



Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri on “Martyrdom” of Abu al- Laith al-Liby February 27, 2008

“Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri: An Elegy to the Martyred Commander Abu al-Layth al-Libi.” Released on: February 27, 2008



[This document is the translation of an official Arabic-language communiqué obtained by NEFA investigators and transcribed on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch subscription service. This transcript is provided for educational and informational purposes only. On January 31, 2008, the Al-Fajr Media Center issued a statement announcing the “martyrdom” of senior Al-Qaida commander Abu al-Layth al-Libi in a U.S. air strike in northern Pakistan. For more information on Abu al-Laith al-Liby and the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG), see the NEFA dossier: <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/nefalifg1007.pdf>.]

“...In the name of Allah, and all praise is due to Allah and peace and prayers be upon the messenger of Allah and his family and companions and allies. Muslim brothers everywhere: Peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and his blessings. As for what comes after, I approach you today with congratulations on the martyrdom of our brother, the lion and commander Abu al-Layth al-Libi, may Allah have mercy on him: That knight who only dismounted from his steed's back and relinquished his reins in order to join the blessed caravan, the caravan of the martyrs, Prophets and righteous ones and what fine companions they are, with Allah's permission, generosity and mercy Abu al-Layth al-Libi – may Allah have mercy on him – is one of the mountains of Jihad in this era, but in the end, he is created being whose destiny is that of every created thing.”

“Allah says, all that is on earth will perish, and there will remain forever the fails of our Lord, full of majesty and honor. (55:26-27). And Allah says, you will die, and they too will die. (39:30). Yes, for him was decreed what is decreed for every created being, but Allah honored him with the noblest of ends and most dignified of finales and highest of ranks: Martyrdom in Allah's path. Abu al-Layth al-Libi, the emigrant, the Murabit, the captive, the Mujahid and the patient reward-seeker, a man who was not shaken by the earthquakes nor unsettled by events, and who remained loyal to his religion, creed, principles and values.”

“He divorced the world and flung it behind his back, and set out in search of his Lord's pleasure and his Ummah's glory among the pools of death, places of bombing and fields of battle. Who among us can forget this smiling face, that humble character and those high-class manners which were contained by a heart which wouldn't break even if the world were to break? It is as I am with Abu al-Tayyib al-Mutanabi describing him as he elegized Abu Shujaa the killer, saying, it is as if your soul is not happy with you as its companion unless you are more generous than the generous and does not consider you protective of it until you sacrifice for it in fright. Were it not



for the difficulty, all people would have been chiefs, but generosity impoverishes and bravery kills. Truly, were it not for the difficulty, all people would have been chiefs, but generosity impoverishes and bravery kills.”

“Abu al-Layth departed after he made the Americans drink draughts of death, and after he tore Musharraf’s hunting dogs apart limb by limb in his ambushes and raids. And it is as if I am with him as he repeated the saying, if I am killed, they will have known my valor. And if I escape, I will make them drink death. That lion has made his departure, that lion who emigrated from the west of the homeland of Islam to its east, carrying in him the corn of his Ummah and taking lightly in Allah’s path everything he met and suffered. And it has as if I am with him as he repeated the statement of Allah’s Prophet Moses, on whom be peace, and I have hastened to you, my Lord, that you might be pleased. (20:84).”

“He departed an emigrant, a Murabit and a Mujahid, and it is as if I am with Ahmad Shawqi as he elegizes him while elegizing Umar al-Mukhtar, may Allah have mercy on him, saying, they have planted your remains in the sands like a flag to motivate the people morning and night. Oh, woe unto them, they have raised a beacon of blood to inspire tomorrow’s generation with hate and dislike, a wound which screams to the horizon, and a victim searching for the red freedom. O you unsheathed sword in the desert whose sharpness covers the swords of the ages, you were given the choice, so you chose to sleep in hunger. You neither sought power nor gathered a fortune. Like the carcass of an eagle or the remains of a lion left behind and scattered by a dusty gale, the battles spared not even an old bone of his, and the conspiracy didn’t spare any blood. So oh Ummah of Islam, these are your devoted sons and honest men, about whom we hope that in them is fulfilled the statement of the truth, exalted and blessed is he, among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allah; of them some have died and some still wait; but they have never changed in the least. (33:23).”

“They didn’t change, by the grace of Allah, and they fulfilled their covenant and didn’t bootlick falsehood with reassessments, nor bootlick the idol-king with guides. These – oh Americans, and oh agents of the Americans – are the pioneers of the coming advance and good omens of the newborn dawn. Every time a martyr falls, another martyr grabs the banner from him, and every time a chief goes down in blood, another chief completes the march after him. And we are a people who do not see death as disgrace, even if the stragglers of the Cross see it so. The love of death brings our time closer to us, while they hate death and so their time is late in coming. No chief of ours has died a natural death, nor has our blood been spilled without a response. Our souls run on the edge of the swords and only on the edge of the swords do they run. If one of our chiefs passes, another arises in his stead. He says and does what the honorable said and did. Our days with our enemies are famous and their features and players are well-known to all. Our swords, in the east and the west, are dented from battling the armored ones.”

“So seek help – oh Americans, and oh agents of the Americans – with those under duress and those looking for a way out, among the writers of documents of guidance and concoctors of recantations, for they will be of no help to you. And try as much as you like to weaken the resolve of the Muslims and brand them with helplessness and weakness, for the biographies of our champions torpedo everything you are trying to do.”

“I recently finished a letter of mine in response to what they called the, Document for the Guidance of Jihad. In this letter, I sought to exonerate the Muslim Ummah of the helplessness, feebleness and weakness which some of those eager for a way out attributed to it and for this reason, I called it, the Exoneration: A Letter Exonerating the Ummah of the Pen and Sword from the Unjust Allegation of Feebleness and Weakness; however, I wrote it in ink on paper, or as a pattern on the computer, whereas the valiant champions like Abu al-Layth wrote it with their blood and scattered limbs on the occupied soil of the homelands of Islam. That’s the difference between my exoneration and the exoneration of Abu al-Layth, may Allah have mercy on him.”

“And so I recalled the statement of al-Mutanabbi: Until I returned and my pens said to me, glory is for the sword, not for the pen, so always write with us after writing with it. For we are like servants to the swords. I ask Allah to compensate us and the Ummah of Islam in the best way over the loss of our champion, and to house him in his spacious gardens, and to make his innocent and fragrant blood a light and illuminator on the path of giving and sacrifice, and a stimulus and motivator for even more giving and sacrificing in Allah’s path.”

“And our final prayer is that all praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds, and may peace and prayers be upon our master Muhammed and his family and the companions. And may peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and his blessings.”

[End of Speech]

[Closing Subtitles]

“...The Ummah which rains down severe punishment on the Crusader alliance in Iraq, Afghanistan, Algeria, and Somalia isn't a weak Ummah; the Ummah which has remained resolute against barbarian Russia for four-and-a-half centuries in the Caucasus isn't a helpless Ummah; the Ummah which chased the Jews out of Gaza isn't a paralyzed Ummah; the Ummah which conceived Imam Shamil, Umar al-Mukhtar, Hasan al-Bana, 'Iz al-Deen al-Qassam, Sayyid Outb, Khalid al-Islambouli, 'Isam al-Qamari, Abdullah Azzam, Abu 'Ubaidah al-Panhsheri, Abu Hafs the Commander, Muhammad Atta, Khattab, Shamil Basayev, Aslan Maskhadov, Zelimkhan Yanderbayev, Ahmad Yasin, Abd al-Aziz al-Rantisi, Abu al-Walid al-Ghamdi, Abu Umar al-Sayf, Abdullah al-Rashood, Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, and Mulla Dadullah isn't a barren Ummah; and the Ummah whose sons, the emigrants and Mujahideen, stand their ground against the fiercest crusade in the history of Islam isn't a submissive Ummah...”