

Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri's Statement on the Burning of Qur'ans in Kabul

Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri
May 9, 2012

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

On May 9, 2012, Al-Qaida's As-Sahab Media Foundation released a message from AlQaida's second-in-command, Dr. Ayman Al-Zawahiri, in which he called upon Afghans and the greater global Muslim community to fight NATO forces in Afghanistan in response to the burning of Qur'ans in Kabul. In the statement, Zawahiri referred to past, alleged offenses carried out by U.S. forces, including an incident involving the desecration of the Qur'an at Guantanamo Bay. He went on to call the investigation into the incident in Kabul, initiated by the Obama administration and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, a "silly mockery." Further, Zawahiri encouraged Muslims to support the Taliban, calling on them to "fight under the banner of the Islamic Emirate under the leadership of the Amir of Believers Mulla Muhammad Omar." Zawahiri also painted an optimistic picture of the Taliban's campaign in Afghanistan.

"In the name of Allah, and praise Allah, and prayer and peace upon the messenger of Allah, and upon his family, companions and allies."

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

"The crusaders have again committed their renewed crime by burning the Holy Qur'an and mocking the messenger of Allah, prayer and peace upon him. Again the Crusaders burned the Holy Qur'an in Kabul after they degraded it continuously, that even one of the soldiers in Guantanamo urinated on the Holy Qur'an. And after each one of their crimes, they pretend to be apologetic and they claim that they would investigate what had happened. And this is the [same] silly mockery that Obama has done again as well as his Secretary of Defense this time also. The Crusaders Americans and their allies have showed over and again their grudge and hatred to Islam, the Book of Islam, the Prophet of Islam-prayer and peace upon him-and the Hijab of the female Muslims. [Qur'anic Verses]"

"O' Muslim, glorious, defiant Afghan people; O' Ummah of Islam everywhere: repel the insult and aggression from your Qur'an, dignity and the honor of your prophet, prayer and peace upon him. Fight these aggressors who occupied your country, robbed your wealth, violated your honors, insulted your Qur'an and prophet-prayer and peace upon him-and assailed the Hijab of your sisters, and have been spreading obscenity and prohibitions among you."

"O' Muslim, glorious, defiant Afghan people, and O' Muslim Ummah everywhere: answer the call of Truth [Allah], praised and glorified [Verse]."

"O' Muslim, glorious, defiant Afghan people, and O' Muslim Ummah everywhere: support you prophet whose been mocked by your Crusader enemies [Verse]."

"O' Muslim, glorious, defiant Afghan people, and O' Muslim Ummah everywhere: preserving the mortal crumbs of life should not prevent you from leaving to Jihad against the Crusaders who mock your Qur'an. Do not be from those who were described by Allah as 'liars.' [Verse]"

"O' Muslim, glorious, defiant Afghan people, and O' Muslim Ummah everywhere: do not be from those who allied with the Crusaders and supported them against the Muslims; thus Allah unveiled the truth about them and scandalized them in life before the afterlife [Verse]."

"O' Muslim, glorious, defiant Afghan people, and O' Muslim Ummah everywhere: join the Mujahideen, support and back them up, and fight under the banner of the Islamic Emirate under the leadership of the Amir of Believers Mulla Muhammad Omar Mujahid-may Allah protect him-who caused the Crusaders consecutive defeats and who are on the verge of expelling them [Crusaders] from the pure Afghanistan, soon Allah-willing."

"Fight the enemies of Allah; the enemies of his messenger, prayer and peace upon him, the enemies of His Qur'an. Their defeat began appearing on the horizon, so intensify your attacks on them until Allah gives you dominance over them."

"And our last prayer is praise Allah Lord of the World, and Allah's prayer and peace upon Muhammad and upon his family and companions."

And peace be upon you and Allah's mercy and blessings.

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