



Al-Qaida in Yemen: “From Here We Will Begin and in Al-Aqsa We Shall Meet”

January 2009

“Al-Qaidat al-Jihad Organization in the Arabian Peninsula: From Here We Will Begin and in Al-Aqsa We Shall Meet.”

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[This document is the translation of an Arabic-language video obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English by ceifIT LTD on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch subscription service. On two separate occasions—in March and September 2008—the U.S. Embassy in Sana’a was the target of suicide bombers, killing a total of more than 18 people. On April 8, 2008, the U.S. government ordered non-emergency diplomatic employees to leave the country due to concerns about “possible attacks by extremist individuals or groups against U.S. citizens, facilities, businesses, and perceived interests.”]



Speech of the Secretary-General of the Al-Qaida Organization in Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Abu Sufyan al-Azdi Said al-Shihri (former prisoner no. 372 in Guantanamo Bay):

“Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, helper of the abased, savior of the believers, who frees the distressed from their sorrow. Praise be to Allah, destroyer of the criminal tyrants, and may his hostility be only upon the oppressors. Prayers and peace be upon our lord Mohammed, who commanded his nation to set the miserable free, and upon all his family and companions. To my honorable nation, nation of good and honor, nation of jihad and martyrdom, may Allah reward you handsomely for me and for my brothers, the prisoners in Guantanamo—for the time when you were a blessing to us... when you stood with us and shared our pains, and prayed for us. And we felt its impact upon us in terms of patience and determination; and for the jihad and martyrdom of your



sons in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somali, Chechnya, and other Muslim countries in order to support their religion and in order to free their prisoners. For all of that, may Allah have mercy upon our brothers, no matter where they were killed.”

“We say to our brothers in Saudi Arabia: regarding the ripe fruits that were sacrificed in the shape of the souls of our brothers Muslih al-Shamrani, Abdelaziz al-Muthem, Riyadh al-Hajiri, and Khalid al-Saed—and then were watered with the blood of our brothers Abu Hajer Abdelaziz al-Muqrin, Saleh al-Awfi, Fahd al-Dakhil, Abdelkarim al-Yazji, and their brothers who were killed to support their religion and their imprisoned brothers everywhere. We swear to almighty Allah, of whom there is none other, that nobody shall reap these fruits, which were watered with the blood of our brothers, except for us! We shall walk in their path until we shall establish the State of Islam and the Rightly-Guided Caliphate according to the way of the prophecy—and the establishment of Allah’s law, or else our blood shall mix with theirs.”

“We speak to our beloved Islamic nation in order to explain the true nature of what these treacherous leaders have done with regards to the matter of Cuba—when they cooperated with the Americans in dispatching investigators to Cuba in order to investigate us and extract confessions from us and raise accusations against us. That was the reason for the increase in our torture, and Allah suffices for us and he is the best protector. We assure our leaders and shaykhs—Shaykh Usama Bin Laden, may Allah protect him, and the Shaykh Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri—that by Allah, we are still determined in our commitment and that we are performing jihad. By Allah, our imprisonment has only increased our persistence and adherence to our principles, for the sake of which we set out, fought for, and were imprisoned as a result. Here we are today, O’ Shaykh, after Allah has blessed us with migration to the land of support and jihad, the land of Yemen and faith. We pledge our allegiance to our brother Abu Basir Nasir al-Wahishi, may Allah protect him and guide him well, so that we will serve as a buttress for the jihad to expand from the [Arabian] Peninsula to Palestine, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and all the Muslim countries, in order to defend our lands and that which is sacred to us, so that the religion shall be for Allah alone.”

“...My honorable Islamic nation: your brothers in Gaza are exposed today to the greatest hardships—namely, violence, torture, killing, and exile at the hands of the malicious Zionist Jews within eyesight and earshot of the entire world. The Zionist Jews would not have taken the risk of destroying Gaza without the support of the Christian battleships that roam about in the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea under the protection of the treacherous leaders of the region. So depart, O’ nation of jihad, and do not pay any heed to these treacherous leaders, collaborators with the Jews, who have besieged Palestine for decades, and still hold their siege today out of loyalty to the Jews. Do not pay any heed to their lying clerics who have gone astray, clerics of a million who have sold us out for a very cheap price—just a handful of Dirhams—to the Jews, the Christians, and the [Shiites], and there is no power and no strength save in Allah.”

“O’ people of the [Arabian] Peninsula and sons of Islam: answer the cause of Allah by departing for jihad on his behalf, as Allah the Exalted said... Depart to the land of support and preparation, the land of jihad and martyrdom, Yemen of wisdom and faith—and to Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and other Muslim countries. We say to our sisters who are held captive in the prisons of Saudi Arabia: by almighty Allah of whom there is none other, we shall certainly not abandon you nor shall we abandon our sisters anywhere else. Your words have touched our ears and the letters of your families have reached us—letters which speak of what the collaborators of the Americans are doing in Saudi Arabia, and about the Zionism of the government of [the Saudi royal family], which is embodied by the emergency [government] and the [internal] investigations [system] and other forces which belong to the [Saudi] Interior Ministry, and which were only established to suppress our people in Saudi Arabia and to fill the prisons with the young people of our nation who are zealous for their faith and who now number over 18,000 in prison. This is besides our sisters, whose numbers are unknown, and who are subject to imprisonment and torture by the investigators who are corrupt in both their religion and morality. I say by Allah, neither Qahtan,

nor 'Utaiba, Harb, Ghamed, Zahran, Bani Shaher, Dawasir, Juhaina, nor any of the other tribes in Saudi Arabia have abandoned you—and here are their sons, departing on behalf of Allah in order to help you and to help your sisters everywhere.”

“In conclusion: O' Allah! Help your servants, who fight on your behalf in Gaza and everywhere. O' Allah, have mercy upon their weaknesses and send down upon them your bracing help. O' Allah, release our prisoners from the prisons of disbelief and oppression, and release our mujahid Shaykh Dr. Omar Abdelrahman, Shaykh Suleiman Al-Alwan, Shaykh Walid al-Sinani, and all the Muslim prisoners...”

Speech of the Commander of the Al-Qaida Organization in the Arabian Peninsula, Shaykh Abu Basir Nasir al-Wahishi:

“Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, and prayers and peace be upon our prophet Mohammed, and upon all his family and companions. May Allah preserve your life, and welcome! May Allah preserve your life among your people and in your country, in Yemen of faith and wisdom, the support of Islam and the breath of [Allah] the Compassionate. We ask Allah, the praised and exalted, to allow us to become the best of helpers of the best immigrants [to Yemen]—and so we announce to you: ‘blood for blood and destruction for destruction.’ Allah has gathered us in the land of Afghanistan to fight the Christians, and we have established there an Islamic Emirate, and the entire world has gathered against us—Jews, Christians, apostates, and pagans—in an alliance whose likes the world has never before witnessed. From us came delighted martyrs, mujahideen who stand guard on the frontier, and the suffering prisoners. The war continued and our determination continued until Allah granted the prisoners freedom, and Allah wanted us to gather once again to aid the religion, to establish the rightly-guided caliphate, and to fight against our enemies.”



“Allah has desired for this night to vanish and this darkness to end—thus, our efforts became united and we found the energy to assemble together, and the banners to march under—gathered together in one place, the Masra [point of departure for Mohammed’s midnight journey to Jerusalem] of the beloved [Prophet]. May Allah bless him and grant him salvation, the frontline, so that we will be able to purify the [Arabian] Peninsula from the filth of the malicious occupiers and their treacherous collaborators, in order so that we can march toward our brothers in Gaza and Palestine. Rejoice, people of Jerusalem: the triumphant sect is approaching, and they have agreed to help you and have sworn to do it. Shaykh Usama Bin Laden, may Allah protect him, says: ‘By Allah, we shall help you, even if we have to crawl on our knees.’ Abu Musab [al-Zarqawi], may Allah have mercy on him, fought in Iraq, but his eye was upon Jerusalem. In the Islamic Maghreb, they are watching you; in Somalia, they are surveying the lands of Africa; and near Egypt, they are beholding the road to Al-Aqsa. Our Muslim nation, we must put our hands on our wounds, recognize our enemy and his collaborators, and act against them as a whole. O' Muslim nation, you must stand sincerely alongside those who rule the lands of Islam, and they should either move armies to Gaza and Baghdad—or else permit people to march forward, whether armed lightly or heavily, so that they will struggle with the Jews and fight the treacherous leaders; so that, by tomorrow, you will have reached Jerusalem and Gaza. Life is meaningless when you see your brothers, your children, and your women falling victims to the atrocities of the Jews.”

“We will perhaps fast for a day or two, we will shout slogans in demonstrations until our throats will become sore, and yet then we shall return to our homes feeling as if we have driven harm away from the children and have lifted the siege from Gaza—averting the murder of the Palestinian people. Nevertheless, in the wake of these demonstrations, there ought to also be explosions—and in the wake of civil revolt, there ought to be military rage. We must stop the support for the Christian-Zionist campaign, kill every Christian we find in our lands, and destroy Western interests, until Europe and America shall stop aiding the Jews, stop the killing there, and order their collaborators among the treacherous leaders to open the border crossings to Gaza and Palestine. The people must continue to exert pressure and never stop until all of Palestine is liberated, and they should pay no heed to imaginary solutions for merely stopping the current massacres—only for them to begin again anew tomorrow harsher and more deadly than before—and, thus, we will have traded the blood of today for the peace of tomorrow. Seeking revenge is mighty, and you should beware of abandoning it! O’ Allah, use us to conquer Jerusalem and Saudi Arabia. O’ Allah, use us to establish an Islamic State and dignify us with this honor....”

Speech of the Military Major of the Al-Qaida Organization in the Arabian Peninsula, Shaykh Abu Hurairah Qasim al-Rimi:

“Praise be to Allah, and may prayers and peace be upon the most honorable man created by Allah [the Prophet Mohammed], and upon his family and followers. We have something to say to our mujahideen brothers who are firm and are shackled in fearless Gaza: These massacres which have targeted you, which have shattered rocks—by Allah, they have hurt us too and have robbed us of sleep. Indeed, they have wounded and robbed the sleep of every free Muslim, who holds the least bit of faith in his heart. By Allah, who is the only one to swear by, we shall delight the mothers of Palestine and Gaza, and we shall avenge them harshly. We shall reach them carrying the banners of jihad on horseback, with the determination of our ancestors, or else we shall perish trying. We certainly cannot ignore your plight while we



witness the bodies of our children and women being torn apart by the bombs of the Jews and the Christians. Rejoice, people of Jerusalem and the Masra of our prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him salvation—rejoice in his help and support. We are a nation in which if any part of the body becomes afflicted with illness, then the whole body shares the sleeplessness and fever along with it. Entrust your faith to these young men, who have sworn truthfully to Allah. Some of them have died and others of them are waiting [for death]—and this has not changed their situation whatsoever. You have endured through this calamity long enough to know who your true enemies are: they are those who speak your same languages and come from among you—but then, nonetheless, they also are the ones who besiege you and blockade you from receiving medicine, food, and water. They are the same ones who prevent your brothers in Amman, Cairo, Damascus, Beirut, Riyadh, and Sanaa from aiding and supporting you...”

“Now, I have a message for [the Secretary General of Lebanese Hizballah] Hassan Nasrallah: tell me, why is there all this bewailing and lamenting [from you] over Gaza and the people of Gaza? Did you not announce that you have approximately 20,000 rockets, all of which are able to reach Tel Aviv? Do our brothers in Gaza not deserve your support—namely, a thousand, two thousand, or three thousand rockets—instead of all this moaning and blaming of others? Or is the Lebanese soil dearer and superior to you than the blood of Palestinian Muslims?! Tell me by your Lord, what is the difference between you and [Egyptian President] Hosni Mubarak? Hosni [Mubarak] is a safety valve for the Jews in Egypt, and you are a safety valve for them in Lebanon. By Allah, if we were in your place, we would have marched forward and the Islamic nation would have marched with us to Palestine. It is enough for us that these events have allowed our wounded

nation to witness who really bargains with their fate and who seeks to increase his own [power] at its expense.”

“Finally, to you, our brothers in Palestine and around Jerusalem: you know better than anyone of the ignominy of the Jews, their fear, and their cowardice. By Allah, had you been protected from the evil of these collaborating treacherous leaders, you would have helped deter the evil of the descendants of the apes and swine across the entire globe. I ask almighty Allah to enable the conditions for us to help you, and tomorrow is closer than you think...”

Speech of the Field Commander of the Al-Qaida Organization in the Arabian Peninsula, Shaykh Abul-Hareth Mohammed Al-Awfi (former prisoner no. 333 in Guantanamo Bay):



“In the name of Allah, and prayers and peace be on the imam of the mujahideen, [the Prophet] Mohammed Bin Abdullah, may Allah bless him and grant him salvation. I say to our people and our brothers in Saudi Arabia that we have set out to aid Islam and to help you and your sons and daughters, with whom the prisons of the regime of [the Saudi royal family] are filled. This government [in Saudi Arabia] has betrayed Allah, his Prophet, and the believers, and it has substituted the law of Allah with the cursed laws of America—which aims to destroy our religion and eliminate morality, after we have been the greatest nation in our commitment to our religion, and there is no power and no strength save in Allah. And I say to America’s collaborators, the Haman of the Saudis, [Prince] Nayef Bin Abdelaziz, who has humiliated our people and our brothers for the purpose of satisfying America. The grenade of our brother Ali al-Mabadi, may Allah have mercy upon him, is in our hands, and by Allah, we shall fulfill his oath or die trying—unless you seek forgiveness from Allah for the war that you are waging against Islam and the Muslims.”

“And we warn our imprisoned brothers to avoid the ‘attention and advice program’ which is administered by the ignorant oppressor Mohammed Bin Nayef and his criminal helpers like Dai Turki al-Atayan—who headed the delegation of psychological investigators sent to Cuba, and helped the Americans to conduct psychological examinations and to extract confessions from us using psychiatric methods employed in the prisons of Saudi Arabia against the mujahideen. [These methods are used] in order to persuade us to stray from Islam and our path using every tool and method through the plan of advice. This has only given us an opportunity to have some insight into our enemies and to understand their fighting methods. Praise be to Allah for blessing us with the chance to leave their putrid authority as we are determined to find the truth. Finally, we say to the Christian countries which are preparing for war in Saudi Arabia and which are supporting the Christian war against the Muslims: by Allah, we are surely coming for you! By Allah, we are surely coming for you! We are walking the path of our former brothers, like Shaykh Yousef al-Ayyiri, Shaykh Esa al-Awshin, Khaled al-Haj, Turki al-Dandani, Ali al-Mabadi, and other lions of Allah who have been slain in Saudi Arabia. And we say to the police and [internal] investigations [system] of the Saudis, and to those who guard the Jews and the Christians: repent to Allah for the deception and treachery that you are culpable for when you guard the entrances to their embassies, their secret temples, their population centers, and their military and intelligence bases. The one who gives fair warning cannot [afterwards] be blameworthy, O’ servants of the Dirham and the Dinar.”

“O’ Allah, we ask from you—on account of your power and might—to help our brothers in Gaza and Jerusalem, and to provide us with a banner of jihad in the [Arabian] Peninsula in order to establish your Shariah across the land of your Prophet. And we ask you, O’ Allah, to free from

captivity our brothers and sisters who are held as prisoners in the Arabian Peninsula and everywhere else—as well as our leaders and shaykhs...”