

## **Islamic terror: Our Creed and Methodology**

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

Al-Zarqawi's Group 'Creed and Methodology' Reiterates Mandate of Jihad, Battling 'Infidels, Apostates, Shia'

Jihadist Websites -- in Arabic 24 Mar 05

Terrorism: Al-Zarqawi's Group 'Creed and Methodology' Reiterates Mandate of Jihad, Battling 'Infidels, Apostates, Shia'

On 21 March, "Sayf al-Islam al-Athari," a new but active participant in The Lion's Den, posted the creed and methodology for Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi's al-Qa'ida of Jihad Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers [Tanzim Qa'idat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn] which was issued by the Legal Council of the group. The council used Koranic verses and religious opinions to explain the extremist Salafist beliefs of the group members and included their program of following the Koran and Sunnah, jihad against God's enemies, respect for Muslims and their property per Islamic law, the mandate of jihad, and the priority of battling "infidels" and "apostates," and defending Islam. "Sayf al-Islam al-Athari" claimed to have copied the statement from an original posting to the password-protected Al-Ansar Net by "Abu-Maysarah al-Iraqi."

A translation of the statement follows:

"Our Creed and Methodology" by the Legal Council of the Al-Qa'ida of Jihad Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers Tenet

We praise God, seek His help, and ask for His forgiveness. We seek refuge in God from our own evil and wrongdoings. No one can mislead a person who is guided by God and no one can guide a person whom God does not lead. We testify that there is no deity but God alone who has no partner. We testify that Muhammad is God's messenger. God Almighty said: "O ye who believe! Fear Allah as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam" [Koranic verse]. "O mankind! Reverence your Guardian-Lord, who created you from a single person, created, of like nature, His mate, and from them twain scattered (like seeds) countless men and women; - reverence Allah, through whom ye demand your mutual (rights), and (reverence) the wombs (That bore you): for Allah ever watches over you" [Koranic verse]. "O ye who believe! Fear Allah, and (always) say a word directed to the Right: That He may make your conduct whole and sound and forgive you your sins: He that obeys Allah and His Messenger, has already attained the highest achievement" [Koranic verse].

The following is the creed and methodology of the al-Qa'ida of Jihad Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers. It sheds light on our situation and what we have agreed on. We believe in the faith of God Almighty, we adhere to it, and we fight in the cause of God. All praise be to Him.

We believe that there is no god other than God Almighty in the highest. We worship Him alone. We believe in defending tawhid [monotheism in Islam] and eliminating polytheism. We testify that there is no deity but God alone who has no partner. This is the most important aspect of our creed. A Muslim abides by the conditions of tawhid. On the other hand, someone who does not adhere to the conditions of tawhid or who commits an act that contradicts tawhid is an infidel even though he claims he is Muslim.

We believe that God Almighty is the Creator. All praise be to Him. He is the All-powerful. He is the first and last. "There is nothing whatever like unto Him, and He is the One that hears and sees (all things)" [Koranic verse]. We do not abandon our religious creed. We praise the names of God Almighty as they appear in the Koran and Sunnah without distortion.

We believe that Muhammad is God's messenger for the entire human race. We should obey all what he was told. We should believe in him and accept everything he said. The Almighty said: "But no, by the Lord, they can have no (real) Faith, until they make thee judge in all disputes between them, and find in their souls no resistance against Thy decisions, but accept them with the fullest conviction" [Koranic verse].

We believe in God's revered angels. They obey God's orders. They do what they are ordered to do. It is a religious faith to love them and atheism to hate them.

We believe that the Koran is the word of God Almighty in letter and spirit. It is a duty to exalt God's word and abide by the rulings of the Koran.

We believe in all the prophets and messengers of God Almighty, including the first prophet, Adam, and the last, Muhammad, prayers and peace be upon him. The prophets are fraternal brothers who were sent with the message of monotheism -- one Lord of the universe.

We believe that the Sunnah is the second revelation. It clarifies and interprets the Koran. We do not allow anyone, no matter who they are, to contravene the Sunnah. We avoid heresies of all kinds.

The love of our prophet is a duty. It is atheism and hypocrisy to hate him. Since we love our prophet, we love and respect his family. We do not exceed proper bounds or slander them. We are pleased with the entire companions and we speak well of them. It is a duty to love them and hypocrisy to hate them. We do not discuss their disagreements. They are the best ancestors.

We believe in destiny -- good and bad. It is all God's will. The Almighty has absolute authority. Whatever God wants will happen and whatever He does not want will never happen. God Almighty is the creator of the actions of mankind, who should choose their deeds with permission from God. Destiny is God's mercy and justice.

We believe that the ordeal of the grave is justice. God torments whoever He wishes and forgives whoever He wants. We believe in Munkar and Nakir [the two angels who examine the dead in their graves as to their faith]. We say God is Great whenever God's apostle is mentioned. God Almighty said: "Allah will establish in strength those who believe, with the word that stands firm, in this world and in the Hereafter; but Allah will leave, to stray, those who do wrong: Allah doeth what He willeth."

We believe in resurrection after death. We believe in the Hereafter. We believe in the Day of Judgment, the balance by which God weighs conduct, and the right path. Heaven is justice and hell is justice for whom who deserves any of them.

We believe in the portents of the Day of Judgment. We believe in the narration of the prophet, prayers and peace be upon him. Ever since God created Adam and until the Day of Judgment, the issue of the imposter Messiah is the gravest sedition. We believe in the advent of Isa [Jesus],

peace be upon him. We believe in the reestablishment of a wise caliphate in harmony with the prophet's advice.

We believe that God will take a group of monotheists out of fire at the entreaty of the faithful, who intercede in favor of monotheists. Intercession is a right that God bequeaths on whom He wants. We believe in the intercession of our Prophet Muhammad, who has a station of praise and glory on the Day of Judgment.

Faith should be expressed in words and deeds. Faith is belief in Paradise. A person should express his faith with might and main. A believing heart should express itself in practice. Love, fear, and hope are expression of the heart.

Obedience reinforces faith while disobedience undermines it. The righteous prophet said that faith is divided into branches. The main branch is: There is no deity but God alone. The minor branch is elimination of harm from the path. Faith ceases to exist if the main branches are removed, including the branches of tawhid -- there is no deity but God alone and Muhammad is the messenger of God -- and praying. Adultery, drinking alcohol, and robbery undermine faith.

We do not excommunicate monotheists or those who pray toward the qiblah [direction to which Muslims turn in praying] if they commit such sins as adultery, drinking alcohol, or theft unless they declare these sins permissible. We have a middle ground between ultra-Khawarij [dissidents] and non-compliant ahl al-Irja [proponents of a sect that separates between belief and action].

Those who commit atheism in their heart, with their tongue, or by their actions will be excommunicated and will go to hell forever provided that all conditions for excommunication exist. Threat and excommunication will be exercised against unbelievers and those who commit major sins. We do not excommunicate people for mere suspicion.

We excommunicate those who do not believe in God and His apostle. Everyone who believes in a religion other than Islam is an atheist whether or not he is aware of the truth. However, the punishment of the Hereafter shall only fall on those who are aware of the truth. The Almighty said: "Nor would We visit with Our Wrath until We had sent an apostle (to give warning)" [Koranic verse].

We will treat every person the way we treat Muslims if he testifies that there is no deity but God alone and that Muhammad is God's messenger and if he does not violate any of the rules of Islam. God Almighty is aware of secrets. A person who shows us that he performs religious rituals will be treated as a Muslim. God deals with hidden secrets.

We view the Rafidin [derogatory term for Shia] as a sect of polytheism and apostasy.

We believe that atheist countries are the countries that are dominated by atheism -- where atheist, not Islamic, rules are implemented. This does not mean that we excommunicate the population of these countries since the state of Islam has not been established. Power is in the hand of apostates in Muslim countries. We do not agree with radicals who say that people are unbelievers until proven otherwise. Rather, every person, including an unbeliever, has individual circumstances.

We believe that all tenets of secularism -- including nationalism, communism, and Ba'thism -- are a blatant violation of Islam. A person who believes in any of them is non-Muslim.

### Our Methodology

Our sources of inference are the Book [Koran], Sunnah, and the wisdom of the virtuous ancestors who live in the favorite first three centuries.

We believe it is permissible to pray for faithful, sinful, or average Muslims.

Jihad will continue until the Day of Judgment whether or not an imam exists and whether he is trustworthy or ruthless. Jihad will not be deferred if an imam does not exist since the advantages of jihad will not materialize if jihad is delayed. Spoils should be divided in accordance with the Shari'ah. Every believer should initiate jihad against the enemy even though he is left alone.

The blood, honor, and resources of Muslims should not be wasted unless indicated otherwise in the Shari'ah and by the apostle, prayers and peace be upon him.

Jihad becomes an individual duty if assailant infidels attack Muslims. There is no condition to jihad, which should be launched by the means readily available. Next to faith, there is nothing more important than repulsing an assailant enemy who ruins the religion and the world.

The atheism of apostates is graver than original sins. Consequently, fighting apostates is more important for us than fighting sinners. A sinner should never assume power as an imam or else he must be deposed and disobeyed. It is a duty that Muslims should overthrow him and appoint a just imam, if they could.

Faith is established by means of the Koran that guides and the sword that achieves victory. Our jihad should be launched by means of sword, spear, reason, and evidence.

A person is our foe if he calls for a religion other than Islam, slanders our faith, or unsheathes his sword against us.

We renounce division and disagreement and we call for unanimity and accord.

We do not excommunicate or abandon a Muslim regarding issues of ijtiḥad [independent judgment].

We believe in the importance of the unity of the nation -- particularly mujahidin -- under one banner.

Muslims are one nation. Arabs or non-Arabs, piety is what counts the most. Muslim blood is equal. The lowliest of Muslims seek to cause detriment to other Muslims. We do not deviate from the names that God assigned to us.

We ally with the friends of God Almighty. We declare the enemy of God Almighty as our enemy. We excommunicate and wash our hands of every creed other than Islam. We abide by the Book and Sunnah and we avoid divergence from the straight path.

This is our faith and this is our methodology. They are our religion and our tradition. We are in agreement regarding them and we initiate jihad for them.

We ask God to guide us to the right path and help us to remain steadfast until death. We ask Him to enable us to conquer the countries, raise the banner of tawhid and Sunnah, and fight apostasy and heresy.

God's prayers be upon our Prophet Muhammad and his entire family and companions.

[Signed] The Legal Council of the Al-Qa'ida of Jihad Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers