



Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri: “Lift the Siege of Gaza!” June 4, 2008

“Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri: On the Anniversary of the Disaster - A Call to Help Our People in Gaza.” Released on: June 4, 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, praise be to Allah, and prayers and peace be upon the messenger of Allah, his family, his companions, and his followers... O’ Muslim brothers everywhere, peace be upon you, and may you enjoy the mercy of Allah and his blessings. During these days, forty one years ago, our Islamic nation faced the greatest disaster it has ever encountered in all of history – the catastrophe of 1967. We are still suffering from this disaster even now and it has left a distinctive mark on our history—and also on our souls and the souls of the generations to come.”

“This disaster has had a major influence over many of those from our Islamic nation, especially in the Arab world, and they began to search sincerely for the reasons of our decline into this abyss. Allah has guided them towards the recognition that the path for their deliverance lies in putting their trust in Allah and returning to his religion and customs. And so they kept steadfast on the path of Islam, truth, and sincerity, and they understood the magnitude of the disasters and misfortunes that systems of secularism and corruption have brought upon them. And they kept steadfast to their faith, ideology, and to the rights of their nation—which they recognized would not be returned without paying a just price. And they gave [to this cause] and they are still giving; and kept steadfast and are still keeping steadfast; and they did not stray [from their mission], and—by the grace of Allah—they still have not strayed.”



“This disaster also influenced others, and they collapsed and are still collapsing due to their acceptance of [United Nations] Resolution 242—until the point came when they began to work directly with the Mossad and informing them about their own people, torturing them, and assisting in murdering them in order to safeguard the security of Israel. The story behind the disaster of 1967 is a long one indeed, but I shall offer a brief summary of this dreadful disaster, from whose wounds we still suffer to this day. This catastrophe revealed the scope of the corruption which had spread throughout our regimes—their armies, which caused their people to taste misfortune, scattered in all directions from the battlefield in only six hours. Moreover, the political and military leadership which brought upon us the worst disaster in modern history is the

same one which turned their military prisons into slaughterhouses for the youth of Islam. They sent forces to engage in hazardous adventures in Yemen and the Congo—and then when the time for real battle came, they fled.”

“This disaster revealed the ruin we suffered as a result of the secular practices of the regimes, which are still wreaking havoc in our societies and lands—and these same practices are responsible for causing the most costly catastrophes in modern history to have befallen us, starting with Al-Naqba in 1948 and so forth until today. Even after the minor, limited victory that was won during the war of October 1973 [the Yom Kippur or Ramadan War], how quickly did the treacherous regimes waste it! One day after the war began, [Egyptian President Anwar] al-Sadat sent his famous telegram to the Americans—that he had decided neither to intensify the battles nor widen the confrontation—and the American-Israeli reply was bombarding Egyptian and Syrian forces, and then breaching the Egyptian front and encircling the third field army. This disaster revealed the collapse of the official Arab regimes and their total inability to protect the Islamic nation, its sacred places, and its wealth—and instead clearly proved that they were also one of the reasons for the misfortunes and catastrophes [suffered by the Islamic nation].”

“It also revealed that this official regime [in Egypt] has no principles, values, or ideology to which it adheres, except for keeping the tyrants on their thrones. This regime, which still haggles over the issue of Palestine, is the same regime that began the descent into the chasm of surrender, and which surrendered four-fifths of Palestine. This is the same regime besieges Gaza today in order to force it to submit to Israeli demands, and which tortures its sons in order to extract from them information, handing it over to the CIA and the Mossad. This disaster has revealed the breakdown of the concept of Arab nationalism which promoted Arab nationalism as the most important issue and... whose revolutionaries have turned into supporters of America and Israel—whoever refuses to obey them in the slightest matter shall be poisoned so that the rest of the cabal shall continue to pursue their treacherous ways. They used to say, ‘we would cooperate with the Devil in order to liberate Palestine’, and they cooperated with the Devil and lost Palestine... This disaster has demonstrated the strength of the devotion of this Islamic nation, in that its sons continue to set out and perform jihad. The governments have sold us out and betrayed us, and they besiege their own sons, pursue them, and torture them. The authorities are waiting for permission from the leadership to begin waging jihad, and if the road were to be too easy, they would first request permission from the emperor of the White House.”

“Therefore, the sons of the Islamic nation should break the chains of the treacherous regimes and the impotent authorities and set forth to join the battle and aid the mujahideen. Jihad has become an individual duty, and every one of us is responsible for it. The imprisoned Gaza Strip, ruined by rule of corrupt, secular law, is still being besieged by this same regime to this day and it has tightened the grip around her throat in order to force her to submit before the Zionist raiders. Then, there is the desecrated Sinai, whose sovereignty was sold out by the treacherous rulers in return for no sovereignty and the duty of protecting the borders of Israel. Its sons are being tortured and killed today in order to protect the corrupt Israeli trade in [the Sinai], and its people are punished severely for their assistance to the mujahideen in Gaza.”

“Therefore, I say to my Muslim brothers in Gaza that whoever besieges you is a treacherous criminal and an enemy of Allah and his messenger—from the soldiers of [Egyptian] Central Security who protect the wall of betrayal [between Gaza and Sinai], to Hosni Mubarak himself. It is your right to enter Egypt whenever you like, and to destroy the walls of betrayal whenever you like—and whoever stands in your way has only himself to blame. Egypt is not a farm that belongs to Hosni Mubarak or his son, and Allah has created her people to be free—not as property that can be sold or as a possession that can be bequeathed. I say to my Muslim brothers in Sinai: help your brothers in Gaza. Join in their battles with what you have, and if they start to break down the wall of betrayal, join them. This disgraceful wall prevents food and medicine from reaching our people and brothers in Gaza, while it opens with a welcome greeting before 50,000 Israeli tourists who came over the Passover holiday to engage in corruption on the beaches of Sinai. A brother in Gaza is forbidden to cross over to meet his brothers in Egypt, while an Israeli tourist

crosses over without a visa, all so that the traitors may increase their sinful riches that they earn through corrupt commercial dealings in Sinai. This disgraceful wall is the sinister fruit of the Sykes-Picot [treaty], to which the treacherous Arab regimes adhere. This wall did not exist during the era of the Caliphate state, which continued to protect Palestine until its last breath. Then came the Arab sons of Sykes–Picot, who sold out the most important issue to the Arabs.”

“This disaster has demonstrated that the treacherous regime has no interest in safeguarding the rights of Egyptian prisoners, who were abandoned by the leaders of the defeated catastrophe as victims for the Israelis. How can this be? [The Egyptian government] has imprisoned people from Gaza in order to extract from them information to be given to the Jews! My Muslim brothers, we need to understand the nature of the conflict: we face a Christian–Zionist hostility towards Islam and Muslims, from their humiliation of our book and our Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him salvation, to conquering our lands and plundering our riches, to supporting the regimes that steal the food from their mouths and leave them to kill one another in the food lines, all while the thieves swim in a sea of illegal money. Why should the Muslim nation starve when it is the richest nation on the face of the earth? Where are its abundant riches? Where is its power? Where is merely the money from petroleum? Where are these riches hidden? They are hidden in the banks of the Christian and Jewish raiders and in the pockets of their treacherous agents. If we do not rid ourselves of them, we shall starve to death.”

“The only way to have independence, sovereignty, and to safeguard our riches, justice and political reform is through jihad and adherence to Islam. Islam is the path of deliverance and the salvation of the nation and of all humanity. These are the basic facts of our conflict. If we do not familiarize ourselves with them and transform that knowledge from hidden anger into the energy of action and a will to change, then we shall remain mired by the chains of exploitation, despotism, and enslavement. Another thing which the memory of this disaster brings up is the central role of Egypt in the history of Islam. When the leadership of Egypt was a mujahid leadership, it led the nation to victory—and when the leadership of Egypt was a treacherous leadership, it led the nation to defeat and humiliation. This was the leadership of Egypt during this disaster and afterwards. It abandoned the historical role of Egypt in defending the Muslim nation and containing spread of the Zionist enemy. Therefore, the people of Egypt have an unquestionable duty to act in order to free her from their treacherous, corrupt, and corrupting leadership.”

“In conclusion, I say to our brothers in Palestine that the calamity of 1967 reminds us of the tiresome and repeated story about returning to the borders June 4, 1967. This is a campaign set upon spread desperation among the ranks of our people and our brothers in Palestine, arguing that we should adhere to the borders of June 4, 1967—and as for Palestine from before then—it should be agreed to abandon these lands and surrender them to the museums of history. Much to our regret, it has been encouraged by a group of the clerics of the Marines, who declare publicly that we can normalize relations with Israel if the imaginary state of Palestine were to be established. This does not delight them, but they make these announcements at their conferences and write it on their websites.”

“Therefore, I say to my brothers in Palestine that those who have begun talking about the borders of 1967 have no borders at all, and those who have committed to honoring international resolutions do not please the lords of these resolutions. So keep to your Qurans and your battle trenches, and do not abandon the mission of establishing the rule of Islamic law. Increase your martyrdom operations, your rockets, and your ambushes—for there is no other solution. Reply to those who try to spread desperation amongst you regarding the hopes of reclaiming all of Palestine that Allah has promised us victory, so why should we despair? And if America is meeting its destruction in Iraq and Afghanistan at the hands of our brothers, then why should we despair? Reply to them, ‘By Allah, even if the entire world were to abandon Palestine, the people of Standing Guard and Jihad shall never abandon her, with the help of Allah. And our last word is to praise Allah, lord of the worlds, and may he bless our lord Mohammed, his family, and his companions and grant them salvation...”