

Al-Zawahiri Interview 'The Facts of Jihad and the Lies of Hypocrisy'

August 4, 2009

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

Terrorism : Al-Zawahiri Interview 'The Facts of Jihad and the Lies of Hypocrisy' On 3 August, a forum participant posted links on a jihadist website to a 1-hour 29-minute video entitled "The Facts of Jihad and the Lies of Hypocrisy," an interview with Ayman al-Zawahiri. This is the sixth interview that the Al-Sahab Media Establishment has conducted with him. The video was produced by Al-Sahab, the media arm of the Al-Qa'ida Organization, and published by the Al-Fajr Media Center. In the interview, Al-Zawahiri addresses an array of issues, discussing the "current state of affairs of the mujahidin;" criticizing the US, Saudi, Iranian, and Egyptian governments; and answering questions pertaining to jihad in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Gaza Strip, Somalia, and the "Islamic Maghreb."

A translation of the interview follows:

(Opening text)

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

"Warning: We do not allow music to be included in our releases.

"Al-Sahab Media Productions

"1430 (corresponding to 2009)

(Opening credits)

"Al-Sahab Media Productions

"Rajab 1430 (corresponding to July / August 2009)

(Excerpts from the video)

"This is what Obama wants for us: a Palestinian state that acts as a branch of Israeli intelligence... " If Obama wants understanding, let him accept the overtures of Shaykh Usama. They were both fair overtures. The mujahidin have opened the way for a new page with them. They, however, are insistent that the relationship be based on oppression and tyranny over us. It makes no difference what Obama and his successors will bring forth, with slogans and promises... " What is taking place in Afghanistan is a lesson that the entire Muslim Nation must learn. The Afghans should be proud of the fact that they will go down in Islamic history as the people whose Islamic emirate, lead by the Commander of the Faithful, Mullah Muhammad Omar (may God protect him) has challenged America, the strongest power on the face of the earth. This emirate has sacrificed all it has for the sake of its doctrine, its principals, and for the protection and the safety of its Muslim migrant brothers, as well as the oppressed mujahidin... " Iran has revealed itself to the Muslim world. It has become apparent that they do not stand on the front of resistance, as it and its supporters wish to be labeled. Rather, it sits on the bargaining front, willing to sell Muslims anywhere to the invading Crusaders. Moreover, it is willing to help them against Muslims... " Not even a tenth of a rocket was fired in support of the people of Gaza: the very same people who asked for the Egyptian Army to mobilize in their defense and the Egyptian people to march forward to open the crossings with Gaza. This, despite the fact they had threatened Israel, that should it attack Lebanon, that they would fire so many thousands of rockets able to reach this and that. Here we see Israel burying Gaza...So where are the rocket threats? Or are the Muslims in Gaza second class citizens? " If you are against the

wise emissary, you are actually against the Imam, and if you are against the infallible Imam, then you stand against God. If the wise emissary was to inform you that jihad in Lebanon and Palestine was permissible, but in Iraq and Afghanistan, not permissible, then this is the will of God! Sometimes it is even against Islam! (Title)

" The Facts of Jihad and the Lies of Hypocrisy " An interview with Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri (Interview begins)

"(Host) In the name of God...Praise God. Peace and blessings be upon the messenger of God, and upon his kin, companions, and followers. My Muslim brothers everywhere, may the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you all. Al-Sahab Media Productions is pleased to host today Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri, in its sixth interview with him. We ask God that we and all Muslims benefit from this. Let us begin by addressing the shaykh and say: May the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you, and welcome as a guest of Al-Sahab.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) May the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you as well.

"(Host) Let us begin our discussion by taking a general look at the current state of affairs of the mujahidin...But we must not forget the news, carried by all the media outlets, of the killing of more than 60 residents of Waziristan by American aircraft during a funeral for victims of another airstrike that took place earlier in the day. What is your take on this incident?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate... I see this as another massacre against Muslims by the hands of the lying criminal Obama: the very same person seeking a new relationship with the Muslim world and Muslims while his hands are dripping daily with their blood. I say to Obama and to all Americans: Go ahead and plant animosity in the hearts of Muslims and you will surely (God willing) reap that harvest with your blood.

"(Host) Very well then. Let us then begin by taking a general look at the current state of affairs of the mujahidin.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The state of affairs of the mujahidin continues to improve, develop, and advance. If it was not for the resilience of the mujahidin in the face of the most vicious Crusader campaign in the history of Islam, what they call the 'War on Terror,' along with the various other campaigns in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, the Arabian Peninsula, Somalia, and the Islamic Maghreb...I say, if it was not for this resilience in the face of the most vicious Crusader campaign against Muslim lands, such would suffice as victory and triumph, with the grace of God. Moreover, they continue to make advancements and accomplish victories, with the grace and blessings of God.

"(Host) What is your assessment of this campaign as of now?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) This campaign continues to go from one failure to another, with the grace of God. After seven and a half years, this campaign has failed in Iraq, failed in Afghanistan, failed in Somalia, and continues to fail today in Pakistan. The tone of the American administration has yet to change from what Bush said: 'If you are not with us, then you are against us,' to what Obama has stated regarding his desire to take on a new approach with the Islamic world, which is a direct result of the losses they have incurred at the hands of the mujahidin in the Islamic world.

"(Host) What is the level of mujahidin resilience in the face of this campaign?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The mujahidin will continue to battle this campaign until they defeat it, God willing...Even if this war lasts until the End of Days. There will be no retreat, no withdrawal, and no abandonment of the principals and the rights of all Muslims, with the grace of God.

"(Host) What is the bear minimum that the mujahidin will accept?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The bear minimum that the mujahidin will accept is the withdrawal of infidel forces from Muslim lands; a halt to the pillage of Muslim wealth using the threat of military force; trading in those resources and wealth by fair means; a halt to the support of corrupt apostate regimes in the Muslim world; the release of all Muslim prisoners; and a halt to the meddling in the affairs of the Muslim world.

"(Host) What is the alternative if the Crusader West does not respond to these demands?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The alternative would be the continuation of losses, defeats, fear, and terror for the Crusader West until victory is achieved, God willing.

"(Host) Is this what was summarized in the famous pledge by Shaykh Usama Bin Ladin? 'As for the United States, I tell it and its people these few words: I swear by Almighty God, who raised the heavens without pillars, that neither the United States nor he who lives in the United States will enjoy security before we can see it as a reality in Palestine and before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad (may peace and blessings of God be upon him).' (Excerpt from previous UBL statement, filed by OSC as GMP20011007000232.)

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Yes, what else has the Crusader West witnessed in more than seven years of this Crusader campaign? Did not the pledge of Shaykh Usama come true, with the grace of God?

"(Host) As part of the Crusader war and animosity towards Islam and Muslims, (French President Nicholas) Sarkozy has stated that the burqa is a symbol of oppression and domination. How do you explain this vicious Crusader campaign against the hijab (veil)?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) This Crusader media campaign is not limited only to the hijab. Before, there were the defamatory cartoons of the messenger (peace and blessings upon him). Before that, there was the defiling of the Koran in Guantanamo and in Iraq. The Crusader West is unable to hide its animosity towards and loathing of Muslims since they have begun to stand up to them, challenge them, and argue against them.

"(Host) So why does the hijab intimidate them to this extent?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Western culture is a culture of vice, prostitution, and a lack of morals, religion, and manners. Is this not the culture of AIDS? A Muslim woman who wears the hijab exposes all these falsities and their use of women as a commodity to lure customers and push products. It also exposes the immorality of their capitalism, which trades in vice in all its forms, which is its most important means of income. This also exposes the falseness of their freedom. They have no problem with a woman who exposes all of her body. Moreover, they have no problem with a woman who sells it. They, however, cannot stand seeing a Muslim woman wearing a hijab. This hijab-wearing Muslim exposes the Crusader West's fear of Muslims who

observe the tenets of their faith because they know they will not defeat Muslims until Muslims abandon the tenets of their faith. This is why when Muslims observe the tenets of their faith, which is now embodied in the form of hijab, this threatens their existence, economy, and world domination.

"(Host) So why is it then, that France is insistent on its campaign against the hijab, and are unable to hide their animosity towards it?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) France claims to be secular, while at its core, it is very resentful towards Islam. It was Napoleon Bonaparte who made his famous statement to the Jews in 1799, in Acre, when he pledged to support the Jews in their campaign to take over Palestine. It was France that had its soldiers enter Al-Azhar with their horses, trample over its Korans, and use it as a stable for their horses. It was France that battled against Islam and Arabism in Algeria. It was France that supplied Israel with their nuclear reactors. It is France that battles against Muslims in Afghanistan. It is France that now battles against the hijab. And it is France that will pay the price of all its crimes, God willing.

"(Host) It may be said that the jihadist movement has faced some setbacks in several arenas, such as in Iraq and in the Arabian Peninsula.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) This is not true. First of all, war has its ups and downs, especially in guerilla warfare. The battle goes on, and it has not yet been decided. Secondly, the truth of the matter is different altogether, despite the efforts of the Western media to twist the facts.

"(Host) Alright, with your permission, I will revert back to these issues and others in more detail at a later time, God willing. Let us then focus on America, since it is the main force in the Crusader alliance.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Go ahead.

"(Host) What do you say to the American administration's claim that it stands for change, especially with the Muslim world?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Obama is trying to disillusion the weak and oppressed. Obama has realized that the anger of the weak and oppressed, especially in the Islamic world, against America, and their hate of its politics, has brought it disasters and calamities, and broken its back. He tries to say: Do not hate us. We do not wish you any harm. But, we will continue to kill you in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, and Somalia. We will continue occupy Muslim countries. Our military presence will continue in the (Persian) Gulf so as to ensure the pillaging and looting of oil with the prices that we agree to. We will continue supporting Israel and stress its Jewishness and recognize Jerusalem as its everlasting and unified capitol.

(Video then cuts to a portion of President Obama's speech to AIPAC on 4 June 2008. The speech is voiced-over in Arabic. The Arabic voice-over is an exact translation of the English speech.)

"(President Obama) But any agreement with the Palestinian people must preserve Israel's identity as a Jewish state, with secure, recognized, and defensible borders. Jerusalem will remain the capital of Israel, and it must remain undivided.

(Video cuts back to Ayman Al-Zawahiri.)

(Zawahiri): 'We will continue to secure its military (power).'

(Video then cuts to a portion of President Obama's speech to AIPAC on 4 June 2008. The speech is voiced-over in Arabic. The Arabic voice-over is an exact translation of the English speech.)

"(President Obama) Our alliance is based on shared interests and shared values. Those who threaten Israel threaten us. Israel has always faced these threats on the front lines. And I will bring to the White House an unshakeable commitment to Israeli security.

"(Zawahiri): We will continue to support the oppressive, torturous, and pillaging regimes in your country. But, do not hate us...We are not such a nation of stupid imbeciles so as to allow Obama to take advantage of us with acquiescent expressions that have no meaning. All while, he is just a new face for the same old American criminality. He came to carry out a Zionist plan.

"(Host) Thus, you do not see that Obama has offered anything to Muslims?

"(Zawahiri) How? How can we disclaim Obama's favors and his glorious deeds? He has offered a lot. He has given us the bombings in Gaza, which killed over 1,300 martyrs. He has given us the deaths of thousands of civilians in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Somalia. He has given us the expansion of American prisons, such as Bagram prison, so as to receive numerous Muslim casualties. He has given us bloody massacres, the fight against the establishment of Shari'ah (Islamic law) in the Swat Valley, and air raids against Muslims in the tribal areas in Pakistan. He has given us his objection against the Anti-Racism Conference in Geneva. He has given us his pardon of the CIA executioners. He has given us his retreat on the efforts to close the Guantanamo detention camp when he decided to move more than 50 detainees from Guantanamo to secret American prisons. He has given us his promise to secure Israeli military superiority, his support of the Jewish nature of the state of Israel, and his support his and their claims of Jerusalem being the unified and everlasting capitol of the state of Israel. This, among others, is Obama's favors and glorious deeds that are still coming, one after the other.

"(Host) So what was the purpose of his visit to Saudi Arabia and Egypt and his message to the Islamic world?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) This is nothing more than a Hollywood-style public relations campaign. He gave a long speech at the University of Cairo. A person left this speech with his ears full of sonorous and pompous expressions with no specific meaning, and gained nothing.

"(Host) What exactly do you mean by that?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Review this with me. What are the most important reasons for the animosity between Muslims and America? Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, the American occupation of the Arabian Peninsula, the pillaging of the riches of the Islamic nation by threatening the use of power, the corrupt and corrupting regimes that are agents of America, and the war against Islam in the name of terrorism.

"(Host) But, in reference to the Palestine issue, he stated that does not agree to the legality of settlements and that he supports the two state solution.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) This is, as the proverb goes, just like weaning the child from his milk. First: Muslims will never agree to a two state (solution) on Palestinian land. Palestine is a

Muslim possession that was occupied by nonbelievers, and it is a Muslim obligation to expel the invaders from it. Israel is a crime that must be eliminated. Second: Objecting to settlements and supporting the two state solution are the two same false promises that were made by Bush...So what is new? Third: he confirmed Israel's right to exist, which means the continuance of the same Western Crusader Zionist crime, (which has been taking place) since the end of the First World War, against the Muslims. Fourth: Obama has demanded that HAMAS renounce violence and recognize Israel and past agreements. In other words, he demanded it to completely surrender to Israel while he did not demand that Israel abandon violence. Fifth: He finally stated that he hopes that at the end of this year serious talks between the Palestinians and Israelis can begin, but, it is up to the Palestinians to stop the violence and stop inciting it so as to gain the trust of the Israelis.

"(Host) Do you see that this is a regression to Bush's position?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Yes. Bush stated that the Palestinian state will be realized before the end of his time. However, Obama states that serious negotiations will begin at the end of this year, but that it is up to the Palestinians to abandon the resistance so as to surrender in the negotiations before the Israelis. What have the Palestinians gained after nearly twenty years of negotiations with the Israelis? Obama is promising us with just another story of failure among others.

"(Host) Yes! To confirm what you are saying, he commented on Netanyahu's last speech saying that, he welcomes him and considers it a step forward...

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) This is very true! This is the speech in which Netanyahu stipulated that to begin negotiations with the Palestinians, they must agree to a demilitarized Palestinian state and that Israel is acknowledged as a state for the Jewish people. In this speech, he also refused the return of Palestinian refugees and demanded their settlement in Arab countries. He acknowledged the right of the settlers to expand their settlements and name the West Bank as the land of their fathers and grandfathers. This is what Obama wants for us: a Palestinian state that operates as branch of Israeli intelligence.

(Video cuts to an excerpt of an interview with Azzam al-Tamimi, Director of the Institute of Islamic Political Thought in London.)

"(Azzam al-Tamimi) Obama's problem is that he has not come with anything new for what he sees as the problem and crisis in Palestine. He wants the two-state solution. Two states after the forcible seizure of Palestinian lands...There is no land left for a state to be established upon. The state that he wants to establish is the same one that George Bush wanted to establish: a state ruled by a military and security organization whose first priority is the protection of the Zionist entity. This is what we see taking place currently in the West Bank.

(Video cuts back to Ayman Al-Zawahiri)

"(Host) Regarding the Iraq issues, he stated that Iraq is for the Iraqis.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) These are the same empty words previously said by Bush. However, he stated that he will keep 50,000 soldiers in Iraq. Is this leaving Iraq to its self? Would he agree to have 50,000 foreign soldiers in America, or even in the state of an American ally?

"(Host) But he is going to decrease his forces from 120,000 soldiers to 50,000 soldiers.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) First: American military presence in Iraq is not limited to only 120,000. There are more like them who work under private contracts. America does not make the losses of these mercenaries public. Second: He was unwillingly forced to decrease (these forces) because of the strikes made by the mujahidin. His wish, or hope, in short, is for the Shiite Iraqi Government to pay the price and bear the burden of the killing and destruction, and for the American presence to intercede only when necessary.

"(Host) Will he be successful in doing so?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) By the grace of God, the plan to invade Iraq was a failure when it was created. It will end in failure, God willing.

"(Host) But the Americans claim that they have achieved successes in Iraq.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) By the grace of God, the Americans have only reaped losses in Iraq. The only thing that they claim is that they have decreased the amount of operations against them by forming the Awakening Councils. This is the heart of the facts.

"(Host) How is that?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) First: America's spending multiplied after the martyrdom of Shaykh Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, God have mercy on him. Its military spending in Iraq in 2006 was 99 billion dollars. This is the year that Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi (God have mercy on him) died. Killing Abu-Mus'ab, which the Americans portrayed as a great victory, was supposed to solve their problem. But what happened is that American spending in Iraq multiplied in 2008 to 159 billion dollars. During those two years, the Awakening Councils were formed. Then most of them were dissolved. Those are the two years in which America claimed that it had reduced mujahidin military operations. The truth is that America bought this phony victory by increasing its spending in Iraq. The jihad resistance remained present. In fact, it increased. Its mere presence and continuity ensured America's economic exhaustion, as well as the escalation (of operations), which the Americans and the fallacious Iraqi government admitted to. Will the Americans continue to pump in these funds despite the ruinous economic crisis they are experiencing? If they did pay these billions of dollars in the past two years, will they continue to pay after the withdrawal of most of their troops from Iraq? What will happen if the expenditure of these oceans of money ceases? The answer is: the destruction of the Awakening Councils, the deflation of the Iraqi forces' budget, and the escalation of jihadist resistance. Thus the Americans are losing whether they spend or not. Second, the Americans employed the Awakening (Councils) as the front wall to face the mujahidin. Thus, a decrease in American casualties is met by an increase in casualties in the ranks of the Awakening (Councils). This is matter that is understood by the American forces. Third, the Iraqi and American forces conceal the majority of truths.

"(Host) Could you give us examples of that?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The examples are many. For instance, the American forces and the American media do not and cannot mention the hundreds of operations and films of the mujahidin. God forbid, how would it be if the jihadist media was absent, and the acquisition of information was dependant upon the statements of the American army and the reports of the American media, knowing how the two entities depict (their) losses as victories and conquests? In my personal experience, how many times did the American army and Pakistani Government announce that they were putting on a siege, or wounding or killing? All the way down to the last

of the lies that can be found only in the heads of the American and the Pakistani intelligence services? We thank God for our well-being. We ask him to protect us and Muslims. As for the Iraqi Government, the whole world has witnessed the scandal of their lies in their claims of capture of Shaykh Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi (may God protect him and the rest of the Muslim mujahidin). It was quite a scandal when Shaykh Umar blew them away with his statement where he exposed their lies and falsehood.

"(Host) What is amazing is the fact that the Iraqi Government is still repeating the same lie after its falsehood was exposed with clear and undeniable proof. What is your explanation?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Those people who delight in lies, whose policies are lies: their religion is a lie and their media is a lie. They grow up on it and become addicted to it. They cannot let go of it, and they do not feel shame on account of it.

"(Host) Good. This was your view on Obama's position towards Palestine and Iraq. What is your view on his position regarding the other things you mentioned as causes that led to the enmity between Muslims and America?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) My opinion is that he is repeating the same past American positions regarding the causes that led to the enmity between Muslims and America...Such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, the occupation of the Arabian Peninsula, the plundering of Muslim resources under the threat of force, support of corrupt regimes that collaborate with America and fight Islam under the name of anti-terrorism fight...And he did not denounce any of America's crimes.

"(Host) Such as what?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Obama did not utter a single word on the war on Gaza, or the continuous siege on Gaza to this day, which was sanctioned by America. He did not speak of the tragedies of the people of Gaza, or the bombardments on civilians, or the bombardment of villages and cities in Pakistan, or the bloody massacres and the displacement of two million immigrants from the Swat River, or Guantanamo, Abu Ghurayb, or the American secret prisons, or the expansion of prisons such as Bagram, or the American evasion of the Geneva Convention which deals with the fate of prisoners...He did not mention the names or the number of detainees held in secret prisons or their fate, or the responsibility of America towards them, or on the policy of expatriation for torture in Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco and other countries.

"(Host) But it might be said that you do not respond to his agents to reach an agreement?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Do not ask the oppressed to abandon resistance. Ask the criminal to stop his crimes. Did not Shaykh Bin Ladin extend the two initiatives: one to America, and one to the European people, to stop their aggression against Muslims and start a relationship based on the exchange of interests, not one based on oppression, plundering, and pillaging? He was met with ill-treatment. If Obama was really seeking an agreement, then he should consent to the initiatives of Shaykh Usama. They are fair initiatives. They have opened the door for them to start a new page, but they insist on Iraq being built on our oppression and coercion. Obama and his ilk come up with sweet and empty expressions. Do you know what Obama is like?

"(Host) What?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) He is like a wolf whose teeth are biting your flesh and whose claws are

scratching your face and both are dripping with your blood. He asks you to stop defending yourself because he wants to make peace with you. Do you recall Ahmad Shawqi's famous poem on the fox and the rooster which he started with: 'The fox appeared one day in the dress of an admonisher, walking on earth, spreading advice, and insulting cunning people?'

"(Host) Yes and which ended with: 'He is wrong who thought one day that the fox has a religion.'

(A clip shows President Obama in Jerusalem standing in the middle of a small crowd.)

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Obama is the same, he does not have a religion, he was born to a Muslim father. He became a Christian, and then he prayed the prayer of the Jews.

"(Host) Good. I would like to ask your opinion on the impact of the Crusader campaign on America itself...

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) On the economic level, the jihadist movement has caused the economic crisis and its consequences that America is suffering from now. The economic recession caused by the invasions against America was handled by the central bank through a sharp decrease in the interest rate, which led to an increase of liquidity, and a competition over loans that compelled people to borrow more than they could repay, and when people became unable to repay their loans, the banking institutions started collapsing, in addition to other consequences, and that all led to the catastrophic economic crisis. Militarily, America suffered huge losses in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Somalia. It has come to a dead end there, and that amplified the economic crisis. In return, mujahidin power was strengthened, and their authority was expanded from Afghanistan to Pakistan. They now have a solid base in Somalia, thanks to the favors and grace of God. On a political level, the Bush movement and that of his aids, such as Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Richard Baer, and Khalil Zada...They have been vanquished, and Obama came as a result of the American people's acknowledgment of Bush's defeat and their annoyance of his idiocies.

"(Host) On mentioning the victory of Obama in the presidential elections...How do you see him after more than three months since his appointment as President?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Obama has evaded many of his promises.

"(Host) Such as...

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Such as his promise to withdraw all the troops from Iraq; his statement that he will keep 50,000 troops there; his promise to close down the Guantanamo detention center; his decision to transfer about fifty detainees to American prisons; his refusal to publish pictures of torture after the Secretary of Defense accepted to publish them; and his protection of CIA executioners from investigations.

"(Host) Well, let us move to Afghanistan.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Please do.

"(Host) What is your view of the jihadist condition in Afghanistan today?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Afghanistan is among the signs of God in His earth, and one of Gods'

most astonishing lands. This poor, deprived, ascetic country made world history twice in less than thirty years. Once, when it defeated the Russian empire, and here it is now...Thanks to the favors and grace of God, defeating the American empire. It is sufficient enough to compare the tone of Bush's talk before his Crusader campaign against Afghanistan and the tone of Obama today when he announced strategy in Afghanistan as a strategy of withdrawal. All this is thanks to the grace of God, then thanks to the sacrifices of the Afghan people and their supporters who have offered tens of thousands of martyrs. There are twice that number in wounded widows and orphans. Jihad for the sake of supporting Islam and Muslims will not stop or tire. What is happening in Afghanistan is a lesson that ought to be learned by the whole Muslim nation. It is sufficient for the proud Afghans to be mentioned in the history of Islam. Their Islamic emirate, under the leadership of the Commander of the Faithful, Mullah Omar the Mujahid (may God preserve him), has challenged America: the biggest force on the face of the earth. It sacrificed everything it owns for the sake of its creed and principles in order to preserve the well-being of its Muslim brothers, the oppressed mujahidin.

"(Host) What is the cause of what you describe as a defeat of American forces in Afghanistan at the hands of the Taliban?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) What is happening in the Afghanistan of successive victories by the mujahidin under the leadership of Commander of the Faithful Mullah Omar (may God preserve him) came as result of the successes and support bestowed by God upon his oppressed servants who gave precedence to his pleasure over the crumbs of this earth. Second, the achievements today in the Afghanistan of the mujahidin victories and tragedies and losses of the Crusaders and apostates did not come from emptiness. It came as a result of the success granted by God to the mujahidin by making them steadfast on the path of jihad, and by granting them patience and forbearance when giving hundreds of thousands of dead, and twice that number of wounded, and twice that number of widows and orphans and disabled people."(Host) You see that the victories bestowed by God on the mujahidin of the Islamic Emirate are a result of their constancy regarding the methodology of truth?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Yes. These victories did not come as result of following the methodologies of incompetent scholars who forbid jihad, except with the permission of the Americans, or that of the scholars of the Marines who made permissible the shedding of mujahidin blood in Afghanistan under the Cross of America, or by following the methodologies of the scholars of elections who claim that they are seeking to erect the rule of Islam through their acceptance of the constitution and laws that contradict Islam. They failed before they started. I advise the leaders of Islamic movements to come to Afghanistan and learn lessons from the Taliban and Mullah Omar so they can reform their creed and renew their faith.

"(Host) This reminds us of what is being reported about the negotiations between the Islamic emirate and the Americans under Saudi mediation. One of the claimers who alleged knowing about it stated in a summit in Egypt a few months that handing you over is the condition the Taliban is requested to present to the Americans, and that this is about to happen, what is your comment on that?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) My response is the saying by (Arab poet) Al-Mutanabbi: 'Life is easy for an ignorant person or one who does not know about what is happening or what is expected...He who rejects facts and seeks this for his benefit...' Those poor people were raised and grew old around the clash of interests, benefits, and ranks, and do not know the taste or scent of piety, jihad, martyrdom, or reliance on God. The Islamic emirate, which has sacrificed everything it had in order to preserve Islam and protect its brothers, wrote its position in lines of gold in the

history of Islam, and cannot back down today. It withstood the bitterness of seven years of sacrifice and the loss of the best and most honorable men and the loss of money, relatives, and sons. Can it withdraw after all it has given, when it now sees the signs of victory appearing and the Crusader campaign beginning to withdraw? If the men of the Islamic emirate and its amir, the Mullah Muhammad Omar Mujahid (may God protect him) are compromisers, as imagined by those who claim to know the details of the issues, they would have given in from the first day before the invasion of Afghanistan. All the temptations were offered to them then. Everyone remembers how the Commander of the Faithful Mullah Muhammad Omar threw out Turki al-Faysal, the head of Saudi intelligence, from his meeting in Kandahar because he considered Turki as having gravely insulted him by saying that the Commander of the Faithful promised him to hand over Usama Bin Ladin and those with him, and that he had come for the fulfillment of that promise. He told Turki that the Americans and Bin Ladin have a conflict over incidents that occurred in Africa, so what is your concern? Your ancestors, meaning the (prophet's) companions (blessings of God be upon them)...The Afghans respect the Arabs because they are the descendants of the companions (blessings of God be upon them). Your ancestors taught the world glory and honor, so why are you working for the Americans? The next day Saudi Arabia cut its ties with the Islamic emirate. The Islamic emirate did not care, even though Saudi Arabia was one of only three countries that recognized it.

"(Host) The talk about Afghanistan draws us to talk about the recent developments in Pakistan..How do you see it?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) In Pakistan now there is a struggle between two forces: a force that represents the jihadist direction, which seeks to implement Shari'ah and evict the infidel invaders from the land of Islam. This is a direction that enjoys wide popularity in Pakistan, especially among the brave Pashtu and Baluchi tribes. The other side has sold its honor and religion to the Crusader US. It sacrificed everything, including the security and safety of Pakistan for their cheap personal benefits.

"(Host) Who is represents this latter side?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) It is represented by the corrupt political ruling class and the deviant military sector in the leadership of the Pakistani Army who work as hunting dogs for the Americans. They receive bribes and orders from the US ambassador in Islamabad.

"(Host) What is the true picture of the ongoing struggle in Pakistan?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The true picture is that the Pakistani Army pushes its soldiers to death, captivity, and disability so that its commanders may receive their gains and increase their bribes.

"(Host) What is the reason for the recent campaign in the Swat Valley?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The reason is the US refusal of the implementation of Shar i'ah, even if in a partial way. This has uncovered the true face of the political ruling class in Pakistan, which fights Shari'ah and only wants a secularism that surrenders to the US and drowns in a swamp of corruption. What was achieved in Swat was supposed to have been achieved in all of Pakistan 60 years ago.

"(Host) Pakistani officials claim that the Pakistani system, its laws, and constitution are based on Islam...How correct is this?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) This is biggest lie in Pakistani history. Pakistan's constitution and its laws contradict Islam, and they postpone its implementation with all kinds of tricks and deceit. I wrote a short letter about this entitled 'The Lamp and the Lantern,' in which I showed the falsity of these claims. When the implementation of Shari'ah was achieved in Swat, American hunting dogs could not stand this and quickly shed the blood of Muslims in Swat and evicted them from their lands and homes so that the flow of US bribes into their pockets and accounts would continue.

"(Host) On the ground, what are the results of these military campaigns, especially in the Swat Valley and the tribal areas?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Failure, nothing more. As I told you, the commanders of the Pakistani Army do not care if all of their soldiers and junior officers are killed, as long as their pockets are filled with US bribes. All the campaigns against the tribal areas and the Swat Valley have not achieved anything. The army is forced every time to withdraw and negotiate with the mujahidin. Even the recent campaign in Swat, which the army claimed would end in days, is still ongoing. It will end up like the ones before it, God willing.

"(Host) What about the effects of the bombings by US spy planes?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) First: The bombing in the tribal areas is not only by the spy planes. It is also with artillery, jets, and helicopters. Second: The bombing by spy planes only increases the strength and perseverance of the mujahidin.

"(Host) But the Americans claim that these campaigns achieve tangible success...

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The Americans are searching for any claim to cover up their failure and losses in Afghanistan. If bombing had any benefit, it would have benefited them in Vietnam. Did they not kill five million Vietnamese and burn all of Vietnam and were then forced to withdraw in defeat and disappointment? If this benefited them in any way, it would have benefited them in Iraq and Afghanistan, where they were forced to admit to their growing losses, meaning an acknowledgment of failure and defeat, after (President) Bush had announced, after the campaign of intense bombardment in the beginning of the war, that he achieved victory. Bombing the tribal areas only increases the hatred of Muslims towards the US. It has also uncovered the collaboration of the Pakistani regime with the Crusaders. It proves that Obama lied in his call for the start of a new policy towards the Muslim world. It shows that Obama is nothing more than a spiller of Muslim blood, like his predecessor Bush.

"(Host) Obama has said more than once that he would cooperate with Iran in order to achieve what he describes as stability in Afghanistan. What do you see in this?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) I see in it the continuation of the cooperation between the government of Iran and the Crusader campaign which was present before the blessed raids against the US. They supported Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who cooperated with the US, who even made a public call in Brussels to intervene in Afghanistan. They then cooperated with it in the invasion of Afghanistan, then the invasion of Iraq. Now they are trying to save it from its predicament in Afghanistan...Never. 'For Allah prospereth not the work of those who make mischief' (Partial Koranic verse, Yunis, 10:81).

(Video shows Ahmad Shah Mas 'ud meeting with international officials, voice-over in Arabic:)

"Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, ally of the Iranians, called for a US intervention in Afghanistan to safeguard the security of the US and its allies.

(Video shows Mas'ud speaking at a news conference, with Arabic subtitles:) "This is my message to Mr Bush, if he does not move toward achieving peace in Afghanistan, and if he does not help the Afghan people reach peace, it is certain that the problem will not be restricted to only Afghanistan, but will spread to the US and other countries.

(Video shows Mas'ud at "EU Headquarters," voice-over in Arabic:) "Therefore, when Mas'ud was killed, the US and Russia felt worried. The US worry was mentioned in the 9/11 Commission Report when mentioning the meeting that took place one day after the death of Mas'ud.

(Image of the cover of the 9/11 report and some pages, Arabic voice-over reading from report:) "On 10 September 2001, representatives of US security agencies met and decided to agree on a three-stage plan. The first plan: a delegation would be sent to the Taliban, to give them a final chance. The second stage: if the first stage fails, in addition to the continuous diplomatic pressure, there would be added a covert plan that would encourage anti-Taliban Afghans, from all the main ethnic groups, to increase the pressure on the Taliban in the civil war and to attack Al-Qa'ida bases, at a time when the US would create an international coalition to topple the regime. The third stage: if Taliban policy does not change, the US will take covert action to topple the Taliban regime from within.

(Video shows footage from a meeting that included President Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell, and others, as well as photos of US officials. Voice-over in Arabic:) "Those in the meeting agreed to revise the main Al-Qa'ida directives, which were being prepared for the President in order for this plan to be added to it. This mobilization in the highest ranks of US policymaking on 10 September 2001 was a reaction to the death of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud on 9 September (2001) because the US Administration considered the killing of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud a declaration of war by the Islamic Emirate against US interests. Even though the killing of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, in the balance of international law, was an internal Afghan matter, for the senior criminals of the world it was a declaration of war from the Islamic forces that fight jihad against it.

(Footage of 9/11 attacks. Voice-over in Arabic:) "They adopted this criminal plan against the Islamic Emirate on 10 September (2001), but the mujahidin, with God's blessing, preempted them before they could begin, and struck them in their home on 11 September.

(Video shows footage of Moscow, Vladimir Putin. Voice-over in Arabic:) "As for the Russian worry, this was expressed by President Putin about the death of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. (Putin speaking, Arabic and English translation on screen:) "Mr Bush and I spoke. I said that Mas'ud, the leader of the Northern Alliance, has just been killed. I told my American colleague 'I'm very worried. Something big is going to happen. They're planning something.'

"(Host) When America started to prepare to invade Afghanistan, President Khatami considered that he must cooperate with the US in its war against Islam under the name of terrorism, and he was able to convince the Council of Ministers of his opinion. Iranian (former) President, Muhammad Khatami, says: 'The Taliban was our enemy. America thought the Taliban was their enemy too. If they toppled the Taliban, it would serve the interests of Iran.' The Iranians decided to talk to the Americans. The only place where the two delegations, the Iranian and the American, could meet, was the United Nations. There a member from the Iranian delegation carried a message to the United Nations. Hillary Mann, a member of the US delegation to the

United Nations, said in this regard: 'Iran was prepared to work unconditionally with the United States in the War on Terror..that if they could work with us on this issue it had the potential to fundamentally transform US-Iranian relations.' The American and Iranian diplomat started to meet secretly in what was known as the 6 + 2 Group. In this regard, Hillary Mann said: 'These meetings took place in New York and also in Geneva, and the Iranians were willing to do whatever was necessary to help to ensure that the US military campaign would succeed.' American air strikes, which started on 7 October 2001, continued for almost a month, but without results. Iran's Northern Alliance, which was surrounded in the Panshir Valley, needed America to target the Taliban as they blocked the way to Kabul. Here, the Iranians decided to support the US with vital intelligence information, and they used the 6 + 2 Group. Mohsen Aminzadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, says: 'There was nothing left in Afghanistan to destroy. It had all been destroyed already. America targeted bunkers; caves actually. They dropped stupendous bombs that could destroy mountains. No result. One of our delegates was from the military. He was briefing them on the situation inside Afghanistan.' Hillary Mann says: 'He pounded the table and said I've had enough of this, this is just nice talk, but we are not going to get anywhere if the Islamic campaign doesn't succeed.' Mohsen Aminzadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, says: 'He said if America wants to succeed, they'll need the Northern Alliance's help.' Hillary Mann says: 'And then he took out a map and he unfurled it on the table and started to point the targets that the US needed to focus on, particularly in the North. We took the map to CENTCOM, the US Central Command, and certainly that did become the US military strategy.'

"(Narrator) After Kabul fell, Iran helped to form the US agent government in Afghanistan. It recognized the government, which came upon the back of American tanks and under more than thirty Crusader banners. They even expelled Shaykh (Gulbuddin) Hekmatyar from Iran when he stated that this is an agent government rejected by the Afghan people. Nine months later, America and Britain sought to issue a resolution through the Security Council to justify the invasion of Iraq. The British Foreign Minister went to the Middle East seeking support and he arrived in Tehran. UK Foreign Minister, Jack Straw, says: 'Iran was a big piece in the region and it was important for me to see the Iranians..To get them on board for what we were seeking to do to Saddam, which was to get rid of him. We cannot ignore the threats posed by Saddam Hussayn to this region, to countries like Iran and Kuwait, to the Iraqi people themselves and to the security of the region and the world.' Iranian President, Muhammad Khatami, says: 'They didn't always oppose Saddam. Saddam was our enemy. We wanted him destroyed.'

"(Host) Khatami now presented an unexpected offer: Iran would provide America with intelligence information and the necessary advice to overthrow Saddam. UK Foreign Minister Jack Straw, says: 'There had been an international arrangement in respect to Afghanistan in which they participated, and no one much noticed this, but it had worked pretty well.' Iranian President, Muhammad Khatami, says: 'I told him: Let's repeat the Afghanistan experience in Iraq. Let's make it six plus six. That's the six countries bordering Iraq, America, the other Security Council members, plus Egypt.' Mohsen Aminzadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, says: 'For us, Iraq's future was no less important than Afghanistan's. Many key Iraqis were exiled in Iran. They would be Iraq's leaders.' Iranian (former) President, Muhammad Khatami, says: 'Look at Iran as a power that can solve problems, rather than as a problem itself.' How do you see Iran's position in relation to the major events since the beginning of the Crusader campaign against Afghanistan?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) I think in the end, Iran has lost a lot.

"(Host) On what did you base your current opinion, since some allege that Iran is the greatest

winner in these events, as America has toppled two regimes that were the enemies of Iran, the Taliban in the east, and Saddam in the west?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) I see that Iran is like 'those who seek refuge from sun, because of the heat' (proverb). First, the Islamic emirate in Afghanistan was careful not to gain Iran's enmity, but made it a point to find a beneficial relationship between it and Iran to break the siege imposed on it. Iran was interfering in the affairs of Afghanistan and supported the Northern Alliance with funds, weapons, and experts. Regarding Iraq, after the first Gulf war, and especially after the American invasion, its situation did not enable it to form any threat to any of its neighbors. It was proven that all the allegations and justifications of America to invade Iraq were lies. This was the situation in Iran before the Crusader campaign against Afghanistan. Currently, it is surrounded from the east in Afghanistan and from the west in Iraq, by almost a quarter of a million soldiers from America and its allies...Let alone the huge military presence in the other bank of the (Persian) Gulf. They are troops that wish to eliminate the ruling system in Iran.

"(Host) But the current government in Afghanistan is friendly with Iran, and the other one in Iraq is loyal to Iran...

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) No, both governments in Afghanistan and Iraq are loyal to America and arrived on top of their tanks and could not survive without them. This was stated by Karazi and Maliki several times, where they demanded for America not to exit Afghanistan and Iraq now.

"(Host) But in Iraq the government is in the hands of the Shia?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) This is true, the government in Iraq is in the hands of the Shia, who were residents and are supported by Iran, but the real influence is in the hands of the Americans, not the Iranians. All the Iranians can do is create problems for America in Iraq. The violent clashes between the Iraqi forces supported by the American army and the other militias like the Al-Mahdi Army that shelled the forces fighting at the two Domes of Al-Abbas and Al-Hussayn (may God be pleased with them), is one of the features of the conflict between America and Iran in Iraq. It is proof that Al-Maliki and his government, when facing a test, would offer their allegiance to America rather than Iran. This conflict is clear in Iran's opposition to the security agreement between America and Iraq, which according to it, some Americans would withdraw.

"(Host) Therefore, you believe that Iran has lost strategically through helping America to invade Afghanistan and Iraq?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) This is not all. In addition to Iran's financial loss, it also experienced a significant moral loss.

"(Host) How?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Iran has been exposed to the Islamic world. It has become obvious that they are not among the opposition front, as its supporters would like to portray it, but it is among the bargaining front and is willing to sell Muslims in any place to the invading Crusaders and support them against Muslims, if it believes that its imminent interests will be achieved through this collusion. Iran believes that jihad is permissible in Palestine and Lebanon and it is impermissible in Iraq and Afghanistan. Not even a single fatwa was issued by any Shiite scholar, inside or outside of Iran, on the necessity of fighting against the invading Crusaders in Iraq and Afghanistan. On the contrary, all their announcements and directions called for calmness and

non-resistance. America, the great Satan, became the preferred partner in Afghanistan and Iraq. No harm that the American Crusaders have entered Afghanistan and Iraq...and also, there is no harm from their shelling to the tomb of Imam Ali (may God honor him). But they will face horrors, destruction, and great events if they try to touch a grain of Iran's soil.

"(Host) Those who defend Iran say that Al-Qa'ida accuses Iran of collusion with the Crusaders in Iraq and Afghanistan, but they are not alone in this crime, as most of the Arab countries that are allegedly Sunni participate in one way or another in the Crusader campaign. Not only did the Shiite scholars remain silent about the Crusader invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, but there are also Sunni scholars who issued fatwas stating that Muslims could participate in the American Crusader campaign against Afghanistan. And there are official scholars who issued fatwas considering it impermissible to participate in jihad in Iraq...

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) We, by the grace of God, have exposed the role of the Arab countries in their alliance with the Crusader campaign against the Muslim world, and we also exposed the role of the so-called 'Marines scholars'...I have asked them to repent, retreat from that disgraceful decree, and to apologize to the Muslim Ummah about this historical mistake. We have also found out the role of official and non-official scholars who have been appointed by the authorities in the Arabian Peninsula and elsewhere. They have served the Crusade campaign against the Islamic world. In the recent speech of Shaykh Usama Bin Ladin (may God protect him) he asked the Muslim Ummah and faithful scholars to reveal (the truth about) those scholars, and prepare lists of their names, statements, and stances that support the Crusade campaign against Islam and Muslims.

"(Host) Supporters of Iran do not have mercy on those who have issued a decree allowing Muslims to participate in the Crusade campaign on Afghanistan. They warned against Shiite activities among Sunni societies, and described them as agents of Israel.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Yes! This is the slightest accusation they raise against anyone who disagrees with them, whereas they forget what they have done for the Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the recent elections, (Ahmadi) Najad has even accused his opponents of serving the interest of Israel. God, blessed is He and Exalted, said: 'Do ye enjoin right conduct on the people, and forget (to practice it) yourselves, and yet ye study the scripture? Will ye not understand?' (Koranic Verse, Al-Baqara, 2:44).

"(Host) Far from our discussion of Iran, let me raise a topic that the conversation about the scholars who have conspired with the Crusade campaign reminded me of. Some of them claim that Al-Qaida does not praise anyone, thinks only of itself, and that anyone who disagrees with it is wrong.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) This is part of the media warfare. This statement is not true. We have praised many scholars, preachers, and mujahidin who are not related to Al-Qaida, such as Shaykh Hassan Al-Banna, Shaykh Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam, Professor Abdel Qader 'Uda, Shaykh Ahmed Shakir, his brother Mahmud Shakir, Shaykh Muhammad Hamid Al-Fiqhi, Shaykh Muhammad Khalil Harras, Shaykh Adel Razzaq Afifi, Shaykh Muhammad Al-Awdan, Professor Sayyid Qutb, Shaykh Salah Abu Ismail, Shaykh Abdullah Azzam, Shaykh Ahmed Yassin, Dr. Al-Rantissi, Shaykh Hammud Al-'Uqla, Commander Shamil Basayev, President Aslam Maskhadov, President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, Shaykh Abu Omar Al-Sayf, Shaykh Nidham Al-Din Shamzai, Shaykh Mawlawi Abdullah Ghazi, the father of our master Abdul Rashid Ghazi, the martyr of the Red Mosque in Islamabad, Shaykh Muhammad Yunus Khalis, God rest their souls, Shaykh Omar Abdul Rahman, Shaykh Abu Al-Mundhir Al-Sa'idi, Shaykh Abu Qatada Al-Falastini,

Shaykh Abu Al-Walid Al-Falastini, Shaykh Nasir Ibn Muhammad Al-Fahd, may God release them, Shaykh Abdullah Dhakiri, Shaykh our master Jalal Al-Din Haqqani, Shaykh Fadhli Muhammad, Shaykh Muhammad Yasir, known as Professor Yasir, Shaykh Hussein Omar Ibn Mahf ud, Shaykh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, Shaykh Abu Abdullah Al-Muhajir, Shaykh Yusuf Abu Hilala, Shaykh Hamid Al-Ali, and Shaykh Abu Basir Al-Suri. We might even disagree with some of those whom we have praised in some issues. Shaykh Usama supported scholars who stated that the siege on Gaza is loyalty to the Jews, and issued their ruling regarding that allegiance. We also support the Al-Azhar scholars for their genuine stance regarding the normalization and siege on Gaza. In general, we praise those who are right and criticize those who are wrong. We ask God to grant us fairness in (our) statements and actions.

"(Host) Some supporters of Iran accuse you of attacking it in order to serve the interests of Arab countries from the Gulf that support the US.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) We say to them the proverb: 'Remember what you say when you lie.' Praise God, we are the ones who revealed the betrayal of the leaders of the Gulf the most against the Muslim Ummah, since they conspired against the major Palestinian revolution in 1936 through their alliance with Roosevelt before World War II ended. They participated in Crusade campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, the initiative that gave up Palestine and acknowledged Israel, and conspiracy of the siege on Gaza. However, we challenge those who claim (those things) to be as clear as Al-Qaida in confronting those corrupt ruling families in the Gulf and throughout the Muslim world.

"(Host) How so?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Iran's supporters harmonize with many rulers in the Gulf, especially Al-Saud. Therefore, most prisoners have been released, whereas thousands of monotheist Muslims, who command good acts and forbid evil, remain in jails controlled by Al-Saud. They also get fired from their jobs, or get harassed.

"(Host) Alright! Let us shift from discussing Iran to the situation in Iraq.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Go ahead!

"(Host) How do you see the current situation in Iraq?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The situation in Iraq is very good, due the blessing of God. God willing, it will benefit the mujahidin, and the Americans will leave...At least their presence will significantly diminish. The Shiite Iraqi Government must assume its responsibility. The Shiites are split between the US and Iran, whereas the Awakening Groups have deteriorated. Due to the blessings of God, the mujahidin are resolute and firm. They have not stopped inflicting the invading Crusaders and their agents with painful strikes and casualties.

"(Host) Alright! What would your answer be if I ask you about your message to the people of Iraq?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) In reality, I would like to address many messages, not one, to the people of Iraq.

"(Host) Go ahead!

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) My first message is addressed to the people of jihad, Islam, and the proper doctrine and firm methodology led by the Islamic State of Iraq, may God guide and protect it. I say to them: Remain firm, patient, and steady. Strengthen your ranks! God willing, victory is coming! Difficult times have passed. The next phase will be easier due to the blessing of God. I ask them to genuinely seek union through the right methodology and pure doctrine. Shaykh Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi (may God protect him) has called on them to pursue that. Therefore, they should take the initiative in responding to his call. I think that my brothers in the Islamic State of Iraq open their hearts and souls to any jihadist group that seeks union, and to every Muslim who seeks support and the victory of Islam and Muslims.

"(Host) Alright! This is the first...

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Yes! The second is addressed to our truthful and sincere masters, shaykhs, and professors who are firmly on the path of the prophet (peace be upon him). They should support truth and the mujahidin in order to reveal the names of those traitors who seize the religion. They should not fear anyone. They must denounce traitors who use religion and have not commended the Ummah to assume the duty of fighting the invading Crusade. They must reveal that the Shiite clergy, in Iraq or Iran, has not issued a single decree regarding the fight of the invading Crusade against Afghanistan and Iraq. Moreover, scholars supported by the authorities in the Arabian Peninsula and Egypt call on people to stay away from jihad in response to orders of the US-controlled collaborating rulers. Thus, those scholars are the slaves of the slaves, and agents of the collaborators.

"(Host) Alright! Is there another message?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Yes! My third message is addressed to those who have joined the Crusader Awakening groups from groups that previously performed jihad. I say to them: Can you repent before it is late? You have witnessed defeat in this life. What about defeat in the hereafter? God the Exalted says: 'And the penalty of the hereafter is far more grievous and more enduring' (Koranic Verse, Ta-Ha, 20:127), in addition to 'but the penalty of a hereafter will be more humiliating still, and they will find no help' (Koranic Verse, Fussilat, 41:16)...I also say to them: Have your religion, honor, and pride lost value so that you have sold them for 300 dollars a month, which is thrown at you like leftover food to a watchdog that is only loyal to those who feed him? Respond to the call of Shaykh Abu-Hamzah al-Muhajir (may God protect him) and be mindful that the mujahidin are sincere in their offer to you as an opportunity for repentance. They are also sincere in cautioning you. Thus, after the repentance offer of the mujahidin, you only have the method of Al-Siddiq (may God be pleased with him) regarding the apostates. It is either real war, or disgraceful peace. There is one last message.

"(Host) Go ahead!

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) My last message is addressed to my Muslim brothers, the grand children of Salah al-Din, the beloved Kurds. I remind them of what God (blessed and exalted is He) said: 'Never will the Jews or Christians be satisfied with thee unless thou follow their form of religion' (Koranic Verse, Al-Baqara, 2:120) and 'O ye who believe! Take not into your intimacy those outside your ranks. They will not fail to corrupt you. They only desire your ruin. Rank hatred has already appeared from their mouths. What their hearts conceal is far worse. We have made plain to you the signs, if ye have wisdom' (Koranic Verse, Al-Imran, 3:118). God created you free. Do not accept oppression and injustice! You will not find freedom, pride, and dignity anywhere but through Islam. It is said in His glorified book: 'O mankind! We created you from a single (pair)

of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise (each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)' (Koranic Verse, Al-Hujurat, 49:13). The Americans and the Jews are using your government to serve their interests. They will not allow you to disagree with them. Once their objective is achieved, they will give up on you. They will not defend you if they find that your enemies serve their major interests. Therefore, be supporters of God and His messenger! Remain committed to your Islam and doctrine! Be mindful that the Americans and Jews will corrupt your sons and daughters in order to make them their slaves! Your mujahidin brothers are extending their hands to you, and they are the furthest from the regional sectarianism, and we in Al-Qa'ida have pledged our alliance to the Commander of the Faithful Muhammad Omar the Afghan. We are proud of that, and call on the people and Muslims to follow the path and be free as you were created by God. Do not be puppets in the hands of Jews or the Americans, who will use you for a while and then abandon you."(Host) Well, I will move to Lebanon. I would like to ask first about Hizballah, their stance on the events of Gaza...What do you think of their point of view?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The events of Gaza have exposed Hizballah.

"(Host) How?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The position of Hizballah on the Gaza events included two contradictions. The first was to direct and repeat criticism through Hasan Nasrallah to Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian regime of the necessity of opening the entrances and appealing to the Egyptian army to get involved, and also pleading with the Egyptian people to push the opening of the borders with their own chests, and so forth...The second point was that he (Nasrallah) completely refused to fire a single rocket from the tens of thousands of rockets that he claims to have, and is always talking about and threatening Israel with. He did not even fire a part of a rocket in support of the people of Gaza who asked the Egyptian army to move and assist them, and who asked the Egyptian people to ram the border crossings with their bare chests, but he threatened Israel that if it attacks Lebanon, he will retaliate by firing thousands of rockets into Israel, reaching such and such range...And here is Israel burning Gaza completely, so where are the threats of rockets, or are Muslims in Gaza second class citizens?

"(Host) Some of the rockets found in the fields ready for firing were described by Hasan Nasrallah as suspicious rockets.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Praise be to God, why are his rockets pure, smart, and blessed by the Islamic ruler in Tehran, while the rockets of others are suspicious? 'Do ye enjoin right conduct on the people, and forget (to practise it) yourselves, and yet ye study the scripture? Will ye not understand?' (Koranic verse, Al-Baqarah, 2:44).

"(Host) He claims that he is bound by international agreements, and according to him, the suspicious rockets will cause more harm than good. He does not want to provide an excuse for the Israelis to launch a massive and destructive war against Lebanon, and there are other repeated excuses.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Praise be to God...But these excuses are the same ones used by Husni Mubarak, a traitor and an agent. And why should the Egyptian people liberate themselves from him?

"(Host) He claims that he and his party have fought to liberate Lebanon and this gives them a lawful mandate to rule.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Praise be to God, Husni Mubarak has fought more wars than him, liberated more land than he ever did, and freed more prisoners than he did, so why is Husni a traitor and an agent against the Palestinians?

"(Host) What is your explanation of these contradictions?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The explanation is known to all. The orders did not come from the ruler in Tehran, but the key to explain Tehran and its followers is that they are looking for a political influence by all means, legal or not. But if this political influence should be reached through fighting, they will fight, and if it should be achieved by preventing fighting and agreeing to protect the borders of Israel instead, then they will not fight and they will prevent anyone from fighting and call him suspicious.

"(Host) Or perhaps through the familiar and the ever-present Iranian accusation of treachery for Israel which was used against Shaykh al-Qardawi, who was their friend...

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Exactly. If the political influence will be reached by them by assisting the Crusader invaders against Muslims, then they will assist the Crusaders against the Muslims without hesitation.

"(Host) So, what is the secret behind the acceptance of all Tehran's agents with all these contradictions and setbacks?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The secret is based on what is being circulated by the Shiite sources to their agents regarding their claim that they have an absolute authority from the 12th Imam. They claim they are speaking on behalf of the infallible imam, and therefore they have a right to say so. In addition to this authority, Al-Khomeini increased the level of that claim by stating in his book 'The Islamic Government' that 'a fair scholar has absolute powers like the prophets and companions regarding political authority. The prophets have delegated to the scholars all power of authority afforded to them.' Ten years after the start of the Iranian revolution, Khomeini advocated the theory of the absolute power of the scholar, which was based in part on the theory that the government is only a part of the absolute authority of the prophet (prayers and blessings be upon him), and therefore the government superseded all other religious matters, including the prayers, fastening, and pilgrimage. He also added that the government alone could cancel any legal and religious agreement with its own people if the government decides that the agreement does not support the nation and Islam. The government therefore could rule on any religious or non-religious matter if it diverges from the benefits of Islam. So now, if you contradict the ruling scholar who is the actual ruler, you are contradicting the absolute scholar, and if you contradict the absolute scholar, then you are violating the rules of God, and if the ruling scholar informs you that the jihad in Lebanon and Palestine are legal, but the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are not, it is the will of God.

"(Host) Then this must be a papacy, but in the name of Islam?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Yes, and sometimes against Islam. What can you call those who assist in the spilling of Muslim blood in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the killing of Muslims at the hands the

Shiite militants in Iraq, and the burning of their bodies, and the drilling of holes in Muslim heads by electric drills?

"(Host) I have a question that is taunting me, do you think that Hizballah and Hasan Nasrallah are receiving more media coverage than the Taliban?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Certainly. It is a clear matter for anyone with two eyes. The Taliban is facing an international coalition consisting of more than 30 countries surrounded by Pakistan in the east and Iran in the west, and despite all this, they are liberating their land, freeing their prisoners, and killing Crusaders...More than what Hizballah has liberated or freed. Despite that, they receive a very small part of media coverage.

"(Host) What is the secret behind that?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The secret here is that media sources, particularly Arab media, has a special program, despite its claims that it is free and airs all different opinions and so on. This program welcomes the direction of Hizballah, which is a party that claims to represent God, but at the same time it is a secular party, indulging in the political and secular process, and agreeing with the international treaties and the Charter of the United Nations, while containing itself to a narrow piece of land, stating that its mission ends with the liberation of that strip. It does not call for jihad to liberate other Muslim lands. It does not call for the caliphate, because it considers the Shura succession of an imam chosen by the nation a crime, and would agree with the party, particularly through the high scholar in Tehran, and with other agreements and treaties to be used as a wall to stop any jihadist action against any force, such as the UNIFIL or northern Israel. In return, this program does not welcome or support any calls for resorting to Shari'ah and making it the highest form of the ruling authority, and does not object to the present international system which is based on tyranny and oppression, particularly against Muslims, and against any call for liberating Muslim land and the installation of the Islamic caliphate, which will gather all Muslims. It does not consider Israel to be a crime that must be eliminated...And that is why Hizballah is given such massive media coverage while allowing a very small coverage for the accomplishments of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"(Host) Well, do you have a message for the Muslims in Lebanon?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Yes. I say to them that you will be eaten by wolves if you do not display the courage of a lion. Everyone around you is getting ready. So be careful of the merchants of obscenity and depravity who are the agents of American and Al-Saud (Saudi royal family), because they will be the first to flee when the hour arrives, and they have indeed fled before. Prepare, and gather around the sincere and free leaderships that do not accept bargaining its religion and honor. You must know that Lebanon is a vital part of Islam and you are required to duly prepare for fighting Israel, and to open a front against it. So depend on God, follow God's rules, repent from sins, and may God assist you and guide you to a cherished life and a lasting eternity.

"(Host) Great. Can we move to Palestine?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Go ahead.

"(Host) What would you say if I ask for your brief opinion regarding the current affairs in Palestine, Gaza in particular?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) What is happening in Palestine, particularly in Gaza, is an attempt to force the mujahidin down in Palestine, as America and Egypt participate in these efforts. The Jews and Americans have secured one side, which, ironically, is at the hands of the security forces of Abbas, which are cooperating directly with the intelligence services of Israel with the assistance of CIA. These forces arrest and kill the mujahidin, and inform the Israelis of their whereabouts.

(The video shows someone identified as "Dr Azzam al-Tamimi.")

"(Dr Azzam al-Tamimi) There are approximately 700 detainees and about 40 or 60, or something like that, who were released before the latest talks. Many people are detained every day. The Israelis and the Ramallah authority both make the arrests. The detainees must be released. I was told by those who participated in the meeting in Cairo that Fatah told them that this issue is not up to us. Do not make it a condition. They said this is something imposed by the US on the Ramallah authority, on Salam Fayad, and he is not from Fatah, so do not ask us about this. In other words, this is another predicament that does not have a solution. The other issue is putting an end to the security coordination and cooperation between Israelis and the Ramallah authority because the information that is given to Israelis leads to arrests, raids, and confiscations. A lot of the information given in the Gaza Strip, such as the information that led to the assassination of Sa'id Siyam, which was given by members belonging to Mahmud Abbas and Fatah. This is a real problem. How will we announce that we came to agreement, and knives are stabbing us in the back day and night? Yes, what is happening on the Palestinian scene is painful but it happens in all liberation movements. Targeting liberation projects is accomplished by creating a fifth column within the liberation movement itself. This happened in the Irish strife against the British occupation, in South Africa against the apartheid, and Vietnam. It is not a secret that the Israelis, as a result of the Oslo Accord, transformed some of the previous fighters to VIPs and people who benefit from the occupation. Their interest became that of the occupation and they formed the fifth column. They arrest and punish. Go back to the Amnesty International reports between 1996 and 1997: 24 Hamas members were killed under torture in the Palestinian Authority prisons. And now, two were recently killed under torture in Ramallah.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) What is required now is creating jihad in Gaza the same way it was created in the (West) Bank.

"(Host) How?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The equation is simple. People of Gaza: if you want to live, eat, and drink, then submit to the Zionist-American demands.

"(Host) What are those demands?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Recognizing Israel, accepting international resolutions, and abandoning jihad, or what they call violence. And on top of all that, accept the government of Salam Fayad.

"(Host) Why specifically Salam Fayad?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) He is a funny character loved by the Americans and Jews. The man does not keep a secret from them and does not disobey any order. What is required of him is slaughtering jihad and the mujahidin.

"(Host) What if the HAMAS government does not respond to these requests?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) If it does not respond, the blockade will continue, no construction will be done, and the bombarding campaign will be repeated over and over again.

"(Dr Azzam al-Tamimi) Some people link any improvement of the situation to Palestinian-Palestinian reconciliation, which is why Egypt is working on this issue right now. In Cairo, meetings took place recently, but truthfully, this is a subject that is unclear to many people. What happened was not a disagreement in opinion or a disagreement on diligence. What happened was a lot bigger than that. There are two conflicting projects and common ground for both is being sought, which is impossible. I personally am not optimistic about a Palestinian reconciliation right now. While HAMAS and Fatah were meeting in Cairo, Mahmud Abbas said in the presence of Hillary Clinton that the next government should be a government that follows international legitimacy. In other words, he prepared the agenda in advance. The agenda of Abbas, Salam Fayad, and Ramallah will not be accepted by HAMAS and will not be acceptable to the general Palestinian population. Reconciliation should follow an agreement on common ground. What is this common ground? What will we reconcile over? What is the common ground we will stand on? If you want to enter a partnership with the Zionists, and I consider that these Zionists have no rights in being on the land of my mother and in the house of my father, then the issue is difficult. Therefore it was wrong, perhaps it was an intentional error, but what is meant here is insisting on a Palestinian reconciliation before any procedures. It comes before reconstructing Gaza, opening crossing points, and lifting the blockade. What he is doing is 'putting sticks in the wheels,' as they say, and does not want to lift the blockade, open the crossing points, or reconstruct Gaza.

"(Host) Then what is the solution?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The solution is simply that there is no liberation of Palestine except by jihad. The mujahid must not accept blockade or have his enemy impose on him the time and location of the battle. If things become difficult in one place, it eases up in other places.

"(Host) You previously sent a message with similar meaning several times. What is the purpose of it?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The purpose is to remind every Muslim and mujahid that the only way to liberate Palestine is by jihad. If jihad becomes confined in Gaza, there are plenty of wide areas on earth. We are with our mujahidin brothers in Gaza, Palestine, and everywhere. All our capabilities are at the disposal of their hands. They should not stop the wheel of jihad...The goals of the enemy are spread everywhere.

"(Host) Good. If I ask you to mention a practical solution to the Palestinian case in brief points, what would you say?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Mujahidin inside Palestine should not allow their enemy to set the time, location, and conditions of the battle. The goals of the enemy are everywhere. The enemy is not only Israel, but includes those who aid, support, and supply Israel with weapons that kill our people in Palestine. Second, if the Muslim nation wants Palestine to be liberated, if it wants to hinder Israel, stop the Judaization of Jerusalem, and prevent the destruction of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, it needs to support the mujahidin in Iraq, because they represent the real hope in breaking the limits and obstacles standing between them and their brothers in Palestine. Once these limits are broken and the obstacles removed, the entire nation will be able to participate in liberating Palestine, God willing. Third, the people of Egypt should carry out a continuous

protest campaign, which will not end until the Mubarak regime lifts the blockade from Gaza. The dear and proud Sinai tribes should not abandon aiding and supporting their brothers in religion and blood in Gaza and supply them with all they need...From a loaf of bread to tank mines.

"(Host) Good. Speech is an art...But we are running out of time and I still have important points. Please allow me to concentrate on them.

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Go ahead.

"(Host) The Arabian Peninsula and Yemen specifically, is experiencing a new revival of jihad. What is your evaluation?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Regimes that are corrupt, rotten, and allied with the Crusaders in the Arabian Peninsula, especially Al-Saud and Ali Abdullah Salih, have tried to be secretive about the uprising and the jihadist anger that the Arabian Peninsula is experiencing. However, the facts, events, and realities are bigger than them. The whole region is witnessing a jihadist intifada from Somalia to Iraq. It is an intifada that is gaining momentum, awareness, and steadfastness every day. It defines its goals and knows its enemies. It challenges the exacerbated Crusader authority and his followers in the Arabian Peninsula. It defends the stolen Muslim rights and their honors that are being violated by these regimes every day. Therefore, popular support increases among tribes and in the cities. This is something many observers have confessed to. Compassion and support present among the citizens of the nation, especially in Yemen and the mujahidin in the Arabian Peninsula, is not a secret. Popular awareness is more convinced, now that these corrupt and rotten regimes are the reason behind economic injustice and corruption, the political oppression, and social detachment. They are convinced that there is no reform except through Islam and the methodology of the Koran. This is the methodology of the mujahidin, God willing.

"(Host) Good. If we want to take a good look at the recent developments in Somalia, what do you see in it?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Somalia today is witnessing a fierce battle between a government that was imposed by the Crusader and global alliance, which is directly supported by the US and Ethiopia (and Ethiopia was forced to intervene again to aid it) and hides behind the Crusader invasion forces that are known as the African Forces, and other names. It cannot live without the help of these forces. Its president and the president of the parliament called for help from East and West in order to send forces to defend their betraying government. It is the government of the Americans, the government of the Ethiopians, the government of the Crusader West, and the government of the biggest criminals who appointed Shaykh Sharif Ahmad as a new Karzai in Somalia. I say Somalia is witnessing a battle between that force and the force of jihad and Islam that does not accept that the Somalia of jihad be desecrated by even one soldier no matter what name it falls under. The fate of this government imposed by the world Crusader is like the fate of any force that allies itself with the world Crusader.

"(Host) Egypt is presently witnessing a number of opposing movements that are demanding regime change. What is your opinion on these movements?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) There is no doubt that the Egyptian regime has reached a level of corruption, filth, and agency that is unbearable. But there are many realities that must be understood by anyone who is seeking reform and change. First, no real reform can take place in

Egypt as long as it is distant from the Islamic approach. And this is a legal religious truth as well as political. Second, the regime in Egypt and in most Arab-Islamic countries cannot be changed except by force. The regime in Egypt will not submit to any peaceful attempt for change, and Husni Mubarak and his son will not cede power except by force. Third, the attempt to change the regime internally and through its laws and constitution will only lead to more corruption and oppression and dependence, as the contemporary history of Egypt proves. Fourth, the issue, which is clear to any just person, is that the United States is standing within the rank of corrupt regimes. It supports them and uses them, and Obama's last visit to Saudi Arabia and Egypt represented a clear message in this regard. The United States will welcome a regime change only if it is reassured that the new regime will follow its orders and will be more dependent on it than the previous one, as it happened in Pakistan recently. Musharraf was removed only to bring a person worse than he, and more dependent of the United States: Zardari.

"(Host) There was some news about the United States pushing the Saudi regime to repeat the attempt of mediating with Taliban. What do you think about that?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) It is a new lie, like its predecessor. The Commander of the Faithful has announced truly that there will be no negotiations about any party prior to the withdrawal of invading forces from Afghanistan, and that he can only provide a path for the invading forces in order to withdraw from Afghanistan. In general, Saudi Arabia did and continues to serve the United States in Afghanistan and its history in corruption with the Afghan parties with money...And appointing the new regime is a famous and well-known fact.

"(Host) Some observers see that the United States is leaning towards Iran more than Saudi Arabia...

"(Ayman Al-Zawahiri) The United States is only concerned with its own interests, and it is very ready for that. Saudis are nothing but tools in the hands of the United States, and it will abandon them if it finds someone better than them, who will make her achieve her interests. The Iranian danger on the Peninsula is big and growing. The reason for that is the extravagance and desires of Al-Saud throughout the decades, and their letting the United States deal with the issue of the Peninsula to the extent the United States that is protecting their throne. This is why despite the fact that Saudi Arabia is the richest country in the region, and despite the fact that its military expenditures are the highest in the region, its military is unable to defend it. On the other hand, Al-Saud has acquiesced to the demand of the Shia. As a result, they released detainees, while the prisons of the Peninsula are full with thousands of missionaries, scholars, and Sunnah people. And the Sunnah people have not even received a branch from the gains of the Shia. Their prominent missionaries are employed as a lawyers for the Satan in defending the corrupt regime of Al-Saud and in calling to prevent jihad except by an order from the US master. But anyone else who speaks out the truth, his fate is prison.

"(Host) Recently, media activity and announcement from missionaries, some of them from the Arabian Peninsula, were observed. They were attempting to distort Islam in the Islamic Maghreb and to improve the image of the governing regimes there. What is the reason for that in your opinion?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The reason is clear, which is the appearance of a growing force in the Islamic Maghreb that is threatening the US-French influence, and it reveals the corruption, degradation, and the dependence of local regimes. So it was necessary to contain it by various means.

"(Host) What is your assessment of the success of these undertakings?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) He who defends Satan only blemishes himself. The realities are huge and cannot be hidden. The Islamic nation in the Islamic Maghreb realizes the extent of the corruption of those leaders, the extent of their fight against Islam, their spread of vice, and their fight against hijab. And he who defends the corrupt leaders, the sons of France and thanks their mother, is doomed to fail.

"(Host) Well, what is the duty of the Muslim today in the Islamic Maghreb?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) The duty of the Muslim today in the Islamic Maghreb is to commit to the rules of Islam, rescind bad values and evil, to be careful, and to make sure that his children are raised according to Islamic values and morals. And the duty of the Muslim woman in the Islamic Maghreb is to confront those who are seeking to take off her hijab and to bring her down from the summit of its glory, chastity, and dignity. Also, every woman in the Islamic Maghreb must know that they are the vanguards of France and the United States, for they are their servants. It is a duty of the Muslim today in the Islamic Maghreb to act by the word of the Almighty God: 'O ye who believe! Be ye helpers of Allah. As said Jesus the son of Mary to the Disciples: Who will be my helpers to (the work of) Allah? Said the disciples: We are Allah's helpers! Then a portion of the Children of Israel believed, and a portion disbelieved. But we gave power to those who believed, against their enemies, and they became the ones that prevailed' (Koranic verse, Al-Saf, 61:14). Every Muslim must support the righteous way with his hands, tongue, money, opinion, and heart in order to confront the new sons of France and support his Mujahidin brothers who are standing by the truth and defending the glory of Muslims, their rights, and their sanctities. He must know that jihad does not shorten life, does not reduce sustenance, and that death for the sake of God is better for him in this life and the hereafter than dying in the high seas seeking the crumbs of the Europeans.

"(Host) Well, before we conclude this interview, we would like to benefit from you. So, what do you tell those participating in jihad?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) I tell them: Thank you very much for all that you do for Islam, Muslims, and God. You have broken the idol of Western media and revealed its lies, fraud, and misrepresentation of facts. You have introduced truthful information from the battlefield. The aforementioned media feigns honesty and integrity, and has hidden the truth through its fraud and defamations. You have eliminated the most important weapon of the Crusader campaign in its ideological and media war against Muslims. I tell them: You must know that you are in a fortified Islamic borderline, the Muslims will triumph through you. You must know that whatever harm happens to you or might happen to you, from being chased, to being detained, to migration, is nothing but a path toward jihad and triumph. God Almighty says: 'Or do ye think that ye shall enter the garden (of bliss) without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? They encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even the messenger and those of faith who were with him cried: When will come the help of Allah? Ah! Verily the help of Allah is always near' (Koranic verse, Al-Baqara, 2:214). So be steadfast. Be patient. Be composed and exert the maximum effort in serving Islam and spreading its word, and expose the lies of its enemy. Seek to improve your actions. God will make successful and protect you and will accept the best of your actions.

"(Host) In conclusion of this interview, would you like to add more?

"(Ayman al-Zawahiri) Yes. I would like to tell our beloved Islamic nation that the language of the United States has changed because of the mujahidin campaigns, their sacrifices, and through their weakening of the Crusader invaders. Learn from this those who are watching, and support your sons and your mujahidin brothers with your souls, money, expertise, knowledge, opinions, and supplications. Ask God to give guidance to this nation. He glorifies those who obey Him. He humiliates those who disobey Him...And enjoin what is good and forbid what is wrong. And our last supplication is praise be to God, Lord of the universe.

"(Host) Our dear brothers, this was our interview with Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri. We thank him, you, and all Muslims with our prayers.

"(Ayamn al-Zawahiri) May God thank you very much, and may God accept from us and all Muslims the best of deeds.

"(Host) Our last supplication is praise be to God, the Lord of the universe. Peace and blessings be upon His messenger Muhammad, and upon his family and companions."