

Statement Regarding the Succession in the Leadership of Qaida't al-Jihad

June 16, 2011

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

On June 16, 2011, Al-Qaida's General Command released a statement announcing "the undertaking of responsibility of Amir of the group by Shaykh Dr. Abu Muhammad Ayman al-Zawahiri." The communication also stated, "We support and back the revolution of our Muslim, oppressed and suppressed peoples that have risen in the face of the unjust, corrupt tyrants, after they tortured our Ummah in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Ash-Sham, and al-Maghreb. And we encourage them and encourage the rest of the Muslim people to rise and continue resistance, sacrifice and persistence...until...true, full and anticipated change comes, which will not be achieved except by the Islamic Ummah's return to the Sharia of its Lord..."

[Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri, may Allah protect him]

[Verse] [Hadith]

"With hearts content with Allah's will and fate, reassured before the promise of Allah, the Most Glorified, and the goodness of his rewards, the Islamic Ummah and the Mujahideen in Qaida't al-Jihad Group and others received the news of the martyrdom of the reviving, Mujahid, migrant, steadfast Imam Shaykh Usama bin Muhammad bin Laden, may Allah have wide mercy on him; asking the Lord, raised and glorified, to raise his degrees and reward him on behalf of us and the Islamic Ummah the best of rewards."

"This and since Jihad is ongoing until the Day of Judgment—as mentioned in Hadiths—and in this era has become an individual duty against the disbelievers who invaded the Muslim homelands, and against the apostate rulers who replaced the Sharia of Islam—just as the scholars of Islam have had consensus over. And since the best of fulfillment for the pious martyrs and the biography of Shaykh Mujahid Usama bin Laden would be to continue on the path of Jihad for the cause of Allah and to support the Muslims and the oppressed, the General Command for Qaida't al-Jihad Group—and after finishing the discussion—announces the undertaking of responsibility of Amir of the group by Shaykh Dr. Abu Muhammad Ayman al-Zawahiri—may Allah grace him; asking the Lord, raised and glorified, to grace him and us and all the Muslims with His Sharia, and steadfastness on the truth in the way that He graces, not changing or exchanging."

"And on this occasion, the General Command of Qaida't al-Jihad is concerned about reassuring the following principles:"

"First: Qaida't al-Jihad Group, with the grace of Allah, seeks to work with the [Qur'an] Book and the Sunnah [of the Prophet], and advocates that, following the approach of the prophet, prayer and peace upon him and his pious companions and pure family, grace of Allah upon all of them, and what the ancestors of the Ummah who follow [the faith] and those who righteously follow them, and those who walked on their path and traced them in knowledge and acts, like the four Imams and the Imams of jurisprudence and Hadith, from those whom the Ummah accepted them approvingly and testified on their benevolence and commended them and prayed for mercy on them generation after generation. We abide by what they affirmed, and we do not

deviate from their words, and we seek to be, with the help of Allah, followers [of example] not creators, guided [by example] not inventors."

"Second: with the help and grace of Allah, we seek to call for the true religion, and encourage our Ummah to prepare and fight, along with our practical carrying out of the individual duty in the Jihad against the invading disbelievers who attacked the Islamic homelands, headed by the Crusader America and her stepdaughter Israel, and assisting them from the rulers who replaced the Islamic Sharia; [We will carry] Jihad against them with all of our power and encourage the Ummah to wage Jihad on them with the hand, the tongue, the heavens, money and deeds and everything possible, in order for all the invasive armies leave the land of Islam and so the Sharia of Allah can prevail on it."

[Verse]

"Third: we assure our affirmation and support of everyone who carries Jihad to raise the word of Allah, under the view of Allah, and who would defend Islam and the Muslims' rights in any one of their countries. Qaida't al-Jihad organization does not associate with [a] country and is not limited to nationality and does not limit it, because the Islamic homelands are all their homes, all of them are their brothers, and their loyalty is the link of faith, and we don't differentiate between an Arab and a foreigner except in piety and righteous deeds."

"We assure our people in the beloved Palestine what Shaykh Usama bin Laden—may Allah have mercy on him—assured them when he said: 'we say to our brothers in Palestine 'the blood of your children is the blood of our children, so blood for blood and destruction for destruction, and by Allah we will not disappoint you, until victory is achieved or we faced what Hamza bin Abdulmutaleb faced—may Allah grace him.' And we assure them that we will not accept compromising anything from Palestine of steadfastness and Jihad, from any side it may be, and we will not acknowledge any legitimacy of the alleged state of Israel and even if the entire people on earth agreed. And we will not accept or abide by or be forced to any agreement, declaration or deal that acknowledges so, or that would steal one inch from Palestine, whether it was the United Nations that is controlled by the biggest criminals, or other committees and organizations. We will move forth with the help of Allah and His power in Jihad and resistance with the hand and the tongue. And we will continue to uncover the betrayals of those who compromise over the rights of the Ummah in Palestine who cooperate with the Mosad and the CIA, and will sacrifice all we own until Palestine, all of Palestine, is liberated and above it the Islamic flags flutter, and where Sharia will prevail just as the previous heroes of Islam freed it like Salahudeen."

"And we assure our brothers in Afghanistan that we are with them, with our souls and everything we own, under the leadership of Amir of Believers Mulla Muhammad Omar Mujahid, may Allah protect him, in defending against and expelling the Crusader American occupation from the plains of this patient, pure country."

"We also assure our Mujahideen brothers, the companions on the path of patience, challenge and defending against the Crusaders campaigns in the Iraq of the caliphate and knowledge, and Somalia of Hijra and Sharia, and the Peninsula of the revelation, wisdom and faith, and the Maghreb of steadfastness, victory and solidity, and Chechnya of patience and persistence, that we are moving forth with the promise, and walking on the approach with a coalesced body and combined ranks, and united word, and harmonized hearts and pure banner, fighting one enemy even if its forms and names vary, as there's no illusion or hesitation or retreat, injure and be injured, defeated and be defeated and the afterlife is for the pious."

[Verse]

"Fourth: [Verse] [Hadith]"

"We ask Allah to help us in working on releasing the Muslim prisoners, the lions in the chains who have to be patient, and have bared responsibility, sacrificed and suffered for the cause of supporting Islam and Muslims. And we assure those beloved ones that we haven't forgotten about them and we will not Allah-willing; as we did not forget our Mujahid Shaykh who speaks the truths, Omar Abdulrahman, and we did not forget our brothers in Guantanamo and Baghram and Abu Ghraib, and America's secret and known prisons and in every 'Guantanamo' the agents of America established under her supervision in the Muslim homelands."

[Verse]

"Fifth: We support and back the revolution of our Muslim, oppressed and suppressed peoples that have risen in the face of the unjust, corrupt tyrants, after they tortured our Ummah in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Ash-Sham, and al-Maghreb. And we encourage them and encourage the rest of the Muslim people to rise and continue resistance, sacrifice and persistence until all the corrupt, unjust regimes the West has enforced on our countries and took as bridge to pass its policies and enforce its will on, and until the true, full and anticipated change comes, which will not be achieved except by the Islamic Ummah's return to the Sharia of its Lord after the occupation forces deviated it from ruling. And thus, the Sharia of Islam would fully return to rule the Muslim Ummah, without being challenged by any authority or partnered by any reference, and until the faith is entirely to Allah. Change will not be achieved except with the Ummah's disposal of all kinds of occupation, domination, and military, economic, cultural and judicial control the West enforces on us, and will not be achieved except by removing all kinds of political and social injustice, and all of this needs serious preparation and continuous encouragement and constant Jihad, and a force confronts a force; as the rise of faith comes with a book that guides and sword that brings victory, and it is enough that your Lord if guidance and victor."

"Sixth: we offer our hands and open our hearts to cooperate with everyone working on supporting Islam in the Islamic groups and organizations and outside of them, and to unite and stand together to expel the invaders from the Islamic homelands, and to support the Sharia so the Islamic homelands could be ruling not ruled, leading not led, and commanding not commanded, and until every constitution and law that oppose it are invalidated. And let us cooperate and collaborate in removing the corrupt and corruptive regimes and purify out countries from all forms of injustice, suppression and corruption; all of that in answering the command of Allah [Verse]. And in spite of that, between us and all of our Muslim brothers there's the right of advice and obligation of reminding."

"Seventh: Our Islamic religion forbade all injustice, against the Muslim or others, with the enemy or the friend, and based on it we assure each oppressed in this life—and most of them victims of Western, American crimes—that our religion is the religion of justice and [just] punishment; as we sympathize with the suffering of the oppressed, and that our Jihad against the American arrogance is ultimately to remove injustice from them, and it is an efficient effort to rid them from the Western American exploitation that has enslaved them, stole their wealth, and corrupted their environment and lives."

"This is our message to the Muslim Ummah and to every seeker of truth and justice, and Allah is behind the intention and He leads the way, and our last prayer is praise Allah Lord of the Worlds, and prayer and peace upon our prophet Muhammad and upon his family and friends."

Qaida't al-Jihad Organization—General Command

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