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SITE Publications

First Part of Responses by Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri to Open Meeting Coordinated by al-Fajr Center and as-Sahab

By SITE Intelligence Group

April 2, 2008



Dr. Ayman al-Zawahin, "A Review of Events"

The first set of responses to an open meeting with Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, whereby jihadists turned out in large number to ask questions of the al-Qaeda leader, was issued by as-Sahab to jihadist forums today, April 2, 2008. The responses, indicated as the first of two parts, were distributed as a 1 hour 43 minute 49 second Arabic audio file with English and Arabic transcripts. Zawahiri responds in this installment to 90 questions posed by 29 members, some critical of al-Qaeda, which is divided into four sections: killing of innocents, Iran, Egypt, and Palestine. He states that due to the volume of questions, not all will be answered, especially those which deal with personal differences and quarrels, and those dealing with matters of security.

Most of the questions he answers regard Egypt, Hamas, Iran, and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, particularly that group's suicide bombings that have killed innocents. Zawahiri replies that al-Qaeda does not kill innocents, but fights those who kill innocents, and argues that only those Muslims who serve as shields for the "Crusader unbelievers" are killed. To a question on why al-Qaeda does not fight Israel, Zawahiri answers that they do, in fact, strike Israelis, and gives examples of attacking Jews and Israelis abroad in Tunisia and Kenya. He also reiterates words by Usama bin Laden and Abu Omar al-Baghdadi that from Iraq, the mujahideen will move towards Jerusalem.

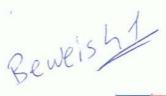
Aside from questions of supporting jihad, Zawahiri's evaluation of the conflict with the US, and criticism of Hamas and Egypt - which he has explicated his position in prior messages - Zawahiri also responds to particulars. One question regards the condition of bin Laden, to which Zawahiri replies that he is "healthy and weil" and the "prejudiced ones always try to spread false information about him being ill, but even if Usama bin Ladin doesn't become ill, he must die one day". He also expresses pleasure with one question about Yusuf al-Qaradawi, an Islamic scholar, arguing that he helps the enemy, his position towards Palestine is "doubtful", and his endorsements, like Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, are not "reliable".

The open meeting began on December 16, 2007, having been announced at the close of as-Sahab's production of the fourth interview with Zawahiri entitled, "A Review of Events". Jihadists and media outlets were encouraged to post questions to Zawahiri within a period lasting 30-days, which saw an overwhelming response.

The Arabic audio clip and English transcript are provided to our Monitoring Service subscribers

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By SITE Intelligence Group



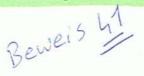
Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, Image from "A Review of Events"

As-Sahab, the media arm of al-Qaeda, issued to jihadist forums on April 21, 2008 the second and final installment of responses by Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri to the open meeting initiative. The installment was distributed as a 2 hour 36 minute Arabic audio file with 79-page Arabic transcript, as opposed to the first set that also included an English transcript. That first release on April 2 contained responses to 90 questions posted by 29 members. Here Zawahiri addresses 63 different members and answers over 250 questions. Responses are divided into seven sections: Iraq, North Africa, the Muslim Brotherhood, Pakistan, Arabian Peninsula, Lebanon, and a general category. Questions in the general category regard 37 different issues, such as: Abu Musab al-Suri and his text instructing in strategy, Call to Global Islamic Resistance; Abu Omar al-Baghdadi as a fictitious character; al-Qaeda reprisals in Denmark, Japan, Norway, and Sweden; jihad in Sudan and Yemen; and participating in jihad in Iraq or Afghanistan verses jihad in the countries of the "infidels", Europe and North America.



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As-Sahab Video of Suicide Bombing in Khost

By SITE Intelligence Group

May 11, 2008







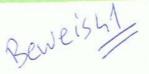
As-Sahab, the multimedia arm of al-Qaeda, issued to jihadist forums on May 10, 2008 a 3 minute 29 second video of a suicide bombing in Khost province in Afghanistan. This video is within the as-Sahab series, "Hell of the Americans in the Land of Kharasan [Afghanistan]". The undated attack striking a military base is performed by an individual named, Abu Bakr al-Hijazi, who is shown addressing a message to Muslims and the enemy. He urges Muslims to have patience and unite, and also to support jihad and perform operations against the "enemies of Allah". To the enemy, Abu Bakr threatens: "we are coming for you... we will chase you with operations, with everything". Footage of his attack concludes the video.

The video and summary transcript are provided to our Monitoring Service subscribers.

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SITE Publications

"An Invitation to Reflection and Repentance" – A Speech by Adam Yahiye Gadahn AKA Azzam the
American from As-Sahab Media – 1/2008

By SITE Intelligence Group

January 6, 2008





Adam Yahiye Gadahn AKA Azzam the American reiterates his call for Americans to convert to Islam in a 50:14 minute video speech issued by As-Sahab, the multimedia arm of Al-Qaeda, to jihadist forums today, Sunday, January 6, 2008. The video, entitled, "An Invitation to Reflection and Repentance", shows Gadahn seated at a desk in front of a laptop with a mug bearing the Sahab logo. Gadahn makes pronouncements on the wars in Muslim lands, including Iraq, Afghanistan, North Africa, Somalia, Chechnya, Pakistan and the Palestinian Territories, emphasizing throughout the barbarism and criminality of American and coalition forces towards Muslims for the sole reason being they are Muslims. Though he speaks almost entirely in English, in an Arabic aside he threatens that when U.S. President George W. Bush visits the Middle East in January, he should be met with bombs rather than flowers. He also mentions Robert Hawkins, the 19-year old who killed 8 people at the mall in Omaha, Nebraska on December 5, 2007, indicating that the tape was made sometime afterwards.

Islam as a means to personal and universal triumph is touted by Gadahn over deviant religions, such as Christianity, and the values maintained by Islam are only paid lip service by Americans, not truly understanding their meaning. Gadahn claims that while Muslims attempt to correct society when it goes astray from the tenets of Islam, Christians do not do so when their religion deviates from the monotheistic origins of Christianity. In contrast to the Christians, it is the strong faith of the Muslims, according to Gadahn, that has enabled them to defeat their enemies, the contemporary "Pharaoh and Goliath" of America and Israel.

He launches into diatribes against acts of American criminality, particularly in Iraq where they have worked with "despotic agents" and murderous militias to oppress Iraqis. Gadahn compares the handing over of Iraq to the Sh'lite death squads and Sunni tribal militias as a "160,000+ strong occupation army of Timothy McVeigh clones handing over responsibility for the security of Nebraska to police forces made up of Robert Hawkins replicas, led by a group of David Koresh's in turbans and black robes." Financial gains, Christianization and colonialism are argued as the features of misogynistic American foreign policy to which even celebrity female activists like "Mrs. Jay Leno, Mrs. George W. Bush, and the former Mrs. Woody Allen and their friends" do not express their outrage.

Gadahn also mentions the humanitarian disaster in Darfur, which he believes America is partially responsible, and cites the actions of Zoe's Ark in Chad where Chadian Muslim children were kidnapped and sold to the West as orphans so they may be raised as "Christian slaves". This is but one of the "lucrative opportunities", as Gadahn terms, of the Darfur crisis among warmongers and missionaries.

During the course of his speech, after speaking of American support to dictators in Russia, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Syria, and Pakistan, and Americans having full knowledge of abuse of Muslims within their own country, Gadahn proceeds to tear up his passport. He states that American soldiers and intelligence agents have committed unspeaking acts on "hellish chambers of torture and cruelty", and these atrocities, including physical torture such as water-boarding, denial of medical treatment to the Blind Sheikh, Omar Abd Al-Rahman, and prohibiting John Walker Lindh from speaking Arabic, will never be forgotten and unpunished. Gadahn adds: "So the CIA can destroy as many videotapes as it likes because everything is being recorded by God in a book which records every sin in minute, graphic detail and whose entries are only erased by repentance." Further, Gadahn states that the defense Jihad against America will continue until there is not one Muslim in captivity, and Americans are encourages to pressure Washington to free all Muslim captives.

The current American administration and its religious militant supporters, or "unholy rollers", are cited as reasons for America's predicament, and Democrats and Republicans are not different from one another. Gadahn states that Americans must take serious steps to remove the fanatics and representatives of American government in Washington, and abandon their religion for Islam. He especially calls to the veterans of the "Twin Vietnams" of Iraq and Afghanistan, arguing that they may be forgiven their sins and killing of innocents before their personal demons drive them to suicide. Gadahn states: "I tell everyone who hears my voice that in spite of the trials and tribulations, a bright and promising future is in store for Islam and its champions, and a bleak and barren future is in store of unbellef and its advocates and helpers. So if you're not on the side of Islam or are in the ranks of its enemies, then ask God for guidance and make the right choice and repent before it's too late."

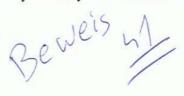
The video and transcript is provided to our Monitoring Service subscribers.

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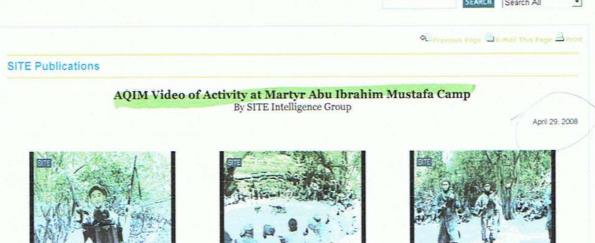
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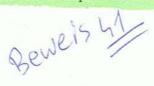


Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb issued a 45 minute 39 second video of its mujahideen's activity at a location called, "Martyr Abu Ibrahim Mustafa Camp", to jihadist forums on April 28, 2008. Footage shows the mujahideen training in a variety of exercises including assassinations, firearms training, physical combat, and clearing the wounded, in addition to their daily activities such as prayer, prayer of food, sewing clothes, and cutting hair. As these scenes unfold, Qur'anic text, and speeches by jihadist leaders and individual mujahideen incite Muslims, particularly Algerian Muslims, to participate in jihad. Their words point to these mujahideen as the defenders of Islam and the Muslims' honor against the enemy. One mujahid addresses the enemy, declaring that Allah prepared revenge for them by individuals who seek heaven just as they seek life, and seek martyrdom just as they seek power. He adds: "The martyrdom operations are not far from us. We still have more for you".

The video and summary transcript are provided to our Monitoring Service subscribers.

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Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi, Emir of Islamic State of Iraq, Issues New Audio Message

December 22, 2007



Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi, the Emir of the Islamic State of Iraq, issued a 47-minute audio message to jihadist forums on December 22, 2007, titled, "Humble Towards the Believers, Stern Towards the Disbelievers."

The highlights of the message include Baghdadi attacking the concept of nationalism as antithetical and inferior to Islam, arguing that "the concept of nationalism that the Muslim loves, fights for, and defends, is for the house that is topped with God's Shari'a in which the creed is a way of life, in which the Muslim is commended and in the infidel is humiliated, and there is no argument over the truth."

Baghdadi, who wishes a blessed Eid Al-Adha to all Muslims and the mujahideen, rails on those who have worked with the Americans and calls upon his followers to "fight the apostates, for they have become accomplices of the Crusaders and will fight the Mujahideen."

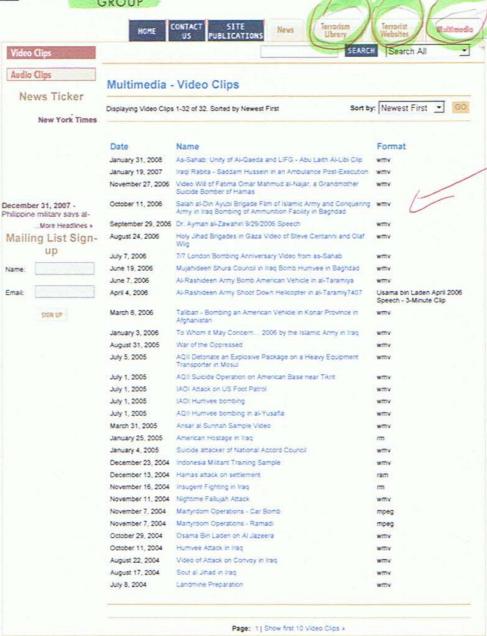
The full transcript and translation of the audio message are provided to subscribers.

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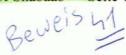
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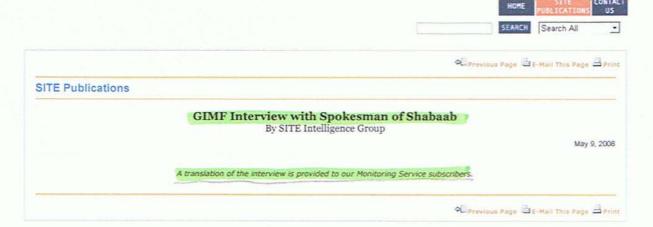




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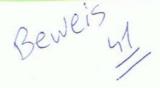






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As-Sahab Video of Mujahideen Launching 12 Mortar Shells at an Afghan Base in Lwara By SITE Intelligence Group

January 14, 2008





As-Sahab, the multimedia arm of Al-Qaeda, issued a 2:38 minute video of Mujahideen launching 12 mortar shells at an "apostate" Afghan base in Lwara, near Khost, to jihadist forums on January 11, 2008. The video is within the series, "Hell of the Americans in the Land of Kharasan [Afghanistan]". The mortar shells are fired in succession at a new enemy base in the area of Kheil Qamer, indicated by a Mujahid in the video as a very strategic area where if enemy forces take control of it, it would stop movement of the Mujahideen.

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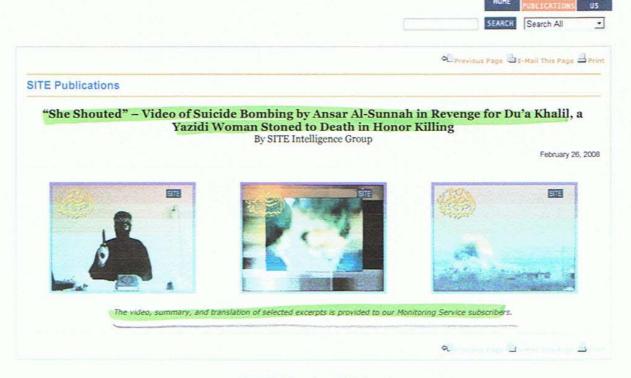




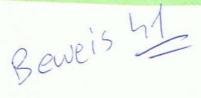
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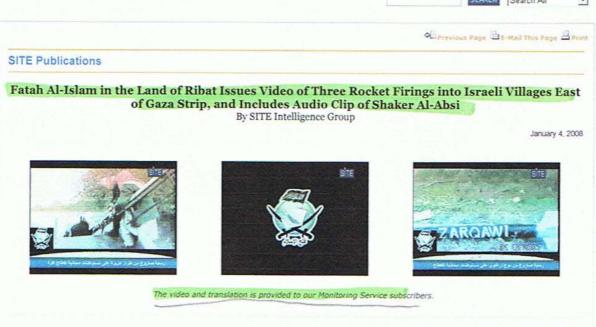








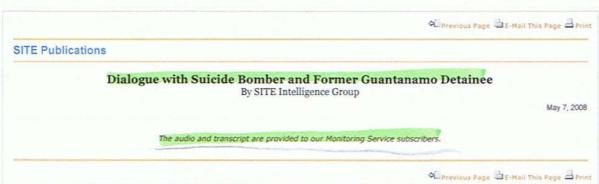




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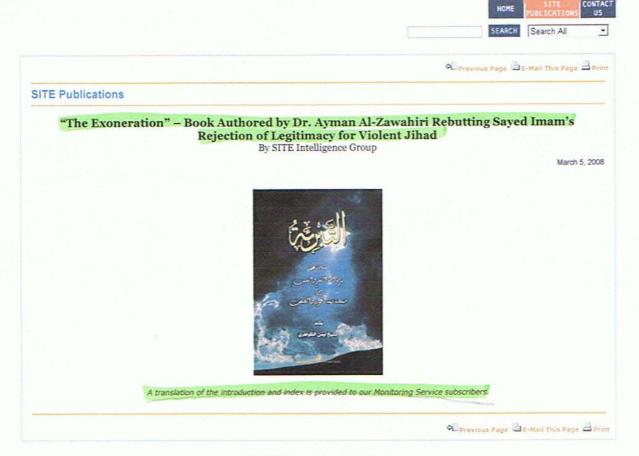












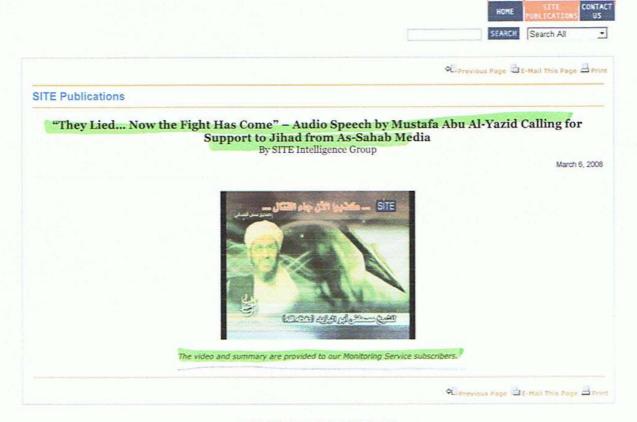
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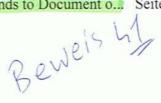






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