In his audio announcement of the deaths of Ustadh (Professor) Ahmed Farouq and Qari ‘Imran in separate U.S. drone strikes, al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) spokesman Usama Mahmoud gave a brief biography of Ahmed Farouq and his becoming the deputy leader of the group.

Mahmoud posted the 43 minute, 47 second, Urdu-language video of the speech on Twitter on April 12, 2015, and separately, posted Arabic tweets identifying Ahmed Farouq as being killed on January 15 in the Shawwal area near North Waziristan, and Qari ‘Imran, a member of the AQIS Shura Council and official for Afghanistan, being killed on January 5 in the area of Lorah. The U.S. White House announced that American hostage Warren Weinstein, Italian hostage Giovanni Lo Porto, and an American leader in al-Qaeda, “Ahmed Farouq,” were believed to have been killed together in a drone strike in January 2015 in the Afghan-Pakistan border region. However, the slain deputy leader of AQIS, Ahmed Farouq, is not known to be an American citizen, and in the biography, Usama Mahmoud identified him as being from Islamabad.

In the speech, Usama Mahmoud gave Ahmed Farouq’s real name as “Raja Muhammad Salman” and discussed his education and his pursuit of Shariah knowledge and jihad. He was tasked by al-Qaeda leaders to head its preaching and media department in Pakistan, and then to serve as the deputy leader of AQIS, which was established in September 2014.

Also in his talk, the AQIS spokesman indicated that there have been 11 drone strikes recently in North Waziristan and approximately 50 AQIS fighters and 50 of their supporters were killed.

Following is a translation of the section of the eulogy on Ustadh Ahmed Farouq:

What is the character of my beloved brother Ustadh Ahmed Farouq, may Allah have mercy upon him? How was his journey and life in jihad and preaching? I will write what I saw of him, and I will write what I learned from him later, Allah willing. I will tell you the story of his life as a brother, a friend, and a companion on the path. I ask Allah to benefit us in the days that we spent together in the hereafter, Amen.

I say briefly, I spent with my beloved brother and dear educator Ustadh Ahmed Farouq, may Allah have mercy on him, more than eight years. I saw him in happiness and sadness. I saw him alone and with others. I saw him in war and peace. I saw him in happiness and anger. I saw him in disagreements and agreement. I saw him in dealing with the enemy and dealing with the Muslims. I saw him in all circumstances up close. I testify that I saw him in all circumstances working according to the judgments of the Shariah, and his journey is similar to that of the
ancestors. I saw his life decorated with piety and good manners, a heart steeped in love for Islam and the Muslims and doing good for them, and full of aggression against the enemies of Allah. I saw him as a mujahid passionate for his religion - we consider him thusly and Allah is his advocate, and we put no one before Allah - and Allah the Almighty knows about the origin of his situation, but this is a great testimony for him, because I accompanied him in my life. I am thus responsible for showing this before my precious Ummah so that they know about his pure life in a time of sedition, for the likes of him remind us of a good history.

Ustadh Ahmed Farouq, may Allah have mercy on him, is from the capital Islamabad. His real name is Raja Muhammad Salman. He loved Shariah science, and after finishing his studies and obtaining a degree in it at the Islamic University in Islamabad, he was drawn by jihad to the jihadi battlefield. Despite being busy and engaged in jihad, he did not abandon his studies. He would incite his companions to this. He had great love for the scholars and he would follow them and try to contact directly the most prominent of the scholars of the religious schools in Pakistan and get fatwas from them on various matters of jurisprudence. He would correspond with them regarding society and inciting people to wage jihad to establish governance by Shariah, and he would bring to them his voice and opinion through letters. He sought to learn the Shariah word and action, and one of his habits was to apply any Shariah judgment whenever he learned of it. When you looked at him you remember Allah. He would glorify in your heart the amount of belief in Allah, and when you spent with him a good amount of time your yearning would increase to receive Shariah knowledge and to apply it.

He was a humble, loyal character, and this humility would appear on his face. This character was not only there for a short time, for those who were close to him would see more than those characteristics, and his voice would always affect those it reached.

He was nice and had good manners. He was meek and preserved his heart and mouth. He thought well of the Muslims, and would alert his companions if one of them thought ill. He was away from speaking behind people's backs and having contempt towards the Muslims and bad words. He would be patient in the face of harm, and would be silent, and would incite his companions to do this in moderation. When joking, he would never fail to mention Allah, and when one of his companions would forget to do so in the council in jest, he would incite them quickly to do so out of fear of Allah, and to stay away from matters that relate to the heart. He was a good educator. For anyone who accompanied him, the sings of change in the companion would appear immediately. He would seek to reform his companions with soft and good words. He treated all in kind. Indeed, every one of his companions thought he was the closest of their companions due to his well treatment, I saw the gentility of his heart and his humility and fear of Allah in worship. He would read the Qur'an with an understanding of the meanings, and he would not speak during recitation. He always tried to feel the greatness of Allah and His blessing, and he would read the rulings of Allah and think of the extent of his work in this regard. When he would remind us of heaven and hell his eyes would tear up. He sent me a message in his final days of being surrounded in Waziristan, reminding me of Qur'anic verses that complement our current circumstances and tell us what to do.

The love of Shariah [legitimate] jihad coursed through his veins. He would raise the flag of jihad with knowledge, insight, and the religious call, and he would take the correct saying in
interpretations and Hadiths that the Companions agreed upon - may Allah approve of all of them - along with the good ancestors, and all the imams and speakers would act on this. He would take in these explanations the words of those who were latecomers from the scholars, and he would consider this necessary. However, in the matter of jihadm he would consider the words of the old and contemporary scholars necessary, while taking the words of the scholars of the jihadi battlefields. In the jihadi battlefield he accompanied Sheikh Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, Sheikh Attiya Allah, and Abu Yahya al-Libi - may Allah have mercy on them - for a long time. This companionship helped him to go on the correct jihadi path. Also, because of his reading of the books of Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, may Allah have mercy on him, and Sheikh Usama bin Laden, may Allah have mercy on him, and Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, may Allah preserve him, and Sheikh Abu Walid al-Ansari, may Allah have mercy on him, and Sheikh Abu Musab al-Suri, may Allah have mercy on him, and Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, may Allah preserve him, and his going on the path of the method of Sheikh Usama bin Laden, may Allah have mercy on him - a method far from negligence and slander, and adhering to the Shariah in all circumstances, that method that calls for the obligation of the Ummah to gather around the word of Tawhid [monotheism] - his first goal and his aim before all the creed-based differences was to stand in the face of the primary enemy of the Muslims: America and Israel and their agents. He would incite to stand against the unjust infidel governments, and he would call for the rise of the caliphate on the prophetic method. Ustadh Ahmed Farouq, may Allah have mercy on him, learned this method from the sheikhs of jihad, and he found the method of al-Qaeda to be in line with the Shariah texts, and bandaging the wounds of this hurt Ummah. His aim was to serve this group with a good method, and call upon the people to gather around it, and his aim in this was to strengthen jihad and solidify the structure of jihad, and he made this his life goal.

Seven years ago, Ustadh Ahmed Farouq, may Allah have mercy on him, was appointed by the sheikhs of al-Qaeda to be the head of preaching and guidance in Pakistan. In turn, he delivered the voice of Sheikh Usama bin Laden, may Allah have mercy on him, and Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, may Allah preserve him, to the people of Pakistan, and he raised his companions on this and called the people of Pakistan to this method. After the martyrdom of Dr. Arshad Wahid, may Allah have mercy on him, the head of al-Qaeda in Khorasan, Sheikh Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, may Allah have mercy on him, tasked the group of Arshad Wahid to Ustadh Ahmed Farouq, may Allah have mercy on him. Wherever he was found he was seen to be occupied by military, educational, and other matters of jihad and the mujahideen; yet, he would care and give all his time for the call, argument, and guidance.

The main obstacle in applying Shariah in Pakistan is the government and its army, so he was a preacher and a leader of jihad and fighting against them. When Sheikh Usama bin Laden, may Allah have mercy on him, declared jihad in Pakistan, al-Qaeda heeded the call, and he had much credit in several of the blessed operations against the American targets and targets of the government, army, and Pakistani intelligence.

The rise of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent was one of his greatest wishes in terms of al-Qaeda reaching Pakistan and expanding throughout the Indian Subcontinent to wage jihad against the disbelievers and establish Shariah in it. When the group was established, he asked permission to leave his previous group and join the mujahideen of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent and pledge allegiance to its Emir, Mawlana ‘Asim Umar, may Allah preserve him.
He was appointed by him as deputy and the head of preaching and guidance in the group, and he fulfilled his duties with all responsibility, even when the danger upon the mujahideen was great in North Waziristan in the areas of war. When they were surrounded, he extracted the mujahideen first and delayed in coming out himself. I sent a letter rebuking him, writing that he should leave quickly through the different exit routes. He answered me with a letter in which he had written...

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