

**Al-Qa'ida Leader Abu-Yazid Interviewed by Pakistan's Geo News TV in Afghanistan
Corrected version: replacing entire text; Text of interview with Al-Qa'ida leader
Mustafa Abu-Yazid a.k.a. Shaykh Sa'id by senior Geo News TV correspondent
Najeeb Ahmed at "unknown" location in Afghanistan; taken from the regularly
scheduled "Today with Kamran Khan" program; date not given.**

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

(Correspondent Najeeb Ahmed) I seek refuge in God from Devil the cursed. In the name of God, the most merciful, the most beneficent. The central Al-Qa'ida leader is giving an exclusive interview to Geo at an unknown location today. First of all, let me introduce you to Shaykh Sa'id. His full name is Mustafa Abu-Yazid. He is commonly known by the name of Shaykh Sa'id. He belongs to Egypt's eastern province. (words as heard) He was born in 1955. He has two wives and 14 children. Previously, he was affiliated with the (?Egyptian Jihad party). He was arrested in Anwar al-Sadat murder case in Egypt in 1981. He was released in 1982. In 1988, he joined the Afghan jihad and also in 1988 played role in the formation of Al-Qa'ida. In Al-Qa'ida, he handled the responsibilities of monitory and administrative affairs and public relations and served as an advisory council member. At present, he is the amir (commander) of Khorasan and Afghanistan under Mullah Omar.

So, first of all, I ask Shaykh Sa'id: One impression prevailing among the people of Pakistan is that the United States established Al-Qa'ida, because it wanted to oust Soviet Union from Afghanistan. That was why the United States sent Usama Bin Ladin to Afghanistan and used him against Soviet Union.

(Abu-Yazid, in Arabic fading into Urdu translation) In the name of God, and praise be to God, and blessings on the Prophet of God (Muhammad). As long as an answer to this question is concerned, we would only say that this statement is a mere lie and allegation. Ages have passed since the reality of this baseless statement was exposed. And this false allegation evaporated just when Shaykh Usama, may God protect him, declared jihad against the United States and following which continuous activities against the United States started. This started off with attacks on US missions in Kenya and Tanzania. This process, after attacks on US targets in Yemen and Somalia, culminated in (word indistinct) the blessed operation of 9/11. This whole process of activities against the United States is a clear proof of the fact that the allegation of working for US interests which is leveled against Al-Qa'ida, is nothing more than a lie and allegation.

Famous names among those who founded Al-Qa'ida included Shaykh Usama Bin Ladin, may God protect him; Shaykh Abu-Ubaydah Bانشيري, may God's blessings be upon him; and military command and leader Abu-Hafs al-Misri. They established this organization with the purpose of establishing a global center for the mujahidin who had converged on Afghanistan from all over the world. So Shaykh Usama and his companions brought these migrating mujahidin together and founded an organization by the name of Qa'idah al-Jihad. May God forgive us.

(Ahmed) Shaykh Sa'id, please tell us why Al-Qa'ida is waging jihad against the United States.

(Abu-Yazid) Al-Qa'ida is waging jihad against the United States because it is the leader of infidels in this age, is the pharaoh of the present era. It is the United States which is holding the

flag of the Cross today. And it is the United States which is leading the ongoing latest crusading attacks against the Muslim community these days. We are waging bloodshed against the United States because it stands by Israel and provides all kinds of assistance and capability to Israel, although the United States knows that the very existence of Israel is accentuated by the usurpation and occupation of Palestinian Muslims' territory. It is not hidden from anyone how deep the friendship of this leader of infidels runs with Israel. We wage bloodshed against the United States because it has occupied Muslim territories; be it the territory of Israel, or Afghanistan, or the blessed territories of Mecca and Medina. And now its military bases are not confined to Al-Haramayn al-Sharifayn (Two Holy Mosques of Mecca and Medina) alone. It has established one or another base in all Muslim territories. We are waging war against the United States because the United States besieged Iraqi Muslims and imposed sanctions on them as a result of which millions of Iraqi children embraced martyrdom due to the (absence) of (word indistinct) and medical aid.

(Ahmed) Is there any difference between the people and Government of United States or do you consider the American people your real enemy?

(Abu-Yazid, in Arabic fading into Urdu translation) We have reached a stage where we make no difference between the people of United States and their government; because, if viewed from the perspective of Shariah (Islamic Law), the United States as a state and the United States as a nation is infidel and is at war against Islam. Islam does not consider any differentiation between the people and Government of United States correct, because, on the whole, both of them, acting as the enemies of Islam, are in a state of war against the Muslim community. After all, it is these people who choose governments through their votes and it is they who voted (word indistinct) Bush to power for the second term, although they were well aware of his hostile agenda against Islam. Even after they had witnessed Bush commit so many atrocities against Muslims, the people elected him for a second time. It is these people, who, through their taxes, provide the US Government the strength which enables its forces to wage wars and shed Muslim blood. Yes, it is possible that there may be a few of such wise people among the American nation as who may be displeased with these US activities. We call on these people of wisdom that it is obligatory upon them to stop their tyrant rulers. It is obligatory upon them that they should not vote for such tyrannical governments.

(Ahmed) The United States claims that it has successfully occupied Afghanistan and Iraq and has overcome the fighters present there.

(Abu-Yazid) It is continuity of their false claims which they deny so often. Their president, the liar, had also claimed two-four years ago that the war in Iraq was over. However, the mujahidin continued their activities even after this announcement. Instead, they escalated continuously. And, today, four years later, the thrashing of US people, praise to be God, has not stopped. So they continue with this weird gimmickry and mockery of the American people's wisdom. And also the veracity of the claim you are mentioning is nothing other than fabrication; whereas they themselves admitted that (audio of a landmine blast heard) (?47) US troops were killed in an attack just last month. Praise be to God, the killing of US troops is still going on. The mujahidin are steadfastly fighting against the Americans and their stooges. And they have organized some tribal militias and have tried to use them along with the mujahidin. Their defeat in Afghanistan is even more clear and evident and the emergency meetings of NATO countries, held at short intervals, are proof of it in which they demand from one another to dispatch more troops to Afghanistan, quite helplessly and raising hue and cry. However, hardly anyone is ready to render such a challenging sacrifice as this.

Similarly, after taking continuous beatings in Kandahar and other southern provinces, Canadian army is also raising hue and cry and Canada has issued clear threat to the NATO member states that it will pull out its military contingent from Afghanistan if more NATO forces do not arrive for its assistance by the end of this year.

Praise be to God, right at the beginning of this summer, the mujahidin have increased the number of their activities in Afghanistan. Americans themselves have admitted that, over the last two months, mujahidin's activities in Afghanistan have increased by 50 percent as compared with the last year. And certainly, in recent days, you must have heard the reports on spectacular suicide attacks in Khowst, Jalalabad, and Kabul ^ Helmand. Similarly, in Helmand and Khowst, you must have heard the news of the shooting down of a helicopter.

So, praise be to God. mujahidin's activities are increasing in Afghanistan. Their spirits are high. They enjoy full support of the common people. And mujahidin's activities have now spread to northern provinces.

And, God willing, time is not far when entire Afghanistan will be in the hands of the mujahidin.

(Ahmed) The United States says Khalid Shaykh was the mastermind of the 9/11 events and he was the mastermind. What would you say in this regard?

(Abu-Yazid) Khalid Shaykh is a (?rare) knight on horse of the (Muslim) community, a practical mujahid, and a man with a mind and a sharp mind. He is among the people this community is rightly proud of. He is a brave and expert military commander and leader. We pray to God for his early release. And may God take revenge from the forces that arrested him and handed him over to the United States and leave them humiliated and dishonored. As far as your question is concerned, Khalid Shaykh himself will answer it during this cruel (court) case which is being heard these days.

(Ahmed) What future do you foresee for the Karzai government established in Afghanistan?

(Abu-Yazid, in Arabic fading into Urdu translation) Karzai government's future will be the same as that of every treacherous and puppet regime. Karzai's name is being used as an axiom to refer to a lord of dishonesty and treachery. When somebody's treachery is to be described, it is said that such and such a person is Karzai of Iraq; such and such a person is Karzai of Somalia. In Kabul, just a few days ago, that blessed event took place in which the mujahidin targeted Karzai and his associates on a day when they had gathered to show their strength and glory.

(Ahmed) Shaykh Sa'id, tell us whether Al-Qa'ida enjoys support of any government in the Islamic world? If not, what's the reason behind it?

(Abu-Yazid, in Arabic fading into Urdu translation) There is not a single such -- so-called -- Islamic government as which supports Al-Qa'ida. The reason for this is clear and simple. All of them are the tools of infidels and traitors of the Muslim community and they have sold out their faith, Islam, so that they could have worldly gains and accumulate wealth. And as a result of making this deal, they have been excommunicated from the Islamic community and they have turned apostates. After this, how could one expect them to be at the forefront of mujahidin's frontline, So, praise be to God, no such government as which calls itself Islamic stands by Al-Qa'ida.

(Ahmed) Is there a government in the Islamic world which has caused maximum harm to the mujahidin and jihad?

(Abu-Yazid) It is regrettable to note that any one government which has inflicted the maximum harm on the mujahidin is the Government of Pakistan. The government of Pervez Musharraf was the first to be dishonest to the neighboring Afghan mujahidin -- those Afghan mujahidin who offered sacrifices for the defense of the entire Muslim community, especially the Muslims living in Pakistan, and proved to be a strong defense against Soviet forces. As a result of their sacrifices, Soviet Union not only failed to enter Pakistan but also fled Afghanistan.

However, Pervez Musharraf and his coterie took wicked steps against Afghan Taliban mujahidin, captured them, and subjected them to torture in secret prisons and then handed them over to the Americans. Pervez Musharraf and his government have committed the sort of crimes which are unprecedented in the whole world. I am referring to the incident in which they arrested Mollah Abdol Salam Zaif, the Pakistan-based ambassador of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and handed him over to the Americans. Even if it had chosen to ignore Islamic injunctions, diplomatic norms required them to protect the (Afghan) ambassador and ensure his safety at all costs. Is it possible to commit a greater act of dishonesty to appease the infidels? Then this government started arresting the mujahidin brothers who had migrated from Arab and non-Arab countries. Mujahidin left their homes in response to the call for jihad in Afghanistan and jumped into the arena of fighting against a crusading United States. After the fall the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, they entered Pakistan in the hope that they would find sanctuary and they would be assisted in the land of the faithful. However, the secret agencies captured the Arab mujahidin and handed them over to the infidel Americans. This is the sort of ugly stain on Pakistan's history which is not to be forgotten until the Day of Judgment.

Then, these enemies of the religion, (Pakistani secret agencies), went a step further and started arresting able-bodied Pakistani nationals. They filled their jails and subjected the inmates to the worst kind of torture and handed several of them to Americans.

Then, it is this very government of Pakistan as a result of whose cooperation and assistance the United States succeeded in toppling the Islamic Emirate established in Afghanistan. It opened up its aerial and land routes and air and military bases for the Americans.

Even today, huge convoys of big containers set out from Karachi and travel deep inside Afghanistan to provide logistic support to US forces so that the Americans should face no difficulty in fighting war. And all this movement is made possible only with the cooperation and support of security agencies.

Praise be to God, today God almighty has made things easy for us, and has opened up the land of Afghanistan for us, and we have entered Afghanistan. Today, we live on the independent and (word indistinct) land of Afghanistan.

(Ahmed) How many Al-Qa'ida mujahidin took part in the 9/11 incident and who was its mastermind?

(Abu-Yazid, in Arabic fading into Urdu translation) Praise be to God, 19 of our comrades carried out the spectacular attack in the blessed 9/11 operation. Many of our brethren worked together in the planning of these events and in (various) phases of training of the comrades who took part in the operation. However, due to security reasons, it is inappropriate to mention their names.

(Ahmed) Are you getting any assistance from Pakistani tribal areas, or do they support you, in your ongoing jihad against the United States in Afghanistan?

(Abu-Yazid, in Arabic fading into Urdu translation) Yes, praise be to God. The Pakistani tribal areas, on the one hand, belong to Pakistan and the people of Pakistan; and, at the same time, cannot be separated from Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan. So, praise be to God, the tribespeople continue supporting their Afghan Muslim brethren. In fact, it is their religious duty to provide this assistance and a responsibility decreed by the religion. Not only the tribespeople but also the people of entire Pakistan are under this obligation, because it is the closest area to Afghanistan.

(Ahmed) Did Al-Qa'ida carry out the attack on Embassy of Denmark in Islamabad?

(Abu-Yazid, in Arabic fading into Urdu translation) Praise be to God, yes, it is a matter of pride and dignity for us that it was Al-Qa'ida which carried out the attack on Danish Embassy in Islamabad. In this regard, we also issued a statement which we conveyed to the whole world through the Internet and other sources. In this statement, we congratulated the Muslim community on the success of this action and its smooth execution. This action was carried out against that infidel country which harbors malice and enmity against Islam and Muslims to the limit. This is the country which blasphemed against the holiest personality of Islam, desecrated the sanctity (of the person) held in the highest esteem by Muslims, that is, the sanctity of the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him.

In this statement, we also said that activities against Denmark and other such blaspheming countries would continue until they gave up impudence and sought pardon from Muslim community for such wicked blasphemy challenging the sanctity of the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him. Let me also make it clear that I have come to learn that media have carried a report that most of the people killed in the attack on Danish Embassy were common innocent Muslims. I would like to clarify that this report is absolutely incorrect and the enemies of Islam have publicized it to undermine the value of this deed.

It is not a secret to anyone that majority of the media work on the directions of the United States and other crusading countries and say the things of their liking.

Comrades who saw the Danish Embassy building, praise be to God, carried out inspection of the target in great detail and with great caution. They knew very well the day on which the embassy expedited its internal affairs and had no common people visiting them for visas or other requirements. So such a time was chosen for action as on which no common Muslims would be present around the embassy.

Security arrangements at the venue of embassy were so strict that it was impossible for a layman to approach it and move around. Police had set up barricades on both sides of the road on which the embassy was situated and it was impossible for anyone to enter. How is it possible that an ordinary Muslim could have been killed in this action at such a time, while an ordinary person is not even allowed to get close to it?

However, if these propagandists are referring to those so-called Muslims who were there to protect the embassy or those who worked at the embassy, it is a shame even to call such people Pakistanis or Muslims.

How is it possible for a person, who calls himself Muslim, to keep serving that country even after it has committed such a heinous crime as blasphemy against the Prophet, peace be upon him, and continue protecting cunning infidels, enemies of the religion, working at the embassy.

No doubt, there is not even an iota of faith left in the hearts of those who do not stop assisting and supporting these infidels even after they have blasphemed against the Prophet of God, peace be upon him. Instead, because of this commission, they have deprived themselves of their religion.

Here, I would like to break the special news that the youth who carried out the martyrdom the attack on Danish Embassy was a proud follower of Al-Qa'ida. He belonged to the land that is the dearest to God and His Prophet, peace be upon him, and which is the most respected in their eyes. It is the land where the Prophet of God, peace be upon him, used to receive the divine revelation. It is that blessed place where the Prophet of God, peace be upon him, was born. The blessed land of Holy Mecca. This would-be-martyr youth left his home with the intent of taking part in the jihad ongoing in the battlefield of Afghanistan or Kashmir.

However, when infidels committed blasphemy against the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, he could not accept living in humiliation anymore and said that dying in the way of God was dearer to him than remaining alive while blasphemy against the Prophet of God, peace be upon him, continued. So, on that occasion, that youth very forcefully pleaded that he would take part in the operation and God gave him the strength for that great deed. We pray to God to accept his martyrdom and elevate his status in the Paradise.

(Ahmed) What is your opinion about suicide attacks by Al-Qa'ida? Is conducting suicide attacks legitimate in Islam?

(Abu-Yazid) Praise be to God, many sincere and truthful religious scholars have issued Islamic decrees justifying suicide attacks. And they have consensus on their justification. And only such people create doubts about their justification as who are either weak or (?dishonest). As far as knowledgeable people are concerned, who, because of their weakness, do not find enough courage in themselves to declare truth publicly are under obligation to keep quiet on this issue. However, how does it become legitimate for these unfaithful governments to extract Islamic decrees from them against their will, exploiting them for their own objectives. Tomorrow, before God, every one of them will be questioned. And as far as official clerics are concerned, they are, even otherwise, of no use to the Muslim community. They issue only those Islamic decrees which officials dictate them.

So, we would like to lay full stress on the point that from the perspective of Islamic Law a suicide attack is justified with consensus. And we have adopted this war tactic because there is a lot of difference between our and the enemy's material capabilities. Therefore, we have no other means of getting close to the enemy to inflict harm on him.

Essentially, the effort remains that we should try to launch traditional attack, face-to-face battle. However, on many a place, it is not possible to reach the enemy through this traditional means. Here, we would also like to emphasize fully the point that in every operation of this kind, we try our best to choose a target that is miles away from the Muslim community. On many occasions, we abandoned our (planned) activities because Muslims were present around the target. We fight for the defense of the Muslim community. It is not our job at all to kill the sons of the Muslim community, as the enemies spread false propoganda about us. So, the justification for activities carried out with these Islamic legal precautions is beyond doubt.

(Ahmed) A suicide attack was carried out against Sherpao, former interior minister of Pakistan, in a mosque. Do you consider it justified?

(Abu-Yazid, in Arabic fading into Urdu translation) Praise be to God, we issued a statement soon after this incident and in that(statement) we forcefully denied that we had carried out this action, nor were we happy about it, nor did we consider it justified. It was also made clear to all mujahidin that it was illegitimate to carry out such activities from the perspective of Islamic Law. It is obligatory on the mujahidin to refrain from carrying out actions on such places as where Muslims may have gathered; particularly mosques, because these are our revered and sacred places. So it is obligatory to refrain completely from carrying out actions on such places. We issued this clarification and sent it to Pakistani newspapers for publication. However, newspapers did not report it correctly and published only a couple of sentences from the entire statement.

I would also like to add that the possibility may not be ruled out about such actions as which are carried out against mosques or Muslims that the country's secret agencies manage such actions to malign jihad and thus convey the message to common Muslims that the mujahidin are killers of Muslims. So we advise Muslims to avoid substantiating such false reports; because we, the mujahidin, in the way of God, deserve to a greater extent that the Muslim community should believe in reports and statements that we issue as compared with those by the Americans, governments collaborating with them, and secret agencies.

(Najeeb) Viewers, you listened to Shaykh Sa'id and many an important aspect, which was unexposed until now, has come to public knowledge. Thank you.

(Description of Source: Karachi Geo News TV in Urdu -- 24-hour satellite news TV channel owned by Pakistan's Jang publishing group, broadcast from Dubayy. Known for providing quick and detailed reports of events. Programs include some Indian shows and dramas which the group claims are aimed at promoting people-to-people contact and friendly relations with India.)