Al-Libi Delivers Video Statement on Somali Agreement

Abu-Yahya al-Libi 22 June 2008

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

On 22 June, forum participant posted to a jihadist website many links of a new 19-minute and 52-second new videotape by prominent Al-Qa'ida figure Abu-Yahya al-Libi, produced by the Al-Sahab Media Production Organization, the media production arm of the Al-Qa'ida Organization. The video message entitled "Somalia: No Peace Without Islam" is dated June.

Abu-Yahya al-Libi begins by addressing Muslims about Somalia, one of the "important" frontiers in which "honest" and "elite" Muslim people are confronting "the international Crusader," following the recent agreement signed between the opposition factions and the "agent and renegade government" in Mogadishu.

He says that this agreement does not concern the mujahidin who consider it "worthless." But, they need always to highlight their positions on every occasion to clarify their methodology in order to avoid any confusion between the methods of the "mujahidin" and "the methods of criminals," he notes.

He adds that although media outlets might portray such agreements in "a deceptive way" or as an escape from "crises and civil wars," all the "mujahidin" should know that this agreement is an inseparable part of "a big conspiracy" and "covert vindictiveness" of the "enemies" of Islam that aim to control your land and "appease" Muslim nations.

Such agreements will be used as "a means to uproot Jihad and mujahidin" in all the hotspots, especially in Somalia, he says.

He says that this agreement is being used to portray the "mujahidin as an obstacle in the way of achieving peace, stability, and reconciliation."

This is the "devil's ploy," which the "witty mujahidin" cannot be deceived by, he adds.

He says that the "mujahidin" have the right to ask those who "pretend" to be keen on preserving the interests of their "disaster-stricken" people about the reason for not intervening to end the infighting that has been ongoing in Somalia for 15 years.

Al-Libi urges the "mujahidin" in Somalia not to differentiate between enemies, saying that there is no difference between "Abyssinian Ethiopians, Christian Americans, pagan Africans, or apostate Somalis." He asks the "mujahidin" in Somalia to act strictly and toughly about this issue, or_else their "jihad" will go in vain, as he put it. Al-Libi cites Prophet Muhammad as a good example because he fought his people and relatives for the sake of Islam.

Al-Libi later warns the "mujahidin" in Somalia against listening to voices that try to dissuade them from fighting after the withdrawal of the "occupation forces" from Somalia, on the pretext that fighting the Somali Government then will lead to civil war and more bloodshed.

He asks the "Somali mujahidin" to base their reasons for fighting and allegiance on faith. He says: "Our allegiance is not dependent on land, homeland, blood, money, or kinship. It is based on pure monotheism that makes strangers brothers and brothers strangers." He continues to say: "Believers are

close brothers, even if they are strangers, and disbelievers are sworn enemies, even if they are close relatives." He warns that any misunderstanding of this concept will lead to grave consequences.

Al-Libi then warns the "mujahidin" against putting the fate of jihad in the hands of people who have never gone to jihad or know the true meaning of jihad, stressing that they will fail when they come to face their first obstacle, might fall to the first temptation that comes their way, or abandon it at the first sign of difficulty or trouble.

He goes on to say that running the affairs of jihad should be in the hands of sincere men, who are known among their brothers of their firmness and good efforts.

He then says that the departure of "the Ethiopian occupation forces" from Somalia and replacing them with forces belonging to the African Union, the United Nations, or other regional and international organizations under any title, such as peacekeeping forces, will not change the fact that they will still be considered enemy forces that entered an Islamic country; therefore, the people should go to jihad against them.

He adds that all these "conspiracies, names, and slogans" are in fact an attempt to replace "an occupation with another occupation" under the umbrella of known organizations to justify it.

He then says that the Muslims and mujahidin should not recognize such organizations because they are "infidel organizations that fight God, his messenger, and the believers. Their religion is different from ours." He adds that among these organizations is the United Nations, which is not concerned for our security, peace, or safety.

He addresses the "mujahidin" in Somalia, advising them to "prepare yourselves to fight any force that treads on your land," regardless of its identity and the claims and justifications under which it enters, exactly as they would fight the Ethiopian forces and those who support their occupation. He stresses that the mujahidin and the faithful honest tribes that support them are the ones who have the say in this country. He explains that unless the decision is taken by the "mujahidin" and according to their "independent views", then it has no meaning, bearing, value, or respect, advising them to "brush it aside" and not to heed it, even if it was praised by others.

He says that this is the path they should hold on to and fight ferociously to preserve, similar to their leaders, topmost "martyr hero Adam Ero, who showed them how heroes should die." He stresses that the death of Adam Ero will not affect the march of jihad, just as it was not affected by the death of other leaders such as Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi in Iraq and Abu-Ibrahim Mustafa in Algeria, among others.

He advises them to obey God and the Prophet because if they do so, they will be blessed and victorious, and God will defend them. He also advises them "not to accept anything less than an independent Islamic state that does not recognize international legitimacy and earthly laws," and does not seek help from the east or the west. He stresses that their lives and allegiance should be to God Almighty and not to the United Nations, or the international legitimacy, or any other faithless regimes. He warns them that if they concede any of their constants, then they waste their efforts and "betray" the blood and "sacrifices" of their brothers. He stresses that there is no way to save the country and liberate people except through jihad, even if some "misguided" people think otherwise.

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