



Al-Zawahiri: “The Sacrifices of Gaza and the Plotting Against It”

February 3, 2009

**“Shaykh Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri:
The Sacrifices of Gaza and the Plotting Against It.”
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[This document is a transcript of an Arabic-language audio recording obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English 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, praise be to Allah, and prayers and peace be upon the prophet of Allah, and upon his family and companions and followers. O’ Muslim brothers everywhere, peace upon you and may you enjoy the mercy and blessings of Allah...”

“The criminal Israeli forces have begun their withdrawal from Gaza, after leaving behind more than 1,300 martyrs, more than 5,000 wounded, devastation and destruction, panic and pain—none of which can be erased from the history of the Islamic nation. [It is a] new massacre from the Zionist-Crusader campaign of massacres against Islam and Muslims. The mujahideen have remained steadfast during this new massacre, holding out against the mighty Zionist-Crusader machine, and [they] refused to surrender or kneel before it. But, [instead], they confronted it in exchange for a graceful death, abandoning [this] worthless life, so congratulations to the people of Gaza for their heroism, bravery, and sacrifice. I ask Allah to accept it from them and reward them with the best of rewards [martyrdom].”

“Congratulations are also in order for all of our families and brothers in Gaza on their martyrs whom Allah, grace and glory be to he, elevated into [paradise]. Congratulations to them on the example they have set for the Muslim nation. Congratulations to them on their acceptance of Allah’s destiny and their patience during what has befallen them, and their faith in victory from Allah... And, we tell our brothers, our families, and beloved ones in Gaza that we are standing with them, and we are avenging them in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Algeria by confronting the ongoing crusader campaign stretching from Chechnya to Somalia, and from Afghanistan to the Islamic Maghreb. I give them the good news that while Israel was bombing resolute Gaza, the treacherous Pakistani Government was forced to cut-off the NATO supply route between Karachi and Jalalabad under the pressure of your brothers, the mujahideen in Pakistan.”



“My Islamic nation, the Zionist-Crusader attack demonstrated many facts which were revealed to our Muslim nation without being blurred or obscured. The Zionist-Crusade attack demonstrated that if we fail to defend ourselves and wage jihad, then the fighter jets, bombers, and bulldozers which have been bombarding Gaza, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Somalia will one day bombard Riyadh, Cairo, Algeria, and Islamabad. And, the Zionist-Crusader attack demonstrated that the official Arab regimes have failed to defend the Muslim nation, and instead, they sell it out to its enemies in order to protect their positions of power. The collaboration and betrayal of the official Arab regimes has been revealed to a degree that has never been witnessed before. So, these regimes, the corrupting and the corrupt, these treacherous ones, have left Gaza bloody and suffering from pain and misery, regarding the situation with disinterest.”

“Not only that, but [they] also besieged Gaza and smothered it, blocking the migration of its people [who were hoping] to escape the criminal machinery of death and destruction that chases them about. The treacherous Egyptian regime conceded to allow some treatment for the wounded. But, the healthy were imprisoned in Gaza as they were annihilated by the fighter jets, bombs, bulldozers, and Israeli weapons. This Zionist-Crusader attack demonstrated that the Muslim nation stands alone and vulnerable on the battlefield [because] the governments have betrayed [Gaza] and [because] the [armed] factions have surrendered to these regimes, seeking their permission to wage jihad. As if we must wait for [permission] from crusader America in order to declare a jihad against crusader America.”

“Therefore, the nation must take action, and it must not wait for these factions that become weak at times of confrontation, waiting for the permission of the collaborators in order to declare a jihad. All of our hopes reside in the individuals and masses of our nation moving forward, planning, and organizing against the Zionist-Crusader campaign, and eliminating its collaborators. It is crucial to move seriously and efficiently, because—although demonstrations express public anger—they mean nothing in the face of fighter jets and bulldozers. Moreover, they can be manipulated by collaborating and corrupt regimes in order to release pressure from the volcano of public anger. The Zionist-Crusader campaign will never falter and retreat until it loses souls, blood, and materiel. The Zionist-Crusader campaign will never lose to Islam and the Muslims unless there is a battle... This Zionist-Crusade campaign also uncovered the collaborative nature of the crusader campaign against Gaza. All the Western countries supported Israel and equivocated between the killers and the victims.”

“As for Obama, he declared that he is concerned about the killing of civilians in Gaza... Concerned! We are very thankful for your concern, Mr. Obama. Your concern has reached us, accompanied by thousands of bombs and tons of white phosphorus, mixed with the blood, corpses, and tears of Muslims in Gaza. But, it seems that Obama's concern didn't last long. In his inauguration speech, he failed to mention a single word about what happened in Gaza, as if nothing had happened. The Western crusade is collaborating today with the Arab traitors to pressure the mujahideen—and by employing these schemes—manages to accomplish for Israel what it failed to achieve through murder, destruction, and heavy weaponry. Now, those collaborators seek to bring back Mahmoud Abbas to Gaza via the path through Israel. And, Condoleezza Rice came out to declare that Mahmoud Abbas is the leader of all Palestinians. The goal now is to shift the mujahideen from freeing Palestine to freeing Gaza; from freeing Gaza to guaranteeing safety, security, and an end to the bloodshed; from guaranteeing an end to the bloodshed to blocking the importation of more weapons and opening the frontlines with the crusaders.”

“And in confronting this Western Crusader collaboration with the Arab traitors, the Muslims and mujahideen must stand together so that the jihad will not be stopped from freeing Palestine and the rest of the Islamic countries, and so that the lives of Muslims are not sacrificed in Gaza for political machinations and international agreements. However, I believe that the mujahideen in Gaza, praise be to Allah, are fully aware of these schemes, and I believe that the Zionist-Crusader has only increased their determination, steadfastness, and desire to free the whole of Palestine

from the [Jordan] river to the sea, recovering the stolen Al-Aqsa. So, the mujahideen in Gaza and Palestine and in the rest of the Muslim countries are aware that Palestine and every occupied Muslim land will never be free without jihad. And for jihad to continue, there must be perseverance against all the plots that aggressively work to surround Gaza and to block the importation of weapons. Breaking the siege that has been imposed around Gaza, which is preventing weapons and equipment from reaching it, is one of the most important responsibilities of this era.”

“I also would like to remind my mujahideen brothers in Gaza that our enemy in Gaza isn't just Israel, but the entire Zionist-Crusader alliance, and leading it is the evil master America. The interests of America and Israel are spread far and wide, and if the situation falters in one place, they spread to other places. And even if the enemy accomplishes some of its goals, many of these interests are revealed and imperiled. Whoever surrounds Gaza and joins in blocking the mujahideen inside from obtaining weapons is an enemy of Islam and Muslims, and they must be stopped and made an example of. The live battlefields [in the war] against the crusaders and their aides in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Somalia are open to every mujahid who wants to train, prepare, or make plans to liberate the abode of Islam. And, mujahideen everywhere are ready to sacrifice everything they have to offer, including support and assistance to the mujahideen in Palestine and everywhere else. We must lift the siege from around Gaza, we must send weapons to the mujahideen in Gaza, and we must punish those who want to force a solution approved by the Crusaders and the Jews in Gaza. But, what is happening in Gaza is only a part of the Zionist-Crusader campaign that targets our Muslim nation in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, Algeria, and Darfur—and also in all of the Arab countries and many Islamic countries which claim autonomy but, in reality, are occupied by the crusader armies or are held under their might and cruelty. What Gaza has faced is a part of what Grozny, Kabul, and Mogadishu have been facing. We execute one jihad against one enemy across various battlefields. And we will not have victory except by responding to Allah, who ordered us in his holy book to support the believers, to fight the infidels, and to bring justice to the weak...”

“So, if the Zionist-Crusader campaign confronts us everywhere, and attacks Islam and Muslims across the entire world in the so-called ‘war on terrorism’—but in reality, it is the ‘war on Islam’—why would we not attack them everywhere? Why wait for the enemy to choose for us the battlefield, the time, the place, and the method with which we shall fight him? My Islamic nation, now, you may not need any more sermonizing in order to recognize the collaboration of the Arab and Muslim leaders with the Jewish-Crusader campaign on Islam and Muslims. But, the important question is what do we do about it? The answer is that we all should participate with the sum of our power, efforts, and determination in pushing the Zionist-Crusaders out from Gaza and Palestine and the rest of the Islamic countries, if we purify our will and exhaust all possible efforts. So, it is crucial for anyone who is able to fight to head to the open battlefields in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, and Algeria. And the faithful need not wait for anyone’s permission to go, because jihad today is a clear obligation, and there is no need to await anyone’s permission. So my Muslim brother, what is wrong with you, asking permission from a treacherous leader before you will wage jihad? And it is crucial for those with wealth to support the mujahideen with their money in order for the Zionist plan to fail in besieging Gaza. And it is crucial for the Muslim nation to mobilize all its power and abilities to overthrow these corrupt and treacherous leaders, and to organize its efforts and consolidate its forces, and to be patient. This nation will not flourish, be liberated, nor gain [back] its autonomy and honor as long as these corruptors continue to stand on top of our chests in order to allow the Zionist-Crusader conspiracy to achieve its goal of destroying Islam and the Muslims. It is crucial for those who are unable to join the mujahideen to instead support them with weapons, money, intelligence, and expertise, along with whatever else the mujahideen are in need of... And our last prayer is praise be to Allah, and prayers and peace upon Allah’s prophet, his descendents, and followers.”