

Al-Qa'ida's Al-Libi Interviewed on Afghanistan, Iraq, Other Issues

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[Please note: Images may have been removed from this document. Page numbers have been added.]

Terrorism: Al-Sahab Releases Video of Interview with Abu-al-Layth Al-Libi On 28 April, a jihadist website posted a video featuring an interview with Abu-al-Layth al-Libi. The 43-minute video, issued by Al-Sahab, the media arm of the Al-Qa'ida organization, is entitled, "Interview with Shaykh Abu-al-Layth, One of the Leaders of Al-Qa'ida of Jihad in Khorasan." The video has English subtitles. Al-Libi is seen seated on a chair opposite to his interviewer whose face is unseen throughout the interview.

Abu-al-Layth al-Libi

The interview starts with a question on the situation of "Jihad and mujahidin" in Afghanistan and elsewhere five years after the beginning of the war against terrorism. Al-Libi replies that it is true that five years is a short time "but the mercy of the Lord of the worlds was manifest and His blessings enveloped this simple work which was began, according to the date set by everybody, with the blessed expedition, the raids on New York and Washington." He adds: "Almighty God blessed these actions and made them the turning point for the subsequent events and history." Al-Libi says the continuous battles in Afghanistan will "finish off the remnants of the enemy's force and completely crush it."

Asked about the relationship between jihad and the Islamic nation, Al-Libi says the "mujahidin" are the essence of the nation and are part of it. Asked about the recent change in the situation in Afghanistan, Al-Libi replies that those who do not know the situation in Afghanistan and do not know the mujahidin will be surprised by this change. He adds: "In fact, it is a transformation which is not a surprise to the mujahidin. Why? Because throughout this period they have been sacrificing the most precious thing they possess: Their lives."

Speaking about the sectarian fighting in Iraq, Al-Libi says the Mujahidin leaders have demanded that the Shiites stop fighting the Sunnis and halt "their crimes." He adds that when the mujahidin in Iraq found that the Shiites do not stop killing the Sunnis, they embarked on protecting their kinsfolk. He then speaks about how the Shiites assisted the Americans in Iraq. Asked about Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, former leader of Al-Qa'ida in the Land of Two Rivers, who was killed in June 2006, Al-Libi pours praise on Al-Zarqawi and speaks about his traits. He says that he fainted when he heard the news about Al-Zarqawi's death. He also praises Usama Bin Ladin whom he says has "turned us, the mujahidin, toward our real enemy and the big head, which if struck and cut off, means the collapse of its body." Al-Libi says: "We tell the Americans: Although you have killed Abu-Mus'ab, there are generations created by him, which will continue to fight."

Turning to the Palestine question and the charges that the mujahidin have done nothing to this issue, Al-Libi says the speeches delivered by Bin Ladin and the lessons and lectures made by Ayman Al-Zawahiri "filled us to the bone with love for Al-Aqsa and desire to have our blood spilled for the rescue of that mosque."

Asked about the what the Mujahidin should do at this stage, Al-Libi says the mujahidin at present are in an advanced stage and the military activities in Iraq, the Arabian Peninsula, Afghanistan, Algeria, Somalia, and God willing, in Sudan, Lebanon, Syria, and other Islamic countries show that this is a stage which came out of the first stage and they are now in the stage of establishing the Islamic state. On the calls for uniting the ranks of Mujahidin, Al-Libi urges

mujahidin everywhere to unite and says: "If we are not united in times of tragedy, we will not be united in happier times."

On his advice to the Muslim youth in the West, Al-Libi tells Muslims in the Western countries: "The thing with which God saved you is jihad." He adds: "Jihad is your methodology and the leaders of mujahidin are your leaders. So search for the mujahidin and listen to their leaders and follow their directions."