



**“The Truth About What Happens Behind the Bars” –  
Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Liby  
August/September 2006**

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By Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Liby  
Dated August/September 2006**



*[This document is a transcript of an Arabic-language communiqué obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English by cEIFIT LTD. This transcript is provided for educational and informational purposes only. Al-Somood is a monthly Islamic magazine published by the Taliban’s media center. Al-Liby, who was being held by the U.S. government, escaped from Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan in July 2005. Dell Dailey, the State Department’s Coordinator for Counterterrorism, has said that “Abu Yahya is a senior Al-Qaida member, a top strategist for the group, and trusted and presented as one of the group’s most effective promoters of jihad.”]*

“At the first period of time since the American Christians began their...campaign against the Mujahidin, there were a number of major issues and important pieces of...information that investigators in the American intelligence bureaus raised to the top of their lists and their first concern, when capturing any new individual: according to his condition, the place of his arrest, the date of his arrest, the country to which he belongs, his connections to the issues of jihad, his knowledge about them, and how much he follows them. The important point about which the investigators focus can be summarized:”

- 1) “Is there any information about new operations that the Mujahidin are preparing for against American interests – whether inside America or outside of it, or against any country which has firm connections with their country – especially countries which honestly declared standing beside them (the Americans) and supporting them in their war against the Mujahidin.”
- 2) “Where Sheikh Osama Bin Laden, Doctor Ayman Al-Zawahiri and other leaders are hiding – of the Mujahidin in general and of the Al-Qaeda organization in particular. This, especially in light of the emergence of several leaders of the Al-Qaeda organization in particular and leaders of the Mujahidin in general, and after the emergence of new field leaders – whether in Iraq, such as Sheikh Abu Musaab Al-Zarqawi, or in Afghanistan such as Sheikh Abu Al-Laith (Al Libi) and Abd Al-Hadi Al-Iraqi. But this issue went even further into countries in which there is a fighting front which has no connection to close-security, nor to far-security, such as Chechnya – this question usually relates to Arab prisoners or those who had long time connections with them.”
- 3) “Where are the Amir of the leaders, Mullah Mohammad Omar; Sheikh Jalal Al-din Khakani; his son Siraj; Khakantiar, and other Taliban leaders such as Mullah DadAllah hiding? This question is usually addressed to Afghan prisoners in a ‘concentrated’ fashion.”
- 4) “What are the sources of the funds of the Mujahidin? From where do they get financial support in order to carry on with their military actions? What are the parties which stand behind this - whether people, organizations, institutions or countries?”

- 5) “The places and areas in which the Mujahidin settle, their bases which they use in their trainings and from which they go out, and the ways through which they move and transfer.”

“These five points are the main axis around which the interrogation revolves and about which the questions are asked repeatedly in different forms. During the first period of arrest this can last a whole year. This does not mean that the entire interrogation is limited only to that. It simply means that the information that the prisoner is required to state willingly or unwillingly is almost infinite and comes constantly, especially after they (the Americans) establish the rank of the prisoner, how close or far he is from the issues of Jihad, and after they receive information which they gather here and there. Now, the points which we stated can be regarded as a common denominator and as a focal point of which most prisoners are questioned, according to their status.”



“Anyway, all the affairs of investigations and questioning regarding to the prisoner can be divided into two periods:”

“The first period – in it there are pure intelligence questions, meaning that the first and greatest concern is about getting detailed and quick information by which they can take military actions which they may suffer, or at least to take the necessary security measures to reduce their casualties. This, while still concentrating on the rest of the points which we stated, which can provide them with the hiding place of any of the leaders of the Mujahidin and provide them with the strive to capture and arrest him. Throughout this period they do not really care if the person admits or states that he really belongs to the Al-Qaeda organization or to the Taliban, but only of the fact that by admitting this, he may turn in their eyes to a person who holds important information which will benefit them in dealing with the issues which trouble them. Moreover, they do not hesitate to use the meanest and ugliest ways which will extract the information from the prisoner.”

“The second period – if the prisoner had spent a long period of time in prison, and most of the urgent and important information which he had had been extracted, or if it (the information) became less very valuable because it refers to a limited period of time after which the circumstances had changed and (the value of) having it had become the same as not having it from a point of view – he (the prisoner) moves to the second period in which they concentrate on proving the accusations against the prisoner, such as: belonging to the Al-Qaeda organization; having connections with its members; training in its camps; meeting with Sheikh Osama or informing him or one of the leaders of Al-Qaeda or Taliban; having prepared actions against American interests; knowing about them, even without taking part in them; following a different Jihad organization, which was classified by them in a list of terrorist organizations; being a part of the Mujahidin even if you didn't belong to a specific Jihad group; being trained with some weapons, including explosives and poisons; visiting Afghanistan at the times of the Emirate of the Taliban; if you gave shelter or was visited by Mujahidin; if you entered into an armed fight with the American forces or their collaborators in one of the battlefields such as Afghanistan or Iraq. The investigation in this period of time is lax and ways to bring about confessions from the prisoner are implemented, while striving that he confess his full guilt on his own accord and own free-will without forcing it, but with conversation, discussion, coercion, informatics, deceit and fraud, and even by giving different types of foods. This is because his issue at this stage is about preparing him and making him ready to be brought to trial, and thus he must confess his guilt on his own accord so that they will not be surprised in court when the prisoner denies that

accusation and says that it (the confession) was taken from him forcibly. When the issue is over and is included in the accusations against the prisoner brother, it is given to him to sign it. I intended to keep on writing more about this issue, especially with regards to the issues of morale among the prisoners which we were with, and the psychologies of the American soldiers – as we lived with them and got to know them well – and other aspects of it that I've seen or that other brothers reminded me later; but I disregarded (these issues) in these small papers (in which he wrote), and settled for reporting what I remembered (and) thought well of abbreviation, because I have seen that these papers may come later than their proper time – If they haven't come late (already) – in a way that the issue might lose its importance. Maybe another opportunity will arrive to write about it, in a different way which will suit it, and treat its details and elaborateness with justice to its importance and to comply with the need for it. Allah will guide to what is right, and to him is the return."

"Oh God, the leader of the righteous and of the believers, bring this nation to the right senses with which the people who obey you will act along, and the people who disobey you will be humiliated. Let it be ordered about the good and denied of the evil."

"Oh God, haste the liberation of your imprisoned and defeated servants!"

"Oh God, give them patience, bring your presence upon them, make their outcomes better in all affairs, for you hear and know everything. Pray for your prophet and his family, companions and followers to the judgment day."