

ISI Threatens Coptic Christian Church of Egypt

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

The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), the al-Qaeda-front in Iraq, announced that its fighters captured Iraqi Christians, and threatened the Coptic Christian Church of Egypt to release alleged female captives. In a communiqué posted on jihadist forums on October 31, 2010, the ISI gave the Coptic Christian Church of Egypt a period of 48-hours to indicate the status of the imprisoned women and to release them; otherwise, its fighters would kill their Iraqi Christian captives. According to media reports, on October 31, militants in Baghdad held nearly 120 Iraqi Christians hostage in a church before Iraqi security forces stormed the building and freed them. The ISI did not indicate the date or location of its raid on "one of the filthy dens of idolatry" in which they claimed taking hostages.

The ISI's threat to Egypt comes amidst calls by jihadists and al-Qaeda's media arm, as-Sahab, for Muslims to take action against the Coptic Christian Church of Egypt for the alleged imprisonment of two women, Camellia Shehata Zakher and Wafa Constantine. Jihadists believe that Zakher, the wife of a Coptic Christian priest, had converted to Islam and was then kidnapped by Copts and imprisoned in a church. Wafa Constantine, also a wife of a Coptic Christian priest in Egypt, allegedly wanted to convert to Islam, and met the same fate as Zakher.

Following is a translation of the message:

Full Text

Islamic State of Iraq /
Statement of Warning and Giving a Deadline to the Egyptian Christian Church

In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious and Merciful

The Almighty said: *"And they will never cease fighting you until they turn you back from your religion if they can."* [From Al-Baqarah 2:217]

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds. Peace and prayer be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and all his Companions. And thereafter:

According to instructions from the Ministry of War in the Islamic State of Iraq and to help our weak captive Muslim sisters in the Muslim country of Egypt, after careful planning and selection, an angry group of mujahideen from amongst the supporters of Allah raided one of the filthy dens of idolatry that was always used by the Christians of Iraq as a headquarters to fight the religion of Islam and to support those who fight that religion. With grace and graciousness from Allah, [the mujahideen] were able to capture all who were gathered inside and to control all entrances completely.

The mujahideen in the Islamic State of Iraq give the belligerent Christian Church of Egypt and the head of idolatry in the Church a period of 48 hours to indicate the status of our sisters in the faith who are imprisoned in the prisons of the monasteries of disbelief and the churches of idolatry in Egypt, and to release all of them and to announce that through a media outlet that could reach the mujahideen during this period.

This warning also goes to those who have a drop of wisdom amongst the heads of Christians and their churches and organizations worldwide who have influence on that belligerent church and can put pressure on it; otherwise, the lions of tawhid [monotheism] will not hesitate - knowing that they put on their explosive belts - to liquidate the Iraqi Christian prisoners of war. Allah willing, the doors in those countries will open to what will lead to the destruction of their resources and break their strength and keep them small, as Allah intended them to be; and make them an example for those who are controlled by Satan to the point that they blocked people from following the religion of Allah and dared to face His book and His Prophet, Allah's peace and prayer be upon him, and the honor of Muslims and their rituals. *"They intend to put out the Light of Allah with their mouths. But Allah will bring His Light to perfection even though the disbelievers hate (it)."* [As-Saff 61:8]

The Christian idolaters in all their denominations, they who are tempted to wage war against this glorious religion and to turn the Book of Allah and the person of His Messenger, Allah's peace and prayer be upon him, into an object of contempt and mockery by seeing the weakness of its so-called followers, should know that the time of humiliation is gone and will not return. [They should know] that Islam has men whose hearts are full of faith so they sacrifice themselves for the religion of Allah and offer their blood cheaply for the Cause of Allah, and they will show these filthy ones and people like them what they will not like, even if it is later than sooner, because the banner of Islam will rise for certain and the religion of Muhammad will dominate even if the disbelievers don't like that. *"He it is Who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth to make it victorious over all religions even those the polytheists hate (it)."* [As-Saff 61:9]

Allah is Great.

'Glory is to Allah, and to His Messenger, and to the believers, but the hypocrites know not.'
[From Al-Munafiqun 63:8]

Ministry of Information / Islamic State of Iraq

Source: al-Fajr Media Center