

Ayman al-Zawahiri Audio Message 'The Crusade Sets Its Sights on the Sudan'

March 24, 2009

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

Terrorism: Ayman al-Zawahiri Audio Message 'The Crusade Sets Its Sights on the Sudan' On 24 March, a forum participant posted to a jihadist website several links to a 17-minute video including an audio message by Ayman al-Zawahiri entitled "The Crusade Sets Its Sights on the Sudan." The audio message was produced by the Al-Sahab Media Production Establishment, the media arm of the Al-Qa'ida Organization. Al-Zawahiri's speech came after the International Criminal Court issued its arrest warrant for Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir. Al-Zawahiri said, "I am not defending Umar al-Bashir." He then asked why Al-Bashir, and not others who Al-Zawahiri considers to be criminals, was singled out. He concluded that this is part of a plan to have the "Crusader" presence in the area and that people of Sudan should take a stance using "jihad" in Afghanistan as an example. Al-Zawahiri's message has been transcribed below, as received, from the English subtitles as seen on the screen.

A transcription of the English subtitles follows:

"In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

"Note: This is jihadi material and it is not permissible to accompany it with music.

"Al-Sahab for Media Production, 1430 Hijri (2009)

"Al-Sahab for Media Production

"As-Sahab Media

"Rabi al-Awwal 1430 (The video shows footage of wounded and killed civilians along with a religious hymn. The text of hymn follows.)

"O my Ummah, fighting has become a duty, so stop ranting and shouting And stop wasting time, for the one who wastes time and rests doesn't win Call the facts by their names, because the truth about the people is obvious The Crusaders have come back again and are rampaging through every land We had forgotten what had gone before, but they reopened the wounds There is no "Mu'tasim to provide relief, even if someone asked him and said:

"Haven't you seen how Islam is plotted against in broad daylight?

"Haven't you seen our Aqsa and what the enemy has destroyed and violated?

"Haven't you seen the tyranny of the Jews and how we have perfected shouting?

"They have usurped Palestine and said, 'We're not going to leave it.'

"Unbelief has gathered its forces, so why the dispute and butting of heads?

"O billion! Where are you when the wounds call to you?

"Give us one million from one billion, the crAAme de la crAAme.

"From every thousand just one, to fight with them in every field.

"O my Ummah, fighting has become a duty, so stop ranting and shouting.

"And stop wasting time, for the one who wastes time and rests doesn't win. (The audio of Al-Zawahiri speaking is heard, while a still of him with a map of Sudan in the background is seen.)

"In the name of Allah, and all praise is due to Allah, and prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah and upon his family, companions and allies.

"Muslim brothers everywhere: peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.

"As for what comes after:

"The International Criminal Court has issued its arrest warrant for Umar al-Bashir, which is an event with serious implications which must be looked at and its motivations and effects considered carefully.

"I would like to emphasize several things here:

"The first is that I am not defending Umar al-Bashir or his regime, nor am I defending what it has done in Darfur and elsewhere; rather, I am asking our Muslim Ummah (nation) to look at the matter in a comprehensive way which takes in all of its dimensions. The issue isn't one of Darfur and solving its problems: the issue is one of making excuses for more foreign interference in the Muslims' countries in the framework of the contemporary Zionist Crusade.

"Why aren't they putting Bush, Blair, Olmert, Barak, Musharraf and Putin on trial? Indeed, why didn't they try Truman, who ordered the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the first two atomic bombs in history?

"Why hasn't the United Nations moved to protect the Palestinians in Gaza from Israeli barbarity and criminality, while it pretends to cry over the suffering of the people of Darfur? Why hasn't the United Nations and the international community intervened to lift the siege from Gaza, while it pretends to cry over the people of Darfur being deprived of relief and aid?

"The second thing is that the Bashir regime is reaping what it sowed. For many long years, it continued to back down and backtrack in front of American Crusader pressure, and decided to cross all redlines in its compromising and backtracking. It expelled the Mujahidin who had taken refuge in the Sudan, foremost among them Shaykh Usama bin Ladin (may Allah protect him), after having hosted them at one point, then tossed them, their families and their women and children into the unknown, and declared in a audacious lie that they had left voluntarily, then attempted to beg payment for that from the Saudi regime and the Americans, but the reply was, 'You've still got a long road ahead of you!'

"O ye who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends and protectors: they are but friends and protectors to each other. And he amongst you that turns to them (for friendship) is of them. Verily Allah guides not a people unjust. You see how those in whose hearts is a disease run about among them, saying, 'We fear lest a change of fortune bring us

disaster.' But it may be that Allah will give you victory, or a decision from Him, then they will regret the thoughts which they secretly harbored in their hearts. And those who believe will say, 'Are these the men who swore their strongest oaths by Allah that they were with you?' All that they do will be in vain, and they will become losers' (Koranic verse, Al-Ma'idah 5:51-53).

"The Sudanese regime continued to pant for American approval, and it agreed to the division of the Sudan, paved the way for the imminent secession of the south, provided all the information it had on the emigrants and Mujahideen to the American government, and handed over some of them to the regimes of treason and criminality in their countries.

"But, despite all that, the senior criminals weren't satisfied with it, and continued to besiege it with demands and interference, even going so far as demand the arrest of its leaders and prominent figures.

"The Truth (Blessed and Most High is He) says 'Or like Satan, when he says to man, Disbelieve, but when he disbelieves, he says I have nothing to do with you, I fear Allah the Lord of the worlds' (Koranic verse; Al-Hashr 59:16).

"And as He (Glorious is He) says, 'He promises them and stirs up desires in them, and Satan only promises them to beguile' (Koranic verse; An-Nisa 4:120).

"The Sudanese regime told the weak and oppressed who emigrated to the Sudan and who found no other shelter or refuge for themselves, 'We will expel you from the Sudan so you can save it from problems and losses', and today -- Glory be to Allah -- the same pretext is thrown in Al-Bashir's face by his former trail-mates who revolted against him, who say 'Give yourself up to the international court to save the Sudan from problems and dangers.'

"The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) says, 'Kindness is not lost, sin is never forgotten, and the Judge never dies. So do what you wish, for what you do will be done to you.'

"The third thing is a message I would like to send to our beloved, patient, Muslim and Mujahid Sudanese people. I tell them: you are being targeted so Islam can be eliminated from the Sudan. This is the fact which you must comprehend. And in order for Islam to be eliminated from the Sudan, a justification must be found for Western military intervention.

"I tell our people in the Sudan: The Sudanese regime is too weak to defend the Sudan, so you must do what was done by our brothers in Iraq and Somalia who defended their countries when the official regimes were powerless to do that, and not only that, but much of them fled or surrendered.

"So make preparations --by training, equipping, storing and organizing for a long guerilla war, for the contemporary Crusade has bared its fangs at you.

"I tell our Muslim brothers in the Sudan: We are with you, and all Mujahideen and Muslims are with you, and we shall -- Allah's help -- do all that is in our power to help you, despite our knowledge that the Sudanese regime lies in wait for any Mujahid it might discover in the Sudan, but you have nothing to do with what the smooth-talking Sudanese regime did to the Mujahideen, because you opened your chests and hearts to your brothers, the weak and oppressed emigrants.

"What unites you and us is the brotherhood of Islam and bond of faith which the Bashir regime has turned its back on. It is a brotherhood and bond which rises far above worldly nonsense and the constraints of ancestry, blood ties and homeland.

"The Truth (Blessed and Most High is He) says to His Noble Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), 'And if they seek to deceive you, then Allah is sufficient for you. It is He Who has strengthened you with His help and with the believers. And He has put affection between their hearts. If you had spent all that is in the earth, you could not have attuned their hearts, but Allah has attuned them. Lo! He is Mighty, Wise' (Koranic Verse; Al-Anfal 8:62-63).

"The fourth thing I would like to talk about is a message to our people in Darfur. I tell them: Don't allow the Crusade to turn your suffering into a pretext for the occupation of the homelands of Islam. The history of colonialism is well-known and oft-repeated, and if -Allah forbid- Crusade colonialism is able to establish itself in the Sudan, it will seek to humiliate and enslave every Muslim in the Sudan, whether from Darfur or elsewhere, and it will repeat in the Sudan the same crimes it is committing in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Palestine.

"The fifth thing is an observation which I would like to bring to the attention of the Muslim Ummah in the Sudan and all homelands of Islam. It is a comparison between the Sudanese regime led by Umar al-Bashir, and between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan led by the Commander of the Faithful, Mulla Muhammad Umar Mujahid (may Allah preserve him). Afghanistan is poorer and weaker than the Sudan, but the Islamic Emirate in it led by the Commander of the Faithful, Mulla Muhammad Umar Mujahid, (may Allah preserve him), was stabler in faith, higher in resolve, nobler of self and more reliant on its Lord and more confident of the truth of His promise. It totally refused to merely discuss the question of handing a Muslim over to an unbeliever, and it refused to extradite those Mujahideen and emigrants whom Umar al-Bashir's regime had expelled, and the entire world gathered against it and America poured on it the fires of criminality, tyranny and devastation, but neither the Emirate nor the Commander of the Faithful (may Allah preserve him) backtracked so much as an inch on their principles and beliefs which are as stable as mountains, by the grace of Allah. And with Allah's help and power, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan led by its Amir -and our Amir - Mulla Muhammad Umar Mujahid (may Allah preserve him) waged a fierce Jihad against the contemporary Crusade with all its fleets, armies, funds and materiel, and it severely harmed that criminal Crusade, and offered thousands of martyrs and the costliest of sacrifices, until it forced the criminal Crusade to backtrack and acknowledge imminent defeat. And it continues- by the grace of Allah and His favor - to make progress day after day, and every day it grabs another place from the Crusader Coalition and the traitorous puppet government, and establishes in it the rules of the Shari'ah and commands good and forbids evil and protects the sanctities of the Muslims; 'That is Allah's grace; He bestows it on whom He pleases; and Allah is the Lord of immense grace' (Koranic verses, Al-Jumu'ah 62:4).

"So to our Muslim Ummah in the Sudan and everywhere: this is the path of victory and success in this world and the hereafter, so take it. The Truth (Blessed and Most High is He) says, 'If you help Allah, He will help you, and plant your feet firmly' (Koranic verses, Muhammad 47:7). And don't be from those about whom Allah says, 'And those who believe say, 'Why is not a Surah revealed?' But when a decisive Surah is revealed and fighting is mentioned therein, you see those in whose hearts is a disease, looking towards you with the look of one who is fainting on account of approaching death. So woe to them! (Their attitude should have been one of) obedience and calling people to good. And when the matter was resolved, it would have been better for them if they were true to Allah. Would you not then, if you are placed in authority, create disorder in the land and sever your ties of kinship? It is these whom Allah has cursed, so

that He has made them deaf and has made their eyes blind. Will they not, then, ponder over the Qur'an, or, is it that there are locks on their hearts? Surely, those who turn their backs (as apostates) after guidance has become manifest to them, Satan has seduced them and held out false hopes to them. That is because they said to those who hate what Allah has revealed, 'We will obey you in some matters,' and Allah knows their secrets' (Koranic verse, Muhammad 47:20-26).

"The sixth thing I would like to say is that the Sudanese regime and al-Bashir have an opportunity today to repent and return to the straight path and learn from what has gone before, and to realize that the Crusade will be satisfied with nothing less than total submission and surrender.

"So will the Bashir regime take the path of Islam and Jihad, and abandon the political maneuvers, diplomatic ruses and international smooth-talking which hasn't -- and won't --bring anything other than disasters and tragedies?

"Will the Bashir regime apply Islamic Shari'ah honestly and devotedly, and reject all authority beside the authority of the Shari'ah?

"Will the Bashir regime declare Jihad in the Sudan against the enemies of the religion and Ummah, and mobilize the Ummah and prepare it for the coming battle?

"And will the Bashir regime cleanse the Sudan from evils and sins to summon and bring down Allah's help, relief and aid?

"The Truth (Glorious is He) says, 'O you who believe! When you meet a force, be firm, and remember Allah much, that you may prosper. And obey Allah and His Messenger, and fall into no disputes, lest you lose heart and your power depart. And persevere, for Allah is with those who persevere' (Koranic verse; Al-Anfal 8: 45-46).

"Or will Bashir and his regime continue to maneuver, compromise and backtrack and rely on his political genius which has gotten him to where he is today, for him to turn into another copy of Karzai and his government, which doesn't exceed the limits of his office in Kabul, above which fly more than 20 Crusader flags?

"The seventh thing which I would like to point out is that what is happening in the Sudan, Palestine and elsewhere shows the humiliating impotence of the official Arab regime, which has no weight on the scales of global politics, because they demeaned themselves and thus are despised by others.

"And it shows that the Muslim Ummah today will only be defended by -- after Allah the Glorious and Most High -- its devoted sons the Mujahideen, after the governments betrayed it and the organizations and groups surrendered to (those governments).

"So O our people and brothers in the noble Sudan, I remind you of the statement of the Truth(Blessed and Most High is He), 'O you who believe! Persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear Allah, that you may prosper' (Koranic verse; Al-Imran 3:200).

"And of the statement of the Glorious, "Those who answered the call of Allah and the Messenger after they had received an injury - such of them as do good and act righteously shall have a great reward; Those to whom the people said, 'The people are gathering against you, so fear them,' but it (only) increased their faith, and they said, 'For us Allah suffices, and He is the Best Guardian. So they returned with grace and favor from Allah, and no harm touched them. They followed the good pleasure of Allah, and Allah is of infinite bounty. That was only Satan frightening his friends, so fear them not but fear Me, if you are believers" (Koranic verse; Al-Imran 3:172-175).

"And our final prayer is that all praise is for Allah, Lord of the worlds, and may Allah send prayers and peace upon our Master Muhammad and upon his family and all his companions. (Chanting is heard while the video shows footage of the Saudi and Egyptian leaders followed by explosions.)

"Call the facts by their names, because the truth about the people is obvious.

"We long for mute tongues with eloquent hands

"Because we only hear heroes in our spacious mosques.

"A people without a creed is like leaves driven by the wind

"He who betrays 'Come to prayer' will betray 'Come to the fight.'

"O my Ummah, patience, for your night is about to come to an end.

"The nightmare must leave us or be removed.

"And when the night is at its darkest, then dawn is close at hand.

"And when dawn breaks, then sleep no more and come to success.

"The nightmare must leave us or be removed.

"And when the night is at its darkest, then dawn is close at hand.

"And when dawn breaks, then sleep no more and come to success.

"O my Ummah, fighting has become a duty, so stop ranting and shouting.

"And stop wasting time, for the one who wastes time and rests doesn't win.

"Where are the descendents of Salah al-Din to liberate Palestine? (this sentence translated from Arabic)

"Al-Sahab for Media Production'

"1430"