

Light and Fire: An Announcement to the Ummah

February 6, 2008

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

[This document is the transcript of a video obtained by NEFA investigators on behalf of the TerrorWatch news service. In the video, Shaykh Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, Al-Qaida's leader in Afghanistan, vows revenge for the killing of high-ranking Al-Qaida member Abu Laith al-Liby. Al-Yazid warned that Al-Libi's supporters "will not rest until they avenge him and realize his aspirations and hopes." This communiqué is provided for educational and informational purposes only.]

"In the name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the only one who is praised in all circumstances, He "who has created death and life that He might try you: which of you is best in deeds, and He is the Mighty, the Most Forgiving" (67:2). We praise Him (Glory to Him) with praise fitting His greatness and extol Him with extolment suiting His completeness, and we thank Him for His abundant favors and blessings. And I send prayers and peace on the Imam of the God-Fearing and role-model of the patient and grateful, our Prophet Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah, the best of all who have been tested and remained patient until Allah completed His favors and graces towards him, and the one who used to wish for repeated martyrdom in Allah's path, saying, "By He in whose Hand is my soul, I wish that I could be killed in Allah's path, then be brought to life, then be killed, then be brought to life, then be killed, then be brought to life, then be killed." Allah's prayers and peace be upon him and upon his pure and pleasing family and companions, who built the towers of this religion with their determination, perseverance, asceticism and conviction. And I bear witness that there is no God other than Allah Alone without partners, He who said in his Noble Book, "If you have received an injury, the disbelieving people have already received a similar injury. And such days We cause to alternate among men [that they may be admonished], and that Allah may cause to be distinguished those who believe and may take martyrs from among you; and Allah loves not the unjust" (3:140), and said, "Think not of those who are slain in Allah's way as dead.

Nay, they live, finding their sustenance from their Lord. They rejoice in the bounty provided by Allah: and they rejoice over those behind them who have not yet joined them, that on them is no fear, nor will they be sad. They rejoice at the favor of Allah and His bounty, and at the fact that Allah suffers not the reward of the believers to be lost" (3:169-170), and said, "And those who leave their homes for the cause of Allah, and are then slain or die, Allah will provide for them a goodly provision. And Allah is the Best of providers. He will admit them to a place with which they will be well-pleased. And Allah is indeed All-Knowing, Forbearing" (22:58-59), and said, "So their Lord answered their prayers, saying, 'I will suffer not the work of any worker from among you, whether male or female, to be lost. You are from one another. Those, therefore, who have emigrated, and have been driven out of their homes, and have been persecuted for My cause, and have fought and been slain, I will surely remit from them their evil deeds and will cause them to enter gardens through which streams flow - a reward from Allah, and with Allah is the best of rewards.'" (3:195)

"As for what comes after:"

"From the patient, defiant land of Afghanistan, the land of Jihad and martyrdom, and with hearts tranquil and satisfied with Allah's decree and with all that martyrdom implies in terms of sublimity, highness, truth, steadfastness, glory and dignity, we announce to our Islamic Ummah the passing of one of its devoted sons and one of its auspicious champions, the Mujahid Commander Abu al-Layth al-Libi (may Allah have mercy on him), and condole with – or rather,

congratulate – his family, relatives, loved ones, his Mujahid brothers everywhere and the rest of the Muslims, especially his beloved brothers among the Mujahideen and the Ansaar [the Helpers] in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya and the Islamic Maghreb. And in particular, we offer our condolences and congratulations to the Commander of the Believers Mulla Muhammad Umar Mujahid, to our commander Shaykh Abu Abdullah Usama bin Ladin, to our Shaykh Abu Muhammad Ayman al-Zawahiri (may Allah preserve them all and reward us and them greatly), and to the near and dear ones of the Shaykh (Allah have mercy on him) and to his students and the graduates of his peerless school (may Allah take care of them).”

“So all praise is due to Allah, and we belong to Allah and to Him we are returning. Oh Allah, reward us for our loss and replace it with something better.”

“The loss of Shaykh Abu al-Layth (may Allah have mercy on him) is indeed great, and how sad it is to part with the likes of him, but our delight at his martyrdom and his winning (Allah willing) what he had always wished for – after all his sacrifice, giving, bravery, and tremendous achievements - lightens the loss for us.”

“The killing of Shaykh Abu al-Layth (may Allah have mercy on him) is but the realization of the objective which he had for so long sought and applied himself to and which he had hoped for and desired: martyrdom in Allah’s path while advancing, not retreating, and while steadfast on Allah’s path despite the trials and severities, and after Allah gave him a lofty status in the hearts of the believers and made him one of the eminent men of guidance – we reckon him to be so, and Allah is his Reckoner. And the same goes for his honorable brothers who departed with him.”

“The enemies of Allah were incapable of confronting Shaykh Abu al-Layth on the battlefield, nor were they able to compete with him as equals, for they are too cowardly and despicable for that. No, they used the weapon of treachery and betrayal, the weapon of the despicable cowards.”

“We tell them: even if Abu al-Layth has departed and Allah has honored him with martyrdom, Allah has kept behind to vex you – oh enemies of Allah – his brothers and admirers who will march on his path and take his route and the men who he trained and expertly prepared. May Allah reward him on behalf of us, Islam and the Muslims. In fact, oh enemies of Allah, Allah has kept behind for you an entire generation of the Islamic Ummah’s youth for whom Shaykh Abu al-Layth and similar leaders and champions of Jihad were – and will continue to be – their role models and examples. And they will not rest until they avenge him and realize his aspirations and hopes, Allah permitting. So look forward, oh enemies of Allah, to that which will humiliate you, with Allah’s strength and power.”

“Shaykh Abu al-Layth is but a shining star in a group of stars, and a jewel in a necklace of martyred champions and chiefs which adorns our noble Ummah’s neck. And he has been preceded in our recent past by many noble ones who drew with their blood the path of glory for the Ummah to restore its dignity, people like Shaykh Abdullah Azzam, Commander Abu Hafs al-Misri, Commander al-Khattab, the Commander of the Martyrdom-Seekers Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Commander Mulla Dadullah and others (may Allah have mercy on them all). And their blood only further illuminates the path and only adds to the insight and conviction of the marchers and their desire to join them and their determination to march on their path.”

“So the killing of these heroic chiefs doesn’t – and won’t – end the march of Jihad or extinguish its torch or put out its light as the enemies imagine. Rather, their killing in fact pushes the march forward and strengthens, stabilizes, sharpens and stimulates it. So rejoice, oh Ummah of

Islam, oh you fertile and highborn nation: rejoice at the martyrdom of your devoted son, for he – by Allah – is a source of pride and renown for you and a milestone and lamp for your generations.”

“His martyrdom is light and fire: light for the allies of Allah, to illuminate their path and take them to lofty and noble places in this world and the next, and fire on the enemies of Allah which burns – Allah permitting – their hearts and bodies... and the morrow is nigh for he who awaits it.”

“Shaykh Abu al-Layth (may Allah have mercy on him) after a life not long as lives go, but large on the scales, Allah willing: full of noble deeds and truthful stances and full of great deeds such as migration, Jihad, knowledge, worship, invitation, education, perseverance, steadfastness and an effective and distinguished contribution to the leadership of the Ummah’s Mujahid vanguard. And we consider him – and Allah is his Reckoner – to be one of those who were graced with acceptance on earth.”

“So oh youth of Islam, oh jealous sons of the Ummah, these are your role-models present among you, those who march on the path of your Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his companions and those who follow them in righteousness. So follow them and imitate them, and come – may Allah guide you – to the race to the highest levels: come to the fields of manliness and completeness, the fields of Jihad and invitation to Allah and building of nations, and be with – and from – the champions of Islam. Allah is our Protector and yours, and is the best of those who help.”

“Oh Allah, have mercy on your slave Abu al-Layth and make his dwelling noble and his level high, and his fellow martyrs with him.”

“Oh Allah, bless their blood and legacies, and make their martyrdom a blessing for the Ummah of Islam, and bring us together with them as martyrs, neither disgraced nor seduced nor changed. Amen, amen, amen.”

“And all praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds, and Allah’s prayers be on Muhammad and on his family and companions.”