

Al-Zawahiri audiotape, “Message to Muslims in Pakistan and Afghanistan”

September 28, 2003

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

On Sunday 28 September 2003, the Arab TV stations al-Jazeera and al-Arabiya aired an audiotape attributed to Ayman al-Zawahiri.³⁹ There were no indications as to the length of the recording. No details about the acquisition process were given. Officials from the CIA later stated they believed the tape was “probably authentic”.

The recording seemed to have been made recently, because it referred to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s visit to India, which took place on 8 September 2003.

The statement denounced the Israeli-Indian rapprochement and called for the toppling of the Pakistani regime. It also called urged Muslims around the world to fight the “Christian-Zionist crusade”.

The following is an edited version of BBC’s translated excerpts from the recording:
“Our Muslim brothers in Pakistan and Afghanistan, may God’s peace and prayers be upon you. Brother Muslims in Pakistan and Afghanistan, you know that giving advice is a religious duty. You also know, my dear brothers, that the Crusader campaign, which is led by the United States, supported by its infidel and hypocrite allies and supporters, is intended against Islam and Muslims even if it claims that it is fighting terrorism, for it is what we call jihad. This campaign seeks to undermine Islam as a faith and shari’a, subjugate the Muslim nation, and turn it into herds following the masters of the world in Washington, Tel Aviv, and London.

Part of the Congressional report on the 11 September events, the publication of which was banned by the US Government, included a recommendation to ban the Saudi Government from printing and distributing the holy Qur’an. Why? Because it includes verses that call for hating Jews and Christians. Crime and arrogance have reached this point. This is why, beloved brothers, Muslims must consult each other, take care of their own affairs, examine their situation, and then strengthen themselves and rely on Almighty God in resisting this Crusader-Jewish campaign, which is aimed at destroying Islam and Muslims.

The effective Israeli-Indian co-operation in the security, military, and other fields is no secret to anyone. The visit by criminal Jew [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon - the killer of thousands of Muslims and the one who encroached on the sanctity of the al-Aqsa Mosque - to India, as well as the agreements and deals he concluded with the Indians, are only the tip of the iceberg. This US-Jewish-Indian alliance is against Muslims. This alliance, which is getting stronger, calls on the Pakistanis to recognise Israel so that the United States and Israel will be pleased with them. It is Musharraf who enabled America to topple the [Taliban] Islamic emirate in Afghanistan. Had it not been for his tremendous help, America would not have been able to do this, nor would it have been able to kill thousands of innocents in Afghanistan. It is Musharraf who is seeking to send Pakistani forces to Iraq so that they, rather than American soldiers, are killed and so that they kill Muslims in Iraq and enable America to control Muslim lands. Muslims in Pakistan must unite and co-operate to topple this traitor and install a sincere leadership that would defend Islam and Muslims.”