

## **Al-Qa'ida Leader in Afghanistan Criticizes HAMAS**

September 8, 2009

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

On 7 September, a forum participant posted a message on a jihadist website from Mustafa Abual-Yazid, leader of the Al-Qa'ida Organization in Afghanistan, entitled "Clarification from Shaykh Mustafa Abu-al-Yazid, may God preserve him." He denies that "we and the mujahidin of HAMAS are of the same ideology and mindset," and attributes that statement made in an Al-Jazirah interview to a "slip of the tongue during an impromptu meeting." HAMAS, according to him, "has committed great religious violations" by "committing to and respecting international and Arab resolutions," and has even fought "the Al-Qa'ida mentality in Gaza."

A translation of the message follows:

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

"Qa'idat Al-Jihad Organization - General Command " Clarification from Shaykh Mustafa Abu-al-Yazid, may God preserve him. "In the name of God...Praise be to God. Peace and prayers be upon the messenger of God, his family, companions, and those who allied with him.

"In order to clarify to our brothers and remove the confusion, I wish to explain my statement regarding HAMAS and the mujahidin of HAMAS in a recorded interview with Al-Jazirah reporter Ahmad Zaydan. I say: We focused many times on clarifying the difference between HAMAS (as a party and an organization) and the mujahidin of HAMAS and others in Palestine. We discussed its ideology, outlined its political stances, and on several occasions showed our position towards HAMAS and the issues we have with it. The mujahidin of HAMAS are not necessarily responsible for the sins and corruption in the organization, its leadership, and political stances. The mujahidin of HAMAS are also on different levels of integrity and authenticity when it comes to ideology. Shaykh Ayman (al-Zawahiri) (may God preserve him) mentioned this on many occasions (such as in his open interview): 'I have always differentiated between the political leaders of HAMAS, the mujahidin of HAMAS, and the rest of the mujahidin in Palestine. I have criticized the leaders of HAMAS and continue to do so as long as they abide by the secular Palestinian constitution, and as long as they do not announce abandoning the Mecca Agreement. As for the mujahidin of HAMAS and the rest of the mujahidin in Palestine, I have supported them and continue to do so. I ask the nation to support them, especially the tribes of Sinai.'

"Based on that, I consider our stance on the HAMAS organization clear and obvious: HAMAS has committed great religious violations. This poor servant, for example, advised them to abandon these violations two years ago during my first interview with the Al-Sahab Establishment in Rabi al-Aakhar 1428 (corresponding to April/May 2007), where I said: 'We advise them to abandon the infidel assemblies and refrain from committing to and respecting international and Arab resolutions. We also advise them not to put their hands in the hands of the traitor agents and apostates in the Palestinian Authority. We advise them not to show any allegiance or respect to the leaders of the apostate regimes. We advise them to correct the Loyalty and Enmity creed, and not to abandon the implementation of the Islamic Shari'a in exchange for alleged interests.' Praise be to God, our stance is clear. Why would it not be clear, while HAMAS is fighting what it calls the Al-Qa'ida mentality in Gaza?

"As for what was mentioned in the Al-Jazirah interview (me stating that we and the mujahidin

of HAMAS are of the same ideology and mindset), the statement was not accurate. It was more like the slip of the tongue during an impromptu meeting. During my talk, I wanted to concentrate on what I mentioned above, which is differentiating between the good and honest mujahidin, and HAMAS the political organization. Therefore, the aforementioned statement does not express anything, nor does it offer any benefit. The duty is to elaborate on this situation. Exalted is the one who does not make a mistake, and no negligence is committed by him. If one asks if there is anyone in the ranks of the mujahidin in HAMAS that oppose HAMAS intellectually and ideologically, I say yes, though they are a minority. The duty of these people is to advise HAMAS and its mujahidin as much as they can. If they can work under a pure Sunni and monotheistic banner without succumbing to evil, they should work under it and leave HAMAS.

"Note: The Al-Jazirah channel deleted some parts of this recorded interview, such as the talk about Saudi Arabia and working in the Arabian Peninsula, as well as the talk about Syria and a few other things. This is perhaps due to the time limitation of the program, and other motives.

"I thank all the brothers who brought this matter to our attention. They asked for clarification when it became a problem, and wrote and discussed this with us. May God reward them for their advice, and may He accept them. I mention specifically the righteous Shaykh Aba Muhammad al-Maqdisi, because I looked at his article. May the brothers forgive us for being late with the responses and statements, due to the conditions of war. I ask God to grant us success according to what He loves and accepts. May the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.

"Your brother, Mustafa Abu-al-Yazid "3 Sha'ban 1430 (corresponding to 26 July 2009)

"Source: Al-Fajr Media Center "