

Zawahiri Urges Egyptians to Demand Change, Comments on US Influence

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

Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri urged Egyptians to demand change, and in particular, Shariah-based governance and abrogating the peace treaty with Israel, in an audio speech, the ninth episode of his series called "A Message of Hope and Glad Tidings to Our People in Egypt" His speech, titled, "So Why Did We Revolt Against Him?," came in a 24 minute, 16 second video produced by al-Qaeda's media arm, as-Sahab, and posted on jihadist forums on February 29, 2012. Zawahiri told Egyptians in general and Islamic movements in particular that they must insist upon real change in Egypt, such as removing social injustice and establishing rule by Islamic Shariah, else, the revolution to oust Hosni Mubarak did not achieve its goals. He stated: "Every free, honorable person must remember in Egypt in general and the Islamic movement in particular, the role of Egypt as a pioneer and a leader in the Islamic and Arab world, and that Egypt is not a free trade zone, or an agency to America, or a broker for Israel, or a tourist park. Egypt is the castle of Islam and the fortress of pan-Arabism; the land of garrison, jihad, knowledge, and preaching."

In addition to his discussion on the current state of Egypt, Zawahiri acknowledged as a "glad tidings" the reduction of American influence in the world, which he attributed to 9/11 and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as the Arab Spring. He also claimed that as a result of America's economic crisis and military failure, it took "many steps backwards" and tried to ruin the support to Islamic currents that gained popularity during the revolutions. Zawahiri commented: "In brief, America started resorting to the ways of foxes after it was dealing with us in the ways of wolves."

Following is a translation of the speech:

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Why Did We Revolt Against Him?
A Message of Hope and Glad Tidings to Our People in Egypt
Ninth Episode
Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri

In the Name of Allah. Praise be to Allah. Peace and prayer be upon the Messenger of Allah, and upon his family, his Companions, and those who followed him.

Muslim brothers everywhere: peace be upon you, and Allah's mercy and blessings.

And thereafter:

This is the ninth episode of the "Message of Hope and Glad Tidings to Our People in Egypt." In the seventh episode, I had reached the point of the British seeking to spoil the government system in Egypt through establishing a secular, tribal state that claims to be democratic and independent when in fact the spears and canons of the occupation run it. I mentioned that the British have sought that through several means: first, to spoil the legislative system; second, to give Egypt an illusory

independence; third, to establish a nationalistic tribal state within it; and fourth, to allow a false, corrupt political life, which it established that through many ways. The most important of these ways is its imposition of a secular constitution through the force of the occupation and its authority, and then, allow a political life with three poles: the British High Commissioner, the palace, and the parties, which are keen to have the acceptance of the British High Commissioner, who is watching the game from a distance and interferes when necessary. Egyptian political life reached the depths of the swamp of corruption with the incident on 4 February 1942.

Then, in the eighth episode, I left the historical narrative aside to congratulate those who were released from the prisons of Israel, and to congratulate the Muslim Ummah for the martyrdom of the honorable Sheikh Jamal Ibrahim Ashtawi al-Misrati, who is known as Attiya Allah, may the vast mercy of Allah be upon him, and to greet the heroes who blew up the gas pipeline to Israel, and to talk about the army clashes with the Coptic Christians. Then, I ended it with a message of steadfastness and support to our captive brothers.

In this episode, I find myself forced once again to put aside the historical narrative to talk about the events that are quickly unfolding in Egypt and around it, and to send glad tidings to our Muslim Ummah, and to all the free, honorable people in this world, and to every weak, oppressed, and persecuted person by the arrogant West. At the beginning of my talk, I send all of them congratulations for the quick shrinking of the American influence in the world.

One of the last of these signs of its shrinking and retreat is the reduction in the US Defense Department's latest budget, which is the big event that forced Obama to announce it himself so as to reduce its impact on the American people. The biggest reason for the crisis that forced America to reduce its defense budget is Allah's help to the mujahideen to harm the evil empire of our time. These acts of harm began with the invasions of Washington, New York, and Pennsylvania, and then by the huge jihadi resistance that faced the American arrogance in Afghanistan and Iraq. America was forced to accept defeat in both of them, and then it withdrew its forces from Iraq and it is about to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, and then not only accept, but insist upon requesting negotiations with the Islamic Emirate [Afghan Taliban], which it used to consider as a terrorist group that must be annihilated. Then came the blessed Arab revolutions to prove to the Americans that they are facing a general awakening that is all over the Islamic and Arab world. This came at the same time with their understanding that they reaped from the military arrogance nothing other than losses.

The Arab popular uprisings proved that they are Islamic in most of their orientation, and that they are revolting against the agents of America, who spend their lives repressing the Islamic orientation of their people with direction, support, and planning from America, and who turned their countries into stations of torture, detention, and harm within the Zio-Crusader system. As a result of America's military failure and its economic crisis by the blessing of the sacrifices of the mujahideen, and as a result of the fall of the regimes that carried out America's policies, and as a result of the Islamic orientation of the people who are uprising against oppression, America decided to take many steps backwards, try to break the unity of the Islamic currents and deplete the energy of the popular support for them, and to take this orientation towards Islam, which is hostile to America, and direct it towards mazes, whirlpools, and other such things that dissipate their power and take away their force.

In brief, America started resorting to the ways of foxes after it was dealing with us in the ways of wolves. But, before I talk about this new reality, I would like first to point out briefly two things. The first is about our Ummah's captives in America, for whom America denied all the signed treaties and

agreements. America should release them, and on top of them, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, and whether it likes it or not, it will release them, with permission and strength from Allah. America might try to use any trick as a pretext to let this release pass by, but at the end, it must release them, with power and strength from Allah. This is a message that America must understand well, and not only that, it must understand that the world after September 11th is not the same as before. After its defeats in Iraq and Afghanistan, America is not the same as before.

The second matter is a greeting of respect and reverence to those who blew up the gas pipeline to Israel for the tenth time. May Allah reward those lions in the best way for their refusal of humiliation, subservience, and surrender, which the ruling regime in Egypt imposes on our people and Ummah. May Allah reward them in the best way for keeping the spirit of jihad against Israel burning in the Egypt of garrison and jihad. I ask Allah to protect them from the plotting of the Jews and the plotting of those who surrender to them.

My Muslim brothers in Egypt, a corrupt ruler was removed and corrupt rule continued. The desired goal is not to reach power, whether in a manner that is non-costly and powerful, or in a manner that is restricted and weak; rather, the goal is to rule with Islam. To expend efforts to reach power without those efforts leading to Islamic governance is a disaster; however, the greatest disaster of all is to reach power and then rule with something else other than Islam, or with something opposite to Islam, or with some that is against Islam. There are main landmarks for change that every sincere person in Egypt in general and in the Islamic movement in particular must fulfill, and without fulfilling those, the corrupt regime will continue to spoil our religion and life. I will point out here briefly, three of these most important landmarks, and they are: Shariah-based governance, liberation from external control, and removing social injustice.

As for Shariah-based governance, we face two sources of reference, actually two creeds, who should judge and rule, the people or the Creator of the people? If we concede to the enemies of Islam that rule is by the people, then we are defeated before we start the battle. We must not be heedless of what the secular judge Abdul Ghaffar Muhammad noticed, when he confirmed that one of the proofs that the constitution opposes Islam is that many of its articles give the legislature the right to issue laws and legislations, while in Islam, this right belongs only to Allah alone. Some might argue that we concede to the enemies of Islam for their way, that supremacy is by the people, and then we establish our goals little by little. This is self-deceit. It is not possible to achieve partial gains by wasting the main issue. However, it is acceptable if we establish partial gains as long as we don't lose the main issue completely, so long as if these alleged gains have no harm more than benefit. But if the two evils take place, that we lose the main issue and the harm of the partial gains is more than the benefit, then we lose the world and the hereafter.

The corrupt regime continued ruling and controlling with the legitimacy and reference that we granted it. Some claim that the second article of the current constitution is sufficient and what we need is only to put it in action. This is wrong. The second article is a large gap that allows the secularists and the adversaries of Islam to continue to use the man-made secular laws and impose them on Muslims. What they are hinting at in terms of the judgment of the constitutional court about the interpretation of this article, is not a proof. This court itself has other judgments that clearly oppose the Shari'ah and prevent its application. Sheikh Ahmed 'Ashoush, may Allah preserve him, in an article, gave flagrant or say dissolute examples of such things that are clearly against Islam and without shyness. Moreover, there is a past judgment by the Supreme Constitutional Court that the second article of the constitution doesn't work retroactively, meaning that all the articles and laws of the constitution that came before it, and that form most of the constitution and the law, are

legitimate and must be followed, even though a lot of it, if not most to it, is contrary and sometimes opposite to the Islamic Shariah.

We must not ignore what the secular judge Abdul Ghaffar Muhammad came to see, which is that the constitution is contrary to the Islamic Shariah with the presence of the second article in it. To get out of the disagreement, that why isn't there a basis for the rule of applying the Shariah in clear, comprehensive, and unequivocal sentences that prevent anyone who wants to play games to escape from them or interpret them in a way that hinders the Shariah rulings, why don't we agree over a particular formula? A formula stating that the Islamic Shariah is the source of legislation and that the rest of the articles of the constitution and the law will be abolished, and to make this principle above constitutions, laws, and administrative orders in a way that it is not possible to play with or to be changed or distorted. Legislative corruption is huge and accumulated, and it needs the filtration of the constitution and laws from anything that is contrary to the Shariah. The cornerstone and the beginning step in this path is the confirmation of Shariah-based governance and making this a principle that is not prone to games, changes, or alterations. Then come the steps of change. In this context, I admire the statement issued by the Association of Libyan Scholars in Benghazi in the past Dhul-Qa'dah, commenting on the announcement of the temporary constitution. I beseech the free, sincere ones amongst the scholars of Egypt to follow their footsteps in stating the truth about the articles of the constitution in an unequivocal way that doesn't leave room for playing around or escaping.

My brothers in Egypt in general and in the Islamic movements in particular, governing with the Shariah and making it the supreme ruler that rules and it is not ruled, and orders and is not ordered, and leads and is not led, is not an issue of creed alone. It is also, at the same time, an issue of reform for politics, society, and economy, which is due to the nature of Islam, the creed of which is not separated from its Shariah. Without the high rule of the Shariah there will not be any reform and we will keep wading in the same swamp of corruption from which we suffered for nearly two centuries. I hope that we don't weaken in our fulfillment of this Shariah obligation with the pretext that the world powers oppose us and don't allow us to do that, and other such excuses which Hosni Mubarak used to use to prevent the application and rule of the Shariah. Otherwise, we did we revolt against him?

The second main landmark in change which I want to point out briefly, is liberation from external control. I will mention two prominent examples for this liberation. The first is the obligation to get out of the security and military system of America and the West. So, the central Egyptian rule in the plans of defending American and Western interests should stop in our region and in the world. All forms of this subservient role should stop in terms of joint maneuvers, facilities, storing, supplying, and cooperation with information and operations, and involvement in America's war on Islam under the name of terror. Egypt must be purified of all American military bases. The size of these bases must be exposed to the Egyptian people along with their role and type, the kind of troops stationed there, and the activities and the agreements based on them. The passage of armies, weapons, and equipment that kill our brothers in Afghanistan and Iraq, and that colonize the Arabian Peninsula, should stop in the Suez Canal and Egyptian skies. Therefore, any government that is honorable, clean, and free cannot accept to contribute to the murder of its brothers and the destruction of their countries.

Egypt's participation must stop in the historical crime that America is carrying out in its war against Islam in the name of the war on terror. The details of this crime should be disclosed to the people: how many secret prisons were part of that cooperation, how many detainees and the personal and public details of these detainees and how were they treated and what is their fate, and how many

whippers participated in this crime and what are their names and jobs, and where are they now. Moreover, all security agencies must be cleansed of all the criminals who participated for even one day in the killing of the people and harming them. They shouldn't remain safe and secure from punishment. I call upon all the free, honorable people in Egypt to collect every piece of information in this regard and to issue a black list of the names, jobs, and the places of the whippers of the people.

The war of the Egyptian regime against the Islamic movements must stop now. All the victims of this regime must be released immediately from prisons, and the thousands of pursued people must be given secure return; otherwise, the same crimes will continue at the hands of the same criminals after the corrupt ruler fell and the corrupt rule didn't fall. This must stop immediately. We must not use the same excuses that Mubarak used in continuing to serve the Western and American interests. So why did we revolt against him?

The second example is the obligation of refusing, rejecting, and disowning the peace treaty with Israel. Some think that the peace treaty with Israel is just a truce with Israel. If we give these people the benefit of the doubt, they didn't read the treaty. The treaty is recognition of the Israeli existence on the land of Palestine and acceptance that this is their land and it is their right, and it is abandonment of the obligatory duty, which is known as an obligation by the religion, to necessitate the jihad against the occupying Jews and to expel them from Muslim lands. I talked about it in some detail in the book "Knights Under the Banner of the Prophet, Allah's Peace and Prayer be Upon Him," and in the message, "Muslim Egypt Between the Whips of the Whippers and the Agency of the Traitors."

The treaty confirms the end of the state of war between Egypt and Israel, the recognition of each of them of the other's borders, and the confirmation that hostile action cease, even if in the media against the other country, and that anyone who does that be punished. The treaty confirms its superiority over any other treaty that opposes it, and it cancels it, meaning the agreements that Egypt signed in the past against Israel, like the Arab Joint Defense Treaty and economic boycott agreements. Abolishing the peace treaty with Israel doesn't only have to do with freeing a usurped Muslim land, for it is more serious than that. There is no security, independence, or sovereignty to the peoples of the Arab world as long as Israel exists. Israel was established to be an advanced military base in the heart of the Arab and Muslim world to protect the Crusader Western interests in the region. The fist that is targeted by Israel is the Islamic revival movement and the Islamic awakening in general, the Islamic movement in particular, and the jihadi movement specifically. If any Islamic current is heedless to that, then it is handing the knife to the one who is slaughtering it with its own hand.

Some might argue that abolishing the peace treaty with Israel will bring us destruction, devastation, death, and annihilation. These claims are wrong. America today can't wage any new war after the mujahideen broke its legs and arms in Iraq and Afghanistan. Names announced that it will never recognize Israel, and America didn't bury it in the ground. Even if we concede to their pretext out of humility and not out of admittance, any good, honorable government in Egypt can follow many options. It can announce the freezing of the peace treaty to research it and consult about it. It can announce that Palestine is a Muslim land and it will never accept the occupation of one span of it. It can cut off diplomatic ties with Israel or at least freeze it, and close the embassy indefinitely. It can reactivate the Arab Joint Defense Treaty as well as the economic boycott treaties against Israel. It can announce that it is Egypt's right to act in the manner agreed upon in the Arab Joint Defense Treaty in the event Gaza is attacked by Israel. It can open official offices in Egypt for all the jihadi movements against Israel. It can lift every ban or siege against Gaza. It can stop the Israeli tourism and ban

Israelis from entering Egypt and Egyptians into Israel. What is unfortunate and shameful is that the hardship and siege upon our people in Gaza is faced with an obscene facilitation in welcoming thousands of Israeli tourists, who enter Sinai without a visa. It can also stop supplying Israel with gas and it can stop all activities of economic, research, and cultural cooperation with Israel. It can withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, because Israel didn't sign it. The Pakistani government, for example, despite all its agency and treachery, refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as long as India didn't sign it. Will we use the same excuse that Hosni Mubarak used to preserve Israel's security! So why did we revolt against him?

The third main landmark in change is the solving of the problem of poverty and social injustice. Social solidarity and justice must be established in all the segments and classes of the people. The minimum wage must be reconsidered and the huge gap between salaries in government and public sectors should be removed. It is not acceptable to see a lot of the senior officials combine many salaries and bonuses that exceed hundreds of thousands of pounds, while tens of thousands of junior employees cannot make enough to afford bare minimums. We must start with ourselves as an example of being on the side of the oppressed and marginalized classes, and not to get involved with opportunists. We must remember that in Egypt there is a deep and ferocious system of corruption that sells debauchery and the impermissible under many covers, and takes advantage of thousands of young men and women. The destruction of this country will be fought by many of the senior corrupt people, because it will harass tourism, art, creativity and similar things under which the corrupt state carries out its activities. It is not reasonable that a clean and honorable state is established in Egypt and it accepts impermissible money to continue doing business with the dignity and the honor of Egyptians, and to turn the Egypt of pan-Arabism and Islam into obscene satellite channels, night clubs, gambling halls, and nude beaches. Therefore, will we use the same excuses that Hosni Mubarak used to preserve the corrupt and impermissible state? So we did we revolt against him?

Every free, honorable person must remember in Egypt in general and the Islamic movement in particular, the role of Egypt as a pioneer and a leader in the Islamic and Arab world, and that Egypt is not a free trade zone, or an agency to America, or a broker for Israel, or a tourist park. Egypt is the castle of Islam and the fortress of pan-Arabism; the land of garrison, jihad, knowledge, and preaching. Egypt must not turn into another image of the corrupt, spoiling Saudi rule. which claims to defend the creed of monotheism and the application of Shariah, while in truth it is an agent for the forces of the Crusader occupation, applying some of the just punishment against the weak people, and dedicating the wealth, lands, coasts, and skies of Muslims to serve the Zio-crusader occupation project, and the ruling minority in it steals the wealth of the country in order to use it for debauchery and immorality.

The Islamic movement must rise above its organizational and partisan disagreements in order to fulfill the main demands of the Ummah, the most important of which is the application of the Shariah, liberation from external control, and removal of injustice from the poor classes. The Islamic movement must unite around these goals. If the Islamic movement is disunited and accepts less than these goals or gathers between the two evils, then the popular support for it will be broken apart and the government will continue its corruption and spoiling. In addition, before all of that, the most important thing is that it will be questioned in front of Allah the Great and Almighty, and then in front of history and its Ummah for its negligence in fulfilling these obligations. We are with the Islamic movement in its unity and gathering around these goals. Perhaps we will meet soon, with permission from Allah, while Shariah governs, our countries are liberated, and justice and counsel prevail. {Qur'anic Verse}.

Our last supplication is praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.

May Allah's peace and prayer be upon our master Muhammad, and upon his family and his Companions. Peace be upon you, and Allah's mercy and blessings.

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