

Al-Jazirah: Al-Zawahiri Urges Defense of Palestine, Forming 'Resistance' Command

Doha Al-Jazirah Satellite Channel Television in Arabic

October 1, 2004

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

Corrected version: Changing "Austrian" to "Hungarian" in sixth paragraph and adding dropped second set of begin and end recording editorial notes; Announcer-read report
Ayman al-Zawahiri, the Al-Qa'ida organization's second-in-command, has said that relinquishing Palestine is something the Islamic Shria rejects. In a message, he called for not confining the battle for Palestine to fighting the Jews, as he put it.

(Begin Al-Zawahiri recording) Defending Palestine is not a national zeal or ethnic bigotry, nor is it a political struggle, but it is a religious cause in the first place. The liberation of Palestine is an individual duty for every Muslim. That is why Muslims cannot abandon Palestine, even if the entire world abandoned it.

We, in Palestine, do not confront the Jews only, but also the international alliance that is hostile to Islam. This alliance is headed by crusader United States, Zionism, the crusader West, and the agent rulers. Hence, confining the battle against the Jews to Palestine, and leaving the United States without attacking it, will not curb the excesses of the Americans and the crusaders against us, for the Americans decided to establish Israel more than 60 years ago. They have not stopped supporting it to this day. They do not allow any encroachment upon Israel or upon its ambitions. Have we forgotten who killed Ahmad Yasin and (Abd-al-Aziz) Al-Rantisi? Not only the Jews killed them, but the Americans also participated. (This killing was carried out by) The Americans, who support the Jews; Europe, which defends their presence; and our agent rulers, who let them violate the sanctity of Palestine and left the Palestinian people to face the new crusader-Jewish campaign alone. (end recoding)

Al-Zawahiri also called on the Muslim youth not to wait for any one and to start resistance immediately. He called on the wise people and those with expertise to form a command for resistance to confront the crusader campaign, as he put it. He added that we should not wait until the foreign troops enter the Arab countries, as happened in Afghanistan and Iraq. (Begin Al-Zawahiri recording) This is the age for the Muslim nation's resistance, after governments languished and yielded to the crusader occupier. Let us learn a lesson from Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine. The authority was absented or toppled, but the resistance remained. The governments in Chechnya and Afghanistan became a leadership for the resistance.

We must not wait until the American, British, French, Jewish, South Korean, Hungarian, and Polish forces enter Egypt, the Arab peninsula, Yemen, and Algeria, and then begin the resistance. We should begin the resistance now. The interests of the Americans, British, Australians, French, Polish, Norwegians, South Koreans, and Japanese are everywhere. They all participated in the occupation of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Chechnya, or supplied Israel with means of subsistence.

We should not wait any longer; otherwise, we will be devoured one country after the other, in the same way they occupied us during the past two centuries.

The stage for governing by proxy has ended. The Islamic world has now entered into the stage of occupation and dividing areas of influence.

The youth should not wait for anyone. They should begin the resistance now, and they should learn lessons from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Chechnya. They should learn how the resistance ruined the plans of the Crusaders and Jews, and put them in the predicament of the defender looking for an escape.

If the mujahidin in Iraq, Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Palestine became negligent, then the enemies would have been able to take over their land and then turned to others to occupy. Those with a sense of judgment and experience should organize their efforts and form a resistance leadership to confront the crusader campaign, in the same way that the mujahidin organized their affairs in Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Palestine, against the will of the occupiers and their agent national governments.

O youth of Islam, this is our message. If we are killed or taken prisoner, continue along the path after us. Do not betray God, or his prophet, or your trust.

Our last prayer is to thank God Almighty. May God's blessings be upon his prophet, his household, and his companions. (end recording)

(Description of Source: Doha Al-Jazirah Satellite Channel Television in Arabic -- Independent Television station financed by the Qatari Government)