

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all creation, the Supporter of His worshipers the muwahhidin, and may peace and blessings be upon he who was sent with the sword as a mercy to all of creation, our Prophet Muhammad, and his entire family and all of his Sahabah.

Allah says: "So let those fight in the cause of Allah who sell the life of this world for the Hereafter. And he who fights in the cause of Allah and is killed or achieves victory - We will bestow upon him a great reward" (An-Nisa 74).

O Muslims, O mujahidin for the sake of Allah, O soldiers of the Islamic State and its citizens, we announce to you the loss of the renewal imam, the working worshiping scholar, Amirul-Muminin and the Khalifah of Muslims, Shaykh Mujahid Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Ibrahim bin 'Awwad al-Badri al-Husayni al-Qurashi (may Allah accept him). And we also announce to you the loss of the official spokesman of the Islamic State, Shaykh Mujahid Abul-Hasan al-Muhajir (may Allah accept him). They were both killed in the recent days. Indeed, to Allah we belong, and to Him we will return.

Shaykh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (may Allah accept him) became Amirul-Muminin after Shaykh Mujahid Abu Umar al-Baghdadi (may Allah accept him), and Allah helped him restore life to jihad in Iraq, and to support Muslims in ash-Sham, and then by his hands, territories were conquered, the religion was established, and the honors of Muslims were protected. Al-

lah granted him success to make the Shari'ah of Allah rules, and enabled him to bring back the Khilafah and religious rites which were ignored by the tawaghit of Arabs and non-Arabs. He gathered under his banner the scattered groups of mujahidin from all around the world, and with them, he carried out jihad against kuffar and murtaddin from the people belonging to all false sects. He was patient on hardship, torment, and the loathing of the enemies, until Allah destined him to die for His sake while he was steadfast on His religion, and marched forward without retreating and carrying out jihad against his enemies. We count him as being so and Allah is his judge.

As for Shaykh Abul-Hasan al-Muhajir (may Allah accept him), he was among the veterans of mujahidin who made hijrah to Iraq. He was from the Peninsula of Muhammad , who was harmed and suffered for the sake of the religion of Allah. He was patient and steadfast and he continued in carrying out jihad. He took responsibility after the death of the previous spokesman, Shaykh Mujahid Abu Muhammad al-Adnani (may Allah accept him), and during the hardest times of jihad against Crusaders and murtaddin. He was a great minister and helper for Amirul-Muminin, and he continued on that status until he attained the death that was ordained for him. We ask Allah to elevate his rank among the highest.

Following the sunnah of the noble Sahabah, to rush in assigning an imam, in order to preserve

the group of Muslims and keep their affairs in order, the Shura Council of the Islamic State, may Allah preserve it, met immediately after confirming the istishhad of Shaykh Abu Bakr al-Bagdadi (may Allah accept him). The shukykh of mujahidin agreed, after consulting with their brothers and following the advice of Amirul-Muminin (may Allah accept him), to pledge bay'ah to the mujahid shaykh, the worshiping working scholar, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi (may Allah preserve him). He is appointed as Amirul-Muminin and Khalifah of Muslims. We ask Allah to grant him success, guidance, conquest, and wisdom. We also ask Allah & to help him accomplish what his previous brothers have started, to grant him the good followers, and enable conquest by his hands over lands and win the hearts of people.

Allah says: "Indeed, those who pledge allegiance to you, [O Muhammad] - they are actually pledging allegiance to Allah. The hand of Allah is over their hands. So he who breaks his word only breaks it to the detriment of himself. And he who fulfills that which he has promised Allah - He will give him a great reward" (Al-Fath 10).

Hence, O Muslims everywhere, come forward to pledge bay'ah to Amirul-Muminin and gather around him. By Allah, he is one of the prominent figures of jihad, one of its ulama and one of the emirs of the righteous. He is among the pioneers to aid the religion of Allah and fighters against His enemies. The battlefields and homelands of brave men bear witness for him. He fought against the protector of the Cross America and had it tested hardships. So, he is knowledgeable in how to combat it and he is aware of its plots.

Therefore, O America, do not rejoice for the death of Shaykh al-Baghdadi, and do not forget the death you tasted by his hands (may Allah accept him). O America, do you not realize that the Islamic State today is a footstep away from

the gates of Europe and the entrance of Central Africa? Moreover, it remains and expands, by Allah's permission, from east to west. Do you not understand who you ended after your war against the Islamic State? Can you not see how you have become an object of ridicule among other nations? Your faith has been controlled by a useless old man. He starts his day with one opinion and ends it with a different one. Do not celebrate and do not be boastful, for unto you has come he who will make you forget the hardship of what you have seen before, by Allah's permission. You will think that what Shaykh al-Baghdadi (may Allah accept him) made you go through was the easy part.

We call upon our brothers in all the wilayat to have patience, be hopeful of your rewards, steadfast on your religion and jihad, adhere to the group of Muslims and its imam, be keen to avenge your imams and brothers against the kuffar and murtaddin, and make the effort to fulfill the will of Amirul-Muminin (may Allah accept him) in his last voice message, when he advised to set free the captive Muslims from their prisons, remove unjust from the oppressed, insist on calling people for this religion, get closer to our Lord by shedding the blood of mushrikin, and have patience until you meet Allah while conducting jihad.

Allah says: "And how many a prophet [fought and] with him fought many religious scholars. But they never lost assurance due to what afflicted them in the cause of Allah, nor did they weaken or submit. And Allah loves the steadfast. And their words were not but that they said, 'Our Lord, forgive us our sins and the excess [committed] in our affairs and plant firmly our feet and give us victory over the disbelieving people.' So Allah gave them the reward of this world and the good reward of the Hereafter. And Allah loves the doers of good" (Al 'Imran 146-148).

And all praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all creation.