



Usama Bin Laden: "Message to the Islamic Nation on 60th Anniversary of Israel"

May 18, 2008

Transcript of Usama Bin Laden Audio Recording Produced by the As-Sahab Media Foundation: "A Message to the Islamic Nation." Released May 18, 2008



[This document is a transcript of an Arabic-language audio recording obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English by ceifIT LTD on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch subscription service. This transcript is provided for educational and informational purposes only. The As-Sahab Media Foundation is the official propaganda arm of Al-Qaida and is the exclusive source of audio and video recordings of Bin Laden, Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, and other high-ranking Al-Qaida leaders in South Asia.]

"In the name of Allah the Compassionate and Merciful:

"Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds, and prayers and peace be unto our prophet Mohammed, and his family and followers. My dear Muslim nation, peace be unto you, and the mercy of Allah and his blessings. The celebration of the Jews, along with the participation of international leaders, marking the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Zionist entity in the occupied land of Palestine confirms clearly that the values of justice, freedom, and human rights are nothing but hollow slogans which are put forward in order to deceive the foolish. Behind them lurks the truth of the prevailing law of this era, which is the law of the jungle—the law where the strong eats the weak. This is the law of wild animals—if you are not a wolf, then the wolves shall eat you. Only the strong will survive and the weak are easily humiliated. There is no place for a man of truth if he is weak, for power is solely in the hands of the strong, even if they are liars."

"My Muslim nation, nine decades have passed since Palestine fell into the hands of the Christians and later the Jews. Even if those who were alive when Palestine was stolen were content with what had transpired, and the same with all the kings and presidents who have sacrificed Palestine and the Al-Aqsa [Mosque] in order to preserve their regimes (which has been proven by facts and documents). And even if many clerics have flattered the rulers and supported them, so that they might secure their ranks and titles at institutes and universities—while they claim that their position is the most beneficial for the purposes of Islamic missionary work. And if all these masters and lords have surrendered the entire issue of Palestine, then we are still not free of our responsibility before Allah. It is tied to our necks and the lord of the Kaaba. Every single one of us is individually responsible for the deaths of our suffering people in Gaza. Scores of people have died on account of this unjust siege. It is very clear what our brothers, the heroes of Egypt, must do in order to lift that siege, since they are the only ones on the borders [of Gaza]. They should move towards lifting this siege and bringing down this haughty, cruel tyrant [Hosni Mubarak], who has a heart of stone and is the murderer of the children of Gaza. [He is] no different than Pharaoh and Haman, who killed the children of the



Israelites in the past, may he and his supporters receive what they deserve from Allah. In order for us to correct these failures which have blocked the liberation of Palestine in past decades, the current generation must learn the reasons for these failures and contemplate them, in order to learn the underlying lesson. I will join in this along with you, and remind you of some of the violations so that they might be repaired.”

“First of all, the nation was never destroyed in the past by the scarcity of faithful men, willing to volunteer and fight to reclaim Palestine. Rather, it was destroyed because its great majority was unaware of the new political order which was established following the downfall of the Ottoman Empire. Since then, the power in this region has been concentrated in the hands of the Christians, who posted their agents in our countries. And the Islamic nation came to believe that these representatives were its legitimate rulers, who are struggling on its behalf, who will fight its enemies, and who should be feared. Thus, the people were reassured, and believed that these rulers would fulfill their duties—the most important of which is the liberation of Palestine. They entrusted the issue to [their rulers], and believing themselves to be safe, all caution was set aside.”

“At this point, I would like to give an example to help summarize and clarify the state of the Islamic nation. It is like a flock of sheep scattered in the meadow, whose shepherd pays no attention to them, but is still supposed to protect them from the wolves. And his enemies have gathered and killed him, substituting him with our enemies and even wolves from our own kin, and they have ravaged the sheep. Each day, the sheep in the flock hope that the wolves will stop killing them, but their prayers go unanswered. Can any rational person fail to see how they are misguided in hoping for this? This is our own state of affairs. The Ottoman Empire, regardless of its many faults, was protecting the nation from the Christian wolves of the West. Then, Britain made an agreement with Arab leaders—chief among them, Sharif al-Hussein and his sons, and King Abdelaziz al-Saud. They agreed with [Britain] to fight and destroy the Ottoman Empire, and that is what came to pass. Then, Britain installed its agent rulers in order to execute her policies and protect her interests at our expense. It would be foolish to think that the agents of the Christian-Zionist treaty will ever cease fighting our religion and plundering our riches. They are like the wolves, which never stop killing the sheep. If he who tends after sheep in the meadow neglects them, then the lion shall consume them—just as, indeed, the Islamic nation today is being destroyed because it has not fulfilled its duty to confront the agents of the Christians and rid themselves of the danger that they pose.”

“As many of the righteous citizens of the Islamic nation have gradually learned that the rulers of their countries have submitted to America, they have begun to detest them and have turned away from them. They have joined Islamic organizations, which call for introducing Islam, reinstating the Caliphate, and liberating Palestine. The truth is that the leaders of these organizations found themselves to be in a very difficult situation, and the rulers did not give them time to proceed on their righteous mission. Instead, they have intensified pressure upon them, and offered them a choice of either abandoning the path of Islamic law enabling them to eventually establish an Islamic state—namely, jihad in the cause of Allah—or else facing torture and death. They chose the first option, and abandoned the jihad in the cause of Allah, referring to the battle of the mujahideen against the oppressors as ‘violence’ and denouncing it, along with the mujahideen themselves. And there is no power and no strength save in Allah. The purpose of their actions was to subdue those who wanted to escape the power of the ruler, and they have placed them once again under the domain and the power of the ruler. The acknowledgement of his Islamic legitimacy... is a lie and a falsehood. Thus, many of the righteous people of our nation are still imprisoned within a vicious circle, in which the Islamic nation became ensnared ninety years ago.”

“My Islamic nation, it is time for you to escape this labyrinth. It is difficult for you to bear your wounds, and your troubles are overburdening you. You have been made to submit to every stubborn tyrant. But now it is time for you to renounce the Arab and non-Arab oppressors, from Indonesia to Mauritania. The path to glory and respect, victory and success, and the liberation of Palestine has been clearly laid out by the religion of Allah the Exalted. The courageous leader

Salahudeen al-Ayyubi committed himself to this same path—and by comparing some of his actions with those of the Arab leaders in recent decades, then the path to liberating Palestine shall be revealed to us, Allah permitting.”

“1.) Salahudeen committed himself to the teachings of Islam and read the words of Allah the Exalted... and he was convinced that the only way to restrain the power of the infidels was to fight in the cause of Allah. As for the Arab leaders, they have turned away from the teachings of Islam and instead have studied the teachings of America. They have learned that these teachings intend to erase the verses of death and jihad from the curriculum, and to unanimously promote surrender in the name of peace with the Zionist entity as their best strategic option. O’, what evil they have wrought!”

“2.) Salahudeen used to associate with Islamic clerics, and continued to study even on the battlefields of jihad in order to use the knowledge, and he helped [the clerics] to incite the Islamic nation in favor of jihad against the Christians. As for the Arab leaders, they have arrested the leading clerics in order to silence them, and any of them that still refused were thrown in prison. Then, they opened a system of re-educating evil clerics in order to deter the youth of coming generations from fighting United States and her agents, to slander the mujahideen, and to make false affirmations regarding the legitimacy of the agent rulers.”

“3.) Salahudeen fought against the local chiefs and their followers who stood side by side with the Christians against the Muslims. And if they had said ‘There is no god but Allah’, then he would have known that they were demeaning this great phrase by uttering it. As for the Arab leaders, they stand under the majestic banner of the cross, under the leadership of Bush, and fight against Islam and its people under the cover of a so-called ‘war on terrorism.’ This is an obvious act of apostasy, and if the mujahideen were to fight against them, they would probably jeer, ‘you infidel fanatics.’”

“4.) Salahudeen used to accept young people who volunteered for jihad, and did not wait for the approval of King Richard of Britain, or his agent, as a pre-condition before waging a jihad against them—whereas, the Grand Mufti and a group of official and semi-official clerics in Saudi Arabia, led by the former Awakening Shaykh, have required those desiring to fight against the Americans to first seek permission from the American agent in Riyadh! ...As for Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood General Guide requires the approval of Bush’s agent in Cairo [Hosni Mubarak] to send 10,000 men in order to fight the Jews! What kind of contempt for the intelligence of the youth is this? In Lebanon, [Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan] Nasrallah says that he does not want money, because he claims to have plenty of money. And he claims that he doesn’t need men because he has enough of them, too. But, the truth is actually the reverse—for if he was being honest in having sufficient men and material, then why hasn’t he continued fighting to liberate Palestine and liberate our people there from the hands of the Jews? On the contrary, he has welcomed the Christian forces that have come to protect the Jews. The truth was revealed by the former Secretary General of Hezbollah Subhi al-Tufaili, who said, ‘Kofi Annan came to Lebanon and met the leaders of Hezbollah in order to certify the agreement between the Hezbollah and the Zionist entity’—and this was the reason for his refusal to accept mujahideen volunteers. It might have interfered with their signed agreements.”

“Thus, the differences are clear between the path adopted by Salahudeen al-Ayyubi in fighting the infidels in order to restrain their power, and the path of America followed by contemporary Arab leaders, which calls upon us to surrender to our enemies. Furthermore, the path of the clerics, organizations, and factions which roam in the circles of the regimes has become clear—and this is a clear deviation from the righteous path. Even if some of them tout the slogan ‘Islam is the solution’, do not be deceived, because their acknowledgement of the legitimacy of the tyrannical rulers contradicts their own slogans. They are akin to a person during the early period

of Islam who might proclaim, 'Islam is the solution', all while the leaders of Quraysh were still in power, and while he was still bound by secular laws laid down by local authorities."

"Can any Muslim in his right mind doubt that they have sharply deviated from the path of righteousness?! When I describe the Islamic organizations in such a blunt manner, it is only out of loyalty and to offer guidance to the nation, and born from my desire to warn them not to stray from their course... False flattery—aside from being a sin—only encourages others to take the wrong path, in the mistaken belief that they are supporting the religion. Whereas, supporting the religion of Allah should only be accomplished by following his laws—and not by following modern, un-Islamic inventions which the innovators have introduced into Allah's religion. These flatterers will never liberate al-Aqsa [Mosque] and they will never reclaim Jerusalem."

"Nay, those who shall liberate her are the young men who believe in their Lord, who continues to guide them to the righteous path. Young men for whom the priority of al-Walaa al-Baraa [loyalty to Muslims above all others] comes before [loyalty to] kings and princes. Young men who do not wait for the permission of their leaders if they refrain from action, and do not seek counsel from the Lords if they are corrupted. Young men whose source of instruction is not the laws of the United Nations, nor so-called 'international legitimacy', nor the oppressors of the West and the East, nor the clerics and leaders of organizations that hide in their shadow. Their source of instruction is not the political analyses of the biased media, which has strayed from the laws of Allah and mocked the slogans of our religion under the pretense of humor, which has spread atheism under the pretense of freedom of expression, and which has endeavored to defame the mujahideen and cause people to abandon them. The source of instruction for these young men is the book of Allah the Exalted, and the tradition of our Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him mercy. And if a tree or a stone shall call to them, 'O, Muslim! O, servant of Allah! There is a Jew behind me, so come here and kill him', they would zoom over like a meteor and cut the necks of our enemies. They prefer death to seeking permission from a tyrant or his allies to implement the laws of Allah and his Messenger, peace and blessings upon him."

"In conclusion, I would say that the path towards liberating Palestine is clear and obvious theoretically—but when the matter is approached in practice, then a conflict arises. It is well-known that the only way to reach Palestine is to fight the governments and factions that surround the Jews, for they stand between us and them. At the same time, many people will cry out, and ask, 'how can you kill people who say, there is no god but Allah?' If these people had been in power and authority during the era of Salahudeen and afterwards, they would have stood between him and the practical measures needed to liberate Jerusalem, and the al-Aqsa [Mosque] would have remained captive for ten centuries. These people are confused on several issues, including that they are ignorant of their own religion. The Sahaba [the companions of Mohammed], may Allah be pleased with them, agreed unanimously to fight against those who refused to pay Zakat, even if they were proclaiming 'there is no god but Allah', and paying homage to the other chief elements of Islam. So, what is to be done with rulers who have replaced Islam with secular laws, and who are fighting side-by-side with the crusaders against the Muslims?!"

"Another possibility is that they are too cowardly to fight the enemy, and their will has weakened so much that they are unable to bear the costs and difficulties of jihad, such as departing from one's homeland and leaving behind family and friends. Or, perhaps they simply don't understand, for these leaders do not rule according to the Quran, and they rose to power either through coup d'etat or with the help of an armed force from outside. Imagine for such people to then order us not to take up arms! I say, only those of paltry valor and deviants from their religion would lay down their weapons willingly... The weapons [are] in the hands of the faithful, may Allah be pleased with them..."

"O' Muslim youth of this generation! There is no solution but jihad in the cause of Allah in order to liberate Palestine and al-Aqsa [Mosque], and reclaim the Caliphate of the righteous path, Allah willing. So, rush towards the battlefields of Jihad, and in particular, those which are closest to

Palestine. I assure you that the Zionist entity reigning over the land of Palestine is a very fragile entity, and has many weak points. And they [the Israelis] obviously know that their state lacks the essential elements to survive in the heart of a great Muslim ocean without the aid and support of the West and its local agents who rule over the area. This is the most important reason for their continued survival, in addition to the fact that they have never faced a serious battle for the liberation of Palestine.”

“Some people might say, ‘the Arabs have launched several wars against the Jews, and Palestine was not recovered.’ I would reply, he who observes the true reality of these conflicts will certainly know that neither one of these wars was serious in aspiring for the cause of liberating Palestine. Not to mention, all these wars lacked the essential means required for their success. It would suffice for us to know that the commander-in-chief of all the Arab armies which participated in the first war, sixty years ago—the so-called ‘1948 War’—was a British officer named Glubb. So can anyone in his right mind believe that the Arabs were serious about recovering Palestine? After all, it was Britain which handed over Palestine to the Jews and it was [Britain] which appointed this officer as the commander of the Jordanian army. This made him the true power behind the throne, while the former King Abdullah bin al-Sharif had nothing for himself but the name and the flag.”

“These wars were nothing but a pretense, and they are a model of treachery. In their immediate wake, a temporary ceasefire was accepted, and then a permanent one. The only war against the Jews in which decent preparations were made was during the 10 Ramadan War [the Yom Kippur War]. However, the main commander of this war was former Egyptian president Anwar al-Sadat, whose concern was to reclaim Sinai by any means necessary—not the liberation of Palestine—and that is exactly what happened. As for the war in southern Lebanon two years ago—in which the Jews suffered heavy losses—if it is set in its proper context, it was merely a war for self-defense, and not a war for the liberation of Palestine. Thus, it is clear that the continued survival of the Zionist entity is not the result of its own strength, but rather because neighboring regimes have abandoned the jihad and struggle against it—not to mention that they help protect its borders on account of its weakness. I assure you that the Zionist entity would not be able to withstand ten percent of the efforts that mujahideen exerted in the past in order to defeat the Russians in Afghanistan, and nor could they bear ten percent of the contemporary mujahideen campaign in Iraq against America and its agents.”

“O’ my Islamic nation, all these efforts are the efforts of your sons, and not efforts of the regimes. So trust in Allah, and then trust in yourself and commit yourself to the path of jihad. Know that the fragility of the Zionist entity alone is not enough the cause its destruction. Even if it is fragile, to shatter a rotting piece of wood, some force must be applied. I hope you will be the force that destroys the Zionist entity, Allah willing. O’ Muslim youth of this generation! Our firm intentions ask me ‘why is there cowardice and frailty?!’ Our lives are already ruled by harmful policies. Meant to discourage our beliefs, and this is the inherent danger. My brother! O’ great power! Jihad against the infidels is your duty. How can you fear death, when death is your paradise? The pillar of religion shall not become stronger by voting and elections. Anything but the sword shall be of no help, I swear. O’ youth of the generation! Finally, we offer praise to Allah, lord of the worlds. O’ Allah, bless our prophet Mohammed, and all his family and followers, and grant them salvation.”