

Al-Zawahiri Audio Message Discusses 'Fall of Jerusalem' Anniversary

June 26, 2007

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

Terrorism: Al-Zawahiri Audio Message Discusses 'Fall of Jerusalem' Anniversary On 25 June, a jihadist website posted links to a 25-minute audio tape of a speech by Ayman al-Zawahiri, Al-Qa'ida's second in command, entitled "Forty Years Since the Fall of Jerusalem." The tape begins with a 30-second video excerpt of an old statement by Usama Bin Ladin in which he says: "I swear by God, Who raised the sky without pillars, that America and those who live in America will not dream of having security before we have it in Palestine and all infidel armies depart from the land of Mohammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. God is great and pride is to Islam." Then the video ends and the voice of Al-Zawahiri is heard while his still image is shown with the following caption under his picture: "Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri, may God preserve him; Forty Years Since the Fall of Jerusalem."

A translation of Al-Zawahiri's comments follows:

"In the name of God. Praise be to God. Prayers and peace be upon God's messenger, his family, companions, and those who followed him.

"Brother Muslims everywhere. May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. Forty years have now passed since Jerusalem's fall to the Jews, the earthquake that continues to shake the Muslim nation (ummah). It has been etched in its memory. It has affected its consciousness and feelings, charted its presence, and indeed cast its shadow on its future and destiny. That is why we must ask ourselves: Who is the cause of the fall of Jerusalem? Why has it fallen? Why have all the Arab governments, with their armies and wealth and their power over their people failed to protect Jerusalem? Why have they always been in retreat and were defeated in the face of the nation's enemies?

"These are serious questions which we must ponder at length. We must face the facts of their answers, however much they pain us. We were defeated because of our weakness and not because of the strength of our enemy. We were defeated because we abandoned Islam and went along with every Tom, Dick, and Harry from the East and the West, applauded every tyrant, and cheered every charlatan who led us from one defeat to another and from tyranny to corruption until we woke up the tanks of the Jews -- who the charlatan promised us would be thrown into the sea -- and they were storming Jerusalem, devouring the West Bank, pursuing the defeated in the Golan Heights, and destroying the Egyptian army in six hours.

"We were defeated because we followed the charlatan who went to look for the Jews in Yemen and the Congo and forgot that he (Jamal Abd-al-Nasir) had given them the right of passage through the Gulf of Aqaba (after the 1956 Suez War). When the disaster occurred he came out with an apology and said he expected the aircraft to attack from the East but they came from the West. The nation discovered that it had been worshipping a calf that could do no harm or good like the calf of the Children of Israel (biblical reference) and realized when its false god was demolished that it had been led astray from its true God who has the power to do good and harm. 'Look (God addressing the Prophet Moses) at your god which you have kept on worshipping, we shall grind it down and scatter it into the sea. (People), your true god is the One God, there is no god but Him, whose knowledge embraces everything. In this way we relate to you (Muhammad) stories of what happened before. We have given you a Koran from Us' (Koranic verse).

"Jerusalem is lost because of an extremely corrupt regime which sent its army against its people and betrayed its religion and history; it was a regime that was controlled by Birlant Abd-al-Hamid (Egyptian actress who secretly married the then Defense Minister Abd-al-Hakim Amir), Wardah al-Jaza'iriyah (Algerian-born singer), and Maha Sabri (Egyptian singer), and violated the nation's free and chaste women, tortured and killed, in its prisons, the nation's honorable and prominent sons: Abd-al-Qadir Awdah, Muhammad al-Farghali, Muhammad al-Awdan, Sayyid Qutb, Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il, Hasan al-Hudaybi, Abd-al-Hamid Kishk, and Ibrahim Izzat (mainly Muslim Brotherhood figures); it was a regime that was allied with the Marxists who do not accept Israel's elimination and with the (Arab) nationalists who tore up the Muslim nation, became detached from Islam and espoused secularism, deserted the Arabs in every battle, and sold them in every treaty.

"That is why the Muslim nation must remember the historical disasters that befell it at the hands of secular regimes that have fought the Sharia from the time of King Faruq until (President) Husni Mubarak. As a result of the betrayal and failure of those regimes, the worst disasters of our history have befallen us: the 1948 (Palestine) catastrophe; the 1956 defeat; the 1967 setback, then dissipating the initial victory and beginning the series of capitulation in 1973; cooperating in blockading and hitting Iraq; colluding with Israel in hitting Lebanon; and last but not least, intimidating and inducing the resistance in Palestine so that it accepts international legality; that is, the Crusader-Zionist legality.

"About three years ago, (former Malaysian prime minister) Mahathir Mohammad, the secular nationalist who had handed over the mujahidin to the United States, at the opening of the Islamic summit in Malaysia, after he had left office, faced his brothers, the rulers of Muslim countries with their reality and said to them: We, the Muslim nation, are today being treated offensively and with derision; our religion is being distorted, our holy places are being desecrated, our countries are occupied, and our peoples are starved and killed. None of our countries are truly independent. We, under pressure, comply with the wishes of our oppressors on how we must behave and how we should rule our countries and even how should think.

"He added: There is a feeling of despair among the Muslim states and peoples. They feel their inability to carry out any correct action and think that matters will only get worse and that Muslims will remain forever oppressed and subject to the Europeans and Jews.

"He said all that after he left office and after he saw with his very own eyes how the Jews sought to sabotage Malaysia's economy.

"I say two things to Mahathir Mohammad and those of his ilk who have testified to a part of the truth: First, it is you who have brought the nation so low. It is you who have excluded the Sharia from your rule. It is you who have capitulated to America's desires. It is you who have spread corruption and decadence in your societies. It is you who have fought the mujahidin and hunted them down on America's behalf. And now you are reaping the bitter harvest of what you have sown.

"Second, what Mahathir said is a small part of the truth. The greater part which he is hiding and cannot speak out loud and indeed perhaps opposes is that jihad is the road to salvation for the Muslim nation and indeed for all of mankind.

"Today court scholars, (US) marines (previous word in English), journalists, and brokers come out and ask us to be reconciled with those criminals and to accept their rule, domination, and tyranny. For what? In order to continue to give up every city and country so that they can

destroy what remains of our resistance and steadfastness? I am surprised at Arab nationalists and leftists. How is it that they have not reconsidered after those momentous events and violent storms? Why do the nationalists to this day glorify a man who, with his corruption, brought upon the Arabs a defeat that history will not forget? He has abandoned Palestine, the symbol of their Arabism. Why do the leftists stubbornly insist on their views to this day? Russia and China have become two trading companies: one is controlled by the Mafia, while the other is dominated by the Communist Party which is immersed in the market.

"Beware, you who are pretending to be sleeping, for the sun has risen in the sky. Open your eyes. Who is defending the Muslim nation today? Is it not the mujahidin? Look at your nationalist brothers in the most important Arab cause, in Palestine. They are now indulging America and its right arm. After the proclamation of a state of emergency in the (Palestinian) Authority (PA) territories, America and the EU are declaring their absolute support for (PA President) Mahmud Abbas and his government and lifted from it the blockade that had been imposed on the Hamas government. (US Secretary of State Condoleezza) Rice declared that Hamas carries out criminal actions and that the US Administration is discussing whether to dispatch a multinational force to the Gaza Strip.

"Prior to that, America had sent \$70 million to Abbas to equip and arm his forces. It sent him Lieutenant General (Keith) Dayton to take over the organization and training of Abbas' forces. Dayton told the US Congress that the US Administration had encouraged sections within Fatah to assassinate Hamas leaders and that America should stand by its friends in Fatah. Everyone knows that the Egyptian regime is supplying Abbas with weapons and is training thousands for him, of whom 5,000 were about to enter the Gaza Strip to implement the plan to destroy Hamas had it not been for Hamas' seizure of the plan.

"The Arab foreign ministers then met with astonishing speed in Cairo to support Abu-Mazin's (Abbas') legitimacy and to condemn the criminal actions that took place in Gaza.

"Oh Muslim nation, that is how the most important nationalist trend in the Arab world has rallied under the banner of Crusader America to eliminate the jihad in Palestine. Today we must support the mujahidin in Palestine, including the mujahidin in Hamas, despite all the mistakes of their leaders. We say to our brothers, the mujahidin in Hamas: We, together with the entire Muslim nation, are with you. However, you must correct your march. We say to you: Now that you are in control of things in Gaza, you must remember two matters: first, assuming power is not an objective in itself but the objective is to achieve God's course on Earth. God says: 'Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms because they have been wronged - God has the power to help them - those who have been driven unjustly from their homes only for saying, 'Our Lord is God'. For had it not been for God repelling some people by means of others, many monasteries, churches, synagogues and mosques, where God's name is much invoked, would have been destroyed. God is sure to help those who help His cause, God is strong and almighty. Those who, when We establish them in the land, keep up the prayers, pay the prescribed alms, enjoin what is right, and forbid what is wrong: God controls the outcome of all events" (Koranic verse).

"Second, this situation (the establishment in the land) is not complete or stable. Preparations are under way to invade Gaza. Unite with your brothers, the mujahidin in Palestine, and do not provoke problems with them. Close your ranks with all the mujahidin in the world in the face of a coming onslaught in which I expect the Egyptians and Saudis to participate -- as they are used to doing -- in a serious, cunning role.

"We must be aware of the ideological constants in the struggle between truth and falsehood. We must also grasp the facts of reality. Therefore to say that abandoning the rule of the Sharia was in order to guarantee the peaceful transfer of power and to follow the middle-of-the-road (wasati) course is contrary to the constants of Islam, and events have proved the invalidity of such an assertion. There is no freedom or peaceful transfer of power or respect for the freedom of voters as long as we are under the control of the Crusaders and Zionists. What took place in Gaza and Ramallah is the best proof of that. The failure of such a course in Palestine is in addition to its repeated failures in Egypt since the 1940s, then in Algeria, and then again in Egypt recently. The Muslim nation will not attain its freedom unless governance is by the Sharia and unless the occupiers are driven away and unless the authorities are upright. Very simply and clearly, that can be achieved only through jihad in the cause of God.

"Also to say that ceding four-fifths of Palestine in the Mecca Agreement was in order to stop the shedding of Palestinian blood is an assertion whose inconsistency and falsehood has been proven. Palestinian blood has flowed in abundance since the Mecca Agreement. Funds and weapons flowed to the secular sellers of Palestine so as to stab the mujahidin in the back. The assertion that the resistance in Palestine is only a national liberation movement and has no connection with its brother mujahidin in the Muslim world will only lead to loss and will not be accepted by the enemies of Islam and can only lead to the weakening of the ummah's determination to confront the Crusader-Zionist campaign. It will only lead to hiding the real nature of the struggle between Islam and the West.

"I remind those who espouse such ideas of the illuminating words of the martyr of Islam, Shaykh Abdallah Azzam, may God rest his soul in peace, who said: 'Justice (haqq) rejects geographic borders and refuses to be confined to narrow borders invented by geographers. Justice defies honest human brains and says to them: How can you say that such a cause is just on this side of the mountain or river and is false if it goes beyond this shore to the other shore.' He also said: 'Afghanistan is Palestine, and Palestine is Afghanistan. The fragrance spreads the fragrance.' However, we do not want the flame of jihad to die in our depths, and we do not want the zeal for this religion and for saving the oppressed and for protecting Muslim countries to fade.

"Despite all that, we say to you: We are with you in your confrontation of Israel and its agents, the secularists who sold Palestine, despite all the mistakes of your leaders, and although they have abandoned us and the other mujahidin in Muslim countries.

"My people blame me for my shortcomings,

"But there are things in my shortcomings that bring them praise.

"I repay with them that which they have neglected and lost,

"Such as the rights which they could not safeguard.

"What is between me and my brothers

"Is very different from what is between me and my cousins.

"I see that they are slow in coming to my help,

"But if they call for my help I rush to them hurriedly.' (Verses from a poem)

"Yes, we and every Muslim have been pained to see a Hamas leader stand in Moscow and say: 'The issue of Chechnya is an internal Russian affair.' I call on my honorable brothers in Chechnya, the knights defending the northern lands of Islam for four and a half centuries, to forgive such words and not to hold them against Hamas' mujahidin for the lapse of one of their leaders. It was regrettable to have Shaykh Usama Bin Ladin, may God protect him, raise his voice to explain that the blockade of Hamas was a link in the chain of the Crusader war on Islam, and then a Hamas leader comes up and declares that he disagrees with Usama Bin Ladin and that Hamas seeks to have good relations with the West. God is enough for us, He is the best protector.

"The EU is now declaring that it supports Mahmud Abbas, who has sold his religion, sold Palestine, and killed your leaders. Has Usama Bin Ladin relinquished his religion? Has he relinquished Palestine? Has he killed any of you?

"I see that they are slow in coming to my help,

"But if they call for my help I rush to them hurriedly.

"If they eat my flesh I spare theirs,

"And if they demolish my glory I build them a glory.

"If they initiate hostility toward me,

"I will reciprocate only with what is sensible.

"If they should sever their ties with me,

"I would extend to them my love and amity.

"They can have most of my money if I get wealth,

"And if my money is sparse I will not cost them anything.' (Verses from a poem)

"My Muslim brothers everywhere, the Sunday Times has reported that the new Israeli Defense Minister, Ehud Baraq, is preparing 20,000 soldiers, backed by aircraft, to storm the Gaza Strip and destroy the Hamas infrastructure. Therefore we cannot abandon the mujahidin in Hamas and in the rest of Palestine in these circumstances because the defeat of the mujahidin in Hamas and in other mujahidin groups is a defeat of jihad in Palestine and consolidates the forces of treason and the agents of the Crusaders and the Jews in Jerusalem. The important question now is: How can we support the mujahidin in Hamas and the rest of Palestine? We can support them by having those who can go to help them do so. We can support them by providing them with funds and striving to deliver such funds to them and by seeking to penetrate the blockade which the Crusaders and the traitorous Arab rulers are imposing on them in order to ensure the continuation of jihad and to prevent the strangulation of the mujahidin and our kinfolk in Palestine. We can support them by facilitating the delivery of weapons and provisions to them from neighboring states. That is a religious obligation and the individual duty of everyone who neighbors Palestine in general and the Gaza Strip in particular.

"I appeal to the people of Islam, faith, and pride among the beloved and honorable tribes of Sinai and say to them: Know that today you are in a test about which God will ask you, did you stand by your brothers in religion and kinship among the people of Palestine or did you leave them a prey to the Jews and the Egyptian regime which has violated your honor and sanctities, skinned you, electrocuted you, and continues to this day to arrest your sons?

"We support them with information, experience, and opinion. We support them by targeting Zionist and Crusader interests wherever we can so that the enemies of Islam will know that the nation of Islam is fighting one battle and that it cannot see its brothers and kinfolk in Palestine attacked and let the aggressors off without being held accountable.

"My mujahidin brothers in Hamas and in all movements operating in Islam, there are red lines that must not be crossed by any movement that is affiliated to Islamic action, including relinquishing the rule of the Sharia and accepting the governance of the majority of the (word indistinct), and ceding Muslim lands and acceptance of or respect for (allusion to 2007 Mecca Agreement) international resolutions and the resolutions of Arab summits, and including acceptance of a national state as a substitute for the caliphate, and acceptance of national affiliation as a substitute for the brotherhood of Islam.

"In conclusion I address my Muslim nation. I say to it: Today we greatly need to instill the spirit of strength, jihad, proclamation of the truth, and sacrificing in the way of God among our ranks. Today we have the least need for those who spread among us the course of retreat and the culture of concession. The duty of the Muslim nation today is to carry arms in the way of God. If it cannot do so it must give support to those who carry arms in the way of God. If we go astray and everyone of us becomes anxious to be a minister, an ambassador, a director, a wealthy person, a notable, a distinguished writer, a skillful physician, a successful engineer, or a prosperous businessman, we will lose the afterlife and we will be defeated in this world. The nation that does not make sacrifices does not achieve victory. The nation that does not dare death is not given life. We will not achieve victory unless we deserve it. 'You who believe! If you help God, He will help you and make you stand firm' (Koranic verse).

"If you turn away now, could it be that you will go on to spread corruption all over the land and break your ties of kinship' (Koranic verse).

"We will not be worthy of that victory unless we offer the blood and unless we experience the suffering, imprisonment, and being away from our families, property, and homeland that make us deserve victory. 'Many Prophets have fought, with large bands of godly men alongside them who, in the face of their sufferings for God's cause, did not lose heart or weaken or surrender: God loves those who are steadfast' (Koranic verse).

"The Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, said: Before you, it used to happen that a man was placed in a ditch in the ground, and a saw was placed on his head, and it was split, yet that did not make him deviate from his religion. He used to be combed with iron combs down to the bones and nerves beneath his flesh, and yet that did not make him abandon his religion. By God, this will take place until the traveler goes from Sana'a to Hadramawt without fearing anyone except God, or the wolf for his sheep. But you are hasty.

"If we truly seek victory, we must bury the culture of concession and the course of retreat and close our ears to them.

"My Muslim nation, America is not a god. It does not provide one's livelihood or decide one's fate or know the future. Do not believe those who tell you America cannot be defeated and that in any confrontation with it we are doomed to fail. Answer them: America can be defeated. America is being defeated today in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Somalia. It bleeds heavily, and cannot find a way out. God willing, it will be defeated in Palestine. 'Why should you not fight in God's cause and for those oppressed men, women, and children who cry out, 'Lord, rescue us from this town whose people are oppressors. By your grace, give us a protector and give us a helper?' The believers fight for God's cause, while those who reject faith fight for an unjust cause. Fight the allies of Satan: Satan's strategies are truly weak' (Koranic verse).

"The Prophet Muhammad said: The Muslim is the brother of the Muslim. He neither wrongs him nor humiliates him. He who helps his brothers when he needs him, God will help when he needs Him. He who comforts a Muslim in distress, God will ease his distress on Judgment Day. He who shields a Muslim, God shields him on Judgment Day.

"The Prophet Muhammad also said: The Muslim is the brother of the Muslim. He does not wrong him or let him down. Piety is here. And he pointed to his chest.

"The Prophet Muhammad said: One believer to another is like a building with each part holding the other. And he clasped his fingers.

"Praise be to God, Lord of the Universe. Prayers and peace be on the Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his companions. May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you."