



## **Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri: “On the Fifth Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq” April 17, 2008**

### **“Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri: On the Fifth Anniversary of the Invasion and Torture of Iraq.” Released on: April 17, 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 and praise be to Allah, and prayers and peace be upon the messenger of Allah, his family, friends, and those who support him. Muslim brothers everywhere: may you have peace, the mercy of Allah, and his blessings... Today, I have a message for you about two important matters: the first is [regarding] the five years that have passed since the American invasion of Iraq, and the second is concerning the financial plundering that our nation is facing in Egypt and other Islamic countries.”

“As for what the American invasion of Iraq has achieved after five years—with the blessing of Allah, [they have achieved] defeat and disgrace. Petraeus (the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq) has gone to Congress asking them to postpone the date of the withdrawal of reserve forces by six weeks beyond the agreed-upon date this coming July. Bush has announced that he will give Petraeus all the time he needs. [This is a] foolish trick to hide their defeat in Iraq, and for Bush to avoid deciding on the withdrawal of their forces—which would be regarded as a declaration of defeat by the crusaders in their invasion of Iraq—by passing the problem along to the next president. Where are the neutralizations that Petraeus had announced would bring them victory in Iraq six months ago? Wouldn't it be reasonable to expect that these neutralizations would have sped up the departure of American forces? Or do these neutralizations need someone to protect them and defend them? The Bush administration is deceiving our people as long as it doesn't admit to its defeat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Let its soldiers go to hell, and may Petraeus and Bush try to convince the Americans that their salvation will begin six weeks beyond July. The truth is that [even if] Bush had left all his of forces in Iraq... they [still] wouldn't have achieved anything but defeat and disgrace, with the help of Allah.”



“The trouble in Iraq and Afghanistan in simple: if American forces leave, they will have lost everything—and if they stay, they will die of exhaustion. This is what Bush has chosen for his army and people, who have elected him twice. And today he is trying to avoid the confrontation... and he has repeatedly put off the decision to terminate it. As for the Democrats, why are they trying to deceive their nation by claiming that they will withdraw their forces from

Iraq via an understanding with Iran, in order to focus on Al-Qaida and the Taliban in Pakistan and Afghanistan? Regarding Iran, its goals are explicit: annexing southern and eastern Iraq, and continuing in its effort to establish a continuum with its supporters in southern Lebanon. If their understanding with [Iran] is on the basis of accepting some, or all, of its goals in exchange for ignoring the American presence in the region, this understanding will only pour more oil onto the fire that is burning at our foundation... and will spark a massive [Sunni] Islamic revival, fed by the Iranian-American conspiracy. It is the interests of America which will suffer most from the resulting catastrophes.”

“All of the Republicans and the Democrats—as well as the Americans and the crusader west in general—are afflicted with the blindness of supremacy and arrogance which makes them avoid the word ‘Why?’ They have already failed in answering the question ‘why have they attacked us’ and, likewise, they have failed in answering the question ‘why are they defeating us?’ Likewise, that blindness prevents them from seeing the facts as they are in reality. One of these facts is that the era of colonizing, plundering, and oppressing the Islamic nation has passed; and, the era of jihad battles, safeguarding, and autonomy has begun. The era of the Monroe Doctrine, of the Opium Wars, of the Sykes-Picot Agreement, and of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has ended. In its place, the era has arrived of confronting peace accords based on surrender and normalization, and the era of confronting the invasions of Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine. Their refusal to accept these facts is causing America and the crusader west to return to the past in a familiar pattern, and is imposing upon them continuing casualties.”

“As for the situation in Iraq, with the blessing of Allah, it favors Islam and jihad, and the Americans are defeated and fighting each other back in Washington over the date of withdrawal. The revival is chasing [them], and the mujahideen are following the practices of the saintly Abu Bakr, may he enjoy the kindness of Allah. All-out war or a fake peace, the Iranians are pondering to themselves, while their assistants [i.e. Shiite leaders in Iraq] are fighting each other, and in the midst of their battles, are smashing the domes of al-Hussain and al-Abbas... and Muqtada al-Sadr has become a source of international ridicule thanks to his many proclamations—so that, at one point, he has abandoned his weapons, and then he has formed a political party, and afterwards he abandoned it; then, at another time, he has frozen the activity of the Mahdi Army, and then again, he has revoked his [cease-fire]; at some points, he has marched in demonstrations against the occupation, and at other times, he refuses to go out with them and... he will ask the opinion of the authorities on the Mahdi Army. In such a manner, Iranian intelligence has manipulated this naive fool, who claims to be resisting the occupier by handing over his weapons at one time, and demonstrating against him at others.”

“The people of Islam and jihad in Iraq have abundant patience and strength for resistance. The first signs of victory have already appeared... Soon, Iraq will become a fortress of Islam, from whence the squadrons and regiments tasked with liberating the Al-Aqsa mosque [in Jerusalem] will burst forth, with the help of Allah. Iraq today is the most important frontline for the participation of our Islamic nation against the forces of the crusader Zionist invasion. Due to this, providing assistance to the mujahideen in Iraq—at their head, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI)—is one of the most important duties required of the Islamic nation today.”

“As for the second matter which I want to discuss: the financial plundering which our nation is facing in Egypt and in other Muslim countries. This corruption and theft has brought starvation to the people and a shortage of basic supplies. Those who have stolen the food of the Egyptian people are the same people who are preventing food from reaching the people of Gaza, claiming that they are bound to dubious international commitments which they have schemed up together with the Jews and the Americans overnight in order for Israel to hold a monopoly over the supply line to Gaza, and in order to force the people of [Gaza] to surrender to their conditions. Those who are stealing the food of the people of Egypt are the same ones who are publishing and managing propaganda for the culture of surrender to America and for normalization with Israel, in addition to surrendering and escaping to the documents of rationalization. The starvation of the Egyptian people and their shortages of bread and water in

the Nile Delta are a part of the Zionist-American plot which seeks to humiliate our Islamic nation and most of its diaspora. The shortages of bread, the theft of the wealth of the Islamic nation, the starvation of its people, the poisoning of the air and the earth, and the spreading of general corruption, are merely symptoms of that cancer, which is spreading throughout the tissues of the nation.”

“Those who have stolen the food, and haven't even left a loaf of bread behind, have come to this precipice because the nation has not stepped forward to confront them and push back, and if they continue with their transgressions, tomorrow they will be selling their own people. They have given Egypt to Israel, and the nation has not pushed back against them; they have brought the American crusader forces to Egypt, and the nation has not retaliated against them; they have aided in the killing of Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the nation hasn't done anything to stop them; they have conspired to besiege the mujahideen in Gaza, and no one has confronted them; they have broken regulations over the treatment of prisoners at detention centers and police stations, and no one has avenged them. As long as we stay silent and as long as they are gnawing at our flesh, they will bathe in our blood...”

“Those who stole our bread and livelihoods are the same ones who wiped out all means of peaceful reform. What happened in the elections for the Shura Council and afterwards during the municipal [elections] in Egypt, what happened right before the elections in Jordan and Morocco, and later on the threat against the Party for Justice and Development in Turkey reflects the new American approach which seeks to undermine the reform movement by using [elections]. The Americans used ‘elections’ to prevent the people from waging jihad and violently resisting the internal and external enemies of the nation. When the Americans failed to hold back the increasing wave of jihadi awakening, they switched to their current method which promotes awakening in Iraq, legislative changes, full control over the election process... imposing depression, humiliation, and corruption across the Islamic nation by using rape, forgery, violence, and falsehood.”

“Consequently, a deceptive declaration was published by the White House, the stronghold of the free world, referring to the municipal elections in Egypt in which it expressed its concerns regarding pressures being imposed on opposition activists and candidates by the Egyptian regime—the same regime that enjoys the full support of America, which provides it with the financing and means of torture. This American lie will no longer prevail or have any impact whatsoever. This is the same corrupt and treacherous regime that has closed off all means of peaceful reform. This regime should be uprooted if we want to live like human beings. An independent Islamic government is the only solution which can save us from the biggest international criminals, which can safeguard the interests of the Islamic nation, and which can defend the holy places and protect our rights there. Any solution which does not encompass it [an independent Islamic government] is an absurd suggestion that will result in great losses, sorrow, and humiliation.”

“And this is true not only in Egypt. The Islamic nation has suffered a lack of income in many states all over the region, such as Yemen, and even the Arabian Peninsula where the regime is one of the wealthiest on the face of the earth. Many residents from the popular neighborhoods of Jeddah find it hard to get fresh water and they have to carry their buckets in order to receive some water at the mosques. But the government forbids the local muezzin to give them any water, while the sewage system is flooding over, and electricity is cut off in the suffocating heat of Jeddah. The impoverished live in the tin slums of Riyadh and Mecca. Where did all the wealth of the nation of the Arabian Peninsula vanish to? The Americans have paved the way to power for a 7,000-strong family of emirs which steals the fortune of the Peninsula while, simultaneously, handing over to the Americans the vast majority of our resources—providing them with land, bases, and air and sea ports to use in order to kill Muslims.”

“Abdullah Bin Abdelaziz is occupied with criticizing the pope, who offended Islam and the Prophet of Islam (peace and prayers be upon him), and with calling for interreligious dialogue in

order to promote his own image vis-à-vis the crusaders and Americans. Those of you who feel the need to please the crusaders—instead of addressing the needs of other Muslims—should pay attention to the cries of the Muslim people suffering from unemployment, drug use, and a high crime rate. The Muslim people lack water, electricity, and appropriate housing. Restore to the people all the rights you stole from them, stop submitting to the Americans and stop thieving and stealing the assets of the nation. Thus, the vanguard of our Nation’s conscience should act now before it is too late. The vanguard should act before we see General Petraeus riding into the streets of Cairo and Riyadh leading ‘Awakening movements’ seeking to spill blood, and storm and violate the holy places.”

“The question is what should the Muslim do today? The Muslim must stick to Islam, since Islam is the path of salvation. During all the famous battle of history, only the Muslims have defended our nation, and the Muslims are the ones who are defending it today in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Palestine. Muslims should... make the necessary preparations in order to fight, declare, demonstrate, strike, and stay loyal [to Allah]. We should not abandon a tool that is about to change this lost reality—but rather, stick to it. We will not regain our rights unless we use our own strength, and not by begging or through phony elections.”

“The wolves of the regime, the agents of the Jews and the Crusaders, are striving to oppress the popular movements using any means they can muster, as in Mahalla el-Kubra [in the Nile Delta north of Cairo]. But by offering sacrifices and continuing with our steadfast resistance, they will be defeated with the help of Allah, and there is no way but patience and diligence. At the end of the day, our rights will be taken back by force, not delivered to us. The laborers, the clerks, and the students must take their anger to the streets. They must transform the mosques, the enterprises, the university campuses, the various institutions, and high schools into centers of support for jihad and resistance. Everyone must act now, because the battle is not limited to one group or one organization, but is [the duty] of the whole nation. The Islamic nation should act together and join forces—uniting its mujahideen, men, women, children, elderly, teachers, wise men, leaders, and the public—to expel the Jewish-Crusader invasion from the Muslim lands and to establish an Islamic state subordinate to the rules of Shariah, and that will defend the rights of the Muslims, and prevent these thieves from stealing the wealth of the nation. It is not reasonable that the people of blessed Egypt have neither bread nor water, where does its wealth disappear to? In order to establish this [Islamic] state, we must witness actions by the Muslim vanguard which offer sacrifices in the path of our religion and which stay loyal to Allah. They must unify together, plan, and lead reforms towards freedom, independence, pride, dignity, and the Islamic state.”

“At the end of my statement, I wish to praise the people of Mahalla [el-Kubra] who came out vocally against the robbery and corruption, and to glorify our brave people who declared a general strike, and to praise every noble and free human being who supports the resistance against the Jewish-Crusaders offensive in Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Algeria, Afghanistan, Chechnya, and everywhere...”