



## Statement from the 1920 Revolution Brigades

October 10, 2007

### **“A Letter from the 1920 Revolution Brigades to its Mujahideen Brethren.”**

**Dated October 10, 2007**



*[This document is the translation of an official Arabic-language communiqué obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch news service. This translation is provided for educational and informational purposes only. For more on the 1920 Revolution Brigades, Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, and the “Islamic State of Iraq”, see “State of the Sunni Insurgency in Iraq: August 2007” (<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/iraqreport0807.pdf>).]*

“...Once again, truth has prevailed on the battlefield and [we have] become victorious through perseverance, our principles, our structure, and the implementation of Shariah laws and the customs of mighty Islam and the Islamic jihad. These laws make it incumbent upon everyone to act with justice and sincerity—even with the infidels. Behold all of the daily sacrifices of the mujahideen while they are attempting to defend Islam and the honor and dignity of Muslims, and to protect the jihadi project in Iraq... O’ mujahideen of the 1920 Revolution Brigades, be patient and ignore these rumors that have led to allegations aimed at damaging you and your jihad... These accusations are not new to you... Do not listen to what is being said about you, because Allah and everyone else knows the truth about you... Remember the courage and perseverance of the Prophet Muhammad when faced with similar situations. Do not listen to those of your brothers who became enslaved by their own insecurities and fell into a trap...”

“Dear brothers... you should know that the snake has a head and a tail. The head is the infidel American occupiers, their allies, and their agents—and the tail is your own neighbors who have sought to stray from the principles of Islam and decided instead to be used by the enemy... We were deeply saddened to read the recent statement by the ISI published on September 22, 2007, under the title ‘The Truth About the 1920 Revolution Brigades.’

That dangerous statement included mistakes about our military brigades and our fighters. Therefore, we have decided to publish this letter in response to the ISI statement. It is important to note that we have delayed our response for two principle reasons: for our response to be calm and balanced and not the result of any rash decisions; and, to have sufficient time to survey public opinion regarding the jihadi project in Iraq and to gauge the various reactions to the ISI statement. Indeed, our expectations were substantiated, and many responses flooded in to us from people who defended the 1920 Revolution Brigades. It even went beyond our control when one of the brothers hacked into one of the Internet forums and posted a message claiming to be from the 1920 Revolution Brigades and addressing others in an unacceptable style of writing. We inform you that we are against the way he expressed himself and we wash our hands of his actions.”



“The following represents detailed, clear evidence from the [various wings of] the 1920 Revolution Brigades in response to the ISI statement:”

“1.) When reading the ISI statement, we noticed the odd style of writing, vocabulary, and general ideas presented in it. These elements are different from previous ISI statements, such as the recent message from Abu Omar al-Baghdadi that was published in mid-April 2007. Therefore, we question the credibility of this statement and the timing and reasons for it.”

“2.) In the statement from the ISI, they classified jihad movements as divided into three categories, in addition to nationalist movements... In their statement, they acknowledged the important and pioneering role that the 1920 Revolution Brigades has played in fighting the crusaders. They also mentioned the fact that the 1920 Revolution Brigades has sacrificed many martyrs and captives during its jihadi journey and that it has included some of the best young Muslim men that, later on, began fighting under the names and banners of various other groups. This expression of recognition is very significant because we have not witnessed it in any previous statements from Al-Qaida under all of its four names: Tawhid wal-Jihad, Al-Qaida’s Committee in Mesopotamia, the Mujahideen Shura Council (MSC), and the ISI. We were wondering why they would mention that fact now? Where were they when they condemned the 1920 Revolution Brigades two years ago? Or when they clashed with us in Abu Ghraib over a year ago? We are just a little mystified by this and we would like to get an answer, because this recognition of past events typically precedes harsh criticism.”

“3.) The ISI statement talked about the close link between Salam al-Zukum and the 1920 Revolution Brigades. This allegation is false and therefore all the detailed information provided underlying this false accusation is not true either. All of the acting jihadi factions in the field and everyone truly familiar with the jihad known the real truth about Salam al-Zukum and his involvement in the political process, the Islamic Party, and the Accordance Front, and they know that he is far from being connected to the 1920 Revolution Brigades. The only connection that can be found linking us to Salam al-Zukum and us is the fact that he is from Abu Ghraib and is a member of Zoba tribe—the same tribe which is regarded as the main supporters of the mujahideen from the 1920 Revolution Brigades in the area of Abu Ghraib. The 1920 Revolution Brigades and Salam al-Zukum have absolutely nothing in common when it comes to ideology and political views. The election of Salam Al-Zukum as a deputy prime minister for the current government was an intentional move to confuse the position of the 1920 Revolution Brigades which is opposed to participation in the political process under the occupation forces—and [the position] of the Zoba tribe that stands against the occupation and supports the fighting jihadi factions in the area of Abu Ghraib, as well as other areas where the tribe is present. The 1920 Brigades has had a clear and firm stance since day one on this subject and [we] have attempted more than once to discredit Salam al-Zukum’s attempts to present himself as a friend of the mujahideen. The leadership of 1920 Revolution Brigades has learned that one of the reasons for al-Zukum’s appointment to the Accordance Front was due to his fraudulent claims of being a member of the 1920 Revolution Brigades, a fact that was completely denied by the 1920 Revolution Brigades. Yet, despite our official stance on this matter, some people still wanted to believe it and continued on their path of confusion. The above statement [from the ISI] was followed by another erroneous communiqué claiming that the 1920 Revolution Brigades had collaborated with people involved with the political process and the second round Iraqi elections... They continued on by alleging that the 1920 Revolution Brigades and [an allied Salafist organization] had established a joint office to appoint their own people to positions in the parliament. We do not know why the ISI statement did not mention who the second party or faction was? Instead, they were content to limit themselves to just trashing the 1920 Revolution Brigades without presenting any evidence whatsoever. Where was Al-Qaida’s proof for such previous collaboration? And why are they only bringing up this would-be collaboration now in this statement? ...Why did the statement neglect to mention the meeting that took place between officials from ISI, one of the commanders of the 1920 Revolution Brigades Abu Osama Al-Falahi, Muharib al-Jabouri, and the Shariah officer of the Anbar region Abu Hassan. That

meeting took place after the unfortunate events in Abu Ghraib. During that meeting, the various parties agreed on terms for resolving some of the problematic topics and revealed the truth about the misleading reports concerning the occupation-dictated political process... Those in attendance at that meeting realized that the facts they thought they knew... about ongoing events were not true and they agreed on the need for further meetings to resolve any remaining controversies. In one of his messages, Abu Omar al-Baghdadi complemented that meeting.”

“4.) ...We inform you that the ISI’s denials about forcing other jihadi factions into joining the Al-Qaida organization are false, and the evidence for this is our own practical experience dealing with Al-Qaida in Abu Ghraib. They forced one of our brigades, the Jaffar al-Tayyar Brigade, to join them and they kept increasing pressure on them until the brigade was forced to defend itself... Looking at the Al-Qaida statement, we see that, first, they accused the 1920 Revolution Brigades of disbelief [in Allah] and, second, they decreed fighting against them to be permissible. We would like to remind you that Muharib al-Jabouri (commander of the 1920 Revolution Brigades) was asked to swear an oath of allegiance to Al-Qaida, but he refused because he believed that the Al-Qaida organization had no right either to establish an ‘Islamic State’ without first consulting other factions nor to fight against those who refuse to join its state. Unfortunately, that was exactly what happened when fighting broke between the 1920 Revolution Brigades and the ISI that persisted until the joint agreement signed on 19 Muharram 1428 (February 8, 2007). That same agreement was honored only by the 1920 Revolution Brigades. The Al-Qaida organization did not abide by the terms of this agreement and continued with its military actions—during which they sent a letter to the 1920 Revolution Brigades on the morning of [February 9] claiming that the aforementioned agreement between us was regarding our intention to pledge allegiance to the ISI and didn’t mention anything about a truce. That letter was widely distributed in Abu Ghraib. To make things even more confusing, another separate statement from the ISI complemented the 1920 Revolution Brigades and linked them to the legacy of the heroes of the 1920 revolution against the British occupation!!!”

“5.) The ISI statement mentioned the separation of Iraqi Hamas from the 1920 Revolution Brigades; but, at the same time, it suggested that they remained linked to the 1920 Revolution Brigades. The ISI statement totally ignored the March 9, 2007 statement in which Iraqi Hamas clearly disassociated itself from the 1920 Revolution Brigades... Interestingly enough, after the ISI statement mentioned the separation of the two factions, it blamed the actions of Iraqi Hamas in Diyala province to us (the 1920 Revolution Brigades) and accused us of being liars, hypocrites, and traitors... Suddenly, the ISI seemed to have forgotten Abu Omar’s al-Baghdadi’s recent message in which he clearly stated that the 1920 Revolution Brigades had not aided the occupying forces in Diyala—instead, he accused Iraqi Hamas of doing so. We wonder who benefits from creating such confusion? The ISI statement also talked about the ‘despicable crimes’ committed by the 1920 Revolution Brigades... but the statement contained no evidence supporting such claims. In reality, the people who were murdered and tortured were fighters from the 1920 Revolution Brigades: Omar Abdel Razaq and his two friends. Omar was captured [by Al-Qaida] during the cease-fire and resulting peace talks that concluded with the February 4 joint agreement in the areas of al-Anaz in al-Shukur and the al-Mashkur neighborhood of Abu Ghraib. After Al-Qaida promised not to cause any harm to Omar, his dead body was sent to his family on Friday February 9, 2007 along with his two friends who were executed as well. All of this took place at the same time as the 1920 Revolution Brigades released 29 Al-Qaida fighters as a show of goodwill... We have decided not to list the names of the people we released for their own safety. For clarification purposes, we will post again our statement from 18 Muharram 1428 (February 6, 2007) dealing with the release of the Al-Qaida fighters.”

“6.) The ISI statement mentioned the 12 mujahideen who were killed in an airstrike in the region of al-Zaidan and stated that these brothers were attacked after being mistaken for mujahideen from the ISI. We wonder how the author of the ISI statement could be aware of the true intentions of the occupation forces and still overlook the self-evident fact that all of those who were killed during that attack were soldiers from the 1920 Revolution Brigades and the

Mujahideen Army? ...We wonder, does the Al-Qaida organization look down upon the sacrifices of others and choose only to glorify its own?"

"7.) The ISI statement accused the 1920 Revolution Brigades of supporting the cunning occupation project that aims to destroy mujahideen solidarity... The ISI statement also accused the 1920 Revolution Brigades of establishing units to support the occupation forces. The ISI statement was based upon official media that is opposed to the jihadi project... and that was intentionally broadcast on their government channel (Al-Iraqiya)... The authors of the ISI statement did not substantiate their charges and they would have realized our position had they simply read our official statements published on the different Internet forums... Our statement #21 specifically addressed the subject of police and army recruitment centers in Abu Ghraib. The 1920 Revolution Brigades has specifically refused to participate in these suspicious projects that serve no one but the infidel occupiers... The leadership of the 1920 Revolution Brigades is completely opposed to the recruitment efforts by the recently-opened centers headed by Abu Azzam in the regions west of Baghdad. We wash our hands of anyone who claims to be connected with this program and from any unofficial statements appearing to be from the 1920 Revolution Brigades. We are also opposed to the special identification marks being given by the occupiers to people, claiming that they are intended to prevent them from being mistakenly attacked by their aircraft. We consider wearing these special marks as a sign of collaboration with the infidel enemy..."

"8.) The ISI statement also accused the 1920 Revolution Brigades of collaborating with the so-called Anbar Rescue Council that, in turn, aids the occupation forces. The author [of the ISI statement] attempted to link the aforementioned council with anyone who has been forced to defend himself against the Al-Qaida organization without making any distinction regarding their motives, principles, and goals. By doing so, the author of the ISI statement ignored all of the evidence in the field that demonstrates the hatred between the Anbar Rescue Council and the various mujahideen factions because that council supports the occupation, tortures the mujahideen, and participates in the various institutions of the occupiers... A good example of the position of the 1920 Revolution Brigades can be found in a media statement concerning the Abu Ghraib neighborhood published on 18 Jumada al-Akhir 1428 (July 3, 2007), which quotes a report published in French news media about the ongoing events in Abu Ghraib... We inform you that the allegations made in that report were false because it claimed that the 1920 Revolution Brigades had collaborated with some local tribal fighters in a so-called 'Joint Force' to fight against the Al-Qaida organization. We emphasize that this is yet another attempt to misrepresent the jihadi factions that are opposed to the occupation forces. The 1920 Revolution Brigades has previously published two statements (the first on June 13, 2007, and the second on June 26, 2007)... denying this fabricated news broadcast by [Western] media. In the first statement, we expressed our opposition to establishing a tribal military force or rescue council in Abu Ghraib... and in the second statement, we declared that 1920 Revolution Brigades has no military forces active in the areas... cited in that French report... We clearly and loudly... inform you that this is our path written with the blood of our martyrs and our mujahideen and we will never abandon it..."

"9.) Finally, we are still wondering what the purpose was in the ISI issuing this statement? Was it to reveal the truth behind the 1920 Revolution Brigades? ...We wonder if the ISI statement was an effort at settling a score or possibly even the product of the personal agenda of an important individual in the jihadi arena? We were even more puzzled by the fact that several leaders from the Al-Qaida organization were opposed to publishing such statement, but they were forced to oblige under the pressure of others. The ISI statement has firstly damaged the ISI and, secondly, [has damaged] the jihadi project in Iraq. We would like to remind the author of the ISI statement of the meeting that took place between the 1920 Revolution Brigades and other jihadi factions under the Front for Jihad and Change—which could not have been established if the ISI's statement were true. During that meeting, the other jihadi factions even honored the 1920 Revolution Brigades by putting their name first on the list of signing parties... This is our position and people will soon realize who is telling the truth..."

**[Appendix I]: Statement from ISI – “A Letter to the People of Zoba and the Shaykhs of Their Tribes.” (February 9, 2007)**

“...The ISI has promised to keep you informed about ongoing events and, therefore, we would like to bring you news of the latest developments. It was agreed, via negotiations between ISI and the General Secretary of the 1920 Revolution Brigades, to release all innocent prisoners and to surrender custody of their personal weapons and private vehicles. However, some of these agreed-upon terms were not actually implemented. In reality, they are still [holding] personal light weapons and several civilian vehicles and, therefore, we would like to inform you that we have sent a letter to the commander of the 1920 Revolution Brigades stating the following.”

“...We would like to inform you that our dear brother Abu Abdullah who met with you on Wednesday [February 7, 2007] in response to your request to swear an oath allegiance to Abu Omar al-Baghdadi was not fully informed about the transgressions you have committed against the mujahideen of the ISI. The meeting took place before the events of last Sunday. Despite this, we have decided to remain in compliance with the agreement, even though you (the 1920 Revolution Brigades) did not. Therefore, the ISI considers our previous agreement to be void and instead commits itself to the following: a total cease-fire as long as you act upon the agreement; dismantling all the weapons stationed atop houses and public buildings, and avoiding attacking your men. An ISI court will be convened to prosecute anyone involved [in attacking your men]. Also, based upon the aforementioned declarations, we shall... return custody of all of the vehicles and light weapons taken from people and return custody of the weapons used by the mujahideen in the al-Shukur and al-Mashkur neighborhoods... May you collaborate with the mujahideen of the ISI... may Allah unite the mujahideen.”



“The General Secretary of the 1920 Revolution Brigade responded by declining our attempt at reconciliation. However, we inform him that our hands are still reaching out towards him and he is welcome to meet with us at any time.”

## [Appendix II]: Statement from ISI – “An Invitation and Warning to the Followers of the 1920 Revolution Brigades in the Zuwaynat region.” (undated)

“To the Sunni people in general and, in particular to the mujahideen in the Zuwaynat region, we would like to remind you of Allah’s command for us to unite and be as one... We ask you to fear Allah. Our hearts, arms, and hands are wide open to you and there is now an opportunity for forgiveness. We need you as brothers in this religion, we need you to fight with us as one against the enemies of Allah... You should know that you are supporting an ignorant, nationalist movement and we would like to prove this you with evidence revealing the truth about those whom you serve:”

“1.) Your group has invited the Sunni people to work with the various security forces of this treacherous, apostate government and you must realize that, by doing so, you are aiding the infidels... There is much evidence supporting the aforementioned allegation. The [Iraqi] police and army are considered to be infidels and shall be treated as such in the hereafter.”

“2.) Most of the commanders of your group are becoming involved in the political process that will result in the approval of the infidel constitution. This constitution was decided upon by the infidels and apostates and you should know that following the principles of such a constitution is considered to be an act of disbelief and an abandonment of Islam...”

“3.) Several of your commanders have been involved in killing some of our mujahideen brothers, and they have confessed to their involvement upon their capture. They even had a long list of mujahideen names that were targeted for elimination, all under the orders of the criminal Salam Zukum and the Israeli Mossad. Here is a list of several criminals involved in the killing of our mujahideen brothers: Abu Marouf al-Rafoushi, Ahmad al-Rafoushi, Ali al-Zuwayni, Tahsin al-Zuwayni, Saddam Abu Wardah, and many others. We have gathered much evidence and many confessions that we are prevented from exhibiting here due to security reasons.”

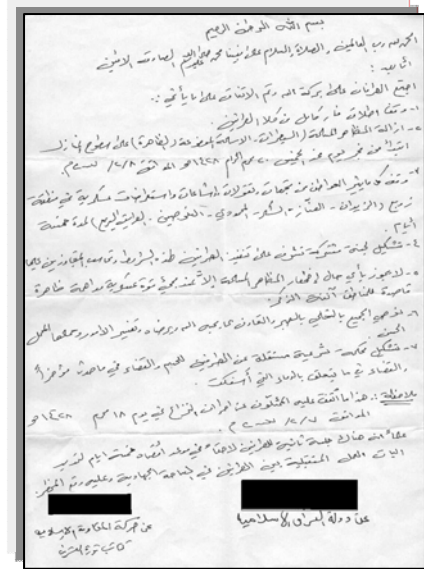
“4.) Your movement is led by the Islamic Party and you know that this party is opposed to the duty of jihad and the mujahideen. Anyone seeking evidence of their involvement [in the Islamic Party] should contact us.”

“Finally, your legal obligation is to abandon their ignorant, treacherous nationalist movement and, instead, swear an oath of allegiance to the ISI... You have been warned.”



### [Appendix III]: Agreement Signed Between ISI and 1920 Revolution Brigades (February 7, 2007)

“The two sides have met and have agreed upon the following: a complete ceasefire on the part of both sides; the removal of all weapons currently mounted atop houses by dawn on Tuesday [February 8, 2007]; the avoidance of any actions for five days that might provoke an uncontrolled emotional response from the other side, such as gatherings, gossiping, spreading rumors, and military operations in the areas of Zoba and Zaidan... and the roadways; the establishment of a joint committee overseeing the implementation of this agreement and responsible for penalizing those who do not follow it; a ban on the public brandishing of weapons under any circumstances except if there is a clear and immediate threat from a military force in the aforementioned areas; ...and, the joint establishment of an independent Shariah court to render judgments on recent events and the blood that was shed. This is what has been agreed upon on 18 Muharram 1428 [February 7, 2007]. There will be additional meeting of both parties no more than five days from now where discussions will take place regarding the future adjudication of matters in the arena of jihad.”



**[Appendix IV]: Statement from “Legal Officer” of the 1920 Revolution Brigades (February 6, 2007)**

“...In order to remain obedient to the orders of Allah, to unite the Muslims and in particular the mujahideen, in order to express our gratitude to fighters from the Zoba tribe, and in accordance with our Hanafi principles: the jihadi Islamic Resistance Movement (the 1920 Revolution Brigades) has decided to free most of those who attacked our men in regions of Mahmudiya and to hand them over to the negotiating mediator in order to return them to the Al-Qaida organization so that they can fight the occupiers and their agents. This action represents an effort to initiate a dialogue and negotiations in order to resolve this crisis and end the infighting... At the moment, there are ongoing discussions between the commanders of both 1920 Revolution Brigades and the Al-Qaida organization in order to set up a meeting at the highest levels to end this confrontation.”