill those

who stubbornly go. The order was clear: stop them, do not kill them. Despite the polytheism of the elections, and the fact that we warned the people a day before the elections, bearing the security repercussions of reminding us of setting the features of our security plan, we did not deliberately kill a single Sunni. All those who were killed were of the rejectionist (Shiite) religion. We made them into a frightening lesson for others. Our military action was preceded by an organized and massive media campaign in which we distributed tens of thousands of videos, lessons, and pamphlets that show the political and religious threat of the elections.

"We also led a satisfactory campaign of communications and meetings with tribal leaders and notables. The enemy themselves recognized the characteristics of this plan and strongly tried to prevent it. It is known that an act of such sort is not less serious than a military act. But to preserve the religion and life of the Sunnis was a goal for which blood is shed and where discomforts are endurable and pains are bearable. Nonetheless, the matter was clear: 'Stop them, do not kill them.' Praise be to God, we found what we hope and wished for from our people, because on the day of the elections only a few went out, many people stayed at home, and the shaykhs fulfilled their commitments, until the enemy was compelled to announce through loudspeakers and from the minarets of monotheism, the minarets of the mosques, that Al-Qa'ida does not want to kill you but only to scare you. The enemy themselves admitted that they started to pass through residential areas in their vehicles to force the people to vote.

"Also all the analysts concurred that the military operations that were carried out on this day only aimed to prevent people. We expected that the enemy would discover the details of our plan after only one hour had passed. But, in mercy for the religion and life of the Sunnis, God blinded them and they proceeded blindly until this day. We had the ability to stop every single Sunni from going to the elections if the decision was to kill anyone who goes to vote. But we learned from the lesson in Afghanistan. The elections took place even after they admitted that they were falsified. Then we realized that even if only a dozen individuals went in every province, they would say that the Sunnis strongly participated. The (ballot) boxes would be filled to the benefit of every authority that controls the area in which the voting takes place. At that time, there is no use in killing people, other than hurt feelings. The secretive operations of 'The Axe of Al-Khalil Campaign' has proven to prevent the elections in many ways:

"First: The false claims and lies by the occupier, their collaborators, and those who follow them, knowingly or unknowingly, that we intentionally kill the innocent and are not concerned (with shedding) innocent blood. Our act on this day is the best proof of the invalidity of this allegation and that that no one would say that it is a new method and approach. For preserving Muslim blood and honor is a religion that we worship God with in the Islamic State (of Iraq). It is something that we learned from all the factions and figures that established the Islamic State (of Iraq) following the words of the messenger of God, prayers and peace be upon him, as in the Sahih narrated by Ibn Umar, may God be pleased by them, which said that 'A believer will remain within the bounds of his religion as long as he does not spill blood unlawfully (Hadith).' The Sahihain, narrated by Ibn Abdallah Ibn Mas'ud, may God be pleased by him, said that the messenger of God, prayers and peace be upon him, said: 'Slandering a Muslim is sinful and fighting him is non-belief (Hadith).' Therefore, would a sane person make a Muslim's blood permissible after such a clear warning? So let people fear God. As soon as they have the opportunity on one of the satellite (television channels), they hurry to slander and accuse us of things of which we are innocent, from fanaticism, to audacity, (to the thirst for) blood. To those we say: O people, do not go very far in hating us, because as you say we are Muslims and the satellite (television channels) are not the means to slander and defame the Muslims. If you have advice, then give it to us. Even if it were filled with defamation and mockery, God willing, you would only find us to be tolerant. And that we would only find goodness in the words of your

advice and we would overlook whatever harms us. But to burn with rage the hearts of the youth with the abundance of slandering and defamation, this will not rectify the situation and make matters better; rather, it is more harmful than helpful. I reckon that you are sure that you are the first to lose if you deface our reputation with charges we are innocent of.

"Second: Everyone knew that the mujahidin in the Islamic State (of Iraq) are a power that pleases the loving friend and angers and terrorizes the hypocrite enemy. They are truly the best support for their nation if they are in trouble and matters become serious and the harm they inflict on their enemy is great.

"Third: The ability of the Islamic State (of Iraq) to deal with the latest developments in a realistic and truthful manner (has increased). We do not lower our heads, while the enemy moves on with their plans, openly in broad daylight. We could have given ornate excuses and saved ourselves from the burden of the work and its costs, but we believe that we are the ones who observe mysteries and see all that is hidden and it is our duty.

"Fourth: The campaign has proven the Sunnis' love for the mujahidin in general and especially for the men of the Islamic State. They rallied around them. Praise be to God, they lived up to our expectations of them. At best, no more than 20 percent of the people were present at the elections. In fact, based on our estimates, as well as many (election) monitors and analysts and even some officials, there was only a 30 percent turnout. We all followed what was being said by the (election) monitors during the election process about the turnout being low. Their words after election day and from inside the (election) halls confirmed that. Even at the largest (election center) in Ramadi, and after terrorizing people into voting and falsifying ballots, the turnout was 40 percent. How did it become 60 percent all of a sudden?! This means that more than 70 percent of Sunnis refused these elections and their goals. They refused and detested the murderers and traitors that represent it.

"Based on that, we declare that everything that resulted from these elections does not concern us -- the Sunnis of Iraq -- in any way. A future government comprised of murderers and traitors does not concern us. The faces of evil are still the same; they just changed their bloodstained clothes in a ploy not even an ignorant fool would fall for. This does not change the reality of the situation. We, the mujahidin of the Islamic State, declare that we, along with our families and those who support us, will continue to pursue the occupier, its collaborators, and its agents until we cleanse the lands of their filth and return glory to Iraq under the rule of God's laws.

"Once again, I reiterate our well-wishes to the Sunnis for their understanding and knowledge of the reality (of the situation), and for rallying around the sons and mujahidin of the Islamic State. I would like to specifically mention the shaykhs, scholars, and prominent persons that aided us in our campaign. I would also like to thank all the mujahidin that joined us in our campaign. We were able to see the effects (of their efforts). If we do not know their faces or names, may God bless them for their efforts.

"God bless you soldiers of the Islamic State. May God reward you with the highest of rewards. You have fulfilled (your duties) and have not fallen short. You were swift and did not disappoint. On this note, it honors me to hail the lions of truth and knights of Islam everywhere and especially in Somalia. We urge them to resolve the battle of Mogadishu. We urge Muslims in general in Somalia and all the mujahidin to unite with Al-Shabaab. If I was in Somalia, I would be content being a soldier in the Al-Shabaab movement fighting the apostates and agents of the Crusaders. What we have learned about the Al-Shabaab is their love of and adherence to God's laws and their commitment to it.

"I congratulate the Muslim mujahidin in Pakistan and Afghanistan for their commitment and steadfastness to God's orders in waging jihad and staving off the campaign by the enemies of God, the Christian occupiers and their criminal agents. We promise them that we will make every effort to fight the invading Crusaders. We understand that we are all one front in our fight against the Crusaders. Any pressure placed by our enemy on any of its battle fronts with the Muslims requires the other to make every effort to ease this pressure. Rejoice! With the grace of God, your armies in the Caliphate will not disappoint you. I remind you and us of our duty toward our Al-Aqsa (Mosque). Let it be known to all that God will not forgive us if we fall short or abandon it. The issue of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa is a major point in our struggle with the non-believers of the people of the book. But the mercenaries and traitors took this issue on for publicity; God suffices everything for us and He is the most excellent guardian. We ask God to relieve us and the Muslims from the trouble of the Jewish occupation of the honorable Al-Aqsa and the blessed land. God give us from your blessings, mercy, and grace. O' God, I ask you for everlasting happiness that cannot be changed or done away with. O' God, I ask you for contentment on Judgment Day and the day of fear. O' God, I return to you with anything evil. O' God, make faith more desirable for us and make us detest non-belief, corruption, and disobedience, and place us among the caliphs. O' God, let us die as Muslims and live as Muslims, and follow in the footsteps of the righteous. O' God, fight the non-believers that falsify the words of your messengers and do not work for your sake. Bestow your punishment and anger upon them. O' God, fight the non-believers that were brought the book of truth. Only God can do such, but most people do not realize this.

"Your brother, Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi"