

Al-Qa'ida Figure Al-Libi Urges Somali 'Mujahidin' To Only Accept 'Islamic State' June 23, 2008

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

On 22 June, a forum participant posted to a jihadist website many links to a new 19-minute 52-second videotape by prominent Al-Qa'ida figure Abu-Yahya al-Libi, produced by the Al-Sahab Media Production Organization, the media production arm of the Al-Qa'ida Organization. The video message entitled "Somalia: No Peace Without Islam" is dated June.

The following is the full translation of the tape:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God and may the peace and blessings of God be upon the prophet of God, his family, companions, and followers.

O nation of Islam, may the peace and blessings of God be upon you. I would like to devote this speech of mine to an important and big front, where an honest elite vanguard of the Islamic nation is confronting the world Crusader campaign; namely, Somalia, following the latest agreement that was signed between what is known as the opposition factions and the agent and renegade government in Mogadishu.

Even though the mujahidin are not concerned with such agreements or with their provisions -- indeed they consider them not worth the paper on which they were written -- we all must reiterate our stands on all occasions and explain our path in terms of principles and regulations, so that this path might not be confused with the path of the criminals, thus mixing right with falsehood and guidance with misguidedness.

Therefore, relying on God and in brief, I say the following:

Such agreements, no matter how glittering and attractive the media might portray them as the way out for the country from what they call crises and civil wars, should be placed within a certain context. They should be understood by every enlightened mujahidin as an integral part of the grand conspiracy and the covert intrigue, which the enemies of Muslims have mastered to enable them to prolong their domination on this earth. These agreements are aimed to absorb the indignation of the oppressed and wronged Muslim peoples. They are employ as a means to uproot Jihad and mujahidin in all hot areas, including beloved Somalia, by portraying the mujahidin, through the huge media networks of the enemies, as an obstacle in the way of achieving peace, stability, and reconciliation; that they are the cause of the continuing wars and a reason for perpetuating troubles in this or that country. This is a satanic ploy which deceived many of those who are not aware of the plots of the enemies of God.

Therefore, the salient example of those who are deceived are the ones who deal with major and momentous issues in a superficial and naive way, and who are attracted by glittering slogans and false claims. As for the enlightened believer, he is bright and intelligent and would not repeat his mistake. Everyone has the right to put the following question to those who are shedding crocodile tears about Somalia, those who pretend to care for the interest of the stricken Somali people, and those who are touring world capitals, claiming to search for a way out of the Somalia troubles: Who dragged Somalia into the current situation after stability and calm were restored to it? All kinds of fighting continued -- tribal, political, and indeed criminal -- for over 15 years and those who are shedding tears over the fate of the Somali people have never paid

sincere attention to them. Their only aim was to realize their gains and attain their ambitions at the expense of rivers of blood from the bleeding bodies of innocent and poor people.

Therefore, why is the false conscience of the world is being awakened today to tell us: We are extremely eager to realize the stability of the country and the people?

Have not the Muslim Somali people received the mujahidin like a drowning man clinging to his rescuer when they arrived in Somalia to save it from the afflictions of wars and dismemberment? Have not the Somali people not opened their hearts and minds before they opened their homes for them? Then who turned matters upside down, calling security fear, stability trouble, agreement dismemberment, and the unity of people a disunity? Are they not the same hands that today are being extended to these people to shake hands with them and tell them: We are with you to serve the interests of the country and deliver it from its troubles?

How can we believe that the killer has pity on his victim while he is obviously tearing this victim into pieces with his knife?

Therefore, I draw the attention of my sincere mujahidin in that beloved country to several points: The First Point:

The religion of Islam does not differentiate between an external enemy and an internal enemy. This is a lie that is unacceptable within the rules of Islam. It is a filth with which Islam would not tarnish its bright image. Indeed, Islam urges us to fight those who are close to us before fighting those who are far away whenever we find the means of doing so. God said: "O ye who believe! Fight the unbelievers who gird you about, and let them find firmness in you: and know that Allah is with those who fear Him." (Koranic verse; Al-Tawbah; 9:123) Do you understand? He said: "Let them find firmness in you" and did not say: Look for common ground on which you meet, a unified principle, or a front of struggle that provides an umbrella for you.

Therefore, it makes no difference. When you fight, show firmness and dissociate yourself from your enemies, whether these enemies are Abyssinian Ethiopians, Crusader Americans, pagan Africans, or apostate Somalis. They all support one another because "The Unbelievers are protectors, one of another." (Koranic verse; Al-Anfal; 8:73) Lessons from events have taught us that the external occupier enemies cannot infiltrate the land except through a bridge they make by themselves from among their domestic followers. This picture is being repeated in the modern Crusader wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Chechnya, and the Abbas government in Palestine. This issue has to be very clear and firm to the mujahidin and they should not agree to make any concession about it, otherwise the consequences of their jihad and efforts will be misguidedness and loss, and perhaps even outright treason.

On brother mujahidin in Somalia, take your prophet, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, as an example. He fought his family and the sons of his tribe before he fought others. He did not care about his relations, common blood, kinship, or land. Therefore do not accept any compromises over or changes to this principle or any suspicions. Say with clarity and frankness: We will continue to fight our enemies from among the despicable Abyssinians and their apostate collaborators even if they are the closest to us until we remove all traces and wipe out any mention of them in our country, and until we make religion that of God. The Second Point:

The renegades, and perhaps some who claim to have knowledge, might say and argue as follows if the Ethiopian forces withdraw: Now the war is over and the occupiers have left. Therefore, your fighting against the Somali government and those who stood by it is an illegitimate civil war. The Somali should not kill his brother Somali and we need to spare Somali blood.

If they say this, then you must tell them as follows: If the fight between relatives at all times was considered an abhorrent civil war, then the fight of the Prophet, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, against the infidels of the Quraysh tribe should be the same. God forbid that it is so. God praised the prophet and held him above all others. God said: "Muhammad is the apostle of Allah. and those who are with him are strong against Unbelievers, (but) compassionate amongst each other." (Koranic verse; Al-Fath; 48:29)

Furthermore, what do these people mean by civil war? Our faith and our allegiance is not dependent on land, homeland, blood, money, or kinship. It is based on pure monotheism that makes strangers brothers and brothers strangers. God said: "Your (real) friends are (no less than) Allah, His Messenger, and the (fellowship of) believers -- those who establish regular prayers and regular charity, and bow down humbly (in worship)." (Koranic verse; Al-Ma'idah; 5:55). God also said: "O ye who believe! Take not for protectors your fathers and your brothers if they love infidelity above Faith: if any of you do so, he does wrong." (Koranic verse; Al-Tawbah; 9:23) Therefore, do not build your allegiance and fight except on this original foundation. Believers are close brothers, even if they are strangers; and disbelievers are sworn enemies, even if they are close relatives. The prophet, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, said: The strongest ropes of faith are love on the path of God as well as hate on the path of God.

Therefore, do not hesitate to demonstrate this principle, and to stress and declare it. Know that any ambiguity about this principle will result in your losing this world and the hereafter. The Third Point:

Beloved brothers. Never place the fate of your jihad in the hands of those who never tried this jihad, lived in the areas of jihad, shouldered the burdens of jihad. Never place it in the hands of those who do not take it as a firm and permanent Islamic worship that does not change with events or according to circumstances no matter how famous or reputable they might be, no matter how glib their arguments are, and no matter how they claim to be experts in wisdom, understanding, and politics. These people will wobble the moment they face the first obstacle and compromise on this jihad the moment they are offered the first bait of temptation. They might abandon it when they face the first obstacle because they never tasted the bitterness and the suffering that they should have tasted in establishing jihad. They never felt any genuine responsibility toward this jihad, but consider it, as they say, a pressure card that they use should the need arise, and then they concede it with the first false gain they acquire because it is easy for them to concede jihad.

Therefore, the management of jihad and its major momentous decisions must be entrusted to sincere men with experience in jihad, men who are known among their brothers for their firmness, diligence, and resourcefulness, and understanding of the principles of jihad; the ones who are living through jihad, moment by moment, not through seminars, symposia, and meetings but by their sweat and blood and by their efforts and by living among their brothers.

Having said this, we must stress the value of those with expertise. We should not fail to consult with those with knowledge and valued opinions, or abandon those with experience and the veterans, and we should benefit from them as much as possible, both the ones who are inside or outside Somalia. However, in no case whatsoever, shall the fate of jihad be entrusted to anyone

except those who practice it by words and deeds, those who appreciate the sacrifices of the people of jihad, because they have shared in these sacrifices and they do not accept any compromises or concessions under any cover whatsoever and at all circumstances. The Fourth Point:

The departure of the Ethiopian occupation forces and their replacement by any other forces, whether they belong to the African Union, the United Nations, or other regional or international organizations and under any name whatsoever, such as the peacekeeping forces, will not change the situation at all. The situation is governed by the sharia description which the jurisconsult expresses in this way: If the enemy raids any of the territories of Muslims, jihad becomes an individual duty on the people of this territory.

Therefore, do not view any such forces except within this accurate sharia view. All these conspiracies, names, and slogans are in fact an attempt to replace an occupation with another occupation. The only difference is that the new occupation is entrusted to one of these organizations to justify and promote such occupation. It is a move from the state of a blatant occupation to that of a legitimate occupation, which is prevailing in the countries of Muslims today.

As Muslims first and mujahidin second, we do not recognize the legitimacy of such organizations no matter how high their positions might be in the eyes of those who belong to them, no matter what names or descriptions they are given, and no matter how much money is given to strengthen and promote them. They are indeed infidel organizations that fight God, his messenger, and the believers. Their religion is different from ours, their legitimacy is not part of our legitimacy, the aims for which they were established undermine our aims, and their presidents are authorities in polytheism. Such organizations are led by the United Nations.

How can we believe that these care for our interests, search for our security, or endeavor to secure our peace and safety? Should we believe them, their media, and their claims and disbelieve the book of our God which says: "No falsehood can approach it from before or behind it." (Koranic verse; Fussilat; 41:42). The book says: "O ye who believe! Take not into your intimacy those outside your ranks: They will not fail to corrupt you. They only desire your ruin: Rank hatred has already appeared from their mouths: What their hearts conceal is far worse. We have made plain to you the Signs, if ye have wisdom." (Koranic verse; Al Imran; 3:118)

Therefore, I tell our mujahidin brothers in Somalia: Prepare yourselves to fight any force that sets its feet on your land, no matter what its affiliation, and under any claims or pretexts that are intended to pave the way for its entry, exactly as you fight the Crusader Abyssinian forces and those who stand behind them or supported their occupation. There is no difference between the two whatsoever. You, O mujahidin, and your supporters from the tribes that have faith and which believe in defending religion and the creed, are responsible for taking over authority in this country. Unless a decision is made by you and is based on your independent view, then it has no meaning, bearing, value, or respect. You must brush it aside and not heed it, even if it is acclaimed by others.

This is the path that you must adhere to and in defense of which you must ferociously sacrifice your lives as your leaders themselves sacrificed their lives, led by "the hero, which we consider to be a martyr, Adam Ero," may God have mercy on him. I take this opportunity to offer condolences to the Islamic nation and the mujahidin of the (Al-Usrat) Army over his martyrdom. We say: This is how heroes should die, and this is how men should fight. This

principle of martyrdom continues to be alive in our age and has been a bright page in the facade of jihad. The nation is proud of this bright page, which revives the entire nation.

The killing of hero Adam Ero will not change the march of jihad and will not change the path of sacrifice. Before him Commander Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi was killed in Iraq, Commander Abu-Ibrahim Mustafa in Algeria, Commanders Dadullah and Abu-al-Layth in Afghanistan, Shamil and Khattab in Chechnya and many other commanders of the nation. However, the beacon of jihad was never dimmed. Indeed, jihad's vitality and brightness were enhanced by their martyrdom because it is genuinely the path of life. God said: "O ye who believe! Give your response to Allah and His Messenger, when He calleth you to that which will give you life." (Koranic verse; Al-Anfal; 8:24).

Therefore, adhere to this path and you will find an obvious blessing and a decisive victory, and God will defend you. Do not accept less than an independent Islamic state that does not recognize any international legitimacy, accept earthly laws, or turns its face to the east or to the west, a state whose foundations it would not concede or compromise over, and whose motto will be: "Say: "Truly, my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and my death, are (all) for Allah, the Cherisher of the Worlds." (Koranic verse; Al-An'am; 6:162). It will not be the United Nations, international legitimacy, nor any of the regimes of Al-Jahiliyah (Pre-Islamic days).

You must know that any concessions in terms of these constant principles is a dissipation of your efforts, free and with no compensation. It will be a waste of the blood of your brothers, and a betrayal of their sacrifices. Whoever wants to liberate the land and emancipate the people outside the path of jihad, which means fighting, will be like those who "stretch forth their hands for water to reach their mouths but it reaches them not." (Koranic verse; Al-Ra'd; 13:14) or the one who chases a mirage to quench his thirst but to no avail.

There is no other way that is shorter than the path of jihad to take you to your aims, realize your desires, save your country, or establish your religion, even if those who are misguided think otherwise. Do not pay attention to anything but jihad and do not look at anything else and do not turn your attention from it for a single moment because by jihad you realize firmness. "And fight them until there is no more Tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah. But if they cease, let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression." (Koranic verse; Al-Baqarag; 2:193).

Our last prayer: God be praised, the lord of the universe.