

Al-Zawahiri Says US 'Being Routed' in Iraq, Afghanistan, Assails Egypt's Rulers April 18, 2008

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Terrorism: Al-Zawahiri Says US 'Being Routed' in Iraq, Afghanistan, Assails Egypt's Rulers
On 18 April, a forum participant posted several links to a new 15-minute 52-second audio message by Al-Qa'ida's second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahiri, entitled: "Five years after the Invasion of Iraq and Decades of Injustice by the Tyrants." The message is produced by Al-Sahab Media Production Organization, the media wing of Al-Qa'ida organization.

The following is the full translation of Al-Zawahiri's audio message:

"In the name of God and praise be to God. May the peace and blessings of God be upon the messenger of God, the members of his family, and his companions and followers.

"Brother Muslims everywhere. May the peace and blessings of God be upon you. I will talk to you today on two important issues. The first is the passage of five years since the US invasion of Iraq. The second is the economic plundering that our nation in Egypt and in other Muslim lands is being subjected to.

"As for the status of the US invasion of Iraq today and after five years, it is, with God's grace, failure and defeat. (General David) Petraeus went to Congress to request the postponement of the date of the US additional forces' withdrawal by six weeks after the set date of next July, and Bush announced that he will grant Petraeus all the time he needs. A ridiculous farce to cover up the failure in Iraq and to help Bush dodge the decision to withdraw forces, which is considered a declaration of the Crusader invasion of Iraq defeat by transferring the problem to the new president. So where are the Awakening Councils, which Petraeus announced six months ago that they will achieve victory in Iraq? Were not these Awakening Councils supposed to expedite the date of the US forces' withdrawal? Or are they in need of someone to defend and protect them? Bush's administration is deceiving its people so as not to acknowledge failure in Iraq and Afghanistan? Let the soldiers of this Administration go to hell. Petraeus and Bush are trying to convince the Americans that their salvation will begin six weeks from next July. In fact even if Bush keeps all his forces in Iraq until doomsday and until they go to hell, they will face only defeat and incur loss, God willing.

"The impasse in Iraq and Afghanistan is simply that if the US forces withdraw they will lose everything, and if they stay on they will be bleeding to death. This is what Bush has chosen for his army and his people, who elected him twice. Today he is evading this impasse and procrastinating on making a decision to escape from this deadlock.

"As for the Democrats, they are trying to deceive their people by claiming that they will withdraw their forces from Iraq by reaching an understanding with Iran in order to concentrate on Al-Qa'ida and Taliban in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Iran's aims are clear; namely, annexing southern Iraq and the eastern part of Al-Jazirah (area between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers) and expanding to establish contacts with its followers in southern Lebanon. If an understating is reached with Iran based on meeting all or some of its aims in exchange for overlooking the US hegemony over the region, this understanding will add fuel to the already flaming fire, will bring the situation to a head in this already explosive region, and will cause an ever increasing Islamic awakening. This awakening will be engendered by the US-Iranian collusion, and it will direct further blows to US interests.

"Both the Republicans and the Democrats, and indeed all the Americans and the Crusader West in general, are afflicted with the blindness of arrogance and highhandedness, which makes them reject the word 'Why.' They have failed to answer the question: Why did they attack us? Then they failed to answer the question: With what are they going to defeat us? This blindness prevents them from seeing the facts as they are on the ground. One of these facts is that the age of hegemony, plundering, and oppression of the Islamic nation has gone, never to return. The age of jihad, defense, and steadfastness has begun. The age of the Monroe Doctrine, the Opium War, the Sykes-Picot Agreement, and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has gone, and the age of rejecting peace, capitulation, and normalization; the age of confronting the invaders in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine, has begun.

"The perseverance in and insistence on ignoring the facts prompt the United States and the Crusader West to continue with the same old methods, making them sustain further and continuous losses. As for the situation in Iraq, it is, God be praised, in the interest of Islam and jihad. The Americans are being routed. They are fighting in Washington over the date of their withdrawal. The Awakening Councils are being pursued. There, the Mujahidin follow the tradition of Abu-Bakr Al-Siddiq (the first caliph after Muhammad), may God be pleased with him: Either a victorious war or an ignominious peace. The Iranians are in confusion. Their henchmen are fighting each other. In their fighting, they are bombing the domes of Husayn and Al-Abbas, may God be pleased with them.

"Muqtada al-Sadr has become the laughing stock of the world because of his use of Al-Taqiyah (expediences, Shiite principle). Sometimes he hands over his weapons and joins the political process. Sometimes he leaves this process, and sometimes he freezes Al-Mahdi Army, and then says he will postpone this freeze. Sometimes he says he will stage a demonstration against the occupation and then he says he will not. Sometimes he says he will sound the religious authorities on dissolving Al-Mahdi Army. Thus, the Iranian intelligence has used this naive boy as a puppet. He claims that he is waging resistance against the occupation, sometimes by handing his weapons over to them and sometimes by demonstrating against them.

"The people of Islam and jihad in Iraq have only to be persistent and remain firm. The signs of victory are now clear and the breakthrough is looming on the horizon. Shortly Iraq will become the fortress of Islam which will become a springboard from which expeditions and troops will leave to liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque (of Jerusalem), God willing.

"Iraq today is now the most important arena in which our Muslim nation is waging the battle against the forces of the Crusader-Zionist campaign. Therefore, backing the mujahidin in Iraq, led by the Islamic State of Iraq, is the most important task of the Islamic nation today.

"The second thing that I would like to talk about is the economic plundering to which our nation, in Egypt and other Islamic countries, are being exposed. Corruption and thefts have reached the extent of starving people and denying them their basic food. Those who are stealing the food of the people of Egypt are the same ones who are preventing food from reaching the people of Gaza under the pretext of suspect international commitments, which they reached with the Jews and the Americans under the cover of darkness, to enable Israel to monopolize supplies to Gaza in order to force its people to capitulate to its conditions. Those who are stealing the means of livelihood of the people of Egypt are the same ones who are spreading and promoting the culture of capitulation to the United States and normalization of relations with Israel, and then surrendering and seeking refuge in the documents of rationalization.

"Starving the people in Egypt and denying them bread and water in the Nile Delta is part of the US-Zionist conspiracy, which is designed to subjugate our nation and divide it further. Denying people bread, stealing the resources of the nation, starving the people, poisoning the air and water, and spreading renal failures are only symptoms of the cancer that is spreading in the organs of the nation.

"Those who stole the means of people's life and did not even leave a loaf of bread to them have reached such limits because the nation did not confront them as it should have in order to deter them. If the nation continues to leave them doing this, they will sell its children. They have handed Egypt over to Israel but the nation did not deter them. They brought in the Crusader US forces to Egypt but the nation did not confront them. They helped kill Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan but the nation did not stop them. They plotted against the siege of the mujahidin in Gaza, but nobody stood against them. They violated honors in jails, detention centers, and police stations but nobody punished them. The longer our silence the more they will bite our flesh and drink from our blood.

"Abu-Bakr Al-Siddiq, may God be please with him, said: O people. Read this Koranic verse: "O ye who believe! Guard your own souls: If ye follow (right) guidance, no hurt can come to you from those who stray." (Koranic verse; Al-Ma'idah; 5:105) He said: I heard the messenger of God, may the blessings and peace of God be upon him say: If people recognize the oppressor and fail to punish him, God will punish all of them.

"Those who stole the bread and the means of life of the people are the ones who blocked all means of peaceful change. What happened at the Shura Council elections and then the local elections in Egypt, and before that the Jordanian elections, the Moroccan elections, and the threat to dissolve the Justice Party in Turkey represent the new US policy, now that the method of change through elections has exhausted itself and after the Americans exploited this current by diverting the nation from jihad and serious resistance against the nation's internal and external enemies. When this policy failed to confront the wave of the expanding jihadist awakening, they moved to the current policy; namely, the policy of creating Awakening Councils in Iraq, introducing the constitutional amendments, exercising complete control over the elections, and the document of rationing in Egypt. This is the policy of imposing the ignominious, humiliating, and corrupt reality on the nation by oppression, forgery, repression, and lies.

"Insisting on prevarication, the White House, the sponsor of freedoms in the world, issued a statement, after the local elections in Egypt, in which it expressed concern about the harassment of the opposition's activists and candidates at the hands of the government, which is backed and supported by the Americans and which they supply with funds, aid, and means of torture. These US lies are no longer convincing to anyone, and this corrupt and traitor (Egyptian) regime, which has closed all doors to peaceful change, should be toppled if we want to live as human beings. We will be rescued only by an Islamic government, which is independent from the arch international criminals and which will protect the nation's interests, defend its sanctities, and preserves its rights. Any other solution will be in vain and will lead only to further losses, submission, and humiliation.

"This deterioration has not been confined to Egypt. The Islamic nation is suffering shortage of foodstuffs in many countries, such as Yemen. Even in the Arabian Peninsula, whose government is one of the richest in the world, many residents of the popular neighborhoods of Jedda do not find water. They carry their pots to mosques to have water but the government prevents the muezzins from giving them water. Sewage is spilled in the streets and electricity is cut off in the

stifling heat of Jedda. The poor in Mecca and Riyadh live in shanty towns. Where has the nation's wealth in the Arabian Peninsula gone? The Americans unleashed against this wealth a family of 7,000 princes, who are plundering the peninsula's resources and who are giving the lion's share of our wealth to the Americans. They are also giving them the land, the bases, the airports, and the seaports from which they move to kill Muslims. Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz is preoccupied with visiting the Pope, who insulted Islam and the prophet of Islam, God's peace and blessings be upon him. He is engaged in calls for interfaith dialogue to polish his image in front of the Crusaders and the Americans.

"O you, who is eager to appease the Crusaders, instead of holding dialogues with non-Muslims, listen first to your Muslim people who are suffering from unemployment, drugs, and crimes, and who do not find drinking water, electricity, or proper housing. Restore to them their rights which you robbed, stop capitulating to the Americans, and stop plundering the nation's wealth.

"Thus, the nation's conscious vanguards should move before it is too late. The conscious Islamic vanguards should move before we see Petraeus in Cairo and in Riyadh tomorrow, leading the awakening gangs, to shed blood and violate sanctities.

"Then what Muslims must do today? The Muslim is asked to adhere to his faith because Islam is the road to salvation. In all historical battles only Muslims defended the nation. Those who are defending it today -- in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Palestine -- are Muslims. The Muslim should work in accordance with the tradition of the prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him. The prophet said: Whoever encounters a wrongdoing he should change it with his hand. If he is unable to, he should change it by his utterances, and if he cannot then he can wish this change in his heart, and this will be the weakest form of faith.

"All are asked to move with all their strength, by fighting, statements, demonstrations, sit-ins, protests, and strikes. We should explore all means to change this corrupt reality. We will not be able to clinch our rights except by our hands and not by begging, appeals, or forged elections.

"The wolves of the regimes, the agents of Crusaders and Jews, will try to suppress popular movements with all the power at their disposal, as was the case in Al-Mahallah al-Kubra. But as steadfastness and sacrifices continue, these agents will be defeated, God willing. Patience and perseverance is necessary because rights are wrested by force; they are not granted.

"Workers, employees, and students must transfer their anger to the streets. They must transform mosques, factories, universities, colleges, and high schools into centers for supporting jihad and resistance.

"All must move because the battle is not that of a certain group or organization but that of the entire nation. The Islamic nation must unite, through its mujahidin, men, women, and children; its ulema and shaykhs, its thinkers, leaderships, and masses, to drive out the Crusader and Jewish invaders from the land of Islam and establish the Islamic state that rules by the Islamic sharia, which defends the rights of Muslims, and which punishes the robbers and the plunderers of the wealth of the nation.

"Is it reasonable that the people of bounteous Egypt cannot find bread or water? Where have all its resources gone? The establishment of this state requires a movement by the sacrificing Muslim vanguards who make sacrifices for their religion and who are relying on their God.

These vanguards must come together, plan, and lead the change toward freedom, independence, dignity, self-esteem, and the Islamic state.

"In conclusion, I salute the esteemed workers of Al-Mahallah al-Kubra who fought plundering and corruption. I salute the brave people there who carried out the general strike. I salute each free and noble one who is trying to resist the agents of the Crusader-Jewish campaign in Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Algeria, Afghanistan, Chechnya, and elsewhere. I remind them of what the prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, said: If you trade in trivial things, hold fast to the tails of your cattle, be satisfied with tilling your land, and abandon jihad, God will impose on you submission which he will not lift until you return to your religion.

"We conclude by the prayer: God be praised, the lord of the universe; and may God's peace and blessings be upon our master, Muhammad, the members of his family, and his companions and followers. May God's peace and blessings be upon you."