



Al-Jazeera Interview with American Yemeni Cleric Sheikh Anwar al-Awlaki February 2, 2010

Al-Jazeera Interview with American Yemeni Cleric Sheikh Anwar al-Awlaki: “I Support the Attempt of Bombing Detroit” Released: February 2, 2010



[This document is the transcript of an Arabic-language interview on Al-Jazeera obtained by NEFA investigators and translated into English on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch subscription service. It is provided for educational and informational purposes only.]

[Al-Jazeera Introduction]

“The Yemeni cleric Sheikh Anwar al-Awlaki is enjoying an increasing attention from the media outlets and the Western intelligence agencies because of the connection his name has with numerous attacks and bombings that took place in Europe and America, and the latest of which was the attack in the military base of Fort Hood in Texas, which was executed by the American major Nidal Hasan, and also the airliner operation the Nigerian Omar Farooq Abdulmutallab attempted to bomb over the city of Detroit.”

“And, the American authorities lean towards that Sheikh al-Awlaki has had some kind of role in these two operations, whether through encouragement, or, at least, an ideological impact.”

“Al-Jazeera Net interviewed al-Awlaki to review with him the most recent updates after the Detroit airliner operation, which al-Qaeda Organization in the Arabian Peninsula adopted, on Christmas Eve. Here’s the text of the interview, which occurred in a rushing manner due to his security conditions and precautions, which intensified two months prior to al-Jazeera interview with him the first time.”

“Q. News reports in the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal that were associated with American investigators for the American Intelligence, mentioned the possibility of targeting you using a non-piloted jet, and only now they are worried about the reaction [of such action] and are considering it. Why do you think the Americans want to kill you and are encouraging that?”

“A. Because I am a Muslim and I advocate for Islam, and their accusation [to me] is encouragement. The relationship with Nidal Hasan and Omar al-Farooq, and the relationship with some of the September 11th executors, and now I am accused of having connections with 14 cases. All of this is poured into an attempt to destroy the voices that call for defending the rights of the Ummah. They don’t want the jurisprudence of dearness and seeking justice; they want to spread the jurisprudence of humiliation and the culture of subservience; they want to market the American, peaceful, democratic Islam that calls for obedience to rulers even if they were traitor operatives; they want the Islam that recognizes the occupation and deals with it; they

want an Islam that doesn't include governing with the Sharia, or an talks about Jihad or an Islamic Caliphate. We advocate for Islam that which Allah brought upon Muhammad, prayer and peace upon him: the Islam of Jihad and Sharia establishment, and the voices that advocates for that will be assassinated or their personality will be; they assassinate people through murder or imprisonment, or assassinate the personality through media disparagement and vilification."

"Q. What is the truth about you meeting with Omar Farooq, or that you announced a Fatwa about the legitimacy of the operation?"

"A. The mujahid brother Omar al-Farooq—may Allah release him—is one of my students; yes, we were in correspondence, but I did not give Omar Farooq a Fatwa in regards to this operation."

"Q. You envision him as a mujahid; meaning, do you back him up?"

"A. I support what Omar Farooq has done after I witnessed my brothers in Palestine for more than 60 years being killed, and in Iraq they are being killed, and in Afghanistan they are being killed, and the American missiles and raids killed 17 women and 23 children in my tribe; thus, don't ask me whether al-Qaeda killed, or if it bombed an American civil jet after all of that, as three hundred Americans are nothing before the thousands of Muslims they killed."

"Q. You supported Nidal Hasan and you justified it that the target is military and not civic. In regards to the jet [incident] of Omar Farooq it is a civic jet; meaning, the targets are the American public?"

"A. If the jet was military or the target was for the American army, it would be better. And, al-Qaeda Organization has its choices, and in regards to the public, the American populace is living within a democratic regime and they hold the responsibility of its policies; the American populace elected the criminal Bush for two presidential runs, and they elected Obama who's not different from Bush, and one of his first declarations were that he will not abandon Israel despite that there were other candidates in the American elections who oppose the foreign American wars and those only received low percentages of the total votes. The American populace is a participant in all the crimes of their government, but if they weren't supportive of that then they should change their government; they are the ones who pay taxes that are being spent on the army and they are who send their children to the army; they carry the responsibility."

"Q. Do you believe that the Yemeni Government is facilitating your assassination?"

"A. The Yemeni government sells its own citizens to America in order to eat bloody money it received from the west, with their blood. The Yemeni officials say to the Americans: attack whatever you desire but do not adopt the actions thereof in order to not have people revolt against us, and with total impertinence the Yemeni government adopts it. For example, the Cruise Missiles were seen by the people in the region in Shabwa and Abeen and Arhab, and the some of the Cluster Bombs remained undetonated and people saw them. The state is lying in its claims, and the state adopted the operation in order to refute the accusation of being a cooperative. The American surveillance jets always revolve in the Yemeni sphere; so what is this country that allows

its enemy to eavesdrop on its people and invade their privacies, then considers this cooperation accepted?”

“Q. You are delegitimizing the Yemeni government, which publicly refuses any direct interference, and you’re saying that the country is occupied?”

“A. Undoubtedly, the sea is occupied: the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, Saqtara Island; the sphere is occupied by surveillance jets, and also there is American presence on land that’s invading the country’s sovereignty envisaged through the acts of the embassy, and moreover there is military presence that currently is training the Yemeni forces to kill the people of Yemen; this is an occupying force...Yemen is occupied and the lesson is in the acts not the names. And, there are unique traits in individuals, populaces and governments; a distinctive trait that signifies it...it appears as a notion. Person X is tall and person Y is clever; government A is structured, and so on. The distinctive trait of the Yemeni government is that it is a lying government; it lies outside and inside; it lies to its people and it lies to its neighbors and it lies to America and it lies to everyone. The government claims to have killed this and that persons, and in the end it becomes clear that it’s lying. The Yemeni government wants to present American with gifts; look at the level of degeneration the Yemeni government reached.”

“Q. Ulama in Yemen published fatwas that Jihad in permissible in a case of direct interference; they do not agree with you that there’s a direct interference, because they conditioned the American and Western [direct] interference to be faced with Jihad?”

“A. This is a kind Fatwa, and the duty is to show the truth to the Ummah, but it is incomplete and conditional; America entered through all the methods, and if it didn’t enter with its armies like in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is because it does not dare, because the Yemeni people will swallow it and will have it forget the disasters it was met with in Iraq and received in Afghanistan. And, I turn the attention of the Ulama that the American officers today—whether in the intelligence or in the army—are present in Sana’a and other regions. This is an American interference, so why don’t the Ulama put out fatwas, with accordance to their own conditionality, to kill those officers as they entered to eavesdrop and kill, and to train the Yemeni soldiers on killing.”

“Q. What is the truth about what the Western media pumps about you; that you became the inspiration of the new Muslims in the West and in America, or is all of that an exaggeration?”

“A. I said through an interview with al-Jazeera with Yusri Fodeh that American is unjust, and all the oppressors throughout history faced an ugly ending, and I think that the West does not want to understand this universal fact; the Muslims in Europe and America see what happens to Muslims in Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and they will avenge all Muslims everywhere.”