



Al-Somood Interview of the Taliban's Military Commander – Kandahar District July 2007

Al-Somood Interview of Almullah Akhthar Muhammad Mansur: The Taliban's Military Commander – Kandahar District Dated July 2007



[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. For more on the Taliban, see the NEFA Special Report: "The Evolution of the Taliban in Pakistan during the February-May 2008 Period: The Peace Accord Era", <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/nefatalibanpakfebmay08.pdf>.]

"To our dear readers! As part of a series of interviews with jihad leaders, Al-Somood presents an interview with the general commander of Kandahar district, the brother Almullah Akhthar Muhammad Mansur. The interview was made by Al-Somood reporter and it concerns the status of jihad and jihad warriors and the last developments of jihad in Qandahar."

"Information about Mansur: Almullah Akhthar Muhammad Mansur Bin Muhammad Jan was born 40 years ago in the Bend Timor* village in Miund, Qandahar. He studied the religion in junior school in his village and continued studying it in Dar Alhijra in Pakistan, in schools of immigrates. He committed jihad against the Russians and this prevented him from finishing his studies. He participated in operational activity and fought against the Russians with his brothers the jihad warriors. He had a few positions under the rule of the Islamic emirate, among them: commander of the air forces and aerial defense in Kandahar, the general commander of the military airport 'shin dend', minister of tourism and civilian aviation and general commander of air forces and aerial defense of Afghanistan. He was captured by the criminals after the fall of Mazar Sharif and after the departure of the communist general Abd Almalik, and he was released after a whole year."

"After the Islamic emirates came to an end, he started to fight again against the crusaders in Kandahar. He was appointed by the highest leadership to be a general military commander of the jihad warriors in Kandahar, and he still is. We ask God to grant him with what he wants."

Q) "We would like you to tell our readers what you know about the crusader soldiers in Kandahar."

A) " In the name of God, as you all know, Kandahar was the headquarters of the Islamic emirate and then it had the greatest jihad front against the Americans and because of this the crusade forces intensify their presence there. I don't know the exact number of soldiers there, but Kandahar airport is their biggest military base in the southern-west, as in Zabul, Urzajan, Helmand and Farrah. In addition there are other bases in Kandahar – in Benjuay, Miund, Dend and Daman."

Q) "What are you fighting methods against the crusaders?"

A) “It changes according to the land – if the land allows a long face to face confrontation like Miund and Benjuay and Shah Wali Kut – we do this because the area is under the jihad warriors’ control and they can stay and hide there for a long time. Where the land doesn’t allow this, we fight like gangs, with suicide attacks. Most of our operations in Kandahar are explosives with a long distance remote control. Those are the most effective ones because only the enemy gets hit and the jihad warriors are not harm. Another type is the ambushes especially in Bashmul and Sanj Hissar which are located on the main road between Herat and Qandahar.”

Q) “In what areas do the jihad warriors have full control?”

A) “Kandahar – except some centers of the administration. They have full control of Mianshin, Ghurk, Shurauk and Rajastan and most of Shah Wali Kut and Maruf.”

Q) “What is the number of the jihad warriors who are fighting the crusaders under their leadership?”

A) “In practice, there are 3,500 jihad warriors in Kandahar who are fighting the crusaders. However, the number of the jihad warriors is much greater than this, but we have armed a limited number among us with weapons and supplies. In the times of necessity this number will be raised easily, because all of the men and the youth in the county carry the spirit of jihad and of sacrifice against the enemy.”

Q) “What are the most outstanding victories of the jihad warriors this year in the county of Qandahar?”

A) “The jihad warriors have succeeded this year, with the kindness of Allah, may he be raised, in getting great victories, among them is opening the mentioned above counties, and besides that, all of the jihad warriors have determined the offensive, so they attacked the enemy in every place after the enemy has attacked them in every place.”

“In the past, the fighting zone has been far from the cities, and now the enemy places as targets the cities and the Canadian crusaders in the ends of the city during their patrols via placing ambushes and spreading mines for their tanks and APCs. All of that is now done easily, whereas it has been impossible in the past years.”

Q) “Since Kandahar was the headquarters of the Islamic emirate’s leadership, is there now any Jihadic initiative among the Kandahar jihad warriors in their jihad against the crusaders?”

A) “Yes, why not?”

“The residents of this county are proud that their county is the headquarters of the Islamic emirate’s leadership to the world’s Muslims, and due to that, the initiative of jihad against the invasion is from this county. Likewise, the beginning of the terrorist attacks had also been from this county, so the jihad warrior Abd Al-Rahman has made the first terrorist attack against the collaborator Karzai and his American guards, which has resulted in the killing of one of the Americans and to the injury of Qandahar’s governor Jul Aga at that time.”

“In addition, one of the rarest jihadist attacks in which Kandahar has excelled is the offense of one of the teenagers in the year 2004 on one of the Canadian officers, when he hit him on his head with an axe and killed him. Afterwards, he sacrificed himself also with the fire of the other soldiers who were found in the council. All of this proves the great hatred of the residents of Kandahar towards the invasion of the occupiers. Therefore, the crusaders warn the residents of Kandahar to move away, and also have warned them from the armed jihad warriors. That’s what has driven the Americans to leave the roads and the streets in which the people pass because of fear of terrorist attacks, so they pass with their transport means in unknown roads which are vacant from

people, or between the farms and the gardens, or they take the deserts as a road, out of fear of the residents of Qandahar.”

Q) “What is the truth of the Americans’ claims about killing tens or hundreds of jihad warriors in the wars which take place between them and between the jihad warriors in the different county’s areas?”

A) “There is no doubt that the war brings blood and body remnants, because the fuel of the war, the fatal weapons that are used by the crusaders, the great aerial explosion, being aided by new surveillance means and using ammunition which is a hundred times weaker than the ammunition of the jihad warriors, there is no doubt that they have an effect on the killing and injuring, but they are tens of times weaker than what the crusaders announce in the media that they control in the world.”

“If (there were) centuries (in which) using destruction means from their side was a loss to the souls of the jihad warriors, then the loss of the jihad warriors would be much smaller than what the enemy claims it to be.”

Q) “The Americans and their allies argued at the beginning of the year that from now they will place as their targets the leaders of the jihad warriors in particular and that they see the death of the mullah Ahtar Muhammad Uthmani and mullah Dad Allah as the result of this new strategy. What’s the criticism on this claim?”

A) “These are only claims that are blown by the crusaders in order to raise the moral of their soldiers. The truth is that the enemy hasn’t found an opportunity to implement the new plans due to the strength of the offensive activities of the jihad warriors against him at every place. The jihad warriors have succeeded the last year in broadening the circle of war and in transferring the war from the villages to the cities which are governed by the enemy. As a result of these offensive activities, most of the members of the NATO alliance refused to send more of their soldiers to Afghanistan, but there are disagreements between them regarding which state will save their soldiers in safe counties, and they don’t agree to send them to the war areas and some of the states require not to include their soldiers in the war at all.”

“Britain has hastened, out of fear of the jihad warriors, (to sign) a cease-fire agreement in some of the areas in Halmund. Likewise, it has withdrawn from the other counties, which has caused disagreements between it and America. As a response to these defeats, the crusader forces started randomly bombing the villages and the non-municipal areas in order to kill hundreds of innocent people from the residents of the area. All of this proves the slipping of matters off the crusaders’ hands and the confusion in making a decision; then how will they be able to implement the new plans?”

Q) “In these days it can be seen that the crusaders, besides the military activity, are also planning a couple of political initiatives for the disruption of the activities of the jihad warriors, such as an intensive activity to conduct a conference of the presidents of the Peshtunian tribes which border on Pakistan and Afghanistan, under an American patronage, in one of the two countries, and likewise the last ‘Rome’ summit to look for ways to implement the laws that was carried out by Italy with the cooperation of other European states. How do you see these efforts?”

A) “All the efforts resemble the movements of a group that expects to be rescued in everything it’s sticking to, and all the efforts prove the enemy’s defeat in the battlefield; the Russians have been acting in this manner in their last days, when they were convinced in their defeat in the battlefield.”

“Moreover, of all of these activities have been held outside of the borders of Afghanistan, in atmospheres that are far from reality, starting with the ‘Bonn’ summit in Germany and ending

with the 'Rome' summit in Italy, because they haven't been able to supply a safe atmosphere and safe requirements to hold such summits (in Afghanistan)."

"Because it (the summit) is held by the foreigners, and in the land of the foreigners and for the interests of the foreigners, there's no need for it to have any positive and realistic results in Afghanistan."

"The summit of the presidents of the tribes isn't different from these summits, because it's another stage of the effort to hide the defeat and to reproach the tribes. The senior members in the government of collaborators have admitted before the (senior members of other governments) to the failure of this summit before it had even been held. But the collaborator 'Karzai' has insisted that it would take place, not for his benefit, but because he himself had told the Americans (to hold the summit) and now it has to be held."

"There's no-one who calls the border tribes (to hold) a summit between themselves, because the war is inside Afghanistan and the summits are planned to take place outside of the country or on its borders."

"Moreover, the Pashtunian tribes behind the Durand line are Muslim tribes who have an honorable history of jihad and sacrifice against the English and the Russians, and today they carry weapons against the crusaders and their traitor collaborators, and that's out of imposing their belief on them. We cherish them for the sacrifices and the braveries and we thank them for that."

Q) "What's your message to the people of the Islamic nation?"

A) "My message to them is that they won't leave the jihad because it's the way of power and the return to the glory, and that they won't be deceived by the propaganda of the enemies and the hypocrites, and that they'll help the jihad warriors as much as they can, even with a loyal and wholeheartedly prayer. Moreover, I want them to be convinced of the victory of Islam and the result is for the religious people."

AI-Somood: "May you leave in peace and have the mercy and the blessings of God."