

Al Jazeera airs new videotape by Ayman Zawahiri

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

Earlier today, Al Jazeera aired a one minute, 33 second excerpt from a longer video tape containing a message from Al Qaeda second in command Dr. Ayman al Zawahiri.

The tape, addressed to the people of the west, commemorates the third anniversary of Muslim prisoners arriving at the US detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

It also makes explicit threats against the United States, claiming that tens of thousands of Americans will die at their hands, and that the US economy will be destroyed.

It is interesting to note that this is a scaled back estimate of casualties on the part of Al Qaeda, which has previously claimed that they plan to kill in the range of hundreds of thousands to millions of Americans.

Although it is impossible to authenticate with 100% certainty, this tape is most likely an authentic audiotape of Zawahiri. There are no points in the excerpt by which to definitively date the tape; however it claims to be on the third anniversary of the opening of Guantanamo Bay. It is possible that there may be content in the as-yet unreleased portions of the tape to allow for a more conclusive estimate of when the tape was made.

BEGIN TRANSLATION

Today, Three years have gone by since the first group of Muslim prisoners were sent to the Guantanamo prison camp after thousands were betrayed in Mazar el Sharif [Afghanistan] by the unbelievers.

One may ask why all this interest in Guantanamo when our countries are filled with a thousand Guantanamos under U.S. observation.

The reform which emerges from U.S. prisons like Bagram, Kandahar, Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, and from the launch of cluster bombs and rockets and the appointment of the likes of Karzai and Allawi.'

It is because Guantanamo exposes the truth of reform and democracy that America claims it aims to spread in our countries.

If you, the people of the West, think that these cardboard governments can protect you, you are wrong.

Real security is based on mutual cooperation with the Islamic nation on the basis of mutual respect and the stopping of aggression

Your new crusade will, God willing, be defeated in the end, just like your earlier ones. But this will not happen, however, until after tens of thousands of your people are killed, and your economy is ruined, and after your actions have been exposed on the pages of history.