

Ayman Al-Zawahiri Video Statement 'The Path of Doom'

August 31, 2009

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

Terrorism: Al-Sahab Releases New Ayman Al-Zawahiri Video Statement, 'The Path of Doom' On 27 August, a forum participant posted a statement to a jihadist website along with several links to a video statement by Al-Qa'ida second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahiri entitled "The Path of Doom." Al-Zawahiri criticizes the Pakistani Army for leading a "Crusader campaign" against the mujahidin along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Al-Zawahiri claims that the "wretched situation" of Muslims is due to many factors, including the love of life, abandoning the "enjoinment of good and forbidding of evil," and "abandoning the creed of allegiance to the Muslims and disowning of the unbelievers." The statement, which is approximately 23 minutes long, contains English subtitles. The video was produced by the Al-Sahab Establishment for Media Production and published by the Al-Fajr Media Center.

A translation of the statement follows:

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

"The Al-Sahab Establishment for Media Production presents:

"The Path of Doom by the Sage of the Ummah Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri (may God preserve him)

"(Links)"

A transcription of the video statement follows:

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

"The Al-Sahab Establishment for Media presents a video message entitled The Path of Doom by Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri, in Sha'ban 1430 (corresponding to July/August 2009)

"The Unbelievers spend their wealth to hinder (man) from the path of Allah, and so will they continue to spend; but in the end they will have (only) regrets and sighs; at length they will be overcome: and the Unbelievers will be gathered together to Hell;- In order that Allah may separate the impure from the pure, put the impure, one on another, heap them together, and cast them into Hell. They will be the ones to have lost. Say to the Unbelievers, if (now) they desist (from Unbelief), their past would be forgiven them; but if they persist, the punishment of those before them is already (a matter of warning for them). And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah altogether and everywhere; but if they cease, verily Allah doth see all that they do. If they refuse, be sure that Allah is your Protector - the best to protect and the best to help.' (Koranic verse, al-Anfal, 8:36-40)

(Ayman al-Zawahiri) "In the name of Allah, and all praise is due to Allah, and prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah. Muslim brothers everywhere: Peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings. As for what comes after: The Pakistan-Afghanistan border regions are witnessing at this time a Crusade led by the Pakistani Army, and supervised and participated in by the neo-Crusaders. The agents of the Crusader in the Pakistani Army's high command have called this operation "The Path of Salvation," but it is the path to their doom, Allah willing. This

operation aims to eliminate the Jihadi forces in the tribal regions in Pakistan. At the same time the forces of the NATO Alliance along with the traitors in the Afghan Army and units from the Pakistani Army dam the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

(Narrator) "The fundamental concept of this plan was based on a violent preliminary bombing from air and land in collaboration with US spy drones in order to terrorize the inhabitants in a barbaric fashion, destroy the Mujahideen's morale and weaken their defenses, following which the Pakistani forces would advance on three fronts in order to take over the key cities of Waziristan --Miran Shah, Razmak, and Wana -- after which they would then establish contact with each other and secure surrounding areas, then try to make a jump to the west, towards the Afghani border, in an attempt to meet up with the forces of NATO and the treasonous Afghan Army, in an attempt to trap the Mujahideen between a rock and a hard place. However, this plan was born dead, by the Grace of Allah, as attacks, raids, and ambushes against the Army's convoys, bases, and forts came in quick succession, and were accompanied by consecutive losses of supplies and equipment, and consequently the army was unable to achieve any of its goals, by the Grace of Allah.

(Ayman al-Zawahiri) "This plan was agreed to in Washington, and the commander of the Pakistani Army, Kayani, carried it with him to the headquarters of the NATO Alliance in Brussels for it to be approved, and it aims at its core to help American forces and their allies in Afghanistan and protecting them from the expected defeat towards which the forces of the Islamic Emirate are pushing them through resolve, persistence and reliance on Allah. That is, the plan aims to stab the Jihadi resolve in Afghanistan from behind, in order for the Crusader forces in Afghanistan to be safe from losses and be able to continue to impose direct US Crusader military influence on South Asia. That's why the designers of this plan called it "The Path of Salvation," because they wanted it to be a way to save the Americans from their anticipated defeat -- with Allah's permission -- in Afghanistan. However, it is turning -- through Allah's guidance and then the strikes of the Mujahideen -- into "The Path of Doom" for the apostates in Pakistan and the Crusaders in Afghanistan. Thus, the Pakistani Army is acting as a fundamental element of the Crusade against Islam and Muslims, and has become a tool in the hands of the global Crusade which is being used against its people, neighbors and the rest of the Muslim Ummah.

(Screen caption reads: "The Martyr (as we see him) Maulana Abdul Rashid Ghazi," speaking) "I want to deliver this message to the world on this occasion: this is a blind force, and these are agents -- agents of the US -- and their behavior and actions completely prove that they are agents. It is imperative to get rid of them: there is no other option. My very last message is that the Mujahideen -- all of them -- should struggle for the Islamic system in Pakistan and take revenge on my behalf from these rulers.

(Ayman al-Zawahiri) "In fact, and regrettably, the Indians are more jealous and more concerned for the safety of their country than the Pakistani Army is. The Indian Army hasn't let American aircrafts bomb the Indian people. The Indian Army hasn't fought its own people on behalf of America. The Indian Army hasn't cooperated with the Americans to create a regime hostile to India on its borders. And the Indian Army hasn't permitted America to control and monitor its nuclear installations, nor has it arrested its nuclear scientists like the Pakistani Army did. That's why the Muslim Ummah in Pakistan must seriously ask itself: what is it that brought it to this wretched situation? And what is the way out of it? What has brought Muslims in Pakistan to this wretched situation in which thieves have become rulers and mercenaries taking the Crusaders' money have become leaders, are numerous factors that have accumulated over the years since the creation of Pakistan.

"Among these factors is the lie that has been promoted which says that Pakistan is an Islamic government whose constitution and laws are in accordance with Islam. It is a colossal lie with no factual basis. I have refuted it in a book entitled "The Morning and the Candle." The Pakistani Government, which falsely claims to be an Islamic government which arose to defend the rights of Muslims in the subcontinent, has never applied Islam in the more than 60 years since its establishment. And when Shari'ah was partially applied in the Swat Valley district courts, neither the Americans nor their agents in Islamabad could stand it, and they immediately waged a bloody war on Islam and Muslims in Swat to satisfy America, which wants an Islam which signs its praises and seeks its bribes: an Islam without Shari'ah, without enjoining of good and forbidding of evil, and without jihad in Allah's path.

(A caption on the top right corner of the screen reads: "A meeting at Hafsa University in Islamabad. An unidentified female speaker is addressing a crowd.") "Our country was created in the name of Islam, so why hasn't Islam been established in it to this very day? When this country was established in the name of Islam, why are Muslims being humiliated in it? Why is its soil being constrained for Muslims? When this country was created for Islam, why are the flag-bearers of Islam being martyred day after day? Why is nudity and immorality thriving in the country? When this country was created for Islam, why are the Mujahideen being dishonored here? When this country was created for Islam, why are the strongholds of Islam -- the mosques and Madrassas -- being demolished here?

(Ayman al-Zawahiri) "And among these factors is the inclining of many Muslims towards the worldly life, and the punishment for that is the domination of the unbelievers over the Muslims, as the Messenger of Allah, peace and prayers of Allah be upon him said: 'The nations will soon call to each other over you like diners call to each other over their dish.' Someone said: 'is that because of our scarcity in those days?' He replied: 'On the contrary, you will be numerous in those days, but you will be scum like the scum of the floodwater, and Allah will remove fear of you from the chests of your enemy, and will place in your hearts weakness.' It was asked 'What is the weakness, O Messenger of Allah?' He replied 'Love of this life and a dislike for death.' And because of their love of this world and dislike of death, many Muslims have abandoned the obligation of enjoining good and forbidding evil when it comes to the Crusaders' agents among Pakistan's politicians and the mercenary leaders of its army. Consequently, they have been afflicted by the punishment that the Prophet (peace and prayers of Allah be upon him) warned of when he (peace and prayers of Allah be upon him) said 'By him in Whose Hand is my soul, you must enjoin good and forbid evil or Allah will soon send upon you a punishment from Him, then you will pray to Him but your prayers will not be answered.' And he (peace and prayers of Allah be upon him) also said 'When people see the wrongdoer and do not (stop him from wrongdoing), Allah will soon afflict them all with a punishment.'

"And among these factors is the abandonment by many Muslims of the creed of allegiance to the Muslims and disowning of the unbelievers. The Truth (Blessed and Most High is He) says 'O you who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends and protectors: they are but friends and protectors to each other. And he amongst you that turns to them (for friendship) is of them. Verily Allah guides not a people unjust. You see how those in whose hearts is a disease run about among them, saying, "We fear lest a change of fortune bring us disaster." But it may be that Allah will give you victory, or a decision from Him, then they will regret the thoughts which secretly harbored in their hearts. And those who believe will say, "Are these the men who swore their strongest oaths by Allah that they were with you?" All that they do will be in vain and they will become losers. O you who believe! If any from among you turn back from his faith, Allah will soon produce people whom He will love as they will love Him; humble with the

believers, mighty against the unbelievers, fighting in the way of Allah, and never fearing the blame of a blamer. That is the grace of Allah, which He bestows on whom He pleases. Allah is All Embracing, All Knowing. Your allies are Allah, His Messenger, and the believers, those who establish regular prayers and pay Zakat and bow (in worship). As those who ally themselves to Allah, His Messenger, and the believers, then it is the party of Allah that is triumphant. O you who believe! Take not for friends and protectors those who take your religion for a mockery or sport, whether among those who received the Scripture before you, or among the unbelievers; and fear Allah, if you are (truly) believers.' (5:51-57)

"Abandonment of loyalty to the believers and animosity to the unbelievers is the religion which America is seeking to spread among the Muslims, so that their religion turns into rituals with no impact on society, which are practiced in the mosque and have no effect outside it. So the Muslim Ummah in Pakistan must appreciate that America is waging against the Muslims a Crusade the likes of which the Muslim Ummah has never before seen, and that this campaign seeks to take control of Pakistan and divide it and transform it into statelets orbiting around American Crusader influence. The battle under way today in Swat and the tribal areas isn't an internal Pakistan problem: no, it is one of the battlefields of the contemporary Crusade in which the Pakistan Army is fighting in order to help the Crusade and the Crusaders. And were the problem in Pakistan an internal one, neither America nor NATO would have bothered to spend one dollar on it or fire a single bullet in it. Here is Kashmir groaning under Indian repression and tyranny for more than 60 years, but the Crusader West hasn't given it anything: in fact, it collaborates with India and strengthens and supports it with the latest weapons and technology. The war in the tribal areas and Swat is an inseparable part of the Crusaders' assault on the Muslims the length and breadth of the Islamic world. They want to eliminate the Mujahideen in the tribal areas so they can seek to smother the Jihad in Afghanistan, and they want to smother the jihad in Afghanistan so that there doesn't emerge in Central Asia a determined Muslim power which challenges global Crusader will and defends the rights of Muslims.

"This is the battle, briefly and plainly; and this is why anyone who supports the Americans and Pakistan Army - under any pretext, ploy or lie - is in fact standing with, backing and supporting the Crusaders against Islam and Muslims. This is the fact which every dedicated Muslim eager to see the victory of Islam and Muslims must disseminate. The Truth (Blessed and Most High is He) says, 'Haven't you seen those who take friends a people with whom Allah is angry? They are neither of you nor of them, and they swear to falsehood knowingly. Allah has prepared for them a severe punishment. Evil is that which they used to do. They have made their oaths a shield for their falsehood, and they thereby they seek to turn men away from the path of Allah; for them therefore, will be a humiliating punishment. Neither their wealth nor their children will avail them at all against Allah. They are the inmates of the Fire wherein they will abide. On the day when Allah will raise them all together, they will swear to Him even as they now swear to you, and they will think that they have something to stand upon. Truly, it is they who are liars. Satan has got the better of them, so he has made them forget the remembrance of Allah. They are the party of Satan. Truly, it is the party of Satan that will lose. Those who oppose Allah and His Messenger will be among those most humiliated. Allah has decreed: "It is I and My Messengers, who must prevail," for Allah is Strong, Mighty. And you shall not find any people who believe in Allah and the Last Day loving those who oppose Allah and His Messenger, even if they be their fathers, or their sons, or their brothers, or their clan. For such He has written faith in their hearts and strengthened them with a spirit from Himself. He will admit them to the Gardens beneath which rivers flow, to dwell therein for eternity, Allah will be well pleased with them, and they with Him. They are the party of Allah. Truly, it is the party of Allah that will achieve success.' (58:14-22).

"And every soldier and officer participating in the assault on Waziristan must remember the severe threat the Quran contains for anyone who helps the unbelievers against the Muslims. The Truth (Blessed and Most High is He) says, 'Verily, those whom the angels cause to die, while they are wronging their own souls, (the angels) said to (them)

"We were weak and helpless in the land." (The angels said, "Was not Allah's earth spacious enough for you to emigrate therein?" It is these whose abode is Hell and an evil destination it is.' (4:97) This verse came down concerning the oppressed Muslims of Makkah whom the unbelievers forced to go out with them to fight the Muslims in the Badr expedition. As for how to get out of this predicament, which Pakistan has gotten itself into, it is through Jihad and there is no way other than Jihad.

(Recorded voice spoken over still image of Abdul Rashid Ghazi, presumably in Urdu) "I would like to give this message to the world: one should be firm on the Truth and to bow down to (worldly) might is not the actual truth. The actual Truth is Allah, and to Allah we all return. Man should live and die on the truth, and he should live with honor. These people wanted me to bow down to them.

(Ayman al-Zawahiri) "The Messenger of Allah (peace and prayers of Allah be upon him) says, 'If you buy and sell with al-`Eanah (a form of usury) and grab the tails of the cows and are satisfied with farming and abandon Jihad, Allah will inflict on you disgrace which He will not remove from you until you return to your religion.'

"Dear people of Pakistan: there is no honor for us except through Jihad. People of Pakistan beware of Allah's threat to the one who stays behind during obligatory Jihad. The Truth (Blessed and Most High is He) says, 'O you who believe! What is the matter with you, that, when you are asked to go forth in the cause of Allah, you cling heavily to the earth? Do you prefer the life of this world to the hereafter? But little is the comfort of this life as compared with the hereafter. Unless you go forth, He will punish you with a painful punishment, for Allah has power over all things.' (9:38-39) And He (the Most Honorable) says, 'And those who believe say, "Why is not a Surah revealed?" But when a decisive Surah is revealed and fighting is mentioned therein, you see those in whose hearts is a disease, looking towards you with the look of one who is fainting on account of approaching death. So woe to them! (Their attitude should have been one of) obedience and calling people to good. And when the matter was resolved, it would have been better for them if they were true to Allah. Would you not then, if you are placed in authority, create disorder in the land and sever your ties of kinship?' (47:20-22)

"And the Prophet, peace and prayers of Allah be upon him, says, 'No people abandons Jihad without Allah giving them a general punishment.' People of Pakistan: back the Jihad and Mujahideen with your persons, wealth, opinion, expertise, information and prayers and by exhorting others to help them and preach their message.

"O Allah, approve for this Ummah a righteous rule, in which those who obey You are honored and those who disobey You are disgraced, and in which good is enjoined and evil forbidden.

"O Allah, help Your slaves the Mujahideen, steady their feet, direct their fire and grant them victory over Your enemy and theirs. O Allah guide them to what You love and are pleased with, accept their righteous deeds, bring their hearts together, unite their ranks, lift their banner, set up their state and Caliphate, and give victory through them to Your religion, Your Book, the Sunnah of Your Prophet and Your believing slaves.

"O Allah, annihilate the Americans and Jews and the hypocrites and apostates who help them. Allah, we shield ourselves from them with You, and we seek refuge in You from their evil. O Allah, give us dominance over them and make them, their wealth, their soldiers, and their materiel booty for the Muslims. O Allah, whoever wants to do good to us and Islam and Muslims, then guide him to every good thing, and whoever wants to do evil to us and Islam and Muslims, then make his plotting his ruin, shove his evil cunning back in his face, disperse his power, destroy his unity, defeat his army, topple his banner and tear him apart in the worst way and make him a lesson for others.

"O Allah, O Lord of the worlds, O Swiftest of Reckoners, O Rescuer of the weak and Aider of those who pray for aid and Helper of those who pray for help and Answerer of those who ask, O You who give victory to your allies and defeat your enemies, O Strong, O Almighty, O Avenger: these Americans, Jews and their aides, the army of Pakistan and Pakistan's security organs, have harmed the Mujahideen and emigrants in their persons, families, children, wealth, honor, dignity and liberty. O Allah, take revenge on our behalf from them. O Allah, show us in them a day which the chests of your allies and lower the heads of your enemies. O Allah, retaliate on behalf of us and the Muslims from them. O Allah, make their end one of loss and destruction. O Allah, destroy their riches and harden their hearts so that they don't believe until they see the painful punishment. O Allah, annihilate anyone who has hurt the Muslims, Mujahideen and emigrants or has helped anyone against them with his actions or words or has refrained from helping them although he is able to help them.

"O Allah, annihilate those 'Ulema who have sold their religion to the Americans and their agents for the crumbs of this world. O Allah, annihilate the secularist politicians of hypocrisy who rush madly to earn the Crusaders' pleasure. O Allah, annihilate the press and media of lies, fakery and deception, those who make their living by helping the Crusaders and slandering the Mujahideen. O Allah, annihilate the evil judges who contradict Your Shari'ah and oppose Your rules. O Allah, annihilate the organs of Crusader security and their aides who pursue the Muslims and Mujahideen, reveal their whereabouts, torture them and hand them over to their enemies. Allah, we seek help in You against them, so help us, and we seek victory in You over them, so grant us victory, and we seek strength in You against them, so grant us strength, and we seek succor in You against them, so aid us. Living, O Eternal in Your mercy we seek succor: ready for us a swift conquest, a strong victory and a speedy liberation. O Allah, we ask you by virtue of every good deed You have accepted from us, and we ask You by virtue of the blood of your martyrs, the suffering of our emigrants and the endurance of our kinfolk, our women and our children, and we ask You by virtue of that You are the One Who said in Your Book, and Your statement is truth: 'And your Lord says, "Pray to me; I will answer your prayer."' (40:60). O Lord, we have prayed to You as You ordered us to do, so answer us as You promised. He (Glorious is He) said, 'How many large bands of godly men fought alongside (their) prophet, but they never lost heart at what befell them in Allah's way, nor did they weaken nor give in. And Allah loves those who persevere. All that they said was, "Our Lord forgive us our sins and our transgression; establish our feet firmly; and help us against the unbelieving people." And Allah gave them a reward in this world, and the excellent reward of the hereafter, for Allah loves those who do good.' (3:146-148). And He (the Most Honorable) said, 'Those who answered the call of Allah and the Messenger after they had received an injury - such of them as do good and act righteously shall have a great reward. Those to whom the people said, "The people are gathering against you, so fear them," but it (only) increased their faith, and they said, "For Allah suffices, and He is the Best Guardian." So they returned with grace and favor from Allah, and no harm touched them. They followed the good pleasure of Allah, and Allah is of infinite bounty. That

was only Satan frightening his friends, so fear them not but fear Me, if you are believers.' (3:172-175)

"And our final prayer is that all praise is for Allah, Lord of the worlds, and may Allah send prayers and peace upon our Master Muhammad and upon his family and all his companions. And may peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings."