Media Office
of Hizb ut Tahrir
Wilayah Iraq

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

﴿وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَىٰ لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُم مِّن بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا وَمَن كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ﴾

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Press Release

The Iraqi Sovereignty Crisis Between America's Hegemony and Iran's Influence

(Translated)

Since its occupation in 2003 and the imposition of the American political system upon it, Iraq has been living through a genuine crisis of sovereignty and independent decision-making. It has become an arena of conflict over influence between international and regional powers. America was the one that allowed Iran to gain this influence through its parties and factions, benefiting from them to control the country, remove British influence, and suppress the fierce resistance that the American occupier faced. Following the change in America's policy towards Iran and its decision to clip its claws, whether with regard to weapons or the economy, its order came to the Iraqi government to dissolve the armed factions and suffocate Iran's economy by drying up its sources of income, including what it obtains from smuggling Iraqi oil.

It is therefore no surprise that Washington is now raising the slogan of combating oil smuggling and recovering Iraq's money, and supporting the campaign being carried out by the Iraqi government, which began in Jurf al-Sakhar. This is an area that no Iraqi government had dared to approach since 2014, after the expulsion of the Islamic State organisation and its people from the area. It subsequently became one of the most important strongholds of the armed factions loyal to Iran, represented by Kata'ib Hezbollah and Harakat al-Nujaba. When Iran saw that the matter was serious and could lead to an armed confrontation and an expansion of the division within the Shiite camp, it sent the commander of the Quds Force, Ismail Qaani, to mediate between the government and the factions, in search of a formula that would allow government forces to enter while avoiding a clash. An Iranian source told Al Jazeera Net: "Qaani discussed a formula that would allow Iraqi forces to enter the area and pave the way for the return of displaced families, alongside arrangements to bring the factions' weapons under the authority of the state." Indeed, the joint Iraqi forces began redeploying in Jurf al-Sakhar, while fighters from the brigades remained in the area. After that, the Iraqi government expanded the operation until it included Kirkuk and the Kurdistan Region.

The most important question here is: Is America acting to protect the wealth of the Iraqis, or is it using the oil issue to besiege Iran and rearrange the balance of influence within Iraq?

America's strong support for Iraq's Prime Minister, Ali al-Zaidi, and its praise of him as the man of the moment, was not because of his beautiful eyes. Rather, it was intended to exclude any competing influence, thereby tightening its grip on the country's wealth and political decision-making.

The only loser in this reality is the Iraqi people, who are powerless to change their situation and who suffer from poverty, unemployment, and deteriorating services, despite all these riches over which their enemies are competing!

O Muslims! Your salvation will not come through replacing America's influence with Iran's influence, or with that of other greedy powers and colonialists. Rather, your only salvation lies in a strong and independent state that possesses control over its own decisions and wealth, asserts its sovereignty, and protects your interests. This cannot be achieved except through a state in which sovereignty belongs to the Sharia and authority belongs to you. It is the **Khilafah Rashidah** (**Rightly Guided Caliphate) on the method of Prophethood**, the promise of Allah, Glorified is He, and the glad tidings of His noble Messenger (saw). Rush forward and work with us to establish it.

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