Al-Zawahiri Responds to Knighting of Rushdie, Warns Britain of 'Strong Response'

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

Terrorism: Al-Zawahiri Responds to Knighting of Rushdie, Warns Britain of 'Strong Response'

On 10 July, a jihadist website posted links to a 20-minute and 43-second video of a speech by Ayman al-Zawahiri, Al-Qa'ida's second in command. The video is entitled "Spiteful Britain and its Indian Slaves" and is comprised of a static background image of Al-Zawahiri and a taped audio message of his voice in which he criticizes the queen of England for knighting Salman Rushdie and speaks of further attacks on the United Kingdom in response to the knighting. Al-Zawahiri also addresses the state of jihad in the Palestinian territories, in Lebanon, and in Afghanistan and calls on HAMAS to boycott the Mecca agreement. The message contains a warning from Al-Zawahiri to the new British prime minister as follows: "The politics of your predecessor brought many disasters and losses in Afghanistan and Iraq, and even in the heart of London, and if you did not learn a lesson, we are ready to repeat it, God willing, to ensure that you understood it clearly." In the rest of the message, Al-Zawahiri calls on the Muslims everywhere to assist in the empowerment of Afghanistan and asks HAMAS to denounce any international resolution, including the resolutions of the Mecca summit.

A translation of the audio statement follows:

"In the name of Allah and all praise is due to Allah, and may peace and prayers be on the messenger of Allah and on his family, companions, and allies.

"Muslim brothers everywhere:

"Peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.

"The queen of Britain honored Salman Rushdie and bestowed on him the title of knighthood because he uttered blaspheme against the prophet, prayers and peace be upon him. He is another agent for the British in India, like Ghulam Ahmad al-Qadyani, who used to forbid jihad against the British and to declare his support and submissiveness to the British Government. It is the Crusaders' hatefulness, which they cannot hide, and they sugarcoat it with the lie that they are defending freedom and the freedom of creativity.

"If the British honor those who defend freedom, why do they not honor the millions who were killed in Asia and Africa defending their freedom against the British occupation? Why do they not honor the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who were killed because of handing Palestine over to the Jews? Why do they not honor the British historian, David Irving, who was sentenced to three years imprisonment by an Austrian court about a year ago because he denied the Nazi holocaust, the gas chambers, and the death of six million Jews at the hands of the Nazis? Obviously, the queen of Britain, and the Supreme Governor of the Church of England cannot honor him because she cannot rise up against her Jewish masters.

"Since the queen of Britain cannot honor Salman Rushdie without direction from the government, then Blair has left a clear message for the Muslims before leaving his position defeated and crushed.

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"The message of the queen of Britain and the supreme governor of the Church of England and her prime minister was very clear. She said to the Muslims, 'if you think you will defeat us and banish us from Iraq and Afghanistan, then we curse your prophet and his family and consider whoever does so as one of our heroes.' Therefore, I say to Elizabeth and Blair that we got the message and we are preparing for a strong response, with God’s help.

"As for Blair's successor, I say to him, the politics of your predecessor brought many disasters and losses in Afghanistan and Iraq and even in the heart of London, and if you did not learn a lesson, we are ready to repeat it, God willing, to ensure that you understood it clearly.

"As for the Muslim ummah (Muslim nation) I say to her: The least we can do against Britain is to boycott its products, if there is any religion or dignity within us.

"My Muslim ummah, we need to confront the Britons and Crusaders who are transgressing against our ummah and we need to not forget their agents who are ruling us. We ought not to forget the bribed Musharraf who opened his country to the Crusader forces to kill Muslims in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"Therefore, I say to the Muslim ummah in Pakistan, the real confrontation with Musharraf is not by protesting or through the fictitious elections, rather it is by supporting jihad in Afghanistan against the Crusaders with lives and money. The empowerment of the Islamic State in Afghanistan is the hope for a real change in the whole region, and it is, with God's permission, the final strike for the Crusaders’ projects and their bribed helpers in south Asia.

"We need not forget also the handful of agents in the Arab countries, among them the agents of Lebanon, who earn their livelihood by selling their religion and honor to the Crusaders and the Jews.

"That blessed operation that targeted the international forces south of Lebanon was a slap to those agents. That operation was an answer to the invading Crusader forces for occupying a dear part of the Islamic countries and an answer to them for enforcing the disarmament in it, to prevent the continuity of the mujahidin in Lebanon with their brothers in Palestine, because they want to protect the Zionist Entity that occupies Jerusalem.

"As I believe, that blessed operation expresses the rejection of the Muslims and mujahidin in Lebanon of the situation that was agreed upon by the international and regional forces that is imposed upon the mujahidin and the Muslims in Lebanon.

"I urge the Muslims in Lebanon not to accept this situation under any circumstances and to strive with all they have to break the siege that is imposed against them. This is the duty of every Muslim in Lebanon, young and old, man or woman, and teacher or student. Lebanon is one of battlefields of Islam. The forces who are against Islam wish that it will be separated from the Islamic ummah so they can implement whatever plans they want in it.

"The news reported some parties condemning this operation; those parties are the ones who approved the regression of the Lebanese borders 30 kilometers back and approved the presence of the Crusader forces inside Lebanon and approved to separate the mujahidin in Lebanon from the mujahidin in Palestine.
"I am surprised, why do they condemn this operation? What do they have to do with it? If they are not able to participate in jihad, let them leave it to others. Or are they sure about the safety of the international forces and are committed to it?

"This is part of the greater contradiction in which they are living: fighting the Jews and the American scheme is permissible in Lebanon and Palestine but forbidden in Afghanistan and Iraq. Conspiring with the Zionist-Crusader occupier and his supporters is forbidden in Lebanon and Palestine but it is permissible in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The Muslim ummah, blessed with the God-given understanding of creed and reality, is no longer fooled by this contradiction and these schemes, even when these are carried out in the name of Islam and jihad.

"The major developments going on in many of the Islamic countries have exposed numerous entities and have stripped the masks off of many faces. Ruminating over empty slogans no longer hides any truths.

"Muslims in Lebanon are stuck between two fires: the fire of those collaborating with America and its supporters from one side, and the fire of those tied to the regional forces and their schemes from another; even if such ties dictate a recognition of the powers that are invading the Muslim countries, supporting them in Lebanon, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and bending to the decisions of the international legitimacy and its rules issued against them.

"I know that the Sunnis and jihadists have a long and arduous road ahead of them. However, I bring them good tidings that the jihadist revival that is spreading through the lands of Islam has renounced and revolted, by the grace and power of God, against the attempts of domination, containment, cheating, and theft. With God's help and might, it (the jihadist revival) is on its way to the doors of Jerusalem and on its way to liberate all of the Muslim lands that have been occupied from the times of the occupation by Andalusia and up to the occupation of Iraq.

"Therefore, those who conspire against jihad and against the mujahidin in Lebanon through American forces, Zionist collaboration, and Saudi money, should know that they are digging their own graves and that the Americans and the Jews will not defend them because they themselves are looking for someone to defend them. Those who doubt this must consider the scenario of Vietnam or Afghanistan.

"My Muslim brothers everywhere, we must reject and denounce the global and Arab decisions which justify the occupation of Muslim land by its enemy, including (UN Security Council) Resolution 1701 and the rulings of acquiescence to the Jews, the Oslo resolutions, and other such decisions to end with the latest Mecca agreement which renounced four-fifths of Palestine.

"I hereby appeal to the leadership of HAMAS, which has signed the Mecca agreement, to rise up to the level of historic responsibility by conforming to the laws of the Islamic Sharia and by rejecting all the rulings which relinquish Palestine, starting with the 1947 Partition Plan and ending with the (Arab Peace) Initiative of Friedman and (King) Abdallah in Mecca. Furthermore, they should know that our religion has ordained us to oppose the Zionist-Crusader campaign; it has ordained us to face it with jihad so that all religion will be for God.

"In leafing through published material on the Internet, I found an article by Dr. Abd-al-Aziz al-Rantisi, God rest his soul, entitled 'Why Do We Not Besiege America?' in which he begins by
saying: 'God has shown us that it is a form of divine justice to treat our enemies in the same way they treat us.' 'If anyone commits aggression against you, attack him just as he has attacked you' (Koranic verse; Al-Baqarah 2:194).

"He then, may God grant him His mercy, classified the types of blockades we could put against American into an economic blockade, terror blockade, media blockade, and tourism blockade. He, may God grant him His mercy, said about the terror blockade: "Because America deprived us of security in Palestine, Afghanistan, Iran, the Philippines, Chechnya, Kashmir, and other areas and continues to strike us either directly or by giving our enemies all kinds of support in order to strike us on her behalf, we must respond to this aggression by putting a blockade of terror against America. We must not let those who deprived us of security live in security. Every time the Americans set foot on one of the lands of the Muslims, their main intention was to commit some kind of aggression.

"They are the ones who test the latest achievement of the American diabolic mind in weapons of mass destruction against us, and they are the ones who continue to incite their allied regimes to pursue and eliminate our Muslim youth, and they are the ones who fight Muslims in their daily struggle to survive, and they are the ones who plunder Muslims' resources and show creativity in their humiliation of Muslims even on their television screens as they did in the Nazi-Zionist detention in Guantanamo and as they are doing today in Iraq.

"We cannot account for all of the American forms of aggression against Muslims but suffice it to say that the American propaganda has turned every Muslim into a terrorist pursued and wanted everywhere in the world. Why should we not pursue them the way they pursue us? What should we not terrorize them the way they terrorize us? We are capable of doing that. Do we not have the right to turn our bodies into bombs in the absence of any weapons of mass destruction with which they kill our children? We shall never taste security as long as those killers do not realize that their security cannot be achieved at the expense of our security.' The end of his words, may God grant him His mercy.

"Is this kind of spirit still around? I ask God that it is the case.

"The leadership of HAMAS today has a new opportunity to discard the Mecca agreement in which it surrendered four-fifths of Palestine and to frankly announce that it rejects all international agreements that stole Palestine from the Muslim nation and handed it to the Jews, and to clearly and frankly announce that as an Islamic movement it cannot accept or respect any international or Arab resolution that surrenders one inch of the lands of Islam.

"The leadership of HAMAS must choose between two things: to lead a local movement limited to a small piece of land only interested in national liberation that has nothing to do with the causes of the Muslim nation and is willing to accept any political regime imposed upon it in return and willing to go along and bow to the international and Arab resolutions in return for approval and acceptance of the international community, or to lead an Islamic jihadist movement that seeks to establish God’s way on earth, to fight so that God’s religion becomes supreme, and to represent the central cause of the jihadist Muslim nation for the sake of liberating its land and establishing the caliphate, thus becoming part of the Muslim nation fighting one battle for one nation with one creed against one enemy. The two choices are very different, and so is the price to be paid by the leadership that holds firm to these fixed principles and the one that surrenders them.
"But my mujahidin brothers in Palestine, I call on them to follow the Hadith of the prophet, peace be upon him: 'A man came to the prophet, peace be upon him, and said: a man fights for pride, for courage or for showing off. Which one fights for the sake of God? He said, 'that who fights so that God's words would be supreme is fighting for the sake of God' (Hadith). And I ask them (the Palestinians) to unify their ranks and unite around the book of God and the Sunnah (traditions) of His prophet, peace be upon him, and to reject disagreements and fighting amongst themselves. 'O ye who believe! When ye meet a force, be firm, and call Allah in remembrance much (and often); that ye may prosper: And obey Allah and His Messenger. and fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart; and be patient and persevering: For Allah is with those who patiently persevere' (Koranic verse; Al-Anfal 8:45-46).

"I ask them to be loyal to God's religion, and to accept only God's judgment. '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; An-Nisa 4:65). And that they should accept no principle or ideology but His. 'Do they then seek after a judgment of (the days of) ignorance? But who, for a people whose faith is assured, can give better judgment than Allah' (Koranic verse; Al-Ma'ida 5:50), and that they should know that to be enabled is a test and tribulation. '(They are) those who, if We establish them in the land, establish regular prayer and give regular charity, enjoin the right and forbid wrong: with Allah rests the end (and decision) of (all) affairs' (Koranic verse; Al-Hajj 22:41).

"They should know that they are heading toward a fierce battle, thus they should remember the word of God, the Almighty: 'O ye who believe! If ye will aid (the cause of) Allah, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly' (Koranic verse; Muhammad 47:7), and His saying: 'And an assurance to your hearts: (in any case) there is no help except from Allah, the Exalted, the Wise' (Koranic verse; Al Imran 3:126). I invite them to learn that in their confronting the traitors, those who sold Palestine, the agents, they have moved a step in the direction of victory. Beware, beware of retreating or going backward, deceived by political solutions and regional deals. They, instead, should rely on God and beg for victory and steadfastness. 'How many of the prophets fought (in Allah's way), and with them (fought) Large bands of godly men? but they never lost heart if they met with disaster in Allah's way, nor did they weaken (in will) nor give in. And Allah Loves those who are firm and steadfast. All that they said was, Our Lord! Forgive us our sins and anything We may have done that transgressed our duty: Establish our feet firmly, and help us against those that resist Faith' (Koranic verse; Al Imran 3:146-147).

"I very seriously warn them to be wary of the Arab regimes, especially the Egyptian, the Saudi, and Jordanian regimes, and I warn them again and again of the most cunning weapons of those regimes, the palace scholars, the Marines' jurisprudence experts, and the preachers of retraction, who will seek to weaken their determination and lead them away from their true battle. Those Marines' jurisprudence experts will make it permissible for the Palestinians to fight under the Fatah banner against HAMAS, exactly as they did previously, and make it allowable for the Muslims to fight in the American Army under the banner of the cross against the Muslims in Afghanistan.

"The Marines' jurisprudence experts are always ready to serve such regimes that do not consider the American forces or the Israeli Army a danger to the regimes existence because together they form a pact for the defense of the White House Caesars. But they do consider any jihadist movement a grave danger to them because these regimes did not exist but to make the Muslim nation surrender to the Crusaders and to Jewish control.
"Those regimes have armies of scholars of beggary and Marines' jurisprudence experts, which they use to change the true Islam, the Islam of monotheism and jihad which enjoins the right and forbids the wrong, to a fake American Islam that worships by bowing to the idols of the American power that will not be moved by any vice nor will it defend any oppressed.

"I am here appealing to the mujahidin in HAMAS and all the mujahidin in Palestine and even all the active movements for Islam to cooperate and support each other in order for the word of God to be supreme and for the Sharia to rule and have an undisputed authority and in order to free all occupied Muslim lands and to establish the caliphate that does not know national affiliation and does not adhere to Sykes-Picot borders.

"My Muslim nation, here the events in Palestine prove to every observer that the most important faction in the Arab national movement has been transformed to a security services institution for the Zionists under the supervision of General Dayton, and here is Olmert in the Sharm Al-Shaykh conference promising to support the secularists, the sellers of Palestine, with weapons, according to Dayton’s directives.

"My Muslim nation, the Americans and the Jews are not on Mars, but on our borders, even in our own land with all their military personnel and equipment, and what we see today in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, and Somalia might be repeated tomorrow in any city and in every country, and we will not be saved by the secular calls for nationalism, socialism, liberalism, and submissiveness, but what will save us is holding the rope of God and returning to our Islam, engaging in jihad and supporting the mujahidin.

"O you who have attained to faith, be helpers (in the cause of God - even as Jesus, the son of Mary, said unto the white-garbed ones, 'Who will be my helpers in God's cause?' Whereupon the white-garbed (disciples) replied, 'We shall be (thy) helpers (in the cause) of God!' And so (it happened that) some of the children of Israel came to believe (in the apostleship of Jesus), whereas others denied the truth. But (now) We have given strength against their foes unto those who have (truly) attained to faith, and they have become the ones that shall prevail' (Koranic verse; As-Saf 61:14).

"And our last supplications are praise be to God, Lord of all creation. Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon all of his family and companions."