

Translation of Boko Haram Video “Statement” (translator: Atta Barkindo)  
April 18, 2013, 9.00 AM.

Available at: <http://jihadology.net/category/individuals/leaders/imam-abu-bakr-shekau/>

A message (An Explanation) About Those Who Lie Against The Jihadists



In the name of Allah the most merciful and the most compassionate. Thanks be to Allah and the peace of Allah be upon His Prophet and upon us too. After this, my dear brothers, may the compassion, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you. This, thanks be to Allah the most compassionate, is a short message, a final message to some people and to all of us. May this message be for the sake of Allah. May Allah ensure that this message reaches the ears of those it's meant for. May it be known that it is for Allah's sake that this message is being sent.

**The first thing is that we are the ones who identify ourselves with the name *Jama'atu Ablil Sunna li'addawati wal jihad*. Meaning people dedicated to the sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad. That is all we stand for. I repeat, people dedicated to what the Prophet has instructed in the Qur'an and in all his sayings, as conveyed to us by our scholars and experts. That is the name we identify ourselves with and on it we stand. We have prepared our group in this**

name for the purpose of dawa'a; a missionary outreach to bring people to the religion of Allah and Jihad; the means by which to bring people to the religion of Allah. For those who voluntarily turn to this religion, do so according to the will of Allah. **While those whose conversion is only achieved through killing, we shall kill such a person according to the instructions of Allah.** This is what our association stands for, this is what *Jama'atu Ahlil Sunna li'addawati wal jihad* means and it is our name. Boko Haram is not our name. We simply insist that Boko (western civilization) is not good. But Boko Haram is not our name.

Consequently, we do not need to tell people that Boko (western civilization) is not good. Evidence suggests that Boko (western civilization) is not good. All the things done in the name of Boko (western civilization) negate what the Prophet and His companions did and said. If (Boko) is founded on the issue of education and knowledge, it could be acceptable. However, the attitudes, lifestyles and characters that flow from Boko (western civilization) make it unacceptable and should be rejected in all ramifications.

**We made it very clear from the beginning that Boko (western civilization) is not good, democracy is not good and anything not clearly outlined by the Prophet is not good.** Because we said this, the Nigerian public decided to identify us with the name Boko Haram. This name was given to us to portray us as people who reject what is modern and good, to put us against those who are beneficiaries of this system of education. Those who force public opinion against us are evil and Allah is always better than the evil ones. At the end we are simply *Jama'atu Ahlil Sunna li'addawati wal jihad*.

The second thing I will like to explain is what even our enemies have pointed this out very clearly. **There are those who are taking advantage of our name and collecting money, benefitting financially from the Nigerian government. In a particular way, they write letters to rich individuals and government functionaries, claiming to be members of Jama'atu Ahlil Sunna li'addawati wal jihad and threatening them and their families with death.**

Unfortunately, those who are threatened are forced to part with their hard earned wealth to save their lives. In the event of all these, the public has also come to believe that we are responsible for all these, while in fact we are not. For all those involve in this, we shall not shift our attention to them, we shall simply carry on with the work Allah has assigned to us as outlined in the Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet. However, the day we shall lay our hands on such a person, and when we are sure he is responsible, we shall carry out the justice that Allah has ordered to us mete out. That is all we shall do to such people.

But it should be clear that we are not responsible for all these threats and extortion of money. We are simply doing Allah's work, we are spreading the religion of Allah. We are not extorting money from anyone. **Our only source of wealth is the *ghanima*; the spoils of war that we take in the battle we fight in the name of Allah. This involves the people we fight against, we overcome and conquer and as such we take their money. We simply follow the verses of the Qur'an in taking the spoils of war. There are so many verses in the Qur'an regarding the process that we should follow in taking the enemies wealth.** The processes others are using our name to extort money from the public is not according to the instructions of Allah. Allah knows and we know that we do not extort money from people. Those who do it know what they do. For those who use the name of religion to cheat and extort the public will certainly see their end.

The third thing is (I have explained first, what we are, and second what we are not) those who cheat and extort money using our name and the name of Islam should know that we (*Jama'atu Ablil Sunna li'addawati wal jihad*) are not interested in knowing them.

**Finally, our enemies; those who hate us, are now asking us to lay down our arms and, claiming that for the sake of Allah, we should come to the negotiating table. This is not true, it is not true at all...if it is true, it would have been different (he seems to hide what he wants to say under his words).**