

Ayman al-Zawahiri Eulogizes Abu-Khabab al-Masri, Three Other Jihadists

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

Terrorism: Ayman al-Zawahiri Eulogizes Abu-Khabab al-Masri, Three Other Jihadists On 22 August, a forum participant posted to a jihadist website a statement issued by the Al-Sahab Media Production Organization, the media arm of Al-Qa'ida of Jihad Organization, announcing the release of a three-minute and nine-second video message from Ayman al-Zawahiri entitled "Eulogy of a Group of Heroes" in which Al-Zawahiri eulogized a number of Al-Qa'ida leaders and members. In addition to Abu-Khabab al-Masri, Al-Zawahiri eulogized Ibrahim, son of Abu-Al-Faraj al-Masri, and Abu-Khabab al-Masri's brother-in-law Abu-Islam. He also mentioned someone named Abd-al-Wahab to whom he referred as his "path and life companion." The brief statement did not make any mention of Al-Qa'ida's leader in Afghanistan, Mustafa Abu-al-Yazid, whose death was rumored last week. The statement from Al-Sahab, which had the Al-Fajr Media Center as its source, provided several links to the video.

A description of the video follows:

The video begins with a recitation from the Koran. A voice is heard reciting: "Those who believe, and suffer exile and strive with might and main, in Allah's cause, with their goods and their persons, have the highest rank in the sight of Allah. they are the people who will achieve (salvation)" (Koranic verse; Al-Tawbah 9:20).

On the screen, the video announces: "The Al-Sahab Media Production presents: Eulogy of a Group of Heroes by Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri - Sha'ban 1429 (corresponding to August2008)." Al-Zawahiri appears on the screen with a picture of two of the men who were killed who appear in the background. Al-Zawahiri begins to read his message:

"In the name of God, and praise be to God. Prayers and peace be upon the apostle of God and upon his family, companions, and his followers.

"Muslim brothers everywhere,

"May the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be with you.

"I bring to you the good tidings of the martyrdom of a dear steadfast emigrant jihadist brother, his eminence Shaykh Abu-Khabab al-Masri, may God have mercy on him, and his virtuous companions. This blessed fine group went to meet their God, bidding farewell to this life with all its wickedness, its frivolity, and its sufferings. Abu-Khabab, that generous lofty mountain, died for the sake of God after a life of unlimited giving and after he had taught the art of jihad in God's cause to generations, to use in fighting the enemies of God, by His will and His strength. "He departed to the place for which he had wished. He used to implore with his brothers to arrange for him a martyrdom operation. He died and with him died his virtuous companions, the dear brother and teacher Ibrahim, the son of Shaykh Abu-al-Faraj al-Masri, may God free him (from prison). I had known Ibrahim as a young lad who was raised on obeying God in a home of obedience, jihad, migration, and steadfastness, and Shaykh Abd-al-Wahab, (my) path and life companion, who was patient and sought reward only from God. Events, calamities, and

injuries for the sake of God did not add anything to him except more contentment, sacrifice, and steadfastness, and Shaykh Abu-Islam, Shaykh Abu-Khabab's brother-in-law, who was known in the (jihad) fronts of Bosnia and Afghanistan as a fighter for his religion and for the glory of his ummah (Muslim community). These blessed men went to their God complaining to Him about the tyranny of the Americans and the betrayal of the Pakistani Government.

"(Poetic form) 'Brother, if we die, we will meet our loved ones, for the gardens of my Lord have been prepared for us; its birds flutter around us, blessed are we in the home of eternity. God has chosen us for His Da'wah, and we shall go forward as per His way. Among us are those who died and those who are guarding their covenant. My brother! Go forward and do not look behind. Your path is watered with blood. Do not look here and do not look there. Look nowhere but toward heaven.'

"Our last supplication is to praise God, the Lord of all creation, and prayers and peace be upon our Master Muhammad, his family, and companions.

"May the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be with you."