Ayman Al-Zawahiri Criticizes National Unity in 'Palestine,' Obama's Policy
December 14, 2009

On 14 December, a forum participant posted to a jihadist website several links to a 25-minute 36-second video that includes an audio statement with a still image for Al-Qa'ida second-in command Ayman al-Zawahiri, entitled "Idol of National Unity." In the statement, Al-Zawahiri deplores calls for national unity between HAMAS and Fatah Organization. He criticizes the "Zionist-Arabs" in Egypt, who are besieging Gaza Strip and torturing the "mujahidin" in the prisons, and calls them the "henchmen of Obama." He criticizes President Obama's policy as "nothing but a new episode in the Zionist-Crusader campaign to enslave and humiliate us, occupy our lands, plunder our wealth, fight our religion, and combat the Shari'ah?" In addition, he attacks the Pakistani army's role in Waziristan. The video is published by the Al-Sahab Establishment for Media Production (Al-Qa'ida media arm), and disseminated by the Al-Fajr Media Center.

A translation of the statement follows: "The Ummah's Wiseman & Al-Sahab Present: 'Idol of National Unity' by Shaykh Dr. Ayman Al-Zawahiri

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

"The Al-Sahab Establishment for Media Production Presents: "'Idol of National Unity' "By Jihadist Shaykh Ayman Al-Zawahiri, May God Protect Him

(Multiple links to download the video statement and a download password are provided here)

"Supplicate to God for your mujahidin brothers,

"Your brothers at the Al-Sahab Establishment for Media production,

"Source: The Al-Fajr Media Center." A translation of the video message follows:

"In the name of God. Praise be to God. Peace be upon the Messenger of God, his household, his companions, and those who follow him.

"O Muslim brothers everywhere,

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

"Over the recent period of time, our ummah witnessed many events. I would like to comment on a few of such events.

"I start with the recent developments that took place in Palestine, particularly the controversy over the national unity and the related matters.

"I just ask: is it not clear to us who Mahmud Abbas is, and what the national Authority is? Is it not clear to us that they are a secular group that does not refer to the Islamic Shari'ah? The principles, which they claim, are a mix of nationalism, secularism, pragmatism, and sanctification of the international legitimacy."
"However, the truth is that they sanctify their personal interests, contest each others to squander public funds, and serve the interests of the Zionists and the Americans.

"Nevertheless, even according to the yardstick of nationalism and patriotism, they betrayed and handed over the most important cause of nationalism. They are liars, even in their claim that they are a national liberation movement. Actually, any national liberation movement that would never acknowledge the legitimacy of the occupier that usurps its land.

"There is no national liberation movement that gives up nine-tenths of its homeland. There is no national liberation movement that serves as a municipal council and a security agency for the benefit of the occupation. There is no national liberation movement that hands the sons of its people over to its enemy.

"There is no national liberation movement that holds its general conference under the authority, observation, and supervision of the occupation. There is no national liberation movement that recognizes the right of the occupation to monitor its moves and its president and his aides wait for the permission of the occupation in every step they take.

"There is no national liberation movement that accepts the siege of the occupation to its lands and signs agreements on this. There is no national liberation movement that accepts that the one; whom they claim to be their godfather, leader, and symbol of their unity and struggle, be poisoned. Then, all of them collude in ignoring this crime, muffling it, and hiding it under the ashes of the forgotten.

"Have we forgotten that (Palestinian Authority President) Mahmud Abbas was among those who relinquished nine-tenths of Palestine through a series of agreements of shame, disgrace, and surrender? They started by the Oslo Accords, Annapolis Conference, and then the recent tripartite meeting in New York, passing through the Wye River Memorandum, Camp David, and the Mecca Agreement.

"Have we forgotten that Mahmud Abbas was the one who signed the security agreements with the Zionist enemy? He was the one who is working under the supervision of General (Keith W.) Dayton. Have we forgotten that Mahmud Abbas is the one who kills and tortures the mujahidin and leads the Jews to arrest them?

"Have we forgotten that Mahmud Abbas and his deputy, the symbol of purity and honor (in sarcasm), Muhammad Dahlan, took part in ratifying the Agreements of Crossings (Agreement on Movement and Access)?

"Have we forgotten that Mahmud Abbas insists to revive the same sinful agreement, which chokes our people in Gaza, even if the agreement was expired, according to an Egyptian reconciliation paper?

"Have we forgotten that this gang and their likes, such as (Egyptian President Muhammad Husni) Mubarak, (Saudi King) Ibn-Sa'ud, and (Jordanian King Abdallah) Ibn-al-Husayn, are the Zionist Arabs in their most awful images.

"Have we forgotten all this and more? Thus, why was he accepted as a legitimate president of the Oslo Authority (REFERENCE to the Palestinian Authority)? Why a government under his
leadership is accepted? Why was it accepted that his men would join in the government of the Mecca Agreement?

"Why was he authorized in the same agreement to negotiate in the name of the Palestinians? Moreover, was what he has recently declared about his willingness not to run in the upcoming presidential elections tantamount to the wrath of the Sharif Husayn, the son of Ali against his British masters after they betrayed him and gave up Palestine to the Jews and the Levant to the French?

"Therefore, why is the insistence on national unity with the seculars, who reject the Shari’ah and relinquish most of Palestine; that kill and torture the mujahidin; who work through the program of the CIA and Gen Dayton?

"Why is the insistence on national unity with those who will tighten the grip around jihad and pursue the mujahidin in Gaza, as they did in the West Bank? Why is the insistence on national unity with those who only accept the government that respects, submits, and yields to the international resolutions, which handed over Palestine?

"Moreover, what is this national unity? Is it an idol that is worshipped other than God? God has not commanded us to worship national unity. On the contrary, Sublime be He has commanded us to have unity with the people of faith, piety, and jihad.

"The Truth, Sublime and Exalted be He, says: 'O ye who believe! Fear Allah as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam. And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude Allah's favor on you; for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace, ye became brethren; and ye were on the brink of the pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus doth Allah make His Signs clear to you: That ye may be guided. Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: They are the ones to attain felicity' (Koranic verses, Al Imran, 3:102-104).

"Thus, God, Sublime and Exalted be He, has commanded us to hold fast to his rope, which is His Shari’ah and monotheism, but not to the secular constitution or the international legitimacy. On the other hand, Almighty God forbids us from allying with the brothers, fathers, sons, wives, and tribes if they contradict and oppose God’s religion.

"Almighty God says: 'O ye who believe! Take not for protectors your fathers and your brothers if they love infidelity above Faith: if any of you do so, they do wrong. Say: If it be that your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your mates, or your kindred; the wealth that ye have gained; the commerce in which ye fear a decline: or the dwellings in which ye delight - are dearer to you than Allah, or His Messenger, or the striving in His cause;- then wait until Allah brings about His decision: and Allah guides not the rebellious.' (Koranic verses, Al-Tawbah, 9:23-24)

"Almighty God also says: 'there is for you an excellent example (to follow) in Abraham and those with him, when they said to their people: 'We are clear of you and of whatever ye worship besides Allah. We have rejected you, and there has arisen, between us and you, enmity and hatred forever,- unless ye believe in Allah and Him alone': But not when Abraham said to his father: 'I will pray for forgiveness for thee, though I have no power (to get) aught on thy behalf from Allah.' (They prayed): 'Our Lord! In Thee do we trust, and to Thee do we turn in repentance: to Thee is (our) Final Goal.' (Koranic verse, Al-Mumtahinah, 60:4)
"Almighty God says: 'It is not fitting, for the Prophet and those who believe, that they should pray for forgiveness for Pagans, even though they be of kin, after it is clear to them that they are companions of the Fire. And Abraham prayed for his father’s forgiveness only because of a promise he had made to him. But when it became clear to him that he was an enemy to Allah, he dissociated himself from him: for Abraham was most tender-hearted, forbearing.' (Koranic verses, Al-Tawbah, 9:113-114)

"Almighty God says: 'Thou wilt not find any people who believe in Allah and the Last Day, loving those who resist Allah and His Messenger, even though they were their fathers or their sons, or their brothers, or their kindred. For such He has written Faith in their hearts, and strengthened them with a spirit from Himself. And He will admit them to Gardens beneath which Rivers flow, to dwell therein (for ever). Allah will be well pleased with them, and they with Him. They are the Party of Allah. Truly it is the Party of Allah that will achieve Felicity.' (Koranic verse, Al-Mujadilah, 58:22)

"Sanctification of the national unity is one of Sykes-Picot Agreement’s evil fruits. This agreement divided the Islamic ummah into scattered spoils in order to steal the Ottoman State’s Inheritance. This invading criminal policy settled in our minds until it became a sacred idol. According to this policy, every Muslim in every country should unite with the sons of his country even if they were among the strongest enemies of Islam and were the most evil humans of traitors and those who sell their principles and values. The Holy Koran told us that none of the prophets was not fought and contradicted by his people. Almighty God says: 'never did We send a warner to a population, but the wealthy ones among them said: "We believe not in the (Message) with which ye have been sent.' (Koranic verse, Saba, 34:34)

"God also says: 'just in the same way, whenever We sent a Warner before thee to any people, the wealthy ones among them said: 'We found our fathers following a certain religion, and we will certainly follow in their footsteps.' (Koranic verse, Al-Zukhruf, 43:23)

"God also says: 'thus have We placed leaders in every town, its wicked men, to plot (and burrow) therein: but they only plot against their own souls, and they perceive it not.' (Koranic verse, Al-An'am, 6:123)

"Almighty God also told us that He sent his messengers to call people to monotheism, even if they separated their people into misguided and guided. Almighty God says: 'Not an apostle did We send before thee without this inspiration sent by Us to him: that there is no god but I; therefore worship and serve Me.' (Koranic verse, Al-Anbiya, 21:25)

"Almighty God says: 'We sent (aforetime), to the Thamud, their brother Salih, saying, 'Serve Allah.: But behold, they became two factions quarrelling with each other.' (Koranic verse, Al-Naml, 27:45)

"Almighty God says: 'for We assuredly sent amongst every People an apostle, (with the Command), 'Serve Allah, and eschew Evil': of the People were some whom Allah guided, and some on whom error became inevitably (established). So travel through the earth, and see what was the end of those who denied (the Truth).' (Koranic verse, Al-Nahl, 16:36)

"Let us think a bit about the most important and practical goals of the Muslims in Palestine and all over the world. The two most important goals; and God knows better, are to establish an Islamic government and to liberate the lands of the Muslims from the infidel aggressor invaders.
"The national unity will not lead to the establishment of God's Shari'ah and the Islamic government. On the contrary, it will lead to the establishment of a national secular government that will rule according to the constitution or man-made statute and will worship the legitimacy of the masses instead of worshiping God. Then, why would we accept such a national unity?

"The national unity will not lead to the liberation of Palestine from the Zionist invaders. Quite the opposite, it will lead to conceding nine tenth of Palestine, which will be handed over to the Jews. Then, why would we accept such a national unity?

"Not only did we hear talks about 'brother' Abu-Mazen and 'brother' Muhammad Dahlan, but also we heard talks about the 'brothers' in Egypt. We heard greetings and compliments for the Egyptian efforts, hard work, and the list goes on. Every Muslim knows who those Egyptian 'brothers' in reality are. They are the Zionist-Arabs, the brothers of the Jewish and American Zionists. They are the same 'brothers' that besieged Gaza and schemed to shell it. Until this very day, they still have their siege around Gaza and they are still destroying its tunnels. They are the same 'brothers,' who are torturing the Palestinians in order to obtain confessions about activists and commanders in Palestine so Israel can assassinate them.

"We ask God the Almighty to support us to take revenge from everyone, who participated in torturing the Muslims. We ask God to support us in our hard work in order to free all the captives and take revenge from those who imprisoned them. We have never forgotten them, nor will we forget them, God willing. We will never forget, God willing, Umar Abd-al-Rahman, Ramzi Yusuf and his comrades, Khalid Shaykh Muhammad and his comrades, or our prisoners in Egypt, Islamic Maghreb, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the world. With the strength and the support of God, we will not forget them, and we call upon all the Muslims not to forget them also.

"The torturing that is being carried out by the Zionist-Arabs 'brothers' against the Muslim prisoners, who were caught in the Zionist campaign against Islam, or what they call War on Terror, is one reason behind the US being pleased with them. Moreover, it is the price that Mubarak's regime pays to stay in power, and this is how the greater tyrant can bequeath the ruling to his son, the little tyrant. It is all based of the US satisfaction and the Zionist blessing.

"Those malicious 'brothers' consist one of the pillars in the anti-Islamic Zionist-Crusader outfit. Those brothers of Satan are major partners in the Zionist-Crusader campaign against Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and the rest of the Islamic homelands. It would have been more acceptable if they said the Egyptian officials or the Egyptian authorities (rather than saying brothers), but I do not know where this brotherhood came from and what is it based on. Then, what is the use of such manners with those Zionist-Arabs, who sold their religions and homelands to the Zion-American tyrant powers?

"Listen to me my brothers and people in Palestine; if the poets recite all the praising verses that have been written by all Arabs and say all the admiring phrases in the Arabic language to praise those Zionist-Arabs, they will never lessen their attempts to humiliate you, besiege you, and force you to submit to the American and Zionist plans.

"Do we not ask ourselves about the Egyptian eagerness to work out this agreement, while it is the country besieging Gaza, destroying its tunnels, and torturing the Palestinian prisoners? Moreover, tens of thousands of Israeli tourists enter Egypt, not only without a visa, but also welcomed, well-treated, and secured. Why do they insist that the Egyptian regime is the only
mediator in Palestine? Why does the Egyptian regime insist on excluding everyone else from this role? Why does the United States bless this game?

"The answer is crystal clear and does not need intelligence; the one who aims at bringing the Palestinians down to their knees through the siege is the same one who seeks to drag them into negotiations and agreements.

"Those are Obama’s henchmen and quislings, the slaves, messengers, agents, and soldiers of the new world order. They accomplish the orders they receive in any mean possible. Obama's orders that revealed, to the Muslims in Palestine and elsewhere in the world, their true pro-Israeli scheme that were wrapped with smiles and calls for respect, understanding, and cooperation.

"It has become clear for us that Obama's policy is nothing but a new episode in the Zionist-Crusaders’ campaign to enslave us, to humiliate us, to occupy our land, to plunder our wealth, to fight our religion, and to combat our Shari’ah. What has Obama offered to us so far, other than more pressures, siege, and harassment? The Pakistani army and government play the same role, which Mahmud Abbas plays in Palestine. They exert their utmost effort and sacrifice the blood of thousands of their soldiers to save the American Army and its allies in Afghanistan from the eminent defeat that will soon be theirs, God willing.

"The battle of the Pakistani Army in Waziristan is a fundamental participation in the US Crusader war against Islam and the Muslims in Afghanistan and in South Asia. The Pakistani-US Army desperate defense of the US Crusader Empire is the same role, which its predecessor the Indian-British Army used to play in service of the British Crusader Empire.

"Tens of thousands of the Indian-British Army, the predecessor of the Pakistani-US Army, died in the two world wars in defense of the British Army.

"The service, which the Pakistani-US Army is rendering today to the Americans is the same service rendered by the forces of Sharif Husayn, the father of the Arabian Revolt, who backstabbed the Ottoman Empire, to help in the victory of the Crusader Britain. It is the same role, which the soldiers and officers in the Islamic Maghreb are rendering in service of the Crusader France. The dirty role, which Shah Shujaa played in Afghanistan and Sharif Husayn in the Arab lands, in service of the British Empire is the same role, which Musharraf, Kayani, and Zardari are playing in service of the US Empire.

"It is the same role of Mahmud Abbas, Mubarak, Abdallah Al Sa’ud, Abdallah bin-al-Husayn, Karzai, Shaykh Sharif, and the like. It is the same new old image. It is the image of the loyal friends of the Jews and the Christians, who kill the Muslims and violate their honors and sanctuaries in service of their masters.

"The Almighty God, Exalted be He, says: '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 guideth not a people unjust.' Those in whose hearts is a disease - thou seest how eagerly they run about amongst them, saying: 'We do fear lest a change of fortune bring us disaster.' Ah! perhaps Allah will give (thee) victory, or a decision according to His will. Then will they repent of the thoughts which they secretly harboured 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 fall into (nothing but) ruin. O ye who believe! if any from among you turn back
from his Faith, soon will Allah produce a people whom He will love as they will love Him,- lowly with the believers, mighty against the rejecters, fighting in the way of Allah, and never afraid of the reproaches of such as find fault. That is the grace of Allah, which He will bestow on whom He pleaseth. And Allah encompasseth all, and He knoweth all things. Your (real) friends are (no less than) Allah, His Messenger, and the (fellowship of) believers,- those who establish regular prayers and regular charity, and they bow down humbly (in worship). As to those who turn (for friendship) to Allah, His Messenger, and the (fellowship of) believers,- it is the fellowship of Allah that must certainly triumph. O ye who believe! take not for friends and protectors those who take your religion for a mockery or sport,- whether among those who received the Scripture before you, or among those who reject Faith; but fear ye Allah, if ye have faith (indeed).'

(Koranic verse, Al-Ma'idah, 5: 51-57).

"The battle in Waziristan, the battle in Pakistan, and the battle in Afghanistan are not battles of a tribe, a people, a region, a nation, or a country. It is the battle of Islam against infidelity, the battle of Islam in the face of hypocrisy, and the battle of the Muslims against the Crusaders. It is not a national patriotic battle, but an Islamic battle of faith, the battle of Shari'ah against the defeatist national secularism, which submits to the powers of tyranny. It is rather the battle of all the weak and oppressed people in the world against the major criminals. It is the battle of freedom, dignity, pride, justice, and independence in the face of slavery, humility, injustice, and dependency. It is the battle of the pride of Islam in the face of the collaborators' begging. Muslims everywhere have to be aware of this. They have to know that the heroic mujahidin, who inflict the heaviest losses on the Pakistani Army in Waziristan, and on the US Army and the NATO forces in Afghanistan, are defending the pride of Islam and the dignity of the Muslims.

"The Amir of the Believers, Mullah Muhammad Umar Mujahid, may God protect him, outlined the nature of the battle from its beginning, saying: 'The question is not handing over Usama, but it is a matter of the dignity of Islam.' Everyone, who supports jihad in Waziristan, Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, Somalia, and the Islamic Maghreb, defends the dignity of Islam and of the Muslims. Everyone, who disappoints, dissuades, lags behind, in today's jihad, helps Islam's enemies against it, and weakens the power of Islam and the Muslims in service of the occupying Crusaders and Zionists.

"After all that I have mentioned, a question may arise: Fine, then what can we do? What is the means to that? What is the way out? First, I think that it is necessary to determine the goal of our undertaking and our quest. Do we undertake, work and struggle to make God's word the supreme, or to make the word of the people, the constitution, the national unity, the nationalistic state, the international harmony, the international legitimacy, the international acceptance, the economic stimulation, the personal interests, and the other labyrinths, the supreme? The Almighty God says: 'And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah altogether and everywhere; but if they cease, verily Allah doth see all that they do' (Koranic verse, Al-Anfal, 8:39).

"The Almighty God also said: 'Those who believe fight in the cause of Allah, and those who reject Faith Fight in the cause of Evil: So fight ye against the friends of Satan: feeble indeed is the cunning of Satan' (Koranic verse, Al-Nisa, 4:76).

"A man came to the prophet, peace and prayers be upon him, and said: 'A man fights in the battlefield out of valor, out of zeal, or out of hypocrisy, which of these is considered as fighting in the cause of God?' He (Prophet Muhammad) said: 'He who fights in order for the Word of God to remain the supreme, is considered as fighting in the cause of God' (Hadith).
"Therefore, we ought to decide what we want. Do we want the Muslim State that refers to the Shari'ah, and liberates all the Muslim lands in Palestine and elsewhere? Alternatively, do we want a secular, nationalistic state that belongs to Israel, and is restricted to the tenth of Palestine? If our goal in Palestine is to liberate it from the Jews in order to establish the Muslim State, which refers to the Shari'ah, we should abandon every principle, policy, and endeavor that contradicts with that. We should remain steadfast and adhere to two things: the first is the monotheistic belief and the sovereignty of the Shari'ah. We should genuinely pursue, with every effort and certainty, the establishment of the Muslim State, which refers to nothing else but the Shari'ah, and accepts it as its only authority.

"The second thing is to always hold fast to jihad and to persist in its path, without which Palestine can never be liberated. To realize these two things, we should exert every effort possible with our hands, tongues and hearts. We should remain steadfast in our belief and our principles, even if we are unable to achieve victory now. We must not give up a hairbreath until we, or whoever comes after us, can liberate Palestine, all Palestine, from the occupation of the Zionist Jews and establish the Muslim State.

"The idea, my dear brothers, is to remain steadfast in our belief and renounce all the ways and policies that contradict it. We must strive to fight the Jews in every way we can. We must even fight whoever assists them, especially the Americans and the West. Israel is nothing but the spearhead of the modern Zionist-Crusader campaign. If the mujahidin were restricted in Palestine, in the West Bank, or in Gaza, the chances are available everywhere. 'He who forsakes his home in the cause of Allah, finds in the earth Many a refuge, wide and spacious: Should he die as a refugee from home for Allah and His Messenger, His reward becomes due and sure with Allah. And Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful' (Koranic verse, Al-Nisa, 4:100).

"We should not allow the enemy to impose on us the battlefield, the location, and the time, and then besiege us there. O brothers and kinfolk in Palestine, remain steadfast on the sovereignty of the Shari'ah, loyalty to the believers, and disavowal of the infidels. Continue to pursue the enemy wherever you find him. 'And slacken not in following up the enemy: If ye are suffering hardships, they are suffering similar hardships; but ye have Hope from Allah, while they have none. And Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom' (Koranic verse, Al-Nisa, 4:104).

"Finally, I address the members of Fatah. Have you seen the abyss, in which the leadership you have elected has thrown you? Has the difference between the path of the believers and that of the criminals become clear to you? After you have seen the proof, do you have any excuse? After you have gone that deep, should you not repent? I do not call on you to join this or that group or organization, but I call on you to side with Islam and jihad, to enjoin what is just, and forbid what is wrong, be loyal to the believers, and disavow the infidels.

"Free yourselves from the chains of salaries, positions, and prejudice, which do not save you from God's wrath. Disavow of surrendering and the defeatists, such as Abbas, Dahlan, Mubarak, and the remaining Zionist-Arab. Rely on God and trust Him. 'And for those who fear Allah, He (ever) prepares a way out, And He provides for him from (sources) he never could imagine. And if any one puts his trust in Allah, sufficient is ((Allah)) for him. For Allah will surely accomplish his purpose: verily, for all things has Allah appointed a due proportion.' (Partial Koranic verses, Al-Talaq, 65:2-3)

"Our last prayers is praise be to God, Lord of all creation. Prayers be upon our Master Muhammad, his household, and his companions. "Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you."