



Army of Islam: Statement on Muhammad Shawqi Mahmoud

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Army of Islam: “Statement and clarification in response to the Austrian charges against brother Muhammad Shawqi apprehended in Josefstadt prison – Vienna”



[This transcript was obtained by NEFA investigators and is being provided for educational and informational purposes only. In March 2008, Muhammad Shawqi Mahmoud was sentenced to four years in prison in Austria for belonging to a terrorist organization. Mahmoud, a central figure in the Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF), was involved in producing a March 2007 GIMF video that threatened Austria and Germany if the countries did not withdraw their troops from Afghanistan. That same month, BBC reporter Alan Johnston was kidnapped in Gaza; the Army of Islam subsequently issued a videotaped claim of responsibility for the operation. During the February 2009 Canadian trial of Mahmoud’s GIMF co-conspirator, Said Namouh, prosecutors revealed that Mahmoud and Namouh “played a major role for the GIMF in the editing” of that Army of Islam video. In April 2008, Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Islamic Maghreb attempted to secure the release of Mahmoud and his wife by offering to free Austrian hostages.]

“Peace will be upon him who follows the guidance”

“To proceed we have been informed of some of the accusations presented by the committee of the general attorney in the Austrian courts against brother Muhammad Shawqi Mahmoud who is apprehended in Josefstadt prison in the Austrian capital, Vienna, and was accused of several charges some of them have to do with us. We would like, in the Army of Islam, to draw attention to some issues related to this sarcastic trial and unjust accusations, as support to the truth and to one of the oppressed Muslims:”

“First: as a matter of fact, the Austrian courts are prosecuting Islam itself not a Muslim individual. It’s well known, to everyone who is aware of the course of the trial events and its news, the range of racism that distinguished this court in dealing with the brother as a Muslim not as convicted.”

“Second: the West always chants over the principle of freedom and democracy, at the same time it prevents the brother’s spouse to



Muhammad Shawqi Mahmoud and his wife

wear the veil inside the courtroom, which is her religious attire and removing her out of the courtroom if she doesn't remove her veil, at the same time, the trial witnesses were covering their faces for personal security. This is a blunt evidence of the disrespect that these courts show against the religion of Islam."

"Third: the court tried to magnify the brother's case and present it as a security issue and that it prevented an imminent security threat of taking place. In fact, all of that was nothing but a baseless mirage of the media."



March 2007 GIMF video

"Fourth: the court accused brother Muhammad Shawqi Mahmoud, who is still in its custody, of plotting to kidnap the British reporter Alan Johnston in Gaza strip. We are unaware of how this plotting took place from a man who is settling in Austria and has never been to Gaza and probably never visited an Arab state for several years."

"Fifth: Austria is prosecuting brother Muhammad Shawqi Mahmoud and accusing him of plotting to abduct a reporter in Gaza strip whom is not Austrian neither on their territories. At the mean time their soldiers are killing Muslims in Afghanistan. Under what kind of reasoning is that judgment?"

"Sixth: we assure that brother Muhammad Shawqi Mahmoud has no ties to the Army or any part in capturing the British reporter Alan Johnston by any way, shape or form. He has no relation to or knowledge of this operation, and these accusations directed to him are nothing of the truth, and basically pure falsehood."

"Seventh: brother Muhammad Shawqi Mahmoud made contact through private inbox inside a certain forum on the internet showing the desire of one of the Austrian reporters to know some news about the imprisoned British reporter, therefore he was a mediator between The Army of Islam and the Austrian reporter. His role was limited to that only, nothing else. The brother has advised us several times not to attempt to hurt the reporter. That was his personal point of view in which he saw benefit to all parts."

"Eighth: we request the Austrian government to release the brother as soon as possible and compensate him and his spouse financially and morally, and present all of those who caused his spouse' miscarriage, which was a result of the harsh treatment of the Austrian police against her, to trial."

"Ninth: Brother Muhammad Shawqi Mahmoud has the right to use this statement before all Austrian courts without exception as evidence to his innocence from the charges directed to him falsely and unjustly, particularly in concern of plotting to kidnap the British reporter Allen Johnson and in concern of joining the Army of Islam group in Gaza strip."

Peace will be upon him who follows the guidance

Army of Islam – General Command
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