



## **Interview with Hamas Leader Dr. Khalil Al Hayya January 23, 2010**

### **Ezzedeen Al-Qassam Brigades “An Exclusive Interview with Hamas Leader Dr. Khalil Al Hayya” Originally Released on: January 23, 2010**



*[This document is the transcript of an official interview conducted by the Ezzedeen Al-Qassam Brigades obtained by NEFA on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch subscription service. This transcript is provided for educational and informational purposes only.]*

- “Iran supports us financially, politically, and morally without political price.”
  - “Our priorities are to promote the right of our people in resistance, political partnership and break the siege.”
  - “Our relationship with Egypt is based on shared principles and interests. “
- ...

“Dr. Khalil Al Hayya stressed in an exclusive interview with [the] Al Qassam website that [the] Hamas movement receives Iranian support financially, politically and morally without paying any political price, and expressed his pride and welcome to all strategic relationships with all Muslim and Arab countries that support the Palestinian people and resistance...”

[Q]

“In the beginning of 2010... Are the Palestinian people and the Palestinian issue okay?”

[A]

“The Palestinian people are always moving towards a specific goal of ending the occupation and establishing a Palestinian state on Palestinian national land, so as long as our people are moving towards achieving their objectives, I think that they are okay.”

“Of course, our way toward victory is full of pain, suffering, prisons, exile, and martyrdom, but as long as our people are heading in the right direction towards ending the occupation, liberating the land, liberation of holy places and establishing their independent state, they are fine. I think that our people will bring security and ambitions for themselves and their nation.”

[Q]

“The Dialogue and reconciliation took too long. Where did the reconciliation stop?”

[A]

“We hoped to reach the last stage and to achieve the spacious political partnership through the promotion of reconciliation and national unity, but unfortunately, despite all concessions and flexibility made by Hamas in all rounds of dialogue, most recently meeting with officials in Egypt, we were surprised that all of what is provided to us do not match with what was agreed upon previously. Therefore, our simple demand is that the Egyptians... match what has been done previously with the Palestinian factions, but unfortunately the Egyptians froze their position on this issue.”

“Hamas confirms that reconciliation is a national and strategic option...and we in Hamas raise this issue in all our meetings. We seek to achieve it with all our strength, believing in our right to modify our remarks on the Egyptian paper. We hope to achieve the real way and perform reconciliation soon.”

“We stress that Egypt has made an...effort that must be completed. If the reconciliation is designed to enhance the political partnership and to heal the Palestinian ranks and stand in front of challenges, this reconciliation will succeed. But if it aimed at weakening party and strengthening other, I believe that this reconciliation will be in a state of hazy vision.”

[Q]

“Some accused Egypt of participating in the last aggression on Gaza. This was followed by some...measure[s] like logistic[al] support to the Zionist army during the war, the construction of the steel wall and the block of the ‘Lifeline 3’ convoy. After all this, you are accused of courtesy to the Egyptian regime .. How do you respond?”

[A]

“It is not wrong to stress the historic and strategic relationship between us and our Arab brothers, Muslims and all free people who support our right, and we are keen to have a good relationship with all the Arab and the international governmental and nongovernmental systems. We have no problem or dispute with any system or with any people, because we recognize that these peoples and regimes are supposed to be supportive of the right of the Palestinian resistance and the Palestinian program, so we do not [do] anything that could impair this relationship.”

“But this does not mean that we do not say what we think is right. We differ in certain policies regarding the Palestinian issue with respect to their own domestic regulations. In terms of the Palestinian cause, we disagree with this system or that, and it is our right to say what we think is right in our cause.”

“We respect the Egyptian positions and sacrifices regarding our cause, but when we see the Egyptian system doing what we consider not right, we say it frankly. We consider the construction of the steel wall and the block of the ‘long life 3’ convoy not a successful policy and we ask for more right of Arabism. So, we differentiate between the good relationship in dealing with Egypt and other Arab countries of Egypt, and say that this is a mistake as we see it.”

[Q]

“ Hamas is accused of failing in transitioning from a faction to a Government of the people. How do you respond to?”

[A]

“This is not true. Hamas assumed the national responsibilities which were given to it by the Palestinian voters. And the tenth government extended hands to all the political parties, and asked them to come with us, but there was an international resolution to leave Hamas alone. What do we do then?! To surrender?! I remember that Azzam Al-Ahmad said to Dr. al-Zahar and Siyam in Aqaba, ‘Leave the government to Fatah and observe it through the legislative council because the international community does accept you.’”

“Is this acceptable...? When Fatah calls to form the government, this decision is against the will of the Palestinian voter, who has delegated the majority of seats for the Change and Reform bloc to form the government, and we extended it with our hands to them and asked them to form a government with us, and when they refused we have to form a government alone.”

“We offered major concessions in the formation of national unity, and gave away the parliamentary majority of us. The one who turned on the Government of National Unity and the Mecca Agreement is that who responded to the decision of Dayton against the government.”

“Thus...to blame Hamas, which participated very effectively, is unacceptable.”

[Q]

“What are your priorities in Gaza?”

[A]

“Our priorities are to promote the rights of our people, which exercise the right of resistance to liberate their land, to maintain the security of [our] citizens, to strengthen political partnership, to improve the performance and enhance transparency in the institutions of the Palestinian Authority and to break the blockade with all our strength. We will strive to help Palestinian citizens, and reconstruct Gaza. We ask here: ‘Who is responsible for preventing the reconstruction of Gaza and putting [up] obstacles?’”

“As for the resistance, I say to all those who accuse Hamas of giving up resistance that Hamas, which faced the Zionist occupation for 22 days of devastating war,

operates a fixed resistance in a way that protects the Palestinian people and verify and prove their steadfastness. I tell them not to forget what Hamas has done, to bring money to serve the Palestinian people. We seek to achieve our priorities, despite the presence of a team that does not want the movement to go forward.”

[Q]

“Your relationship with Iran is...murky. They say that Iran supports Hamas with money and weapons. Is this true or is it just political support?”

[A]

“Iran supports us financially, politically and morally; and stands beside the Palestinian people and his resistance, without going into unimportant details. We in Hamas have our strategic relationships with everyone who loves us and supports us, and we say very clearly that we belong to Arab and Islamic nations, so we are not afraid of this relationship. But it is a balanced relationship that should be in the interest of the Palestinian cause and the resistance. But there is an attempt to tarnish the picture of Hamas, and try to tickle people’s emotions and stir people under multiple names here and there.”

“The question here is that Iran is an enemy of the Zionist entity and the American project, and thus whether this country supports us as a people fight for their rights, why refuse? What is the harm in this relationship as long as we have had a good relationship of respect and appreciation?”

“We are ready to welcome the support for the resistance of our people from any party, on one condition: that such support does not have any political price. We do not accept any interference in our politics.”

“But if they blame us for our relationship with Iran or Turkey or other countries, let them look at other people’s relations with the occupation, and therefore we are proud of our relationship with everyone from our Arabic and Islamic countries. Yes, Iran has political and material support.”

[Q]

“There is recent news that the U.S. will increase its military support for the Zionist entity. Do you not think that this is an indication of a new war on Gaza?”

[A]

“U.S. support for the Zionist entity has continued for a long time, and there is an ungodly alliance between the Zionist entity and America, so this support is continuing, and the expectations exist. But in all cases the weapons come from the U.S. This is not surprising. And we must not forget that the Zionist entity is in the interest of the U.S. in many of the issues in the region.”

[Q]

“How do you imagine the scene in 2010?”

[A]

“We hope that 2010 will be a year of Palestinian unity and political partnership. Also, I hope we will get to the stage of supporting the resistance from all Palestinians, and to stand united against the Zionist enemy with all its ambitions and attempts to end the Palestinian issue, disregarding our right.”