

A Quick Read into Zawahiri's Statement: The unmistakable Coordination between the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Qaeda Central Command, the Cheney's Visit to Riyadh, and the Upcoming Inevitable Grand battle of Baghdad.

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The recent statement by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri (may Allah preserve him) delivered a comprehensive and vital strategic road map. His intended targets were: People of Palestine, apostate leaders of Hamas, (may Allah disgrace them here and in the hereafter unless they return to the fold of Islam), American Policy makers, American people at large, Shiah in Iraq and Lebanon, Apostate Arab and Islamic Rulers, and the Islamic Ummah. The statement strongly indicates that it is a final warning (especially to Shiah in both Lebanon and Iraq) before the awaited and inevitable Grand battle of Baghdad.

This article is not meant to analyze the entire statement, that takes volumes – rather, this article will shed some lights on the message intended for each of the targets stated above.

Although Dr. Zawahiri (may Allah preserve him) wrote a separate prescription for each of the ailing patients above, his general prescription was meant to shore up the Internal Front of the Islamic Ummah.

American Decision Makers and the U.S. policy in Iraq

Western mainstream media (to no one's surprise) billed the statement as a desperate appeal to the Americans to negotiate with the Islamic State of Iraq to work out the withdrawal of American Forces there. This twisted interpretation of part of the statement was echoed by some Arab media such as al-Jazeera. Other so called Muslim analysts joined the band wagon. This (Western media take on the statement) could not be farther from the truth. Neither Sheikh Zawahiri (may Allah preserve him) nor any sincere servant of Allah would reduce the duty of every Muslim to just liberating Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other occupied Muslim land anywhere else. Any Muslim who understands the meaning and conditions of Tawheed knows that establishing La Ilaha Illa Allah (no god but Allah) in every corner on earth is a duty of every Muslim. Besides, upon careful listening to what Sheikh Zawahiri said, any fair-minded person would not reach the same conclusion

reached by Western Media and their advocates.

Sheikh Zawahiri made it clear to the Democrats in the U.S. that their sweeping victory over the Republicans in this year mid-term election was not due to any intelligence superiority over their Republican counterparts but was rather due to the Mujahideen's victory in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Before someone label this assertion as unrealistic or overconfidence, one must realize that Sheikh Zawahiri's words came against a backdrop that is not particularly rosy for Americans. From resignation or dismissal of some top brass in Bush's war machine, followed by comparing the military conditions in Iraq to that of Vietnam (which led to defeat and disgraceful exit of U.S. Forces) – then came statements by top current and former military and civilian experts calling the Iraq war unwinnable. Finally all of this devastating news culminated in a direct and public admission by the president of the United States of America: "America is not winning in Iraq"

Sheikh Zawahiri (may Allah preserve him) was exposing the idiotic mentality of the Americans when he described their negotiation with some parties to secure their exit from Iraq. He firmly and confidently told both Republicans and Democrats: You are attempting in panic to find a way out of the disasters which surround you in Iraq and Afghanistan, but you are still thinking with the same idiotic mentality. Thus you try to negotiate with certain parties to secure your departure, although these parties don't have a way out for you, and your attempts will only succeed in further frustrating you, Allah willing, because you aren't negotiating with the real powers in the Islamic world. And it appears that you shall embark on a painful journey of failed negotiations, after which you shall come back – Allah permitting – with no other choice but to negotiate with the real powers. What Sheikh Zawahiri meant was the real power in the Islamic World, be it in or outside of Iraq, the power which controls the events. So he was talking about the kind of negotiation that the U.S. will be forced to seek and not the other way around. Sheikh Zawahiri wanted to make clear that an Islamic cause is a global cause and must be considered as part of the internal front of the Islamic Ummah and thus must be dealt with at the level of Islamic leadership all over. Furthermore, the Iraq issue is only one out of many issues pertaining to the security of the Islamic Ummah. Sheikh Zawahiri (may Allah preserve him) went a step further to put that issue (negotiation with Al-Qaeda) once and for all. He turned to the American people and said: you only realized the failure of the administration and toppled the Republicans' candidates after the Mujahideen slaughtered you, and you didn't listen to the voice of morality, justice, principles and intellect. And the Mujahideen's weapons continue to be raised and aimed, by the grace of Allah.

The equation for your security is "You shall never dream of security until we

truly experience it in Palestine and all lands of Islam,” and not the fallacious equation with which Bush deceives you when he says, “We strike the terrorists in their countries so that they don’t strike us in ours.” On the contrary: if we are struck in our countries, we shall never stop striking you in your countries, with Allah’s power and permission.

And as our commander, Sheikh Usama bin Ladin (may Allah preserve him) told you, “As you bomb, you will be bombed, and as you kill, you will be killed.” So having (Zawahiri) said what he said, how could anyone in his right mind still think that Al-Qaeda will seek negotiation with the U.S. to get the occupiers out of Iraq with disregard to the rest of Islamic causes?

Sheikh Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, the Amir of the Islamic State of Iraq:

Negotiations with the Americans: No

Graceful exit: No

Disgraceful Exit: Yes

This issue about negotiation brings up another interesting point in its own right. In his statement to the Islamic Ummah, Sheikh Abu Omar al-Baghdadi (may Allah preserve him), the Amir of the Islamic State of Iraq, spoke with the same tone with which Sheikh Zawahiri spoke. Not only did Sheikh al-Baghdadi reject and mock an offer to negotiate with the Americans but he also ordered the Americans to make a disgraceful exit from Iraq in one month leaving behind all heavy war gears. He also ordered them to hand over all military bases in Iraq to the Mujahideen of the Islamic State of Iraq. And if that was not humiliating enough for the Americans, he went on to challenge them to ask all the parties they are negotiating with to stop all hostilities and attacks in Iraq for just one month to see if they can manage that. He went on to say: only Mujahideen of the Islamic State of Iraq can guarantee that. The two statements (Zawahiri’s and al-Baghdadi’s) were only days apart.

This can only be interpreted one way-the pipe line between the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Qaeda Central Command has been clear and open before and after the formation of that new State. It also suggests that the level of coordination between the two has been elevated to high gear in anticipation of major events.

The post man, the middle man, and who is coming to dinner?

Another related development took place only a couple of weeks before the two statements were broadcasted. The scene of that event was the house of Saud in Riyadh, the residence of the most loyal servants of Bush’s family. The

occupants of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., and the occupants of the Royal Palace in Riyadh, 7000 miles away, tried their best to keep the event secret or at least low key. But the preparation for the event, especially in the military air base and the Royal palace alerted many observers to something big is underway. The 67 million dollars question all over town (Riyadh) was: Who is coming to dinner? Officials on both sides continued to be tight lips but the cat got out of the bag. Officials then admitted that U.S. Vice president, Dick Cheney, made a quick and brief visit to his servants. Washington maintained that the purpose of the visit was to discuss the Iran variable in the complicated calculus of Iraq. However, the timing of the visit and the subsequent turn of events suggested otherwise. It appeared that Dick Cheney, the post man, delivered a message from his boss to King Abdullah, the middle man, ordering him to broker an agreement to have a direct negotiation between the U.S. and the Islamic State of Iraq. Bush's offer to negotiate with the Islamic State of Iraq was, as we saw above, dismissed and mocked by the beloved Amir, al-Baghdadi. King Abdullah may have to do 100 push-ups and equal number of sit-ups as a punishment for his poor performance.

Palestine is not for sale- Muslim brothers in Palestine: Hold on to your Qura'an, hold on to your rifles.

Sheikh Zawahiri wasted no time exposing the hypocrite leaders of Hamas. They disregarded the legal and the factual realities of the conflict between unbelief and Islam. And they participated in elections which they knew will lead to a secular constitution. Then from elections on the basis of a secular constitution to respecting the international resolutions, then from respecting international resolutions to approving the "prisoners' document", then from approving the "prisoners' document" to a government of national unity, and then from a government of national unity to their expulsion from the cabinet... and the story continues.

How is it that they didn't demand that Palestine have an Islamic constitution before entering any elections? Aren't they an Islamic movement? Don't they strive for Allah's Word to be the highest?

We hear talk of an agreement to restructure the PLO. But what we know and what the entire world knows is that the PLO is a secular organization which calls for the establishment of a secular state in Palestine, and that the PLO is the one who recognized Israel and abandoned more than 80% of Palestine and agreed to the accords of disgrace and surrender. So on what basis are they calling for the restructuring of the PLO? We had hoped that the brothers would demand an Islamic charter for the PLO before talking about restructuring it. And furthermore, what would their stance be were the PLO to be restructured

through elections – as we hear – and the majority chose abandonment of Palestine and agreeing to recognize Israel?

And this opens the door to the biggest question: what is the authority which rules? Is it the majority of votes? Or Divine Shari'ah? He (Sheikh Zawahiri) then pull the rug from under the deviant Hamas leaders before they use their usual arrogant response. Every time someone tried to advice them to return to the fold of Islam they claim that Palestine problem is unique and only people of Palestine know it better than any one else. Sheikh Zawahiri reminded everyone that Palestine is the cause of every Muslim, just as all the Muslim's causes are the causes of every Muslim in Palestine. The fundamentals of Islam and Shariah and the right of Shariah to rule is the overriding issue here. He went on to say to all Muslims in Palestine not to compromise one grain of sand of Palestine, to disregard elections and secular constitutions, and to hold on to their Qura'an and to hold on to their rifles.

Last warning to Shiah of Lebanon and Last chance for the Shiah in Iraq

In a brilliant, master stroke, Sheikh Zawahiri (may Allah preserve him), squeezed the Shiah in Lebanon and their counterparts in Iraq into corner from which it would be impossible to come out whole unless they correct their Aqeedah and decide which camp they are in. He began by asking a set of tough but not new questions. Then came the final and devastating blow: “

And I call on every independent, honorable and intelligent one to ask himself a courageous and brave question: were Imam Ali (may Allah honor him) or our chief Hasan or our chief Hussein (Allah was pleased with them) today present in Iraq or Afghanistan, would they have colluded with the Crusaders in the invasion of the lands of Islam, and then cooperate with them and fight the Mujahideen in defense of them? Would they have participated in the governments put in place by the Crusaders and blessed by the United Nations, and would they have obeyed the orders of Bremer, Tommy Franks and Lakhdar Brahimi? Or would they have declared Jihad against them and those who help them?

And I call on every independent, honorable and intelligent one to ask himself: is this the Islam for which Imam Ali and Hussein (Allah was pleased with them) sought martyrdom?

And I ask him to ask himself: why should Jihad be Halaal in Lebanon but Haraam in Iraq and Afghanistan? And why should America be the Great Satan in Lebanon but the Great Ally in Iraq and Afghanistan? That left the Shiah in a lose-lose situation, no matter how they answer his questions. But was that all he wanted to say to the Shiah? It is our opinion that there is a subtle threat to some and a window of opportunity to others. The Shiah in Lebanon were the

intended recipients of the last warning. However, in preparation for the inevitable grand battle of Baghdad, the wise Zawahiri wanted to neutralize as many Shiah members as possible. And he wanted to send them on a soul searching mission that will force many of them to switch to a passive mode and stay on the fence until the dust clears. That is prudent and sound war tactic.

Such a threat was echoed by Sheikh al-Baghdadi in his statement. The title of his statement “Patience, O Baghdad! War has its ups and downs” says a lot. But he also said that the Mujahideen are everywhere in Baghdad and the reason for not taking full control of Baghdad could not be discussed (at the time he delivered the statement). That carries a strong indication that time to take full control of Baghdad is fast approaching. In the process of taking Baghdad, the Shiah there will have to make a choice. Either they fight alongside of the cross worshipers and the installed government and face a total slaughter, or stay on the fence and hope for amnesty.

O you apostate rulers of Muslims! Take notice! The era of the offspring of Abdul Aziz Al-Sa’ud, the grandsons of the Sharif Husein and Sadat, Mubarak, and Arafat has passed. And the era of Khalid Islambouli, Abdullah Azzam, and Abu Hafs, the commander, Khattab, Muhammad Atta, Muhammad Siddique Khan, and Shehzad Tanwir (may Allah have mercy on them) has begun.

We would not want to be in the apostate ruler’s shoes. They have got to be squirming in their seats upon hearing this announcement. This is a stern warning to say the least. It does not take a genius to figure out that the natural next step after taking Baghdad is for the Muslim masses in countries like Egypt, Jordan, Syria, etc. to rise up and topple their apostate governments. Representative from Al-Qaeda will be on hand to issue each apostate leader and his soldiers and supporters a pair of brand new skates, each fitted with a state of the art GPS which is programmed for direction to only one destination, hellfire that is.

Sheikh Zawahiri called on the Ummah to choose its leaders according to the Islamic Shariah. This is again a necessary step in the preparation for after math of the Grand Battle of Baghdad.

Fasten your seat belts brothers and sisters. The world time clock is pregnant and only Allah knows the outcome of the labors that has begun.

And our final prayer is that all praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds.