

Al-Zawahiri Calls for Supporting Jihad in Pakistan

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

On 14 July, a forum participant posted to a jihadist website several links to an 8-minute 49-second audio message by Ayman al-Zawahiri entitled "My Muslim Brothers and Sisters in Pakistan." In the message, delivered in English with Arabic subtitles, Al-Zawahiri speaks of US "interference" in Pakistan, noting that it is part of "the current struggle between the Crusader West and Islam." He says "jihad" is the only way to save Pakistan from a "disastrous fate." The audio message was produced by the Al-Sahab Establishment for Media. The announcement was published by the Al-Fajr Media Center.

A transcript of the English message follows:

"In the name of God and praise be to God.

"Peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of God, his household, his companions and those who followed him.

"My Muslim brothers and sisters in Pakistan,

"Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.

"I believe that every honest and sincere Muslim in Pakistan should seriously contemplate - at this moment - Pakistan's present state and expected future, because the blatant American Crusader interference in Pakistan's affairs, or to be precise, the American Crusader manipulation of Pakistan's destiny, has reached such an extent that it now poses a grave danger to Pakistan's future and very existence.

It is evident that Pakistan is deeply involved in a fierce internal struggle between two forces.

"The first one represents the Islamic values of monotheism, jihad, and promotion of virtue and prevention of vice, and is defending the dignity and independence of the Muslim Ummah; confronting - with strength and courage - the American aggression against Pakistan and Afghanistan; and defeating the traitors who transgress against the blood, honor and dignity of the Muslims for the sake of the invading and aggressive Crusader forces. It also symbolizes the Muslim Ummah's rejection of all forms of external aggression, occupation of its territories, theft of its resources and interference in its affairs.

"This force is also persisting in and carrying on the long and continuing struggle of the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent to establish Pakistan as a political entity standing as a citadel of Islam in the subcontinent: an entity ruled by Shariat as the supreme undisputed law and realizing loyalty to Muslims and disavowal of infidels by offering shelter and support to Muslims victimized by the aggressive anti-Islamic forces; and by abstaining from providing any form of cooperation, help or support to the infidels against Muslims. This force is the real hope for achieving the goal of establishing a true Pakistan, a goal which, after sixty years of separation from India, has yet to be achieved.

"The second force comprises a clique of corrupt politicians and a junta of military officers who are fighting to remain on the American pay list by employing Pakistan's entire military and all its resources in the American Crusade against Islam, and turning Pakistan's military and security organizations into hunting dogs in the modern Crusade.

"Dear Muslim brothers and sisters: we shouldn't run away from confronting the real facts of the current struggle between the Crusader West and Islam. We should realize that we are being targeted by a new Crusade, being waged against Muslims from Algeria to East Turkistan and from Somalia to Chechnya. And Pakistan without a doubt is at the heart of that campaign.

"That campaign aims at imposing a new system of slavery and a modern form of colonialism upon the so-called Third World in general and the Muslim World in particular.

"The Muslim World is seen - in the eyes of the neo-Crusaders - as the natural incubator of the real and imminent threat: the Islamic Jihad, or what the West labels Islamic terrorism, which is capable - God willing - of motivating and mobilizing the Muslim Ummah to liberate its occupied territories, reclaim its stolen resources, get rid of its corrupt, secular, and tyrannical regimes and establish its Caliphate. And because of that, the Muslim World threatens and undermines Western hegemony, or what they call the world order or international legitimacy.

"This is why the Western Crusade, headed by America and served by the puppet rulers of our countries with their armies, security organizations, media, judiciary and jails, aims at halting the escalating jihadi tide in the Muslim World. In Pakistan in particular, the Crusade aims at eradicating the growing jihadi nucleus in order to break up this nuclear-capable country, and transform it into tiny fragments, loyal to and dependent on the neo-Crusaders.

"The only hope to save Pakistan from this disastrous fate is Jihad. There is no other alternative. The current ruling class in Pakistan is lining up under the cross of the modern Crusade and competing for American bribes. Hence, the actual ruler of Pakistan is the American ambassador, who pays the bribes and issues the orders. So the only thing that class can be expected to do is to fight Muslims and Mujahedeen and sacrifice Pakistan and the lives and dignity of Pakistanis in order to achieve their dirty, greedy ambitions. They have already sold their honor and religion to the Crusaders.

"Meanwhile, the rest of the political institutions have either sunk in the swamp of corruption or are too helplessly crippled and paralyzed to bring about any change which might extract Pakistan from the miserable situation it is in and take it towards Islamic government. So the only force capable of bringing about the changeover to the Islamic system is the Jihadi force.

"Today, the Mujahedeen are resisting the Crusaders in Afghanistan and their bombing in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the Pakistan army and security organizations stab them in their backs. And in spite of all of that, the Mujahedeen are winning victories and moving from one conquest to another. This is one of the good signs of victory and triumph, with Allah's help.

"The scholars of Islam have unanimously agreed that if the infidel enemy enters a Muslim country, it is the duty of all of its inhabitants - and when needed, their neighbors - to mobilize for Jihad; and the Americans are today occupying Afghanistan and Pakistan, so it is the duty of every Muslim in Pakistan to rise up to fight them.

"It is the individual duty of every Muslim in Pakistan to join the Mujahedeen, or at the very least, to support the Jihad in Pakistan and Afghanistan with money, advice, expertise, information, communications, shelter and anything else he can offer.

"It is also the duty of every noble person in Pakistan's army and security agencies to give the orders of Allah and His Messenger precedence over the orders of the Crusaders' slaves, and to refrain from killing, pursuing or harming in any way Muslims and Mujahedeen.

"Today there is a solid, cohesive Jihadi nucleus taking form in Pakistan and Afghanistan. This emerging jihadi force is resisting - by the grace of Almighty Allah - all efforts to eliminate and extinguish it. The treasonous Pakistan army has tried much, but by the grace of Allah, it has all been in vain.

"The jihadi force in Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only resisting attempts to defeat it, but is also winning military victories over the treasonous Pakistan army and the Crusader coalition, and is liberating more land and applying Shariat in wide areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan in defiance of the Crusaders and the corrupt puppet regimes and secular judiciaries which continue to seek shelter under the broken wings of the American eagle.

"Dear Muslim brothers and sisters: if we stand by passively without offering due support to the Mujahedeen, we shall not only contribute to the destruction of Pakistan and Afghanistan, but we shall also deserve the painful punishment of Almighty Allah says:

"O ye who believe! what is the matter with you, that, when ye are asked to go forth in the Cause of Allah, ye cling heavily to the earth? Do ye prefer the life of this world to the Hereafter? But little is the comfort of this life, as compared with the Hereafter. Unless ye go forth, He will punish you with a grievous penalty, and put others in your place; but Him ye would not harm in the least. For Allah hath power over all things' [Koranic verses; Al-Tawbah, 9:38-39).

May Allah the Almighty and Exalted guide the Muslim Ummah to the path of Jihad, and may He defeat His enemies, the Crusaders and their agents in the Muslim countries.

"Our last prayer is praise be to God, lord of all creation. Peace and prayers be Upon our master Muhammad, his household, and his companions.

"Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you."