

**Condemning Sectarian Violence Against Iraqi Civilians.**

We, the *Al Anbar Tribal Council*, who represent the legitimate and collective leadership of Al Anbar province, present to the Government of Iraq, our concerns and requests regarding the crimes against Iraq's Sunni Community:

*Beleiving* that the majority of Iraqis oppose sectarian killings;

*Recall* that in 2005, when hundreds of Shiite pilgrims fell to their deaths and many more were injured due to the collapse of the Al 'Aimma Bridge, Sunni neighbors did not hesitate to jump in the river to save the drowning or donate blood for the injured;

*Acknowledge* that yesterday, as a criminal militia prepared itself to execute innocent Iraqis simply because they were Sunni, Shiite residents of Hay al Jihad risked their lives to warn their Sunni neighbors of the coming attack;

*Condemn* any and all acts of sectarian killing, as well as attacks on religious places of worship, be they Churches or Shiite or Sunni Mosques;

*Draw attention* to the fact that Iraq's Sunni have experienced the heaviest casualties and because they lack the political, economic and military power, they face graver dangers;

*Point out* that the majority of Iraq's Sunni males are either unemployed, imprisoned, caught between occupation and insurgency forces, or the target of execution squads;

*Mindfull* that in the end of 2003, after numerous unexplained deaths of ex-military personnel, we became aware of a list containing 3,500 names of Iraqi ex-military personnel, medical doctors and technocrats – all Sunni – who were slated for execution;

*Confirming* that approximately 600 ex-military officers and pilots (all of them Sunni), as well as 280 doctors (almost all Sunni) have been executed in the past 3 years;

*Alarmed* that in the month of June alone, Baghdad's forensic lab received 1,559 bodies – all had been tortured and killed execution style with a bullet to the head, and all were Sunni;

*Further alarmed* that militia execution squads, working under the cover and with resources of the Iraqi Army and Police, have targeted the Sunni community;

*Concerned* that in mixed neighborhoods across Baghdad (for example Ad Dowra, Medinat Ath Thawra, Ash Sho'ala, Zayuna, Baghdad al Jadida, Hay Ash Shaab, Hay 'Ur and in other places in Iraq, including Basra, Nasriyah, and Simawa), these militia are forcing the Sunnis to leave their homes – they receive death threats if they do not leave within 24 hours, and are forced to leave their possessions behind;

*Caution* that if these activities continue to go unchecked, the result will be the genocide of Iraq's Sunnis and a civil war for the country;

*Stress* that the root of the problem is not between common Shiite and Sunni citizen;

*Further stress* that neither the insurgency nor the occupation forces are responsible for the execution squads who target Sunnis, but that members of the Iraqi Army and Police as acknowledged by the Prime Minister himself when he announced that 160,000 Iraqi soldiers and police are directly working for such militias;

*Question* how many more are indirectly supporting these militias;

*Cognizant* that neither Iraqi nor U.S. occupation forces have been able to protect the Sunni community;

*Call upon* the Iraqi government to take a brave step and immediately disband any and all militias in Iraq;

*Reject* the concept of militias in principal, and support the idea of an Iraqi army and police that work for the protection of the entire Iraqi community, not as assassins for those who seek to divide and destabilize Iraq;

*Demand* the closure of all torture chambers and prisons discovered by U.S. occupation forces and imprisonment of any Iraqi police officer or soldier found to work directly or indirectly with the militias;

*Urge* the Iraqi government to invite an international peace keeping force to help prevent further ethnic cleansing activities in Baghdad;

*Propose* the Iraqi government call upon the international community of conflict resolution experts to work with the government and help develop strategies to keep the country unified; and

*Suggest* the Iraqi government convene all religious leaders and demand that they promote restraint and non-violence, and that those religious leaders found to ignite sectarian hatred and encourage violence face strict punishment by the Iraqi government.

Thank you.

*[9<sup>th</sup> of July 2006]*