On May 15, 2012, Al-Qaida’s As-Sahab Media Foundation released a message from Al-Qaida leader Dr. Ayman Al-Zawahiri, in which he assailed both Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, the current president of Yemen, as well as Ali Abdullah Saleh, President Hadi’s predecessor: "If Ali Abdullah Saleh was a criminal, Abd Rabbo is his deputy, and if Ali Abdallah Saleh was a killer, Abd Rabbo is his deputy ... " Zawahiri pledged his support to the "mujahideen" resisting the regime and encouraged all Yemeni people to rise up against the regime to establish a "Muslim, faithful Yemen that rules with Sharia." In addition to accusing the governments of the Arab states of the Persian Gulf of betraying their Sunni coreligionists in Yemen, Zawahiri also called attention to the rise of, and threat posed by, Shiite Iran: "America and Israel are in control of our Ummah and shortly enough Iran will enter to snatch its share of the pie, and neither today nor tomorrow will anyone stand up against these imperialistic programs except the honest mujahideen from the sons of the Ummah."

"In the name of Allah the most merciful most compassionate, and prayer and peace upon the messenger of Allah and his family and companions and followers, Muslim brothers everywhere peace be upon you and Allah’s mercy and blessings, and thereafter:"

"I speak to you today about the big plot that has been fabricated by America and her followers in the Gulf against the Yemeni, your Muslim, defiant, free people."

"America and her followers in the Gulf...taking advantage of the Yemeni political corruption quagmire, were able to prepare the situation in Yemen for her advantage; a cooperator is gone and an agent replaced him. Ali Abdullah Saleh is gone and has been succeeded by Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, and America gave the executioner a pardon for spilling blood of the innocents and what he stole from the sustenance of the poor, and what he corrupted of the lives of the honorable. The ... executioner left with his share of the loot safely, and handed the governance to his deputy, and the blood of the martyrs was spilled in vain."

"If Ali Abdullah Saleh was a criminal" Abd Rabbo is his deputy, and if Ali Abdallah Saleh was a killer, Abd Rabbo is his deputy, and if Ali Abdallah Saleh was a thief then Abd Rabbo is his deputy, and if he was corrupt then Abd Rabbo is his deputy, and if he was a traitor cooperative, then Abd Rabbo is his deputy."

"Why would Ali Abdullah Saleh be an executioner while Abd Rabbo is a savior? Why
would Ali Abdullah Saleh be a killer, thief, corrupt, cooperative, and traitor while Abd Rabbo is the righteous, angelic, servant of Allah and awaited savior?”

[Excerpt from statement by Anwar Al-Awlaki]

[Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri]

"The Yemeni, free, defiant people and its honorable youth will not tolerate the American-Gulf scheme, as America has prepared the situation and the corrupt politicians one their share of the governance, and awarded the executioner, his family, and his cronies document of innocence, and they chose his deputy tool, and sold the blood of the martyrs and the sacrifices of the widows and the bereaved."

[Excerpt from sermon by Dr. Abdallah al-Nafisi]

[Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri]

"And the corrupt of all agreed to fight the mujahideen under the banner of America and with Saudi financing."

[Excerpt Ahmad Al-Zarqa - Yemeni journalist]

[Excerpt Abdul Bari Atwan - Gen. editor of Al-Quds Al-Arabi newspaper]

[Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri]

"And they did not stop there; they went on charging the mujahideen in cooperation with their nemesis, America's agent Ali Abdullah Saleh, supported by the contemporary crusader war media channels, headed by the malicious tag the BBe, horn of the British intelligence, which ruled Yemen and our Islamic world would lies, plots, and financing the traitors."

"Those who gave the executioner document of innocence and spilled the blood of the martyrs are accusing the mujahideen who sacrificed and remain sacrificing with their blood to repel the aggression of America and her agents."

"And those who elected the executioner as a president many times are accusing the mujahideen who described him as 'Al-Aswad Al-Anasi' and have resisted him and resisted his American masters."

"Those who lived in the protection of the regime for many decades accuse the mujahideen who disavowed the regime and scandalized its apostasy and cooperation. Those who ate the forbidden money of the Gulf are accusing the mujahideen whose leaders selflessly gave up wealth, reputation, positions, degrees and nationalities."
“Those who participated in the government with the boys of Ali Abdullah Saleh are accusing the mujahideen who sacrificed and remain sacrificing the most valuable and precious so the state of Islam, Justice and sovereignty can rise.”

"And those who have given allegiance to the new ruler Abd Rabbo Mansour are accusing the mujahideen who unveiled the suspiciousness of the bribed scholars and the advocates are tolerance and safety.”

"Those who were silent before the raids of America on their people and families are accusing the mujahideen who have defeated America, with the grace of Allah, in Iraq and Afghanistan, and will soon defeat them in Yemen and Somalia. In those who agreed to protect America's interests are accusing the mujahideen who bombed the destroyer Cole in order to scandalize the corrupt participation of Abd Rabbo Mansour in financing the crusaders against the Muslims in Iraq.”

"Oh, free Yemeni people and its honorable youth: there must be a popular, rising, aware, continuous movement against corruption which remains ruling, and there must be awareness to word what goes on around you and what is intended of you. There must be determination to purify the country from the corrupt politicians and people's bloodsuckers and the corrupt ones who form the political quagmire. There must be an uprising for the sake of Allah in order to establish a Muslim, faithful Yemen that rules with Sharia, and supports the weakened, the poor, the oppressed and suppressed, and repels the American arrogance and rejects the Gulf interference and Safawi extension.”

[Excerpt from statement of Anwar Al-Awlaki]

[Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri]

"America and Israel are in control of our Ummah and shortly enough Iran will enter to snatch its share of the pie, and neither today nor tomorrow will anyone stand up against these imperialistic programs except the honest mujahideen from the sons of the Ummah."

"Iran today is one of the most progressive countries in the region in militarization. Today, Iran's academic contributions are higher than the international average by 11 times. Today Iran is on the verge of joining the countries that possess nuclear weapons, and the Iranian leadership, as it is known, does not work for the benefit of the Islamic program, but it is working for the sake of the Persian Shiite program, and the Sunni people of the Gulf will be Iran's first victim, so where are you, scholars of the Sunni people? Yesterday you cautioned us about the Shiites and now some amongst you are openly calling for obeying the rulers even if they were Shiites like in Iraq, and oh, how happy is the enemy with you!”

"Oh scholars also need people, what is your program to resist the Shiite expansion that is taking over the region from Iran to Yemen? By Allah, are you would've rulers competent enough to resist Iran? Iran suspends its oil revenue on building its army and
your rulers are spending their money on protecting and safeguarding the American occupier from the attacks of the mujahedin.”

"May Allah forbid that we advocate spilling the blood of Muslims. May Allah forbid that we advocate internal collusion and ignite wars. May Allah forbid that we advocate killing the innocents.”

"This is the talk of the Americans, their agents, and their media; we advocate defending the life and resources of the Ummah, and we advocate defending our rights, and we advocate that wishing the religion of Allah who only created us for that [verse]. We were not born for this life but we were born for the afterlife, and this life is the home of challenge and work, so rise up 0' Muslims for that, worship Allah, be loyal to him and declare allegiance to him and to the believers, and disavow the enemies of Allah of Jews, Americans, and hypocrites.”

"Follow in the footsteps of the honorable and free ones starting with the lion of Islam, Usama bin Laden and the advocate hero, Anwar al-Awlaki-may Allah have mercy on the both of them.”

[Excerpt from statement by Sheikh Usama bin Laden]

[Excerpt from statement by Sheikh Anwar al-Awlaki]

[Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri]

"Those and their likes are your models so follow in their footsteps and seek the help of Allah and repel all kinds of internal corruption and external aggression.”

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