



Audio Statement from Fatah al-Islam's Abu Abdelrahman al-Ghazzawi February 12, 2008

Audio Statement from "Abu Abdelrahman al-Ghazzawi" Commander of Fatah al-Islam in Palestine Released on February 12, 2008



[This document is the edited 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 translation is provided for educational and informational purposes only. The Fatah al-Islam movement was founded in late 2006 by extremist leader Shaker al-Absi in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon—particularly at the Nahr al-Bared camp near the city of Tripoli. In 2007, the Lebanese Army waged a four-month military campaign to evict Fatah al-Islam and its leaders from their primary base in northern Lebanon.]

"...In the name of Allah the Compassionate and Merciful. Praise be to Allah, creator of night and day, who brings the clouds into being and makes the rivers flow, who distinguishes mankind—some are good and some are evil—and who created paradise for the pious and made hell for the infidels... O' nation of Islam! May Allah bear witness that even should the people of Islam abandon their understanding of Islam, and even if the people of the Quran abandon their knowledge of the book, there shall remain a group of people who execute the laws of Allah, who are stationed at the cusp of revelation. Those who oppose them or abandon them will be unable to harm them, and when the command of Allah is presented, they shall carry it out..."

"O' our nation! We cannot exist without you, and we will never speak other than for your benefit—we and you are two souls in one body, and two fibers of the same thread. We will never abandon a nation, which has Allah as its protector. He is the best protector and best supporter. O' Muslims, sons of Khalid, Umar, and Hamza, may Allah be pleased with them: your Lord has called you to arms more than once—and he has explained that, while he can do without you, he has nonetheless [called you] forth in order to test you: 'Go forth light and heavy, and struggle with your wealth and yourselves in the way of Allah; that is good for you, if you only knew' [Surat al-Tawbah 41]... Beware, my nation, of abandoning the jihad or neglecting the duty of fighting... Shaykh al-Islam Ibn al-Taimiyya, may Allah have mercy on him, said, 'The pain can be from Him, and it can be at the hands of the people. Should the people abandon jihad in the cause of Allah, he will afflict them with hatred that shall rise among them, until a civil war shall burst forth (as it is in reality). If the people choose to engage in jihad in the cause of Allah, he will unite their hearts, and will turn their strength against the enemies of Allah and their enemies.'"

"O' our people in the camps of injustice and grief in Nahr al-Bared, in Lebanon, Palestine, and the rest of the Muslim countries, and those who are oppressed everywhere: why is it that the infidels have allied themselves against you and have brought forth their horses and their footmen, and have come at you with all their might from every direction in order to fight you? If the issue is the quantity of weapons, it is Hezbollah which possesses enough men, money, and weapons fit for a state—and so, why did America not fight [Hezbollah], while it trumpets its boasts on its own satellite channel day and night?! Why did they leave them alone and fought us instead? Are we not truly the Sunnis and they the followers of Ibn al-Alqami? Why have our people and our sons been punished and treated like rats, merely because we have united together in order to fight the Jews? We have tried over and over to march towards the south, but the protector of the Jews,

Hezbollah, has blocked our path. May they and their [Iranian] masters perish! What sin have the children and the elderly in the [refugee] camps committed, that they kill their women? Will they blow up the stones for fighting alongside us? Will they kill the livestock for aiding and sheltering us? Have we somehow announced our hatred for Islam and its people, as the Shiites have done, causing Fatah, Hamas, and the Shiites to come together against us? How come they refused to march against the infidel oppressors and the criminal Maronite army when it was killing and wounding Muslims in the Palestinian [refugee] camps? For this reason, our people, we declare to you that we have already learned and understood the Lord's purpose in requiring us to aid you..."

"O' nation of infidels and idols of this age, our war is with you. Every one of you is without honor, and you shall all be crammed together in hell, what a miserable fate. Those who fight with you and those who aid and support you, all of you are guilty of the same sin... And to those who believe in the religion of the infidels, even if they do not admit it; and to those who pursue the lifestyle of the Jews and the Christians, even if they do not admit it; and to those who replaced the law of [Allah] with the law of the Devil, and substituted the law of [Allah] for secular laws: Allah ordered the people of truth among you, 'Fight those who do not believe in Allah, nor in Judgement Day, nor do they forbid what God and His Messenger have forbidden, nor do they practice the religion of truth, from among those who were given the Book, until they pay tribute out of hand, duly humbled.' [Surat Al-Taubah 29] We shall not accept tribute from you, for the rule does not apply to you—but Islam alone is what will protect your blood, and the door of repentance is still open before we conquer you. The people should know that the foundation of our fight is in the message of Allah: 'O' Believers, fight those infidels who live near to you, and let them find harshness in you; and know that Allah is with the god-fearing.' [Surat al-Tawbah 123]"

"Know this, our friends! We are a divine movement, not Eastern and not Western. We do not belong to a Shiite state, nor to a Nusayri state. We do not believe in idols or in democracy, socialism, or secularism. Therefore, we shall commence our war from Palestine along with the Ansar and Muhajireen [emigrants and supporters] in order to unite our lines and to [honor] our slogans about battling the Jews who live near us—a jihad, in which there is no regard for clay and dirt... Ibn Oudama, may Allah have mercy on him, said, 'Every people shall fight an enemy that lives near them... since the closest one is the most harmful...'"

"Ibn Kathir, may Allah have mercy on him, said: 'When Allah said, 'And fight the idolaters completely', he meant 'all of you'—and when he said, 'as they fight you completely', he meant 'all of them', and eventually he added, 'that is, like they unite to fight you when they do, so you should also unite together against them when you fight them—just as they do.' Herein, there are a series of important points regarding obedience to divine commands. The head of the infidels is America, and the infidel nation is the Christians in Europe, Russia, and Iran—the rule shall apply to all of them. If the religion of the infidels is one, then it would be most suitable for the Islamic front to be as one, and—as a united nation—we shall knock on the door of international jihad in the cause of Allah until Allah shall decide that the matter is finished. We shall not be frightened by the power of our enemies, for we have already been promised victory by Allah, and he promised us paradise and he promised that our enemies will suffer great agony at his hands."

"O, dear Shaykh, thankful, pious, and expecting a reward in the hereafter. We shall not say to you, as the Jews said to their prophet: 'Go forth with thy Lord and fight, we shall remain here'—but, rather, we declare to Shaykh Shaker [al-Absi] and Usama [Bin Laden] and Ayman [al-Zawahiri] and Abu Omar [al-Baghdadi]: 'Go forth with the blessing of Allah, go forth with your Lord and fight, and we shall fight with you.' O' sons of Islam, sons of the Gaza Strip, you are our base of support and, on your behalf, we shall ask for help and assistance from Allah. An outstretched hand which is joined with its counterpart shall never be abandoned. We are here for you, and you are here for us. No border or language shall separate us—we share the same Lord, the same religion, and the same enemy. Whoever has Allah on his side shall not be grieved and Allah is the best protector and supporter. Peace be upon you, and the mercy of Allah and his blessings."