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## **“Hot Issues” – The Second As-Sahab Interview with Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri**



The SITE Institute has obtained a one hour sixteen minute video interview conducted by al-Qaeda's multimedia production arm, as-Sahab, with Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri. The video, titled: "Hot Issues," concerns events and issues of salience to the Muslim Nation and Western peoples, and features al-Qaeda's number two dressed in white and seated in front of bookshelves of books. The topics covered during the course of the interview range from jihad in Iraq and Afghanistan, the recent conflict between Lebanon and Israel, Muslims who collaborate with Western governments, the denial of leaders of the Egyptian Islamic Group (al-Gama'a al-Islamiya) about the joining of an "important section" of the group with al-Qaeda, in addition to the Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC) in Algeria joining al-Qaeda. Zawahiri also reiterates words made by Usama bin Laden regarding jihad in Somalia, calling upon the Muslim Somali people to "reject the American Crusader presence in Somalia to strike with strength America's underlings in Somalia, and to see help from Allah". He also castigates Western political leaders, specifically U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair for not accepting bin Laden's truce and causing their people to reap the "disaster" which will shock them.

To the Western peoples, Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri states near the conclusion of the speech:

**"I tell them your leaders are hiding from you the true extent of the disaster which will shick you. And the days are pregnant and giving birth to new events with Allah's permission and guidance. And I tell them, you have provided us with all the legal and rational reasons to fight you and retaliate from you, you have committed ugly crimes and broken the traties which you used ti impose on others. And for our part, we have repeatedly warned you and repeatedly offered a truce with you, and so we now have all legal and rational justifications to continue to fight you until your power is destroyed or you give in and surrender."**

**"And I tell them you shouldn't bother yourselves with defending your forces in Iraq and Afghanistan because they are doomed to defeat and are all but defeated fighting their last battles. Rather, you should reinforce your defenses in two regions. The first is the Gulf, from where you will be expelled, Allah willing, after your defeat in Iraq, at which point your economic ruin will be achieved. And the second is Israel, because the Jihadi**

reinforcements are getting closer to it, with Allah's Help and Power, and your defeat there will put an end to contemporary Zionist/Crusader superiority....”

During the course of the interview, Zawahiri impresses upon Muslims the need for jihad, support for other Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine, and further, calls upon them “to make use of every opportunity afforded him to take revenge on America for its imprisonment of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman”.

**A clip from the interview featuring highlights is available here:**

[http://siteinstitute.biz/videos/clips/SITE\\_Sahab\\_2nd\\_Zawahiri\\_Interview\\_Clip.wmv](http://siteinstitute.biz/videos/clips/SITE_Sahab_2nd_Zawahiri_Interview_Clip.wmv)

**Following is a transcript from the clip:**

Iraq

The popular Jihadi war is the thing most feared by the Crusader/Zionist enemy...

That's why I appeal to my brothers in Islam, the Kurds, to renounce these calls which support America and Israel and to write an honorable page in the contemporary history of Islam, just as their forefathers wrote honorable pages in the past history of Islam.

Afghanistan

Although I want to bring to the attention of the British people that Dr. Brydon won't be returning to India this time because his corpse will be throw to the dogs in Afghanistan.

The Defeatists

So they in fact are striving for the secularization of Islam. And in fact, the secularists are braver than them. Rather, our fundamental difference with them is in their backsliding from the faith.

The Collaborators

They have three things in common: abandonment of the rule of Shari'ah, recognition of the legitimacy of the corrupt status quo, and cursing and abusing the Mujahideen.

The Followers

Let each of them prepare an answer to the question:

The Captives

So I call on every Muslim to make use of every opportunity afforded him to take revenge on America for its imprisonment of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman.

Egypt

And I am honored here to convey to the Muslims all over the Islamic world the good news of the joining of an important section of the Islamic Group to the group Qaida al-Jihad...

Algeria

and the joining up of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat with the group Qaida al-Jihad

Somalia

That's why I call on the Muslim Somali people to reject the American Crusader presence in Somalia to strike with strength America's underlings in Somalia, and ot seek help from Allah.

The Western Peoples

Your leaders are hiding from you the true event of the disaster which will shock you. And the days are pregnant and giving birth to new events, with Allah's permission and guidance.

Hot Issues  
with Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri  
1427  
September 2006 CE