

Excerpts from “A message to the Mujahidin and the Muslim community in the Month of Ramadan”¹

By Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

July 1, 2014

Days after the Islamic State proclaimed its “caliphate” in Iraq and Syria on June 29, 2014, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the jihadist group, delivered a speech addressed to the world’s Muslims. He declared that all Muslims, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or nationality, should immigrate to the Islamic State’s territory and fight on its behalf. He quoted a verse from the Qur’an to justify his claims, asserting that traveling to the Islamic State is a divine duty incumbent on all Muslims, and those who do not will face eternal damnation.

O Muslims in all places, rejoice, take heart, and hold your heads high! For today you have, by God’s bounty, a state and caliphate that will renew your dignity and strength, that will recover your rights and your sovereignty: a state joining in brotherhood non-Arab and Arab, white and black, easterner and westerner; a caliphate joining together the Caucasian, Indian, and Chinese, the Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni, Egyptian, and North African, the American, Frenchman, German, and Australian.

God has brought their hearts together, and they have become, by God’s grace, brothers loving together in God, standing in one trench, defending one another... Their blood has mixed under one banner and for one purpose...

O Muslims, come to your state. Yes, your state! Come! Syria is not for Syrians, and Iraq is not for Iraqis. The earth belongs to God! He bestows it on whom He wills of His servants...

O Muslims in all places. Whoso is able to emigrate to the Islamic State, let him emigrate. For emigration (*hijra*) to the Abode of Islam (*Dar al-Islam*) is obligatory. God—Who is most high—said: “And those the angels take, while still they are wronging themselves—the angels will say, ‘In what circumstances were you?’ They will say, ‘We were abased in the earth.’ The angels will say, ‘But was not God’s earth wide, so that you might have emigrated in it?’ Such men, their refuge shall be hellfire—an evil homecoming!” (Q. 4:97).

¹ Source excerpted from Cole Bunzel, “From Paper State to Caliphate: The Ideology of the Islamic State,” *The Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World - Analysis Paper* no. 19 (March 2015): 41-42, <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/the-ideology-of-the-islamic-state.pdf>.