

12-2011

The information battlefield: Al-Qaeda's use of advanced media technologies for framed messaging

Jessica Marie Martin
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/thesesdissertations>



Part of the [Broadcast and Video Studies Commons](#), [Communication Technology and New Media Commons](#), [Critical and Cultural Studies Commons](#), [International and Intercultural Communication Commons](#), and the [Journalism Studies Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Martin, Jessica Marie, "The information battlefield: Al-Qaeda's use of advanced media technologies for framed messaging" (2011). *UNLV Theses, Dissertations, Professional Papers, and Capstones*. 1257. <https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/thesesdissertations/1257>

This Thesis is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Scholarship@UNLV with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this Thesis in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.

This Thesis has been accepted for inclusion in UNLV Theses, Dissertations, Professional Papers, and Capstones by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.

THE INFORMATION BATTLEFIELD:
AL-QAEDA'S USE OF ADVANCED MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES
FOR FRAMED MESSAGING

By

Jessica Marie Martin

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the

Master of Arts in Journalism and Media Studies

Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies
Greenspun College of Urban Affairs
The Graduate College

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
December 2011



THE GRADUATE COLLEGE

We recommend the thesis prepared under our supervision by

Jessica Marie Martin

entitled

The Information Battlefield: Al-Qaeda's Use of Advanced Media Technologies for Framed Messaging

be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts in Journalism and Media Studies

Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies

Greg Borchard, Committee Chair

Julian Kilker, Committee Member

Gary Larson, Committee Member

David Dickens, Graduate College Representative

Ronald Smith, Ph. D., Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
and Dean of the Graduate College

December 2011

ABSTRACT

The Information Battlefield: Al-Qaeda's Use of Advanced Media Technologies for Framed Messaging

By

Jessica Marie Martin

Dr. Gregory Borchard, Committee Chair

Associate Professor of Journalism and Media Studies

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Through a descriptive and qualitative content analysis of Al-Qaeda videos from 2001 to 2010, this thesis describes how the organization's video production has undergone a surge in production quality by using modern technology and skilled recruits. This thesis also provides background on the Islamic culture and the history of Al-Qaeda in order to put into perspective the goals of the organization's framed messages that are incorporated into their videos. The study also draws on parallels of propaganda use throughout history to highlight how regimes from all over the world understand the importance of communication during a time of war.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to this study. Thanks to Thesis Chair Dr. Gregory Borchard for overseeing this project; most importantly for his time, patience, and guidance throughout the process. Thanks to committee members Dr. Gary Larson, Dr. Julian Kilker and Dr. David Dickens for their foresight, expertise and passion for the subject matter. Thank you all for your years of support and unhesitant willingness to be part of this project.

PREFACE

I chose to study the topic of Al-Qaeda's framed messaging because it was of professional interest to me as a public affairs officer in the U.S. Air Force who has deployed to the Middle East in support of the Global War on Terror. I believed that any research I conducted would benefit my practical application of the knowledge. This proved to be true; however, I did not anticipate the feelings associated with analyzing such material.

From the beginning, I understood the importance of impartiality. For that reason, I was hesitant to disclose my background. However, my committee unanimously encouraged me to include it, with the argument that, by nature, everyone is biased to some degree. Despite my personal stance going into this project, I do believe the tone of the thesis remained balanced. One particular example of conflict was in reviewing the videos. It was disturbing to see footage of American and allied military members beating Arab men who appeared to be civilians. Yet, I had made the decision to transcribe each video for the appendix, and so I knew that had to be included.

Ultimately, this study opened my eyes to the subjectivity of propaganda. Messaging framing is truly in the mind of the message sender. U.S. and allied military forces are serving to protect democratic freedoms, defending their citizens against "terrorist" actions. Al-Qaeda followers are serving to uphold Sharia law, defending Islam against "occupiers" threatening their culture. I am still a patriotic American Airman and have not become an Al-Qaeda sympathizer. However, I can appreciate the sincerity of messages with reasons behind a passionate delivery.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
PREFACE	v
LIST OF IMAGES	vii
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
Al-Qaeda’s rise to the front	6
Thematic Statement	13
Significance of study	15
Literature Review	18
Methodology	26
2001: “Osama bin Laden—November 9 th , 2001”	27
2005: “Knowledge is for acting upon—The Manhattan raid”	28
2008: “Al-Qaeda leader on Obama’s victory”	30
2007: “Al Qaeda/as Sahab: Hafiz Usman & Adam Gadahn propaganda [English]”	31
2007: “The solution”	32
2008: “Al Qaeda recruits children”	32
2009: ““Gaza, not again’ Al-Qaeda propaganda video”	32
2010: “Adam Gadahn March 7, 2010 video with transcript”	32
2011: “Ayman Dhawahiri—I have never been a member of Muslim brotherhood!”	32
CHAPTER 2: FINDINGS	38
Video length and spokespersons	39
Production quality	44
Key messages (calls to action)	51
CHAPTER 3: CONCLUSION	58
APPENDIX	66
REFERENCES	155
VITA	160

LIST OF IMAGES

Image 1	“Osama bin Laden—November 9 th , 2001” screenshot.....	66
	“Knowledge is for acting upon—The Manhattan raid”	
Image 2	part 1 screenshot.....	70
Image 3	part 2 screenshot.....	88
Image 4	“Al Qaeda/as Sahab: Hafiz Usman & Adam Gadahn propaganda [English]” screenshot.....	101
Image 5	“The solution” screenshot.....	129
Image 6	“Al Qaeda recruits children” screenshot.....	132
Image 7	“Al-Qaeda leader on Obama’s victory” screenshot.....	133
Image 8	“‘Gaza, not again’ Al-Qaeda propaganda video” screenshot.....	137
Image 9	“Ayman Dhawahiri—I have never been a member of Muslim brotherhood!” screenshot.....	146
Image 10	“Adam Gadahn March 7, 2010 video with transcript” screenshot...	150

The Information Battlefield:

Al-Qaeda's Use of Advanced Media Technologies for Framed Messaging

CHAPTER 1:

INTRODUCTION

Message framing is used by a variety of organizations and is known by a variety of terms. Message framing in application to war is better known as propaganda, although that tie has conjured up a sinister tone since its prominent use in World War I. The tactic began innocently as a way to ensure the distribution of truthful information, but war planners twisted its meaning by exploiting its use on the battlefield. Propaganda has continued to be used within the realm of war and is evident today in the framed messages of Al-Qaeda videos.

This thesis analyzes the ways in which Al-Qaeda has influenced public opinion by waging its own propaganda campaign against the United States, most notably since the attacks of September 11th. Al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden until his death in May 2011, has propagated framed messages with online videos to gain support of its cause. This study shows how precedents are visible in Al-Qaeda's messages in its current war against Western democratic ideas. Al-Qaeda is enlisting public relations to spread its framed messages across the globe, similar to regimes throughout history.

The idea for this study was based on the author's personal interest in exploring Al-Qaeda's propaganda and intended audiences on a scholarly level. As a public affairs officer in the U.S. Air Force, having served a tour of duty in the Middle East, the author regularly dealt with providing information to reporters and analyzing news productions

regarding the conflicts with Al-Qaeda. With that experience, the author recognized the importance of viewing primary sources in their intended context.

Propaganda's implementation is traceable throughout time. In the early 20th Century, Edward Bernays, a leading figure in the study of modern message framing—or, as he more simply described it, “propaganda”—wrote that World War I changed the way media users understood the effects of messages. “Ironically,” Bernays wrote, “the same great war drive that had made that alien term ‘propaganda’ commonplace had also made the neutral term pejorative” (Bernays, 1928, p. 13). Bernays has been called “the father of public relations,” and subscribed to the idea that public opinion could and should be manipulated, thereby gaining the desired public consent. Harold Lasswell, a contemporary of Bernays and a political and behavioral scientist, also studied propaganda from both world wars and learned that “warfare was no longer just for generals and military troops; it was a complete conflict in which public opinion mattered a great deal” (Rogers, 1994, p. 213-214). World leaders have recognized the benefit of using this device, employing it on and off the battlefield.

In the years leading to American involvement in World War I, Bernays explained that governments had learned to employ a range of modern media resources to gain sympathizers for their cause (Bernays, 1928, p. 11). The Wilson Administration used these arguments to its advantage in convincing the American public, which was at first resistant to participate in a European war, by enlisting the Committee on Public Information. Also known as the Creel Committee, after Bernays' colleague George Creel, the organization developed a complex operation of media-based public relations campaigns designed to persuade the American electorate that the survival of democracy

at home depended on fighting for it abroad (Creel, 1928, 99-117). Prior to the Creel Committee, the United States depended on foreign news services to disseminate information, while France and England had variations of publicity organizations, and Germany had been honing its publicity machine since before the war started. The U.S. government later set a policy of not employing private public relations agencies to do its work, but the Creel Committee set a precedent in modern media operations.

Framed messaging is also seen outside the realm of war, and, remarkably, paralleling Al-Qaeda's religious broadcasting. When, for example, highly popular American televangelists of the 1980s sought to win the hearts and minds of audiences, studies on their effectiveness ensued. This scrutinized area of media scholarship also benefitted from technological advances of its time, with the advent of videotapes allowing for quick reproduction of sermons, satellite transmission, and ultimately, dedicated television networks. Similar to use of the Internet, religious broadcasting was a relatively unregulated industry (Hadden, 1993, pp. 119 and 123). Before controversies broke of unethical fundraising and political backing, religious programming had reached staggering heights. From 1970 to 1979, audiences witnessed syndicated religious programs nearly double. In 1981 alone, they increased by 45 percent, up to 96 programs. The most popular evangelists were featured on more than 300 stations in the United States with several appearing in foreign markets (Hadden, 1993, p. 121). The appeal of message framing through mass mediums is evident across industries and throughout international cultures.

The Internet is an efficient way to exchange information in today's digital age. This thesis demonstrates how Al-Qaeda is capitalizing on non-traditional means,

advanced communications technology, to promote its traditional agenda. This can be seen by analyzing propaganda videos where it is evident that the terrorist organization is familiar with using digital software and hardware to create professional-quality products, as well as exploiting the Internet as a medium for the dissemination of its message. The advancement of off-the shelf professional-quality video production software, along with the ease of accessing it has enabled Al-Qaeda to increase production quality and quantity of videos over the past ten years, and the Internet has also allowed for a publicity surge of these videos. Additionally, Al-Qaeda's recruitment of American followers, most notably California native Adam Gadahn, has added the element of English subtitles to the videos. These videos are posted online by a variety of sources reaching international audiences.

Before becoming a prominent spokesperson for As-Sahab videos, Gadahn lived a typical American childhood. He was raised on a farm in California where he was homeschooled and attended Christian group meetings. In his teens, he embarked on a closer study of religion, and became interested in Islam while surfing information on the Internet. He converted to the religion after joining the Islamic Society of Orange County, where he eventually ended up living with other Muslim men in a compound. Gadahn moved to Pakistan in 1997 and ultimately made his way to Afghanistan where he worked translating Al-Qaeda military manuals from Arabic to English as part of Osama bin Laden's governing council (Khatchadourian, 2007). His first known propaganda project was an audio translation of a bin Laden message in 2002. He has since translated and appeared in several videos circulated through social mediums popular today.

Reporters covering Al-Qaeda have noted that As-Sahab, the organization's communication arm, has significantly increased its video production rate over the past

decade. Specifically, it released an increasing number of videos between 2002 and 2007—from one every few months to a new one every 3.5 days. Between 2005 and 2007 alone, the quantity increased six-fold (Whitlock, 2008). This study serves to explore how Al-Qaeda has quite possibly been able to accomplish this increase in production rate due to the capabilities of digital software and hardware. Moreover, As-Sahab has been able to increase its reach through iPod files and cellphone videos. Al-Qaeda, through As-Sahab, has access to some of the most modern technology on the market, although decades behind the United States in many developmental respects. “Editors and producers use ultralight Sony Vaio laptops and top-end video cameras,” writes *Washington Post* reporter Craig Whitlock. “Files are protected using PGP, or Pretty Good Privacy, a virtually unbreakable form of encryption software that is also used by intelligence agencies around the world” (Whitlock, 2008). A significant increase in production is seen by searching Al-Qaeda videos online over the past decade.

The videos are similar to professional productions in their quality. Programs such as Adobe Premier Pro and Apple Final Cut Pro, developed by computer engineers in the United States, are used by professional filmmakers but are also available for personal use. Adobe Visual Communicator can be purchased for as little as \$400. In addition to the low cost, these products are easily accessible through order over the Internet, or through distributors located all over the world, to include the Middle East. Although not quite as sophisticated, Windows Movie Maker comes standard on computers. Also, digital hardware is inexpensive nowadays, and most cameras have video capability. However, given embargoes on some imports and exports, Al-Qaeda is possibly using pirated

software, with little to no cost to the organization. Whatever the procurement process is, videos produced by As-Sahab are indicative of digital capability.

In analyzing a cross-section of these advancing Al-Qaeda videos from 2001 to 2010, it can be seen how As-Sahab has exploited modern technology to create professional-quality products. Effects such as edited footage, graphics, background music, and voiceovers demonstrate the use of digital technology developed primarily in the United States. Many articles have been written about Al-Qaeda's use of modern technology to further its goals, but this paper highlights the seeming contradiction of Al-Qaeda using non-traditional means to propagate traditional values.

Al-Qaeda's Rise to the Frontlines of Media

Al-Qaeda was established in 1988 by Osama bin Laden in order to recruit and train fighters to defeat the then Soviet Union in a holy war against non-Islamic regimes. After the fall of the USSR, the organization continued fighting in attempt to rid Muslim countries of Westerners and Western influence. This study provides background on Al-Qaeda to help understand its functioning before and up to the September 11th attacks on the United States in 2001. The organization was believed to be based in Afghanistan until 2001 when the United States launched its attacks in the country. Although it is international, the location of its headquarters is unknown (GlobalSecurity.org, March 29, 2009). The organization has been in existence since the 1980s, but the scale of its operations was not truly recognized until years later.

After the September 11th attacks on the United States, Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda became household names around the world. Osama bin Laden waged a holy war

against the United States up until he was killed in Pakistan by a U.S. Navy Seal team and CIA operatives in May 2011 (Baker, Cooper and Mazzetti, May 1, 2011). He was a Sunni Muslim, and although a religious extremist along with his followers, he was not known to follow Wahhabism, an especially conservative branch of Islam. Bin Laden set the precedent for propaganda, issuing two fatwa messages as declarations of war against the United States in 1995 and 1998 (Rabasa et. al., 2006, 16). His jihadist ideals have inspired hundreds of videos posted on the Internet by technology-savvy Al-Qaeda members wanting to defend the Islamic way of life from perceived Western corruption.

By studying Al-Qaeda's methods, it is observed how its participants are familiar with modern communication technology. Recruits are known to use Macintosh and Toshiba computers, and are familiar with encrypting email messages to one another (Bergen, 2001, p. 28). However, the United States, at least, had failed to recognize the level to which the organization had developed and understand the seriousness of its objectives until the unprecedented September 11th attacks. Subsequently released videos of bin Laden condemning the United States and sending warning messages started cropping up on the Internet and in news reports throughout the world after the attacks. With the increase in airtime given to As-Sahab, the propaganda amplified in quality and frequency. Propaganda serves to emphasize its message and producer, and this has been the case through videos and news stations legitimizing Al-Qaeda's name.

The Internet makes it easy to post these videos reaching international audiences in a matter of minutes. Programmers in the United States are credited with inventing the Internet, dating back to the 1960s when the federal government provided grants to build a resource sharing system. The Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) funded a

team of professional computer scientists and graduate students to establish ARPANET. An MIT program manager who envisioned computers being more connected and interactive to help people separated by geography work together more efficiently inspired the network. ARPANET began as a single network connecting a few dozen sites with initial nodes located at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Stanford Research Institute, the University of Utah, and the University of California, Los Angeles. The network continued to grow, connecting sites across the globe. By the late 1980s, the Internet was available for public use (Abbate, 1999, 46-144). By posting videos on the Internet, Al-Qaeda has capitalized on this technology developed by its enemy to increase the scope of its propaganda.

To highlight the paradox of traditional values spread by non-traditional means, it is important to look at the history of Islam and the cause behind the splintering off Al-Qaeda. This study touches on Islam, the predominant religion of Middle Eastern nations, and the Muslim culture. It originated more than fourteen centuries ago under the Prophet Muhammad. Islamic doctrine, the Quran, encourages followers to teach religious truth and hold political and religious power. Jihad is mentioned as an avenue to reach this power, if necessary. However, jihad does not condone suicide or the killing of innocents for its purpose (Lewis, 2003, p. 6). Islamic extremists however have taken the teachings of the Quran out of context when carrying out their mission. These radicals are striving to return to the basics of Islam and oust the modernization they feel has corrupted their people with violence.

The introduction of European technologies that emerged from the Enlightenment can be traced back to 1798 when French conquerors came in and ruled the region, before

being overrun by the British. These nations brought Imperialism to the Middle East with the invasions and through the rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire. Commercial expansion, infrastructure, education, and public services came at the expense of the region's material resources and populace being exploited (Lewis, 2003, p. 54). This innovation continued as the United States and other Western nations moved into the area. Mujahedeen freedom fighters, backed by the United States, ousted the Soviet Union from the region in the 1980s.

Shortly thereafter, the Soviet Union collapsed, and the United States pulled out of the Middle East, as it was no longer a political interest. Upon this abandonment, the citizens had no support to rebuild (Rashid, 2008, p. 11). Now independent, the region was at a crossroads between embracing westernization and returning to the past. "For some, America represented freedom and justice and opportunity. For many more, it represented wealth and power and success, at a time when these qualities were not regarded as sins or crimes" (Lewis, 2003, p. 69). Others however, felt oppressed by this new way of life and wanted to rid themselves of the remnants of the modernized countries. Religious extremists felt "America was the ultimate example of civilization without culture; rich and comfortable, materially advanced but soulless and artificial" (Lewis, 2003, p. 69). Freedom fighters influenced by jihadists turned their focus against nations they believed were leading their fellow citizens astray from Islam. Palestinian Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, who among many others, had immigrated earlier to Afghanistan to assist the freedom fighters, generated these ideals. Azzam was assassinated in 1991, leaving to the helm what evolved into Al-Qaeda to his protégé, bin Laden. Azzam had

also been a mentor to Ayman al-Zawahiri, who later became bin Laden's second in charge, and ultimately the leader of Al-Qaeda upon bin Laden's death.

Like its leaders, many Al-Qaeda recruits are educated. Al-Zawahiri is a doctor who had studied abroad. He has also written at least two books, *Knights Under the Prophet's Banner* and *Bitter Harvest* (Aboul-Enein, 2004, p. 8). Al-Zawahiri fully understands the value in spreading his word via mass media. During the Soviet invasion, he used pamphlets to recruit members to the fight. This thesis draws on parallels of communication mediums used for framed messaging. Al-Zawahiri's inspiration to use media possibly came from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who used cassette tapes to start a revolution against the Shah in Iran in the 1970s. Modern technology like cassette tapes, and now, digital videos, can help in reaching otherwise illiterate audiences. Linguist and political activist, Noam Chomsky, notes the importance of framing messages for different audiences and their levels of understanding. He asserts that there are two targets of propaganda, the political class, and the rule followers. The political class makes up the top 20 percent of a population, those who are educated decision-makers, and the latter 80 percent follow those decisions (Mallon and Stimler, 2002). Al-Qaeda followers strive to steer this decision making by catering messages to different audiences.

News outlets help to reach these audiences by bringing Al-Qaeda messages to the world stage. Columbia University political science professor Brigitte Nacos discusses how the attacks of September 11th were similar to a Hollywood blockbuster. The footage dominated every news network and coverage continued for months. "Without publicity, terrorism would be like the proverbial tree that falls in the forest and the press is not there to report it—it would be as if the incident never happened" (Nacos, 2003, p. 23). Videos

easily uploaded to search engines are quickly distributed throughout the world with the mass media reach that technology today provides.

Al-Qaeda has been linked to several acts of terrorism against U.S. targets prior to the September 11th attacks. The 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 1998 U.S. embassies bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the 1999 U.S. embassy in Islamabad rocket attacks, and the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole were all attributed to this organization of religious extremists. However, at those times recognition by the public of Al-Qaeda as a serious threat paled in comparison to September 11th. This is possibly explained by the fact that the September 11th attacks claimed significantly more lives, or perhaps, that its extensive news coverage made it undeniable to the world. The publicizing of the September 11th attacks validated Al-Qaeda as a major player in world relations.

Event coverage is no longer limited to editors' discretion with today's social media technology. In the 2004 documentary "Control Room," a Central Command press officer, U.S. Marine Lieutenant Josh Rushing, accuses Al-Jazeera of being biased toward Saddam Hussein's regime because it only shows footage of the U.S. military sending warplanes and dropping bombs. He questions why there is no footage of Iraqi soldiers using pregnant women as shields, forcing people to fight and taking families hostages. A media analyst, Abdallah Schleifer, answers that it is because no one has that footage. Al-Jazeera has been known to broadcast Al-Qaeda-made videos, which might need to be considered news if that is the extent of footage available on an event. Decades before, Edward Bernays alluded to this point in *Propaganda*. "The newspaper cannot assume, nor is it its function to assume, the responsibility of guaranteeing that what it publishes will not work out to somebody's interest. It does not ask whether a given item is

propaganda or not. What is important is that it be news” (Bernays, 1928, p. 162). The reach of Al-Qaeda’s messages and its recognition of being a serious threat to its targets are fueled by news broadcasts.

Al-Qaeda recognizes the power of news, and uses the means available to spread its work. Similar cases of this phenomenon can be found throughout time. A comparable case, published in 1991, discovered how guerillas in El Salvador learned to cater messages and mediums to specific audiences. In printed materials, they understood the attraction to strong, clean graphics. With radio broadcasts, they knew the importance of credibility in citing accurate details and statistics. And CBS and other European networks were known to have bought their videos (Meyer, 1991, pp. 7-19).

Dissemination of information is free and expeditious with the advent of mediums such as YouTube and Google Video.

Al-Qaeda’s reach has moved far beyond its origins in Afghanistan, a country in which a majority of citizens has no Internet access and listen to television and radio news largely under government control. The terrorist organization’s members are spread throughout the world but remain connected through modern communication technology. These facts highlight how Al-Qaeda has become an information subculture whose target audience likely includes other information societies, like first-world nations. Its professional-quality propaganda videos are reaching millions of viewers, and potential recruits, worldwide through advanced technology. Foreign Military Studies Office analyst Timothy L. Thomas supports this idea of how Al-Qaeda is using catered messaging, explaining that the web can be used to target fence sitters and capitalize on

existing believers (Thomas, 2003, p. 114). The online communication medium has considerably expanded Al-Qaeda's international connections.

A similar case of an evolving information society is seen in China's sweeping modernization over the past couple decades. A 2004 study on China's digital divide found that lower income and educational levels associated with large rural areas meant a significant number of citizens did not have computers. Additionally, mountainous and isolated regions made it difficult to establish Internet connectivity (Harwit, 2004, pp. 1022-1025). Like in Kabul, Afghanistan, with its current surge in Internet café popularity, big cities like Beijing made up the bulk of China's web users. Although at the time of the study the government had few barriers to access, cases of people being arrested for anti-communist postings demonstrates the awareness of Chinese officials about this medium's ability to spread information to mass publics (Harwit, 2004, p. 1026). Al-Qaeda is vulnerable to military efforts disrupting its communication lines; however, its videos on the Internet are not subject to government control by most nations. The free-range reach of this social medium is relatively new and Al-Qaeda's exploitation of it in use against the West is certainly an issue to be addressed.

Thematic Statement

This thesis focuses on the ways a terrorist organization with an essentially reactionary philosophy has learned to use the technologies of its declared enemies in a twenty-first century setting. Although many news articles have been written about Al-Qaeda's use of propaganda, this study delves into the purpose behind the group's choice

of media technology. It relies on further text analysis of propaganda videos over time by dividing the years since the September 11th attacks into approximate thirds.

Observations of select materials will compare and contrast production elements among videos released: 1) in the immediate aftermath of the attacks; 2) following the commencement of the Global War on Terror; and 3) since the Obama administration took office. Through analyzing Al-Qaeda videos, there is a clear shift in production quality over the years noted by the use of graphics, editing, timely video footage, music, backdrops, text overlay and voiceover narration. These elements are indicative of the use of digital software and hardware. Al-Qaeda has tapped into a communication resource that allows it to disseminate propaganda cheaply and easily, with an immediate effect. Governments and news agencies alike understand the impact information dissemination can have on determining the success or failure of a war by winning hearts and minds.

This study explores how Al-Qaeda has recognized the reach of a particular medium, the Internet, in spreading propaganda, evident by hundreds of videos uploaded to social media sites. Analysis of the organization's videos posted over the course of a decade highlights how a variety of productions are geared differently toward internal and external audiences (see Appendix: "'Gaza, not again' Al-Qaeda propaganda video," 2009). Additionally, the thesis speculates on the seeming contradiction of religious extremists not only using modern technologies of the Internet and digital hardware and software, developed primarily by the United States, but exploiting them for its purposes against its enemy, the Western world (see Appendix: "Al Qaeda/as Sahab: Hafiz Usman & Adam Gadahn propaganda [English]," 2007).

Significance of Study

This study serves to expand on academic articles written from legal and political angles by formulating a perspective from a communications standpoint on Al-Qaeda's use of new media technology. Additionally, it highlights the paradox of how Al-Qaeda is using this technology that seems to go against its conservative, religious views. The radical organization stands against modernization, and yet uses modern technology to further its propaganda campaign.

This paradox is paralleled in history, as many cultures have recognized a clash of ideals and over modernization. With oil price fluctuations and subsequent warring nations in the 1970s, Saudi Arabia faced a need to employ women; however, this movement did not equate gender rights as seen in other progressive nations. The Islamic nation still attempts a balance of fostering modernization in academic and technological realms with preserving women's virtue as its idea of religious sanctity. "They are continually confronted with the dilemma of having to consider their Islamic identity, while at the same time taking concrete measures towards reorganizing themselves as 'modern'" (Erturk, 1991, p. 310). Although women are afforded opportunities of employment and education, these remain under the control of men. Saudi Arabian society as a whole does experience modern conveniences such as supermarkets, cars and telephones, but its enjoyment of these luxuries resides within religious moral confines (Erturk, 1991, p. 314). In a more recent National Public Radio profile on Saudi Arabian teens, it was found that bans on social activities and a perceived slow economic reform has created a cause for concern. "Some fear that unemployed and disenchanting youth will be more likely to embrace religious extremism" (NPR, Nov. 29, 2002).

Another example of this seeming contradiction is found in the Amish lifestyle. The Amish people have historically banned advanced technology in their daily routine, desiring a separation from the greater, immoral society. However, signs of modernization such as indoor bathrooms, gas stoves, and refrigerators have been noted to be creeping into their lives. “The Amish war against progress entails a continual struggle to draw appropriate lines in order to protect their communities from absorption into the larger society while still permitting a modicum of social change” (Kraybill and Olshan, 1994, p. 36). With rising farming costs and increasing government regulations on the trade, some Amish societies turn to factory employment or running small businesses, where telephone use is essential. This technology in particular has been a controversial item as it is viewed as a threat to the Amish’s value of face-to-face communication and peace within the home. Additionally, it permeates the boundary between the Amish community and the outside world, letting in new ways of thinking and allowing for unmonitored conversations. “Handy access to the telephone is viewed as one small step down a road that leads to a loss of faith in the next generation” (Kraybill and Olshan, 1994, p. 109). The Amish subscribe to the Ordnung, similar to the Quran in the Muslim culture. This established code of conduct dictates their behavior and view of outside influences. However, it is seen how lines can be blurred attempting to balance religious interpretation and convenience.

Al-Qaeda, too, is conforming between traditionalism and modernization with its use of the Internet. However, it differs from the cultures above in that its purpose for using advanced technology is more than just convenience. Al-Qaeda is exploiting the technology, developed by its primary enemy the United States, in its campaign against

the Western world. This revelation underscores the extent of Al-Qaeda's strategy in implementing propaganda efforts, as the Internet and digital videos are keys—as much a part of the endeavor as the content of the messages themselves. Although this idea is not a new concept, it is unknown if Al-Qaeda recognizes the significance of the tactic. Philosopher and communication theorist Marshall McLuhan proposed, “The medium is the message.” His theory that the medium is just as important, if not more important, than the message itself is a significant point in attempting to unveil Al-Qaeda's intentions. The fact that Al-Qaeda is embracing this particular technology cannot be ignored, and this thesis questions if the Internet is being used as a deliberate affront, or if the benefits of modernization are too great to be neglected by even this terrorist entity.

With the acceptance of every new technology comes a learning curve; Al-Qaeda's success is dependent on its accessibility to the technology and individuals knowledgeable on how to use it. Al-Qaeda is vulnerable to military operations working to disrupt its communication channels. It can be seen that as the technology of the twenty-first century evolves, As-Sahab is learning how to exploit it. But at the same time, there are actions in effect to counteract this success. It is interesting to note that throughout 2007 and 2008 Multi-National Force Iraq published several news releases about the interruption of propaganda cells through the killing and capturing of operatives and seizing of materials. In 2008, news reports discussed possible United Kingdom and United States involvement in Al-Qaeda propaganda websites being shut down (Telegraph.co.uk, 2008). Although Al-Qaeda is at the mercy of connectivity like all communication networks, when it does produce a propaganda video, it is quickly posted on the web, to include on legitimate news sites such as Al Jazeera. The Internet medium has an international reach,

propagating messages to millions of viewers in minutes. Al-Qaeda followers recognize the benefit of this Western-developed medium, exploiting it for its purpose, despite the fact that their messages themselves oppose the Western world.

The phenomenon of a terrorist organization using propaganda—or an organization evolving in line with technological advancements—is hardly a new development, and this thesis describes a number of instances in which they have occurred. However, this study also explores how Al-Qaeda in particular has used the non-traditional means of communication, analyzing the deliberateness of the group’s target audience. It asks: Is video quality improving because more resources are being put toward production or because technology is truly advancing, or both? Where is the genesis of the video postings and how do they make their way to social media sites? By looking at previous studies on Al-Qaeda’s structure, in conjunction with propaganda’s purpose and process, this thesis draws attention to the way in which this terrorist organization has capitalized on the use of the contemporary media’s most far-reaching form of mass communication.

Literature Review

Although much has been written about Al-Qaeda’s use of modern communication technology, its seemingly contradictory exploitation of advanced products deserves additional study. Al-Qaeda originated more than two decades ago, but the depth of its coverage in the West did not begin until after the September 11th attacks. Considering this timeline, journalists have accomplished significant reporting of the terrorist organization’s structure. However, analysis of Al-Qaeda’s purpose behind using modern

media for its propaganda campaign is limited. The reason for the lack of this information is possibly twofold—Al-Qaeda is ever evolving and difficult to track and therefore analyze, and social media is expanding at a faster rate than literature on it does. The following sources explore how Al-Qaeda’s use of modern communication technology influences different publics. These works were chosen as a basis for further research on why the organization uses this medium in its propaganda campaign.

Propaganda did not always have the negative connotation it does now. In its true sense, author Edward Bernays explains that it is simply a word meaning to share or propagate truthful and accurate information. In *Propaganda*, he covers the history of the term, beginning in 1622 when the Pope was scared of the spread of Protestantism. The Office for the Propagation of Faith was sent out to monitor missionary efforts in the New World to ensure only the truth was being told. Bernays highlights that at its origin, it actually stood for the opposite of the subversive spin it now conjures. *Propaganda* discusses how World War I brought about the awareness of public opinion importance, and ultimately public relations as a field of work. Bernays purports how propaganda is interwoven in an array of fields—politics, business, education, the arts and sciences and sociology—its emphasis crucial to successful endeavors. Written in 1928, Bernays foresaw the lasting effect propaganda would have on the world. “Propaganda as an instrument of commercial competition has opened opportunities to the inventor and given great stimulus to the research scientist” (Bernays, 1928, p. 159).

Propaganda’s impact is determined by audience receipt and interpretation, and is therefore ideal for information societies. Information societies are ones that depend on advanced communication channels. Al-Qaeda has become an information subculture,

similar to the way the United States uses computer software to disseminate messages to its focused audiences. Information societies are developed for different reasons. Rutgers University communication professor Jorge Reina Schement and California State University, Chico communication professor Terry Curtis explain, “capitalism and industrialization are the primary forces shaping the information society” (Schement and Curtis, 1995, p. 211). Although the book highlights information societies from the American standpoint, it is a good reference about their general development and purpose. Al-Qaeda has been able to evolve into a technologically adept information subculture through its educated leaders. In spite of bin Laden’s preaching against the corrupt ways of the modern world, his terrorist organization has chosen modern communication technology as a prime medium for its propaganda campaign.

Although Al-Qaeda itself has become an information subculture, its foundation audience in Afghanistan is largely illiterate and without Internet access. It is interesting to explore if and how Al-Qaeda caters messages and mediums to target populations. In the documentary titled “Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media,” Chomsky contends that democratic societies are actually more subject to ideological control than non-democracies. He suggests that in the United States where the American dream is based on freedom and independence, Americans tend to isolate themselves, and they do not participate in a shared culture. His theory could be used to support that populations in third-world nations like Afghanistan might not be as susceptible to propaganda. When a population is a collective unit or organization, it is better able to share information, ideas, and values in the hope of determining truth. Therefore, Chomsky’s theory could also possibly account for how Osama bin Laden was able to

plant radical ideas in the minds of freedom fighters in the 1980s, and can continue today in influencing recruits. Isolated individuals targeted with propaganda are not able to lean on interpersonal networks and groupthink, thereby potentially more susceptible to framed messages. Although Afghanistan's citizenry is still largely illiterate and not connected to the outside world via the Internet, the culture of in-person communication keeps them connected. Internet videos are designed to reach mass audiences, but these audiences are made up of individuals, each with their own perceptions of the messages. This medium is possibly an ideal way to create a sense of commonality based on shared ideals. Al-Qaeda messaging through the Internet calls upon jihadists to fight for their collective rights; however, these extremists are interpreting the messages independently.

While the U.S. State Department has investigated to a certain extent the ways in which terrorist organizations have used communications technologies to attack institutions, fewer studies have interpreted the relationship between the message and the messenger. Thomas, in his journal article, "Al Qaeda and the Internet: The Danger of 'Cyberplanning,'" analyzed the phenomenon of how terrorist organizations are becoming dependent on communication technology to further their agendas. Al-Qaeda and other terrorists, he writes, exploit the Internet to gain supporters, relay messages, and secure funding. Terrorist planners use tools such as the Internet to bolster their presence in the public's eye and engage new followers. "In effect, the Internet allows a person or group to appear to be larger or more important or threatening than they really are" (Thomas, 2003, p. 115-16). In turn, when an Al-Qaeda video airs on legitimate news stations such as Al Jazeera, the propaganda's reach is furthered. "News reports would lead one to

believe that hundreds or thousands of people are still active in the al Qaeda network on a daily basis just because al Qaeda says so” (Thomas, 2003, p. 115-16).

From a firsthand perspective, Shiraz Maher, a British journalist and self-proclaimed reformed Islamist, additionally highlights how difficult it is to regulate this Internet use because there is no trail left. Maher explains how Al-Qaeda can virtually reach anyone, anywhere, undetected, and the “anonymity of the Internet has also encouraged a new generation of armchair jihadists” (Maher, 2007, p. 146). His journal article serves to impress upon the reader the far-reaching capability that this technology has allowed. “This psychological dimension offered by the Internet is unparalleled in its ability to achieve mass penetration and create the impression of a sustained terror threat” (Maher, 2007, p. 146).

Government surveillance of terrorist acts is another key component to discuss. Benjamin Davis, Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, U.S. Department of The Treasury advisor, explores this as he tracks cyber terrorism stemming from the mid-1990s to 2006 and what intelligence agencies are proposing in order to stop it. He explains, “the lack of effective U.S. or international cyber regulation or governance regulations permits terrorist activity to operate in a relatively lawless zone” (Davis, 2006-2007, p. 128). Davis’ journal article is broken down into multiple parts discussing background on the technology that terrorists apply, a history on their Internet use, an evaluation of the U.S. government’s response to this threat since September 11, 2001, the international community’s efforts to combat this threat, and recommendations for government security reform in regards to the Internet.

To gauge how effective terrorist organizations are in exploiting their cause on the Internet, it is important to look at the media's response. Former reporter Brooke Barnett and communications professor Amy Reynolds collaborate on *Terrorism and the Press* (2009) to help put this discussion into context. Their multidisciplinary approach to exploring the topic through the communication theories of agenda setting, cultivation, and framing highlights a cause and effect relationship between terrorism and its media coverage. The authors note how terrorism has been broadcast in the news, focusing on aspects such as how many stories run and how often they run, and the variation among nations on the terminology used to describe attacks and attackers. They explore the idea that more coverage of these acts can lead to more success for the terrorist organizations.

Because the wars in the Middle East are currently underway, and Al-Qaeda is actively engaging in terrorist planning and attacks, documentation of their activity is often found in news sources. One such source, Craig Whitlock, a *Washington Post* reporter, described another measure of Al-Qaeda's propaganda success, found in its recruiting. Whitlock recognizes just how significant a role the Internet plays in Al-Qaeda's propaganda campaign, emphasizing this main goal of enlisting followers. "The war against terrorism has evolved into a war of ideas and propaganda, a struggle for hearts and minds fought on television and the Internet" (Whitlock, 2008). Whitlock studies the rise in videos released on the Internet and the decline in the ability of the United States to combat their production, possibly losing the battle to prevent additional recruits for Al-Qaeda's cause.

At the same time the U.S. government has discussed how to overcome Al-Qaeda's propaganda, the terrorist organization has increased its exploitation of software

and its use of the Internet. *Christian Science Monitor* staff writers Dan Murphy and Jill Carroll look specifically at Al-Qaeda's increased video production from 2006 to 2007, with special emphasis on al-Zawahiri's significance. A technologically adept spokesperson, "Mr. Zawahiri has been able to respond to the news events within days, getting his group's perspective on radical Islamic websites" (Murphy and Carroll, 2007). The authors study analysts' views on what this increased production means for counterterrorism efforts. "Some analysts say that this new technological prowess by Al Qaeda indicates that its leadership has recaptured the reins and it is far from being cut off and on the run" (Murphy and Carroll, 2007).

To fully explore the phenomenon of Al-Qaeda's information subculture, it is necessary to also take into account its failures or shortcomings. Evan Kohlmann, Family Security Matters reporter, takes a different turn recognizing a decline in video production quality for a period. He attributes this change to the speculated death of Gadaffi. "But, perhaps what is most interesting about bin Laden's latest set of audio recordings is not what they contain, but rather, what they inexplicably lack: the English-language subtitles and matching transcript that have, until recently, been a customary feature of professional-quality As-Sahab videos" (Kohlmann, May 2008).

The articles highlighted above illustrate how Al-Qaeda has joined the information highway and maximized the benefits of using the Internet, ironically, against the nation that created it. Neil Postman's book *Technopoly* addresses this very issue, describing how individual advancements can create a potential detraction. "Every technology is both a burden and a blessing; not either-or, but this-and-that" (Postman, 1992, p. 4). Postman's argument is not against technological advances, but a forewarning to be aware.

As societies adapt new technologies into their culture, they accept with them pros and cons. “For it is inescapable that every culture must negotiate with technology, whether it does so intelligently or not. A bargain is struck in which technology giveth and technology taketh away” (Postman, 1992, p. 5). Postman’s book describes explicitly how technology can have unintended consequences, including its use against its creators.

Technology and culture scholar Edward Tenner’s book *Why Things Bite Back* expands upon Postman’s observations by documenting multiple accounts of the negative effects of technology. However, he focuses on the user, writing, “The real revenge is not what we do intentionally against one another. It is the tendency of the world around us to get even, to twist our cleverness against us” (Tenner, 1996, p. 5). Although a development is intended for a particular purpose, those uses can evolve depending on the user. Tenner touches on the Frankenstein paradox—at the time a technology is developed its repercussions cannot be fully known, and the creation might grow unmanageable and dangerous. “Frankenstein’s fateful error was to consider everything but the sum of the parts he had assembled” (Tenner, 1996, p. 12). In the case of Al-Qaeda’s exploitation of modern technology, the question arises if the United States has lost control of its creations, never to be regained or able to minimize the negative effects.

Many books, journal and news articles have been written about how Al-Qaeda is using modern technological mediums to produce propaganda messages. Through additional research, this paper delves deeper into this information subculture ignited within a third-world nation, seeking out its causes and outcomes. Most importantly, it serves to understand if Al-Qaeda’s use of advanced technology is simply a matter of convenience or underscored with a deliberate contradiction of ideals.

Methodology

Although academic studies on Al-Qaeda have emerged from a number of disciplines, most notably in legal and political journals, the organization has received relatively little attention in communications or media studies. This thesis expands on an exploratory study conducted in spring 2009 for a Qualitative Methods class at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, which applied a content analysis to three Al-Qaeda videos spanning 2001 to 2008. The videos were found on Google Video and YouTube using searches of the terms “Osama bin Laden,” “Al-Qaeda,” “As-Sahab,” “Zawahiri,” and “Adam Gadahn,” and were critiqued on their overall production to assess developments in quality over time. Production, editing, and key messages were observed, compared, and contrasted in watching the videos. The analysis was limited to these three elements as they are integral points in the composition of any video production.

The exploratory study revealed a significant disparity in the videos. The level of production quality in the 2001 video fluctuates vastly from that of the 2005 and 2008 videos. No editing is evident in the 2001 video, and whereas it is clearly used in both the 2005 and 2008 videos, its level varies. The one constant in the three videos is a key message, although the messages differ in how direct they are as calls to action. This thesis uses the exploratory study as a baseline for a more in-depth content analysis. Additional propaganda videos from 2001 to 2010 are looked at to assess the production quality over this period. The thesis also serves to explore the reasons Al-Qaeda is choosing to use media technology in its information campaign, given the contradiction of its stance against the modern world.

The exploratory study and selection of all nine videos took place prior to bin Laden's death in May 2011. Although the head figure of Al-Qaeda, bin Laden was the primary spokesperson in only one of the videos analyzed. Short clips of him appear in a few other videos, but he was not a spokesperson or even a key figure in these productions. Upon his death, countless videos from an array of international news sources reporting the story were posted on YouTube. However, Al-Qaeda or As-Sahab videos produced at this time did not appear to include any propaganda messages pertaining to this occurrence that would be of significance to the study. Therefore, the original video selections were not revised or added to upon bin Laden's death.

The following descriptions of the 2001, 2005, and 2008 videos reflect information gleaned from the exploratory study, which are expanded in the thesis based on additional videos to verify or modify initial findings.

2001 Video: "Osama bin Laden—November 9th, 2001"

The 2001 video was selected for the exploratory study as it was one of Al-Qaeda's first messages released after the September 11th attacks. Its single shot editing is possibly a testament to the crude production capabilities Al-Qaeda had at the time, or perhaps it was made in haste so that it could be broadcast quickly. The 2001 video is nine minutes and 25 seconds long. It consists of bin Laden speaking with what looks to be several of his followers, who are seated on the floor in a small, plain room with an unknown person videotaping their conversation. The conversation reflects on the success of the September 11th attacks along with accounts from others, who although are not identified can be assumed to be Al-Qaeda members and supposedly had premonitory

visions of the attacks. The bottom of the screen includes a black box with the date and video running time. A black panel with English subtitles is on the right side of the screen.

There is no production structure to the video; it is simply a recording of the conversation. Although As-Sahab is believed to have been in existence by this time, the video does not appear to be produced by them, or any agency for that matter. There are no graphics indicating that it was an organized work. The cameraman is not identified, but appears to be another Al-Qaeda member who was merely familiar with using a video camera. The camera periodically zooms in or out, pans left, or right, but it is one long, continuous shot with no edits. There is no underlying audio. Although this 2001 selection is not the first known video of bin Laden, it serves to show the simplicity of Al-Qaeda's early productions. Bin Laden's words are subtitled in white, with voices of the others subtitled in blue. While bin Laden is talking about the success of the operation, others make comments in Arabic such as "Praise be to God" and "God is the greatest," expressing their pleasure in the success of the attacks. These commendations can be identified as the key message of the video, broadcasting to the world the mindset of Al-Qaeda and its purpose. These comments can also serve as a recruitment tool for the organization if the words strike an emotional chord in viewers.

2005 Video: "Knowledge is for acting upon—The Manhattan raid"

The 2005 video was selected for the exploratory study simply because it fell within the middle of the timeframe being looked at. At the point of its selection, it was unknown if the editing techniques would indeed be notably more advanced than the 2001 video. The 2005 video is 55 minutes and 18 seconds long. In addition to being

significantly longer than the 2001 video, the overall production is on a much higher level, comparable to professional quality. The first item noticed is As-Sahab's name and logo in the bottom right corner. The video begins with a title slide and has English subtitles at the bottom of the screen. The video consists of moving graphic backgrounds, voiceovers, sound on tape, background music, edited footage, and multiple spokespersons. One spokesperson is shown in a studio complete with track lighting and large background display panels with photos of the World Trade Center being attacked and the Pentagon.

The use of editing is very prominent in this video. Along with the narration, coinciding video footage is incorporated of terrorist training camps, protests, military bomber aircraft, injured civilians, crying children, the attack on the USS Cole, Fox News coverage of the 2000 U.S. presidential election, and then U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at a press conference. The video also includes footage of bin Laden speaking and walking with al-Zawahiri. The footage also features clips of interviews with journalists Rahimullah Yusufzai and the BBC's John Miller who both attended a 1998 press conference with bin Laden. The English interviews have Arabic subtitles shown on the screen.

The video's overall narrative is about the decades of persecution of Islamic people that led to bin Laden's execution of the September 11th attacks. The narrator highlights the United States' invasion and occupation of Islamic land, depleting its resources and destroying holy places. The narrator defines U.S. leadership as cocky and racist and criticizes them for their alliance with Israel and Britain. This video's key message is much more direct than the one in the 2001 video. It is a call to action for Muslims to commit Jihad and become martyrs. Al-Zawahiri's words, "we reach out to every sincere

worker to ask him to join this blessed caravan in the path of Allah” again describe Al-Qaeda’s mindset that it is carrying out God’s will with its terrorist actions.

2008 Video: “Al-Qaeda leader on Obama’s victory”

At the time of the exploratory study, the 2008 video featured was one of the most current videos available online. The video is 10 minutes and 49 seconds long. The production is of similar quality to the 2005 video, and is shown with their logo to have been produced by As-Sahab. However, this video is noticeably different from the 2005 video in that it is mostly still images. Screenshots of President Barack Obama, al-Zawahiri, and Malcolm X are shown with a voiceover narrative in English subtitles. The screenshot graphic overlays a moving background graphic. The video is void of music and there is just one spokesperson, who is really the narrator. The editing is limited to short video clips of Obama, and Malcolm X giving a speech about slavery, with a narrative of the footage. Again, the majority of this video is a screenshot graphic of the three men with a narrative and subtitles.

This decrease in production quality possibly correlates to news reports in 2008 speculating that a U.S. MQ-1 Predator aircraft missile killed Gadhafi in January. However, in October 2008 a video featuring Gadhafi was released on the Internet. In the video, Gadhafi touches on current events to include the economic crisis in the United States. Obviously, these changes cannot be attributed to Gadhafi dying, but he might have been unavailable to produce videos for a period.

Despite the lower production quality, the 2008 video still includes several key messages: highlighting America’s defeat in Iraq, a warning to Obama as he takes

leadership of the “greatest criminal force in the history of mankind” and enters Afghanistan, and a call to all Islam brothers for perseverance in jihad. The narrator says, “Be resolute on the path of Jihad until you meet your Lord while He is pleased with you.”

This statement is similar to the previous two videos in citing Al-Qaeda’s viewpoint of their actions being God’s will. In the 2005 video, the call to action is an invitation for recruits to join in the cause, and this message is for jihadists to continue with their mission. The 2008 video demonstrates how over the years the messages are evolving in their assertiveness with viewers.

These three videos were selected to demonstrate the wide range of progression in editing techniques through the course of the decade after the September 11th attacks. This exploratory study serves as a foundation for a more comprehensive exploration of Al-Qaeda propaganda. Analyzing a greater number of videos from 2001 to 2010 reinforces how the terrorist organization is capitalizing on the use of advanced media technology in its campaign against the United States.

Since the September 11th attacks, hundreds of Al-Qaeda related videos have been broadcast either by television news agencies or on Internet sites. The scope of this study selects sources within this timeframe, based on their production value. Along with the three videos from the exploratory study, the following six additional videos were selected for the full analysis with a good faith effort made to capture a cross-section of videos in order to accurately determine production changes over the past decade.

- “Al Qaeda/as Sahab: Hafiz Usman & Adam Gadahn propaganda [English],” posted on *Google Video*, Aug. 7, 2007, 1:20:59 in length and produced by As-

Sahab. The video centers on interviews with jihadists and footage of U.S. military interaction with local citizens.

- “The solution,” posted on *Google Video*, Sept. 8, 2007, 26:26 in length. It is also produced by As-Sahab and is a single shot of bin Laden calling jihadists to action.
- “Al Qaeda recruits children,” posted on *YouTube*, Feb. 6, 2008, 3:41 in length. It features little editing of children training on how to carjack, clear buildings and detain people.
- “‘Gaza, not again,’ Al-Qaeda propaganda video,” posted December 2009 on www.publicintelligence.com, 1:26:59 in length. It contains elaborate editing with graphics and footage of Al-Qaeda members shooting surface-to-air missiles and military vehicles being blown up by improvised explosive devices.
- “Adam Gadahn March 7, 2010 video with transcript,” produced by As-Sahab and posted on publicintelligence.com, 20:44 in length. It contains heavy graphics editing in the beginning and then a single shot of Gadahn calling out to jihadists in English and Arabic.
- “Ayman Dhawahiri—I have never been a member of Muslim brotherhood!,” 6:57 in length. It is shown to be uploaded to *YouTube* on Feb. 15, 2010, but the date of its original posting is not listed. It is produced by As-Sahab and shows Dhawahiri, which might be another name for or spelling of al-Zawahiri, being interviewed by an unseen narrator. The video has Dhawahiri explaining how the United States is spreading misinformation intermingled with screen shots of military documents depicting propaganda campaigns.

This descriptive and qualitative content analysis of Al-Qaeda videos starting from September 11, 2001 examines the progression of the organization's video production quality through the development of As-Sahab. Videos were chosen for their varying editing techniques such as transitions, text overlay, use of footage and graphics, background music and voiceover narratives. By choosing videos several years apart, the observations emphasize the significant strides made in their production under As-Sahab.

The videos were analyzed to observe various editing techniques since the September 11th attacks and the mediums that the videos have reached in their broadcast. Videos were found using YouTube and Google Video archives, as they are well-known resources in the developed world. This study captures how Al-Qaeda has learned to harness modern technology and people skilled in editing techniques to produce professional looking videos by watching each of the videos with an untrained eye.

Framed messaging was incorporated intended for varying purposes and audiences. Analysis of these videos shows how the quality has evolved based on the increased knowledge and resources of its producers. An examination of these videos, through an interpretive study, focuses on the basics of production in order to set a framework for analyzing Al-Qaeda's technological development over the past decade. Looking at the fundamentals of length, production quality and key messages, which are generally found in videos overall, provides an awareness of Al-Qaeda's understanding of technical elements and its recognition of producing videos that meet its propaganda goals.

Videos were found from prevalent sources in order to analyze material already available to international audiences. Google Video and YouTube are a popular search engine and video sharing website, respectively, easily accessible through an Internet

connection and video player software. Both archiving services were established in 2005, with Google purchasing YouTube in 2006. Google Video then discontinued its video upload service in 2009, turning to Internet search crawlers to compile its content from other video web hosts. Videos uploaded to Google Video by users prior to the 2009 change remained on the search engine site. It was important to archive the selections on a personal computer to ensure they could easily be reviewed at any time since numerous videos are uploaded to YouTube daily. Google Video and YouTube provided an endless supply of material related to Al-Qaeda as the most prominent video libraries in the world.

The selection process was deliberately limited to the sources listed above. Videos in this study were not searched on jihad-dedicated websites or U.S. intelligence websites, as the purpose was to analyze videos that are reaching a broad public Western audience. Although hundreds of videos were found using the established search terms, only full-length videos that appeared to be original Al-Qaeda products were selected, and not clips incorporated into newscasts. Additionally, there were countless spoofs of Al-Qaeda videos, so productions by As-Sahab (indicated by their logo on the screen) were used in every instance possible. Although it was important to select a variety of videos, legitimacy of choices was also a key concern.

At the time of the exploratory study and far into the analysis of the remaining six videos, bin Laden was still the known leader of Al-Qaeda. Although his death will surely affect future Al-Qaeda messaging, the videos selected for analysis featured little footage of bin Laden. In fact, he was only a spokesperson in the 2001 video. Therefore, videos after his death were not incorporated into the study, as they were not anticipated to lead to a meaningfully different production outcome.

Although not included in the analysis, one video that was posted on the Internet on September 12, 2011, is of note. A U.S. intelligence monitoring organization, Search for International Terrorist Entities (SITE), discovered a 62-minute production on jihadist websites called “The dawn of imminent victory,” which was released by As-Sahab to commemorate the September 11th attacks. The video shows footage of bin Laden issuing warnings to the American public. It also includes a speech by al-Zawahiri supporting revolutions in the Arab world (news.com.au, Sept. 13, 2011). This video, produced after bin Laden’s death, shows that As-Sahab is a resilient force in the spread of propaganda. Video production will likely continue at its current pace despite the recent event affecting the terrorist network. Shortly after bin Laden’s death Zawahiri was named his successor. With Zawahiri’s video experience, As-Sahab should be able to keep up its productivity level. However, since he has taken on a greater responsibility as the head of Al-Qaeda, it is possible he will pass the duty of spokesperson on to others.

There were some limitations even though a large selection of videos was found to analyze over the course of a decade. Only one legitimate video produced in the years immediately following the September 11th attacks was found. This video was posted in 2001. Time wise, the next video selected was from 2005, which left a gap of years in between. Although this fact concentrates the analysis on the middle and later years of the decade, the finding does correlate to statistics on Al-Qaeda’s production speed. Part of the analysis includes looking at reasons for the ebbs and flows in videos posted.

YouTube and Google Video are user-friendly applications, and it was easy to search through hundreds of videos if desired. Upon viewing a video, additional videos were subsequently suggested in the side view panel of the computer screen, as the search

engines' metrics anticipated users' preferences. All of these videos supposedly contained a linkage to Al-Qaeda, but would not have necessarily been found using the original search terms "Al-Qaeda," "Osama bin Laden," "Zawahiri," or "Adam Gadahn." Therefore, if a subsequently suggested video appeared to be a legitimate Al-Qaeda production, it too was considered for inclusion in the study. However, a cap on the amount of videos had to be determined, so the study was limited to nine videos in order to thoroughly flesh out findings but prevent details from getting lost in an excessive amount of material.

The exploratory study's results highlighted an evident progression in video production quality. Therefore, it was expected that by evaluating a greater quantity of videos from 2001 to 2010, a more pinpointed timeline of the technological evolution would be revealed. Through the analysis of the six additional videos, the significant jump in production quality from 2001 to 2005 remained the most apparent. The addition of editing techniques and direct calls to actions in the 2005 video, "Knowledge is for acting upon—The Manhattan raid," set it widely apart from its 2001 predecessor, "Osama bin Laden—November 11th, 2001." As-Sahab was believed to have been established by 2001, although the video selection from that year is not indicative of the organization's work. The majority of the subsequent videos analyzed were produced by As-Sahab, portraying a higher level of sophistication.

The production quality gap from 2001 to 2005 was the extent of significant progression within the total group of videos studied. Although there were periodically cases of lesser editing techniques used in later videos, there were no considerably greater techniques used than what appeared in the 2005 video. With two exceptions, all of the

videos from 2005 to 2010 shared themes of digital editing, spokespersons, and key messages. One of those exceptions is a video posted by the Department of Defense, and does not appear to be an As-Sahab production. It appears that once As-Sahab took hold of the video market, it hit its stride in quality productions.

CHAPTER 2: FINDINGS

This thesis studies the progression of Al-Qaeda videos over the past decade to determine the ways in which disparate users have harnessed computer technology. It traces the evolution of Al-Qaeda's propaganda videos, stressing fluctuations in their production techniques. Key features of the videos remarkably recurrent in the exploratory study were identified as variables for the full analysis:

- video length
- production quality
- key messages or calls to action

An additional emergent element of primary spokespersons was included. This feature was not recognized in the first three videos looked at in the exploratory study, but became apparent as a major component when looking at nine videos. These four items of length, quality, key messages and spokespersons were used to compare and contrast the nine videos.

The most complex aspect of the videos is the production quality, as it noticeably changes over the course of the years and clearly underscores the variance of computer technology. Several of the videos mimic Western news broadcasts in their editing techniques, with use of current event footage, voiceovers and a moving globe graphic in the background. The production quality did not necessarily dictate a longer length video, as some of the videos with the most editing are quite short. And although calls to action are present in the majority of the videos, they are not included in every single one, and do not appear to be related to either production quality or length. However, the added

component of spokespersons ties in closely with production length, with the longer videos containing prominent spokespersons. These elements were used to establish a baseline for comparing and contrasting video production quality over the course of 10 years.

Video Length and Spokespersons

The videos selected range in length from just a few minutes to over an hour. While the length of the videos did not progressively increase or decrease over the course of the decade, it varied over the years. The three longest videos are:

- “Knowledge is for acting upon—The Manhattan raid,” posted in 2005, is 55:18
- “Al-Qaeda/as Sahab: Hafiz Usman & Adam Gadahn propaganda [English],” posted in 2007, is 1:20:59
- “‘Gaza, not again’ Al-Qaeda propaganda video,” posted in 2009, is 1:26:59

The shortest video is:

- “Al Qaeda recruits children,” posted in 2008, is 3:41

The remaining five videos average 15 minutes in length.

One similarity between the two videos stretching over an hour is that Gadahn is a spokesperson or narrator. Gadahn is known to be a prominent English-speaking spokesperson for videos produced by As-Sahab. Western analysts have recognized his language and translation skills in many Al-Qaeda videos since he joined the organization as a recruit. He is always dressed in traditional Arab clothing in the videos he appears in, periodically speaking in Arabic, but speaking in English for the most part. Gadahn is

extremely verbose in his messaging, so it is interesting to consider whether these two videos were intended to be lengthy for any particular purpose.

In “‘Gaza, not again’ Al-Qaeda propaganda video” (2009), Gadhafi’s voice is the first one heard. His voiceover opens to images of two Western men shaking hands, an Arab man running while carrying an injured child, and a dead child laying on an exam table while a graphic of a stream of blood runs down the screen. The video then shows footage of an unidentified man in traditional Arab clothing speaking in Arabic, fighter jets flying overhead and dropping bombs on Middle Eastern cities, and an elderly unidentified Arab man in traditional clothing speaking in Arabic at what looks like a press conference.

Gadhafi then appears on screen speaking in English about how the American military has not learned its lesson. More footage of bombings is shown, followed by footage of extremists shooting semiautomatic weapons and riding horses in the desert. The screen then goes entirely black and a graphic of a floating cloth appears; in the center of the cloth appear images of more bombings with English text reading “How to prevent a repeat of the Gaza holocaust.” Historical war footage plays with a voiceover by Gadhafi describing how America exterminates its enemies, referring to the killings of Native Americans, Japanese, Germans, and Vietnamese. His voiceover talks about how America’s use of Agent Orange caused birth defects in subsequent generations while showing footage of Vietnamese children with birth defects. A clip of a British journalist interviewing a Vietnamese photographer is shown, and the photographer breaks down crying describing what he saw during the war. The photographer’s photos are shown

with a male voiceover in English (someone other than Gadhafi) translating the photographer's description of them.

The next scene shows footage of injured Iraqi children in what looks to be a hospital, with a voiceover by Gadhafi in English. He talks about America's use of depleted uranium while footage of dead Iraqi people is shown. An interview with an Iraqi doctor, speaking in English, describes how the children in the hospital are dying because the hospital does not have enough resources to help them. The next scene is of the president of the Human Resources Council of Jordan condemning the United States for imposing sanctions that prevent Iraq from receiving the medical resources they need.

Gadhafi's voiceover continues with footage of more dead Iraqi people. This is followed by footage of a man in Azizabad, Afghanistan speaking in Arabic, with English subtitles, about an American airstrike that wiped out almost the entire village. The video then shows footage of President George W. Bush making a public address with a voiceover in English of Gadhafi saying Bush is a liar, questioning his apology about the Azizabad bombing. The footage of Bush's address is played with his audio, and a slate in the upper left corner reads "The liar Bush."

The video also contains a voiceover by Gadhafi describing how America is driven by economics, with footage of Lockheed Martin, McDonnell Douglas, and Boeing buildings shown. Footage of Obama speaking at several different venues is shown. The next scene is of Gadhafi sitting in a plain room with a desk, two computers, a few books, and a semiautomatic weapon speaking about American-Israel relations. Gadhafi's voiceover continues with footage and audio of Obama speaking about the military surges in Iraq and Afghanistan. The voiceover describes Vice President Joseph Biden's desire

to get rid of schools in Pakistan, and his hatred for Islam. These words are edited with Biden speaking about how the United States and its allies need to destabilize Al-Qaeda and help set up democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan, which in this case includes building schools there to help Iraq's and Afghanistan's economy. Gadhafi's voiceover continues to describe Middle Eastern cities while he talks about the evil empire of America wanting to destroy the Islamic state and take its oil. He then talks about puppet media in apostate regimes of the Muslim world that try, in concert with America, to hide this fact.

Another item of note is that this video is clearly intended for Western audiences. All of the audio is either people speaking in English or in close-captioned English. And for the audio spoken in English, there are no subtitles provided in Arabic. This video is a prime example of Al-Qaeda gearing their propaganda to a target market.

Gadhafi is also one of the key spokespersons in "Al-Qaeda As-Sahab Hafiz Usman n Adam Gadhafi propaganda [English]" (2007). The video opens with a computer animation of an SUV with American flags on it driving through a parking lot, where a parked car backs into it causing them both to explode. The video then shows Hafiz Usman, who carried out a car bombing against the American Consulate in Karachi. The video rotates footage of Usman speaking in Arabic (with English subtitles), Gadhafi speaking in English, and Zawahiri speaking in Arabic (with English subtitles).

A voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles accompanies footage of Islamic buildings, Muslim people, and American soldiers between shots of the three men. The voiceover is believed to be of Gadhafi by voice recognition from other videos. The video periodically plays footage of George W. Bush or American soldiers and other military forces raiding Afghan homes and beating their inhabitants, but its focus is on Usman

discussing his planned martyr operation, and Gadhafi and Zawahiri discussing the role of Pakistan in fighting against the West. Usman describes a raid by Pakistan on Mujahedeen fighters where he and hundreds of other men were imprisoned. The video depicts imprisoned men with a voiceover in Arabic from Usman. Zawahiri describes Usman's terrorist actions of attacking the American Consulate of Karachi, Pakistan with a car bomb, in which he was martyred. Gadhafi's voiceover continues with a description of the attack, while footage of the explosion plays.

Various international websites are shown as the voiceover talks about how a global shift has brought shame on the Muslim world and how Western ideals in direct opposition of Sharia law are veiled under democracy. Gadhafi discusses the attacks on the World Trade Center while picture insets of the terrorists responsible for the operation are shown. Footage of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf defending the raid on the Mujahedeen fighters is shown and Gadhafi criticizes his support of American forces. The video concludes with Usman leaving a message for his parents about his impending martyrdom and footage of him saying goodbye to his friends as he drives away in the car with the bomb intended for the American consulate attack.

The longer videos also, understandably, incorporate the most variety of editing techniques, spokespersons, and pieces of footage. There are still some very long shots of the spokespeople talking, but they are interjected with still images and video footage. The extended length of these videos helps highlight the different production elements used by As-Sahab to demonstrate its technological expertise.

Production Quality

The editing techniques vary greatly among the nine videos. As mentioned above, for the most part the longer videos incorporate the most editing. The video “Adam Gadahn March 7, 2010, video with transcript,” (2010) is 20:44 and contains interesting editing techniques. Gadahn is also the primary spokesperson in this video. The opening contains heavy graphics editing with an explosion of blocks and scrolling text on a solid black screen, similar to techniques found in the Microsoft Office PowerPoint program. The screen with the text of “As-Sahab Media” fades into a graphic of a blue sky with rolling clouds, while an Arabic song is played in the background. Next, an inset box showing Gadahn zooms into view. Gadahn is shown sitting in a room decorated with flowered wallpaper with a semiautomatic weapon resting against the wall. He speaks in English and there are Arabic subtitles underneath the video box. The inset box becomes full screen and the remainder of the video is this single shot of Gadahn. The video ends with a black screen with white text in English that reads, “Where are the brigades of Muhammad bin Maslamah? To aid Rasoolullah. Peace and prayers of Allah be upon Him. As-Sahab Media 1431.” Although digital software-editing techniques are evident in this video, As-Sahab chose to concentrate on the single shot of Gadahn, perhaps not to detract from Gadahn’s very specific messaging.

“The solution” (2007) is only 9:01 in length, and has a unique editing structure. This video opens with a black slated background and white text all in Arabic. It then cuts to a box inset of bin Laden speaking from a podium. The As-Sahab logo is evident in the bottom right-hand corner of the screen. In the background behind the box that shows bin Laden, there is a graphic of an animated globe continuously turning on its axis. This is

the only moving part of the video, as it remains a single shot of bin Laden speaking in Arabic, reading from a script. There is text box under bin Laden that reads in English “A message from Shaykh Usama bin Laden to the American people.” Under the text box there is closed captioning of his audio in English. He begins by praising Allah. He then says that he is addressing the United States and has several messages for its people. He talks about the war and its repercussions. He says that although America has the strongest military, 19 men were still able to attack the United States and changed everything. He talks about how many of America’s policies were revised due to the actions of the Mujahideen fighters.

At this point (1:57) the video freezes on the shot of bin Laden speaking. The audio continues with him talking about how the actions of September 11th worsened the reputation, prestige, and economy of America. He discusses how American leadership has no exit now that they have started the war, and refers to Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, and Richard Pearle. He then talks about how holocaust is a culture of the United States, and condemns the United States for killing Jews, Muslims, and the Japanese. His speech describes U.S. leadership as warmongers wanting to rid the world of the Islamic faith similar to Hitler’s genocide of the Jewish race.

Bin Laden says that the American media also lost credibility and that Hollywood skewed the picture of extreme Islamists, accusing the United States of being the real extremists in their killings. He continues talking about how the majority of the United States wants this war to end so they elected a democratic president, but that the Democratic Party has not done anything to change. He likens the current war to the

Vietnam War, explaining that Kennedy's changes upset corporations that were benefiting from the war, citing the reason he was assassinated.

The media player shows the video to be 9:01 in length, at which point it ends abruptly. Although, it appears that the intended video was longer, as it stops at a seemingly odd point in the speech. Bin Laden finished a sentence, so it did not cut off in the middle of the audio, but the video has no closure, and unlike other videos, it has no fade out, an end slate with text, or even music, simply ending at the end of a sentence. This is unusual given the prominent editing techniques in the beginning and the introduction slate with text. However, since these videos are selected from YouTube and Google Video, they are downloaded at the length at which they were uploaded. Perhaps a longer version exists on jihad-dedicated sites, but for the purpose of this study, the videos are analyzed from the perspective of an everyday viewer accessing them.

"Al Qaeda recruits children" (2008) is just 3:40 in length. This video contains very little editing and looks like it was captured by a handheld camera, due to the shaky nature of it. Each shot uses a fade transition. The footage is of children training on how to carjack, clear buildings and detain people. It begins with a black slate with white text that reads in English "Al-Qaeda's use and recruitment of children." White text in English with a second black slide reads, "Video depicts training of children for kidnapping, assassination, and terrorism against Iraqis."

The first scene is of three young boys dressed in black with black ski masks, standing against a wall covered by a small black curtain, and carrying semiautomatic weapons. The smallest boy, who is in the middle, speaks loudly in Arabic with no closed captioning or English text. The video is date stamped "13-7-2007." The next shot shows

several young boys dressed the same way simulating an attack on a passing bicyclist. The boys grab him off his bike, make him lie face down on the ground and then stand him back up holding his hands behind his back and escort him away while holding a gun to the back of his head. The video fades into the boys simulating a carjacking. They stop the car, take the driver out, make him get on the ground, and then hold his hands behind his back while escorting him away with a gun to the back of his head. The video then transitions to what looks like the boys (about 10 of them) posing for a picture, with one row standing and a row in front kneeling on the floor. Several of the boys are holding up their right hand with their index finger pointed in the air.

The training continues with the boys running out of a building single file, and each one yells something (the same saying for each one) in Arabic as they run out. At this point, you can hear men's voices in the background in Arabic. It sounds as though one of them is the camera operator speaking. Here the video fades into a shot of each of the boys jumping out of a blue van, one by one. The boys stand in the wilderness as a man dressed in black, wearing a black ski mask, gives them directions in Arabic. The man directs them into a compound where they hide behind walls with their weapons.

The video captures a man's voice in the background as two of the boys climb a wall of the compound to open a door and let the rest of the boys in. The boys infiltrate the building inside the compound and find several men dressed in Western clothing sleeping on mats on the floor. The boys simulate taking the men hostage and then run from the building yelling "Allah" and other things in Arabic. In the last scene, the boys are seated in a circle on the floor of the building singing in Arabic. The camera zooms

out at this point and the video cuts to black. A final black slate with white text appears that reads “www.dodvclips.mil.”

This video, accessed through YouTube, but must have been posted by the Department of Defense, which would explain the text on the introduction and closing slides. There is no indication that it was produced by As-Sahab, as a logo is usually present in the bottom of the screen in its videos. As indicated by the simple editing and handheld camera technique, this video might have been produced by any group of individuals and not necessarily by an organized unit. Also, there were no text boxes to display closed captioning of the audio, and very few words were even spoken at all. This video seemed to be more of a “how to” for potential Al-Qaeda recruits rather than a message to a particular audience like other videos analyzed.

“‘Gaza, not again’ Al-Qaeda propaganda video” (2009) was posted on www.publicintelligence.net, although it was initially searched and found through Google Video. This video contains elaborate editing with graphics and footage of Al-Qaeda members shooting surface-to-air missiles and improvised explosive devices blowing up military vehicles. It begins with a black slate with white and red text. The first line is in Arabic. The subsequent lines in English read, “ATTENTION! This is Jihad material. Musical accompaniment is not permitted. As-Sahab Media. Rabi al-Akhir 1430.” The As-Sahab logo is also in the bottom right hand corner.

The video then opens with music in Arabic and floating Arabic text against a moving graphic background of a dark sky pattern. In English, there is text that reads “As-Sahab Media.” The screen then changes to a plaid pattern graphic with moving black images intertwining the plaid to make the look of a chain link fence. The video

uses a lot of black and white footage of historical and current war scenes, cutting quickly between shots. It shows footage of interviews with different people, incorporating zooms and pans. The interviews contain a name slate in English in the top left corner of the inset box and English subtitles on the bottom of the box. Gadahn provides the voiceover for the majority of the video, but there is a cluster of edited video clips (with their audio) intertwined of Presidents Ronald Reagan, George Bush Sr., Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama speaking at different venues. Gadahn's voiceover talks about how all American administrations lie and justify their war actions.

The video stops streaming at 19:45. Unlike "The solution," this video cuts off in the middle of a voiceover by Gadahn. Since this video is posted on <publicintelligence.com>, there is no other common source where it is found to attempt to see the entire production. The host site summarizes the video so that viewers can understand the content despite not being able to see it in its entirety. "Feature-length propaganda video was released sometime during 2009 by Al-Qaeda's media production arm As-Sahab Media," reads the description, continuing, "The video is narrated by Adam Gadahn and consists of two main sections."

The first section of the film focuses upon U.S. military atrocities and the perceived hypocrisy of America's rhetorical position in the light of its military interventions. The second section shows videos of prominent jihadists, including attacks on U.S. soldiers and facilities. The video is unique in both its length and tone, representing a more sophisticated form of propaganda than has previously been seen in As-Sahab productions. Gadahn makes reference to a number of Western sources that are critical of American rhetoric and military intervention.

The video features several scenes from the 2007 film *War made easy: How presidents and pundits keep spinning us to death*, which is narrated by Sean Penn and based upon a book of the same name by Norman Solomon. Several references are also made to a book called *The secret history of the American empire* by John Perkins. (www.publicintelligence.net)

This video's production quality is notable not only because of the significant use of graphics, but also by the many current event clips incorporated with the voiceovers. Al-Qaeda reasserts itself as a prominent force in international relations by using footage from the current presidential administration. This video represents the highest production quality of the selections.

There is one example of a unique format, although most of the videos follow a formula of voiceovers and direct addresses to the camera. "Ayman Dhawahiri—I have never been a member of Muslim brotherhood!" (2010) is 6:57 long, produced by As-Sahab as indicated by its logo in the bottom right corner. The video is of an unseen male journalist interviewing al-Zawahiri. However, the slate with his name lists it as "Dhawahiri," which must be another name or spelling of the man, since he can clearly be visually identified as Zawahiri from other videos and international news. The video has Dhawahiri explaining how the United States is spreading misinformation intermingled with screen shots of military documents depicting propaganda campaigns.

Dhawahiri is pictured in a room with a plain, brown background. He is dressed in traditional Arab clothing. Both he and the journalist are speaking in Arabic with English subtitles shown. He talks about the U.S. Army's Combating Terrorism Center and a publication they produced in which he says there are several inaccuracies about him. He

also criticizes the publication for the U.S. military's directions on how to handle propaganda. Within the interview, the video interjects screenshots of the publication, with certain text highlighted in yellow. The selected texts describe how the U.S. military should work to win the hearts and minds of the Muslim people through media efforts in order to turn them against jihadists. The video is mostly one continuous shot of the interview, but does incorporate moving graphics when the shots of the U.S. Army publication are shown. The pages of the publication move around the screen and pull quotes from the text are enlarged.

Dhawahiri does not speak to the camera or directly address an audience; rather, he attempts to dispel what he feels are inaccuracies about him. It is unknown if this video was shot at the reporter's request, or if it was to be used for propaganda by Dhawahiri; however, the setup of a reporter asking questions versus a spokesperson speaking directly to the camera seems to lend credibility to what the interviewee is saying. It portrays itself as an honest depiction of a news inquiry, when in fact it could be a unique way to stage a propaganda video. Since it is produced by As-Sahab, it seems unlikely that the organization would grant news coverage when their purpose is to produce their own videos. In the majority of videos analyzed in this paper, key spokespeople such as Zawahiri and Gadahn are addressing the camera directly. This video's structure is atypical in its interview format.

Key Messages (Calls to Action)

Six of the nine videos analyzed contain calls to action, although varying in their directness. In the video, "Al-Qaeda As-Sahab Hafiz Usman n Adam Gadahn propaganda

[English]” (2007), footage of American soldiers invading the home of an Afghan family with a child crying in the background is shown, as well as footage of soldiers beating citizens in Iraq. The footage of the beatings is too grainy to be able to identify the soldiers’ native countries. The screen slate identifies them as “crusaders” in English. There is also footage of Jewish soldiers oppressing Palestinians and footage of American and Afghan soldiers in Afghanistan raiding a home or compound and beating the men found there. The footage is accompanied by Gadhafi’s voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles talking about the history of oppression against Muslims by foreign forces.

Along with Gadhafi voiceovers, the video includes shots of Gadhafi addressing the camera directly. He calls Muslims to expel the American and British forces from Afghanistan as part of global jihad. Gadhafi’s address plays on a religious angle, stating that it is Muslims’ duty to kill those who he feels jeopardizes Islam. “If it is determined by the reliable scholars of the Sharia and the trustworthy leaders of jihad that these unbelievers are working against the interests of Islam and Muslims, then we are permitted to fight and kill these criminals after giving them sufficient warning,” he says. “Fighting and killing them is not merely permissible, but in fact, obligatory.”

What is most notable about the shots of Gadhafi addressing the camera is that he speaks in English and there are no Arabic subtitles. These shots are the only times in the video that there are not both languages provided either through audio or closed captions. In one of these shots, Gadhafi directs his message to the Western audience. “Therefore, we shall continue to target you, at home and abroad, just as you target us at home and abroad. And these spy dens and military command and control centers from which you plotted your aggression against Afghanistan and Iraq, which still provide vital military

material and logistical support to the crusade shall continue to be legitimate targets for brave Muslims like our martyred brother, Usman.” Because there is no Arabic translation, it can be believed that these particular addresses are intended only for English-speaking audiences, whether they are “crusaders” or potential Western recruits.

The video also includes footage of bin Laden as he speaks to a formation of Al-Qaeda fighters from a podium. This clip is a mere few seconds, and it is the only footage of bin Laden from this video, which is more than an hour long. There is no indication of when the clip of bin Laden was taped. Periodically since 2001, rumors circulated that bin Laden had been killed, and so there were long stretches of time where a tape featuring him did not surface in the media. However, since it was confirmed that he was killed in 2011, there are obviously other explanations for why videos containing him were not released for long periods.

In “Adam Gadahn March 7, 2010 video with transcript” (2010), Gadahn is talking straightforwardly to jihadi recruits, calling them to action to defend Islam. He cites different examples of jihadists, like U.S. Army Major Nadal Hassan, responsible for the Fort Hood, Texas, shooting. He explains to recruits that military bases are not the only good targets, but any U.S. entity that represents decadence, depravity, immorality, and atheism. He makes a direct call to action, drawing upon their rights as Muslims. “I am calling on every honest and vigilant Muslim—unsheathe your sharpened sword and rush to take your rightful place among defiant champions of Islam.”

Gadahn speaks in both Arabic and English in this video. When he speaks in English there are Arabic subtitles shown, however when he speaks in Arabic there are no English subtitles for translation. He references several jihadist attacks to include the

killing of CIA agents on their base in Afghanistan in 2009. He briefly mentions America's downfall pertaining to Blackwater and Abu Ghraib, but mostly focuses on Hassan as an example for future jihadists. He calls him a pioneer, trailblazer, and role model who opened the door for Muslims living among Western "unbelievers" (especially in the United States, Britain, and Israel) who want to commit jihad actions.

In this message, Gadahn lists specific types of targets for jihadists. "We must look to further undermine the West's already struggling economy with carefully timed and targeted attacks on symbols of capitalism." "We must erode our enemy's cowardly will to fight by killing and capturing leading crusaders and Zionists in government, industry, and media." He also makes a clear distinction between Muslims and the West in order to justify the actions upon which he has called the jihadists to make. "We are different from the Zionists and crusaders with whom we are locked in combat. We are not outlaws. We are not gangsters. We are not hypocrites. We are not barbarians. We are not opportunists and mercenaries. We are not enemies of freedom and civilization. We are not cowards who wage wars from behind the controls of pilotless aircraft. We are people of courage, honor, decency, chivalry, and ethics who selfishly sacrifice themselves for the noblest cause on earth."

Looking back a few years at the 2001 Video, "Osama bin Laden—November 9th, 2001," 9:25 in length, there is not a direct call to action since the participants do not speak directly to the camera; however, there is a sense of responsibility for jihadists portrayed in their conversations. The video simply captures a conversation between bin Laden and several other Al-Qaeda members reflecting on the September 11th attacks. The followers make comments such as "Praise be to God" and "God is the greatest," in

response to bin Laden's story, continually throughout the video. Although these are not key messages, they can be interpreted as support for future jihad operations. It seems peculiar that a conversation inside a home would be recorded. Therefore, this video can be seen as having been staged as a propaganda piece.

Its messaging relative to later videos is remarkable inasmuch as it is the earliest video analyzed, as well as the only one from 2001 currently accessible through YouTube and Google Video sources. The video does not appear to be produced by As-Sahab, or any organized media organization for that matter. It is edited roughly with no evident structure. Although Gadahn was known to belong to Al-Qaeda at this time, he is not a spokesperson or narrator in this video. The primary figure in the video is bin Laden, who was the prominently recognized leader of Al-Qaeda, and first known spokesperson for the terrorist entity. Bin Laden does not address the camera, but appears to have a calm, joyful conversation with peers. He does not directly encourage future jihad operations or call followers to action, but simply delights in the actions of the September 11th attacks.

In "Al Qaeda/as Sahab: Hafiz Usman & Adam Gadahn propaganda [English]" (2007) a significant amount of text is dedicated to listing values of the Western world that are in direct opposition to religious extremism. "Aren't these embassies using their NGO counterparts to spread moral decadence, women's liberation and nudity and indecency throughout the Ummah? Aren't these embassies spreading immoralities such as alcohol, drugs, prostitution, and homosexuality in Muslim societies, all things which Allah has deemed unlawful?" And in fact, the messages in this video directly blame modern communication mediums for these immoralities. "And by sheltering under the labels of information technology and culture it has unleashed a storm of decadence and immorality

that has ruined the ethics and character of the young generation and resulted in the death of shame in Muslim societies.” This message in particular underscores the seeming contradiction of Al-Qaeda’s use of information technology to spread propaganda against the Western world’s dependence on the same.

This video then incites Muslims to combat Western ways as their Islamic duty by including calls to action to commit jihad. “Muslims then we are permitted to fight and kill these criminals after giving them sufficient warning. And today the scholars of Islam and leaders of Jihad have repeatedly warned the enemies to cease their conspiracies and leave our land and repeatedly made it clear to the Muslims that fighting and killing them is not merely permissible, but in fact obligatory.”

Based on the initial findings of the exploratory study, videos clearly varied in length, as well as in production quality. These findings helped to establish the parameters of the more intensive study for this thesis, which accordingly focused on video length, production quality, key messages (calls to action), and spokespersons. The parameters also stemmed from the initial observations that the videos contained elements of propaganda—or a call to action—that figured into the framed messaging aspects of the more intensively developed thesis. By watching all of the videos—presumably with an untrained eye—these elements were the common points evident in each, albeit to varying degrees. Although a link between video length and production quality was prominent in some of the videos, this logical connection was not always the case. Another commonality appeared between spokespersons and calls to action, which implies intended framed messaging. A final notable point is that there was not an obvious steady increase in production quality over the 10-year timeframe, as anticipated in the exploratory study.

The video selection was a deliberate process, and these findings represent a snapshot of time and circumstance. Tweaking any of the factors involved in selecting the videos could lead to very different findings. However, the videos chosen were intended to provide an overall awareness of Al-Qaeda's technological advances since its public emergence on September 11th.

CHAPTER 3: CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to assess the production quality of Al-Qaeda videos over the course of a decade to highlight the organization's use of primarily Western-developed media technology. In analyzing videos posted online between September 11, 2001 and 2010, strong evidence of sophisticated media literacy emerges that appears to contradict calls to reject Western technologies. Historical research reveals many media organizations have depended on mass communication methods to deliver messages internationally, and this study reveals that As-Sahab as Al-Qaeda's media arm is no exception. Al-Qaeda has exploited technology created primarily by its enemy, airing messages against the West's influence on Muslim society by using production techniques available in software such as Adobe Premier Pro and Apple Final Cut Pro. The greatest irony is the terrorists' use of the Internet to spread propaganda against immoralities associated with the acceptance and incorporation of information technology, as it produces videos noticeably similar to Western news productions.

McLuhan in his famous contribution to communication theory helps provide insight to this phenomenon. Although terrorist cells are known to now be operating globally, Al-Qaeda originated in Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest nations to date. After the 2001 United States' invasion of Afghanistan and the subsequent establishment of the International Security Assistance Force by the United Nations, the country has reestablished itself through modernization. It has since developed in its economy, and areas of health service, education, agriculture, construction, and technology. However, its communication use remains behind other nations, ranked 100 out of 216 (*The World*

Factbook, August 2011). This hindrance is due to decades of war plaguing the country and Taliban regime bans on what they believed to be moral corruption of the people. Despite these issues, Internet use is growing under President Hamid Karzai's administration with cafes and telekiosks popular in more established cities like Kabul. It is estimated that there are one million Internet users out of the population of 29 million, although radio remains the broadest medium likely due to the low literacy rate of Afghanistan's citizens (*The World Factbook*, August 2011). However, given Al-Qaeda's nebulous headquarters, it is unknown if these propaganda videos are truly created under the umbrella of a master communication arm. It is possible that splintered terrorist cells are taking the liberty of borrowing the As-Sahab logo and replicating what they see in other propaganda videos. Regardless of the number of entities producing videos, it is interesting to highlight Al-Qaeda followers' choice of the Internet to spread framed messages.

The use of this widely used media technology—coupled with the fact that many videos are either produced in English or translated into it—makes it possible to understand the specific target audiences of Al-Qaeda. As McLuhan proposes, the medium chosen for a message is just as important, if not more significant, than the message itself. Al-Qaeda is creating a sense of competence and equality with more developed nations, such as the Western world, by using advanced communication technology available on the market today. To its citizens in Afghanistan, it is likely demonstrating authority. To potential recruits in Western nations it is demonstrating power. And to U.S. leadership it is demonstrating a force to be recognized within the realm of international relations. The words spoken in the Al-Qaeda videos studied are

primarily calls to action to commit jihad. And the medium selected is just as crucial, as it sends the message that Al-Qaeda is still a prominent entity, made up of resourceful, intelligent, and capable members able to execute its goals. Several of the videos are strikingly similar to first-world news broadcasts. Al-Qaeda is generating material in a format familiar to Western audiences and posting on websites popular with Western audiences, most notably the youth. This study serves to highlight that these videos are calculated and deliberate in their construct and delivery.

By analyzing the elements of length, production quality, key messages and spokespersons in these nine videos, it was found that the disparity in editing techniques was most prominent between the 2001 and the 2005 videos, with the latter video incorporating a much higher level of production quality. The production quality then appeared to remain steady in the subsequent videos. The trend may be attributable to the fact that although Gadhafi was a member of Al-Qaeda in the early 2000s, he did not become a key player in video production immediately. Gadhafi's first project was an audio translation in 2002. As Gadhafi's presence in videos became more pronounced, he was commonly the primary or sole spokesperson and likely responsible for translating the products into English.

The varying lengths of the videos were also of note. Although they did not become progressively longer over the course of time, the longest videos were those that featured Gadhafi and Zawahiri as the overall spokesperson. Bin Laden as the head of Al-Qaeda was only prominent in the first video, and although he appeared in edited clips in the subsequent videos, he was not a focus. From the analysis of these videos it seems that Gadhafi took on the responsibility of creating the messaging and his slow speech

pattern and verbosity led to lengthy productions (see Appendix: “Adam Gadahn March 7, 2010 video with transcript,” 2010). Looking at these particular elements provided a baseline for analyzing a cross-section of videos released over the course of a decade.

However, a major limitation to this study could be seen in the sample selection used. There was only one video from 2001 analyzed. It would have been beneficial to include additional videos from the years immediately following the attacks of September 11th when the video production techniques appear to be less developed. A more balanced division of videos, potentially three from 2001-2004, three from 2005-2007 and three from 2008-2011, would have been ideal. But, in order to locate videos from the earlier timeframe it might be necessary to search jihad websites or U.S. intelligence websites dedicated to analyzing these types of videos. And for the purpose of this study, it was decided to assess videos that were easily accessible by the general public, primarily by citizens of the Western world, through the popular social media sites of YouTube and Google Video. The reason for this decision was to highlight the information reaching Western audiences, in an attempt to understand if and how videos are being catered to a target viewership.

An additional challenge in selecting videos to analyze for this study through the search engines of YouTube and Google Video was the sheer amount of material posted. It was crucial to find videos that appeared to be legitimate Al-Qaeda productions. For that reason, most of the selections were shown to be produced by As-Sahab, as indicated by its logo. There were countless spoofs of Al-Qaeda videos, which made the selection a very time-consuming process. Also, a decision was made to not include any videos showing gratuitous violence or kidnapped detainees pleading for their lives, as the

intensity of the visuals could have detracted from evaluating the production and messaging elements.

A future study on this topic could examine the specific media technology being used by Al-Qaeda. It would be interesting to reveal exactly what and how digital hardware and software is reaching As-Sahab. However, this type of study might be too difficult of a venture or outside the media studies field since it would involve finding a way to track purchases and not necessarily be focused on analyzing message content. Additionally, it would be interesting to trace how videos made their way from the As-Sahab production house to sites like YouTube and Google Video.

Another suggested study would be to perform a comparative analysis between the messaging in Al-Qaeda videos and messaging by Western leadership, such as in presidents' state of the union addresses. The transcription in "Adam Gadahn March 7, 2010 video with transcript" where Gadahn made a distinction between Muslims and Western "crusaders" was noteworthy. It would be interesting to parallel such messages with statements made by U.S. presidents when they define "terrorists" in contrast to U.S. military members. All messaging is framed to some extent, and propaganda is subjective depending on the beliefs of the message sender. Gadahn's messaging is based on emotion and personal moral beliefs; in his mind, the information might not be propaganda but the truth. But the same can be said for U.S. leadership in condemning jihad actions, because it goes against established norms. Although manmade laws hold people accountable for their crimes, jihadists feel they are obligated to uphold Sharia law, even if that means killing. This clash of cultures would be interesting to study from more

of a sociological perspective through comparing the messages in Al-Qaeda videos and U.S. leaders' statements.

A remarkable finding from this study revolves around the apparent contradiction within the Al-Qaeda organization. Messages in the videos rally against Western ideals of modernization. However, As-Sahab is using cutting-edge technology to produce these messages. The digital cameras capture a representation of this segment of Arab life, with few scenes indoors and a significant amount of footage of men roaming the countryside of Afghanistan. Also, it should be pointed out that only men are featured in these videos, to include boys. The level of gender equality in the Muslim culture still differs greatly from the Western world, while at the same time the acceptance of modernization increases. This seeming contradiction surrounding Al-Qaeda's use of modern communication technologies is not a new idea. There are accounts throughout history of cultures attempting to maintain a divide between technology and culture. The balance is a delicate one, and remains contested in the success of its implementation. Al-Qaeda's desire to exploit modern technology while holding true to traditional ways is not unique, but possibly the most current dilemma.

Overall, this study demonstrated the evolution of Al-Qaeda videos since 2001 when an international audience first undoubtedly recognized the terrorist alliance. Through a qualitative analysis, four key elements were identified in these productions—video length, production quality, key messages and spokespersons. The use of editing techniques significantly increased from 2001 to 2005, and although video length varied over the course of a decade, it was not necessarily influenced by access to more sophisticated software.

Another remarkable finding from this study included a video all in English (“Al Qaeda/as Sahab: Hafiz Usman & Adam Gadahn propaganda,” 2007). This video appeared to be directed toward an English-speaking audience, as it was delivered in only English with English closed captioning, whereas the other videos provided audio and or text in both English and Arabic. Although it could not be concluded that the video represented a new Al-Qaeda strategy to reach a target demographic, it did portray a format not seen in any of the other videos.

Gadahn and Zawahiri emerged as As-Sahab’s spokespeople, with Gadahn’s skills adding the element of English dialogue. This finding is significant because it appears that Al-Qaeda recognizes that using consistent spokespersons creates a sense of authoritative figures, as well as lends to the credibility of their messages. Key messages were central to most of the videos and were catered to different audiences. Although Al-Qaeda topic videos are rampant on YouTube and Google Video, the elements of analysis discussed in this study set the more sophisticated productions apart, determining Al-Qaeda’s capability and reinforcing the terrorist organization’s continued presence on the world stage.

This thesis underscores the point that Al-Qaeda understands the importance of public opinion in times of war, and has maintained a prominent media campaign by harnessing modern communication technologies and members skilled on how to use them. The current war in the Middle East is being fought on multiple fronts. The physical realm involves asymmetric threats—the United States and its allies resourced with the most advanced fighter jet aircraft on the market, against Al-Qaeda employing suicide bombers who blend in with the general populace. However, the success or failure of

either side is more heavily influenced by the media's account of it. A power clearly recognized by Al-Qaeda.

APPENDIX

The following materials cited throughout the preceding Thesis are the scripts of the nine videos featured as sources. The author has included these transcriptions based on thorough review of their contents. The videos were viewed initially for their relevance to the overall thesis, and upon verification of their overall contribution, the scripts were then transcribed and verified for accuracy.

Osama bin Laden: November 9, 2001

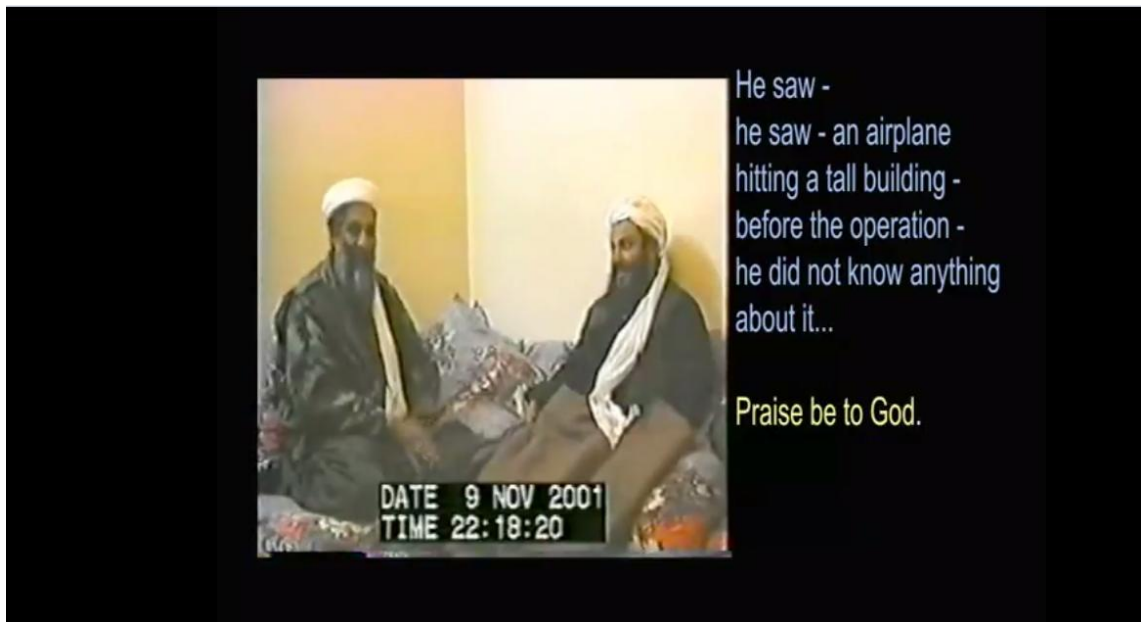


Image 1. Screenshot of “Osama bin Laden: November 9, 2001” video.

Osama bin Laden sits on the floor of a small room and speaks in Arabic (with English subtitles) to a few other men sitting on the floor dressed in traditional Arab wear.

“Azzam told me not to record anything so, I thought that was a good omen ... a little before these operations occurred this year. Our brother, Abu al-Hasan al-Masri who appeared in it. He appeared in al-Jazeera TV a few days ago. He said to the Americans, if you are ... So, he said he saw a dream ... I saw that we were playing as a team—the Americans (a male voice from off-screen says “Praise be to God.”) But—and I am wondering, all the members of our team are pilots. Is this a ball or an airplane?”

(Off-screen male voice: “Praise be to God.”)
“They are pilots.”

(Off-screen male voice: “Praise be to God.”)

“And he [Abu al-Hasan al-Masri] does not know anything about the operation until he heard about it on the radio.”

(Off-screen male voice: “God is the greatest.”)

“He did not know anything. He said, ‘The game went on, and we defeated them.’ So, I thought that was a good omen.”

(Off-screen male voice: “God is the greatest. God has willed it.”)

(Another off-screen male voice: “Our brother, Abd-al-Rahman.”)

(Another off-screen male voice: “What did he see [in his dream]?”)

(1st off-screen voice: “He saw an airplane hitting a tall building before the operation—he did not know anything about it.”)

(2nd off-screen voice: “Praise be to God.”)

(Another off-screen male voice: “I saw that I was sitting with the Sheikh in the room.”)

(Another off-screen male voice: “Praise be to God.”)

(Camera pans to show another man who is sitting next to Osama bin Laden speaking in Arabic with English subtitles.)

“Then I left from one room to another where there was a TV set. All of a sudden, the TV broadcast a huge event. The scene was of an Egyptian family. Do you know where there is a game and the team wins and people’s emotions are broadcast on TV screens. An Egyptian family is sitting—the father, the mother and the children—the older son he is overjoyed, overjoyed. A caption was shown on the TV, stating ‘In revenge for the children of al-Aqsa, Usama Bin Laden executes strikes against the Americans.’”

(Another off-screen male voice: “God is the greatest.”)

(Man sitting next to Osama bin Laden continues.)

“I said to the Sheikh [Bin Laden] there were, I think, about fifty or sixty people. He said to me, ‘That’s okay. As long as I ... (male off-screen voice: “Before the—the ... ”). Before I swear ... I swear that he did not know about the—he knew there were operations ... everybody knew (male off-screen voice: “That’s true. Praise be to God.”)”

(Osama bin Laden then speaks.)

“Muhammad ‘Ata, may God have mercy on him, was responsible for the Egyptian family.”

(Male off-screen voice: “This is true.”)

(Camera pans to right to a man sitting to the other side of Osama bin Laden, and he is speaking in Arabic.)

“For an airplane to hit such spots ... person ... He was a pious man in the organization ... a martyr ... he said ‘I saw as if I was riding on an airplane and Sultan, the ... of the organization, a big man.’ He said, ‘I will remain steadfast and I will carry you on my back. Don’t worry about the road.’ [Addressing Bin Laden] He pulled me for half a kilometer in the desert. He pulled me hard. I prayed to God to help him. He said ‘What I mean—I saw as if we were riding in an airplane.’ He said—this is a long time ago—last year—I did not understand—I mean—[I told the man] I swear, my brother, I don’t understand you. Go see [someone who can understand you]. He said ‘I wanted to go for Jihad, but they happened to land in New York, Washington and New York, what is this?’ He said ‘It hit the building.’ This was last year. We did not think much about it. Praise be to God, when the event took place, he said ‘Look! By God, this is an amazing thing.’ (Another man joined in saying, “Praise be to God.”) He said ‘I swear that my wife saw this before it happened ... she saw an airplane hitting a building’ Praise be to God.”

(Osama Bin Laden continues speaking.)

“The brothers who executed ... all they knew was that there was a martyrdom operation. They were asked to go to the United States ... Europe ... but they did not know one single little thing about the nature of the operation.”

(Off-screen male voice: “Praise be to God.”)

“They were just getting trained. They were not told about things there until a short period of time before they boarded [the airplanes] and those are not (male off-screen voice says “Praise be to God.”) the leaders of the airplane. The leaders of the airplane are there, getting trained. These [trainees] did not know those [trainees] (Off-screen male voice says “Praise be to God.”) in the airplane, and they are going very fast and it is hitting the building and the operation is going on. They broke the good news. We said, God bless you. (Off-screen male voice says “Praise be to God.”) It was easy, right?”

(Male off-screen voice: “Yes.”)

(Male shown to right of Osama bin Laden speaks.)

“Thanks are to God, to whom all perfection and majesty are ascribed.”

(Male off-screen voice: “The dream of, what is his name, the brother of Daoud. Sa’d.”)

Osama bin Laden says “No, no, Al-Ghumaidi.”

(Male off-screen voice: “Al-Ghumaidi”)

(Osama bin Laden speaks.)

“One of the brothers in Qandahar ... we were all sitting so he said that he saw that he was one of the brothers. (Man to right of bin Laden says “True. God bless.”) (Male off-screen voice says “All was known by the name of Ghumad.”) “And most of them. So, he said he saw the Ghumaidi ... a lot of them. He said he saw them in America and that there was a tall building. And he started teaching them karate. I was afraid the secret if each of them was going to see a vision. So, I closed the subject. I told him, ‘If al-Ghumaidi family hears you say that, they will be upset.’” (Man to right of bin Laden says “Yes, yes, yes.”) “Next time, don’t say Ghumaidi and we left it at that. (Man to right of bin Laden says “By God, I thought ...”). “What did you see [in your dream]?”

Man off-screen: “I saw there were two airplanes coming and they caused a huge explosion.”

(Another male off-screen voice: “God is the greatest.”)

(Off-screen male continues speaking.)

“To the extent that I was afraid to see the scene [of explosion] I felt that there was something, I mean. So I said to the Sheikh, ‘Let us go.’ He said, ‘Be patient, maybe in the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Be patient, maybe ... be patient ... be patient ... maybe other things will happen.’”

Man to right of Osama says “God has willed it. Was this after the first plane [hit]?”

Male off-screen voice says “Before. Before the entire operation. Then we went ... the operation there remained ... ”

(Osama bin Laden speaks.)

“They were overjoyed with the first airplane. They thought that this was all. I told them, ‘Be patient.’”

(Man to right of Osama speaks.)

“By God, this is amazing. By God, Sheikh, when people felt—announcing [the news about] the airplane and they could not believe it. They were amazed, in the first place, to see this success. And then, what kind of brains do these people have? How stupid can they be? Approximately twenty minutes, I mean, twenty minutes, eighteen minutes ...

Osama bin Laden speaking “Between the first one and the Pentagon [airplane] there was one hour.”

Male off-screen voice says “By God. After the Pentagon [was hit], they started mobilizing by air and by sea and this one went underground and the other one went to a hiding place.”

Male to right of bin Laden says “I mean, truly, you see they reached a certain level of horror and fright. They truly expected a coup, I mean and that these people would govern them ... ”

**Knowledge is for acting upon:
The Manhattan raid (part 1)**



Image 2. Screenshot of “Knowledge is for acting upon: The Manhattan raid (part 1)” video.

The opening slate is in all Arabic writing with moving graphics; men singing in Arabic are heard in the background. Footage of a computer monitor showing Arab men speaking is shown.

(Osama bin Laden voiceover)

“The Ummah in our time is lost and alienated. Ten years have passed since the Americans entered the Land of the Two Sanctuaries.”

(Footage of Osama bin Laden speaking in Arabic with English text)

“And more than seven decades have passed since the fall of the destination of the Night Journey of our Prophet, peace be upon him.”

(Video returns to the shot of the computer screen with male voiceover in Arabic with English text.)

“The calls of the Mujahid Shaykh Abu Abdullah Usama bin Ladin awakened the consciousness of the youth of Islam towards their contemporary issues and plundered sacred places towards their contemporary issues and plundered sacred places, and awakened in their souls the spirit of sacrifice, defiance, and love of martyrdom. And among that devout group which responded to the order of Allah and order of His Messenger were the heroes of the Manhattan raid, who wrote with the ink of their blood the greatest pages of modern history, after seven decades of humiliation and disgrace for the Ummah, starting with the establishment of the state of Israel and its occupation of the Holy Land in conclusion with the apostate Arab governments led by the Saudi regime which played an influential role in the establishment of this Zionist entity. On May 14th, 1948 after the expiration of the British mandate the Zionist Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine. Today, the British mandate in the land of Israel ends. Now we declare the establishment of a Jewish state in the land of Israel called the State of Israel. And after that accursed declaration operations began to expel and displace the defenseless people of Palestine. The destruction and damage left by the Jewish occupation of the blessed lands was major and varied, and the Jews didn’t suffice with that—no, they invaded al-Aqsa Mosque and set it ablaze, and destroyed dozens of the neighborhoods and villages which surrounded it, including mosques and Islamic schools. And the wanton aggression against our brothers in Palestine continued for decades and until this very day, leaving behind thousands killed, injured, and displaced, in full view of the whole world and in the shadow of a silence and betrayal which pervaded the wounded Islamic Ummah.”

(Shot changes to a young man (slate says Hamza al-Ghamdi, One of the Martyrs of the Manhattan Raid) in traditional Arab clothing standing in a studio speaking in front of a collage of photos from the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.)

“To the wounded Ummah, I say I swear by He who created the universe from nothing if we are happy to be humiliated and if we incline to comfort the footsteps of the enemy will stretch from Jerusalem to Mecca. And then everyone will regret on a day when regret is of no use.”

(Video returns to footage with male voiceover.)

“And the footsteps of the enemy stretched from Jerusalem to Mecca, because the Saudi regime didn’t suffice with its betrayal of the Ummah and responsibility for the loss of al-Aqsa Mosque. No, it has today made the Ummah suffer the loss of the holiest of places by permitting the Land of the Two Sanctuaries to be overrun by the troops of the Crusaders.”

(Video shows Osama bin Laden speaking.)

“The country is occupied in every sense of the world. They’ve been taking petrol for the last ten years at an average of 9 dollars per barrel. The barrel is sold refined in Europe for 230 dollars per barrel, while they take it from us for 9 dollars. And from these 9 dollars is deducted the costs of operation, extraction and maintenance. Nothing is left. As for the rest the Americans, bring their old, scrapped aircraft and say, ‘You, Fahd! Buy these 70 planes for such-and-such price.’ And he says, ‘You name it, may you live long.’”

(Video returns to footage with male voiceover.)

“This wanton occupation which is not hidden anyone with perception ... the armies of Crusader trinitarianism are resting on the land of Muhammed, peace be upon him, coming and going as they please without supervision under the pretext of protecting and defending it, which is a flimsy pretext to which the brother Ahmad Abd al-Sattar, an associate of Shaykh Umar Adb al-Rahman (may Allah free him) replies.”

(Shot of an Arab man (slate says Ahmad Abd al-Sattar) in Western clothing speaking in English with Arabic subtitles to a British reporter)

Arab man: “The people—in especially in there (inaudible)—look at you the same way as me. They look at the British and the French occupation forces.”

Reporter: “We send our troops there to defend you.”

Arab man: “Well yes, you know we really appreciate it very much. You send your troops to defend us. Nobody asks for the American troops to go there. You went there to protect your own interests. You went there to protect some corrupted regimes that are working against their own people. So don’t give me that you were there to protect the people. Your policy in this area has nothing to do with the people.”

(Footage with male voiceover)

“The crimes of the Zionist/Crusader pact were not limited to deeming lawful our most sacred places, the Two Noble Sanctuaries and Holy House. No, the matter went further than that, and the armies of unbelief and atheism invaded the Muslim countries from East to West. Here in Iraq, Kashmir and Chechnya, sanctuaries fallen victim to their treacherous armies. And thus, Jihad has become the individual duty of every Muslim as determined by the people of knowledge among the predecessors and successors.”

(Shaykh Abdullah Azzam in traditional Arab clothing, speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“We have seen that the four jurists, as well as the scholars, commentators, and narrators of Hadeeth in situations like Afghanistan and Palestine, have ruled that Jihad becomes an

individual obligation that if the enemy enters a Muslim land by so much as a hand span, Jihad becomes the personal duty of every Muslim man and woman in that territory and the son goes out without the permission of his father, the slave without the permission of his master, and the debtor without the permission of the creditor. And if the people of that territory are incapable, or negligent, or lazy, or refrain, the individual obligation expands in a circular fashion to include the people nearest to them. And if they are also negligent or lazy or refrain, and so on, until the entire earth is included in the individual obligation, as stated by Ibn Abidin in his Hashiyah (Rad al-Muhtar ala al-Dur al-Mukhtar Sharh Tanwir al-Absaan) Ibn Nujaym in al-Bahr al-Raiq Ibn al-Humam in Fath al-Qadeer Sharh al-Hidayah and al-Kakaani in Badaai al-Sanaai. All of them stated this fundamental that the individual obligation becomes, in this situation, like prayer and fasting—an obligation which cannot be abandoned.”

(Video returns to Hamza al-Ghamdi in studio speaking in Arabic.)

“So if Jihad is not now an individual obligation when then will it be, while the destination of our Prophet’s Night Journey is desecrated day and night? When will it be, while Muslim men and women are burning in Chechnya? When will it be, while in Kashmir and the Philippines the blood continues to flow? When will it be, while football is played with the heads of our brothers in Indonesia? When will it be while Bosnia still cries over the scattered remains of Muslims? When will it be, while Kosovo cries out for help? When will it be, while our brothers in Afghanistan die of hunger and cold due to the embargo which the Americans impose on them?”

(Footage with male voiceover)

“And also among the situations in which Jihad becomes an individual obligation in which the unbelievers take a Muslim captive, as determined by the people of knowledge yesterday and today. So what about when the prisons and dungeons of the Zionist/Crusader coalition have been filled with the scholars and Mujahideen of this Ummah, chief among them that towering mountain, the scholar and Shaykh Umar Abd al-Rahman, who is suffering all manner of torture and persecution in the prisons of America?”

(Returns to Hamza al-Ghamdi in studio speaking in Arabic)

“Excuse me, devout scholars, I will forget, or pretend to forget, the enemy’s invasion of the Muslims’ lands, and I will ask you by Allah, what about the captives of the Muslims whom the infidel enemies the Americans and others have captured? What is the legal status of the Jihad to free them? And moreover, who in the Ummah has arisen in the first place? There’s our Mujahid Shaykh Umar Abd al-Rahman (may Allah free him) still in the prisons and jails of America. And here’s our brothers Ramzi, Azmarai, al-Awhali, Abu Hajir and others. And every day, the countries of unbelief announce that they have arrested a number of the Ummah’s sons. So why has Jihad still not become an individual obligation?!”

(Footage with male voiceover)

“The individuality of this obligation was affirmed by Shaykh Usama in the declaration of Jihad against the Americans in 1996 and stated by him his meeting the same year with journalist Abd al-Bari Atwan.”

(Footage of journalist Abd al-Bari Atwan speaking in English with Arabic subtitles)

“When I met him in 1996 the man was actually full of hatred for Americans. He was planning actually to launch a war against the Americans and American prisons (inaudible).”

(Footage with male voiceover)

“And Shaykh Usama repeated his calls to hurry to Jihad in Allah’s path.”

(Footage of bombings and people running while showing footage of Osama bin Laden speaking in Arabic with English subtitles, as well as bin Laden’s voiceover)

“This humiliation and unbelief which dominates and pervades the land of Islam can only be crushed by Jihad, the bullet, and martyrdom operations. The roots of humiliation cannot be crushed except with a hail of bullets. And the free one does not toss leadership to every tyrant and disobedient one. And without a shower of blood shame is not wiped from the faces.”

(Footage with male voiceover)

“The youth came from everywhere in answer to the call to ready themselves for Jihad, and in response to the orders of Allah and His Messenger, after they became certain that the liberation of their sacred places and lifting of oppression from their Ummah will only happen through sacrificing themselves cheaply in the path of Allah, and after they realized that with effort and difficulty comes the beginnings of victory and establishment. They decided to head to the land of Afghanistan after asking prominent scholars, among them the devout scholar Shaykh Hamood bin Uqla al-Shu’aybi.”

(Footage of Shaykh Hamood bin Uqla al-Shu’aybi speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“The sword is a must, and Jihad is a must. Anything less than the weapon, even if it works with some people or has an effect on them, will neither be of any use with these diehard unbelievers nor influence them. Jihad is a heavy pillar and support of this Shari’ah, and this Islamic religion was established on this strong pillar and foundation. The religion can neither be established nor can Islam gain a foothold without Jihad—period.”

(Footage of Wail al-Shihir (slate says One of the Martyrs of the Manhattan Raid) in studio speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“Among those who have declared Jihad to be an individual obligation in our time— Shaykh Hamood bin Uqla al-Shu’aybi, Shaykh Abdullah bin Jibreel, Shaykh Sulayman Abu Ghayth, and Shaykh Sulayman al-Thaniyan. And among those in the front line who declared it an individual obligation—Shaykh Abdullah Azzam (Allah have mercy on him), Shaykh Usama bin Ladin (Allah protect him), and Shaykh Umar Abd al-Rahman (Allah free him).”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic)

“They left the world and its beauty, splendor, delights and adornments behind them, although it was within their reach, and joined the caravan of the Mujahideen. Their journey took them to the land of the Islamic Emirate, Afghanistan where the Islamic Shari’ah was applied and Allah’s laws implemented in the shade of the rule of the Islamic Emirate led by the Commander of the Believers Mulla Muhammad Umar, and a number of the country’s sincere scholars making Afghanistan a land to migrate to and a launching pad for Jihad. The sons of monotheism were encouraged to flock to it from everywhere, and the Islamic Emirate hastened to welcome those arriving throngs and enable them to fulfill the obligation of preparing by opening training centers and camps and providing them with protection.”

(Footage of Osama bin Laden speaking in Arabic)

“So the picture of the Taliban is clear, because they have allowed us to prepare and train, despite the international pressure and while knowing that we are getting ready to strike the Hubal (idol) of this age, the American forces, and the NATO pact. So this is a clear indication of their methodology in expansion by spreading the word ‘There is no God other than Allah’ in the world. They have stated that, but I tell you this as proof of what they said.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic)

“And thus, the Islamic Emirate became a target of the Zionist/Crusader enemy’s tyrannical embargo and barbaric bombing.”

(Footage of Ayman al-Zawahiri speaking in Arabic)

“The new Crusade and its apostate helpers targeted the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan because it was the first legitimate Islamic state to be established since the fall of the Ottoman Caliphate seventy years before, and because it ruled by Shari’ah, raised the banner of Jihad, and sheltered the emigrants in Allah’s path. And the Islamic Emirate received the strikes of the Crusaders and their agents with patience and contentedness desiring Allah’s pleasure and preferring the hereafter to this world. The Commander of the Believers, Mulla Muhammad Umar Mujahid (may Allah protect him) is a legitimate

leader who established a legitimate Islamic state. The Crusades threatened him with war, destruction and removing him from power unless he handed over his brothers the emigrant Mujahideen, but he did not budge an inch, and said something which will be written with ink of gold in the history of Islam—‘The issue of Usama is not about one person, it is about the honor of Islam.’”

(Footage of Amir ul Mumaneen Mulla Muhammad Umar Mujahid in traditional Arab clothing addressing a group of other Arabic men in the desert. Audio quality is very poor, but there are English subtitles.)

“Look, it has not happened before that Russia and America have been united in their stances—despite the presence of big differences between them—in order to fight a small state like Afghanistan. But our confidence in Allah and reliance and dependence on Him is great, and even if the entire world stands against us, we will not compromise on our principles and beliefs, nor will we deviate from this march of ours. Allah willing, because we believe in our religion and will not compromise on it because to compromise the religion is death for the Muslim. The real death for the Muslim is in his compromising of the religion scorning of it, or ceasing to act according to its rules. The outward death is nothing when we compare it with religious death. If we want life, then adherence to our religion is life. And if we can’t have life, then let us have death. Death is a cup from which everyone must drink so every Muslim must reform himself, devote himself to the affairs of his religion, and strengthen his belief in his Lord, and there he will find victory and success in this world and the next.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic)

“In the shade of the Islamic Emirate, the World Islamic Front to fight the Jews and Crusaders was established, representing a major change in the strategy of the Mujahideen, who became convinced that in order to end the unpopular domination of America and its ally Israel, there must be a closing of the Mujahideen’s ranks and a focus on establishing a solid base for repelling Zionist/Crusader aggression.”

(Interview with journalist Rahimullah Yusufzai in English with Arabic subtitles)

“I attended the press conference in May 1998 in (inaudible). There Mr. Bin Laden declared that from now onward Al-Qaeda would be a member of the International Islamic Front for Jihad against U.S. and Israel and a certain other number of groups like Egyptian al Jihad would also become members of this front.”

(Footage Ayman al-Zawahiri speaking in Arabic)

“The World Islamic Front for Jihad against the Jews and Crusaders was the proper response to the internationalization of the war against the Mujahideen, after the battle with the Mujahideen changed from a territorial battle to a battle between the Mujahideen and the coalition of America, Israel and the traitorous rulers who help them. Thus, it was

necessary to change the method of confrontation. And the answer was the World Islamic Front for Jihad against the Jews and Crusaders.”

(Footage with male voiceover in English with American accent)

“In May of 1998 ABC news correspondent John ... ”

(Same footage now with male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles)

“And by way of the international media, the demands and warnings reached Western governments and peoples.”

(Interview with journalist John Miller in English with Arabic subtitles)

“All hell breaks loose. Missiles are shot up into the air, tracer bullets. And men love to see him. When he walks into the room you realize this guy is 6-3 or 6-4. He never raises his voice, he doesn't pound the table or use his fist. He's not a fiery (inaudible). He's soft spoken. But the words, the words he was using were extremely powerful. And frankly, he had three principle issues. One was to remove the U.S. military presence from Saudi Arabia, the other was to end the U.S. support of Israel, particularly as it affected negatively the Palestinians. And three was at that time an immediate fall to the bombing of Iraq.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic)

“The youth came from every land, heading for the towering peaks to rally around the standard of the Mujahideen, to stand as one to fight the Jews and Crusaders occupying their land and to avenge their brothers whose blood was deemed lawful in Palestine, Iraq and other Muslim lands.”

(Footage of al-Qaeda members marching through woods with semiautomatic weapons, while male voices sing in Arabic as a voiceover)

“Our way is a right way
On a straight path
On a straight path witnessed to by Allah the Great
Our work is for the Compassionate
The crier has called out, so come to Jihad
And make your faith the best of weapons
And death for it is the loftiest of goals
Say Allah Akbar with a voice that echoes wide
And go to the Gardens with your head high
Our way is a right way
On a straight path.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic)

“Among those who came were the squadrons of martyrdom seekers whom Allah chose to participate in the awaited martyrdom operations against the Zionist/Crusader coalition and who didn’t care about the fewness of those who take his path nor did their lack of capabilities and so exchanged the ease life for an austere existence, and preferred climbing mountains to riding escalators and chose tents and trenches over villas and palaces.”

(Footage with male voices signing in Arabic as a voiceover)

“We are an impervious fortress protecting the sanctuary
With the flame of light we blind the enemies
And a clear victory is always with us
Our way is a right way
On a straight path
On a straight path witnessed to by Allah the Great
Our work is for the Compassionate.”

(Footage with male voiceover)

“In the shadow of submissiveness of the traitorous governments and impotence of the movements and organizations the Zionist/Crusader enemy continued his tyrannical embargo and destructive bombing of the people of Iraq.”

(Footage of Ayman al-Zawahiri speaking in Arabic)

“America permitted itself to impose a blockage on the Iraqi people, a blockade on the Iraqi people, kill a million children from lack of medicine and nutrition, and continue the bombing of Iraqis. And Albright commented on that with impudence when she said that their objective is worth that price and more. And America imagined that the oppressed ones have no feelings or emotions and that they wouldn’t answer it or retaliate from it.”

(Footage with male voiceover)

“The retaliation came from at the hands of the sons of monotheism when they blew up the largest den for American and Israeli intelligence in Africa.”

(Footage of Osama bin Laden speaking)

“America’s prestige was dealt a blow by Allah’s grace when Allah enabled young men who had been in training camps like this in Afghanistan to deal a blow to the prestige of the superpower. The important thing isn’t how many were killed in the American embassy in Nairobi and in Dar al-Salam. What is important are the powerful messages which the blast waves sent to the White House and the American people as a whole that the people of faith shall not compromise on their religion that they shall sacrifice themselves and their belongings for ‘There is no God other than Allah’; and that America shall not dream—merely dream—of security if we don’t actually experience it in

Palestine the Land of the Two Sanctuaries and all of the Muslims' countries, with the permission of Allah, the Exalted. And prior to that, Allah had granted them success in Somalia, which forced the American forces to exit defeated and disgraced, in spite of themselves and caring about nothing else.”

(Footage of Ayman al-Zawahiri speaking)

“The battles in which the Mujahideen of al-Qaida participated, especially those in Mogadishu had a direct impact on the collapse of the Americans' morale in Somalia and their decision to flee from it. And Operation Restore Hope turned into Operation Sowing Despair in the hearts of the Americans, who had had enticing dreams of occupying East Africa and besieging the Sudan from the south.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic)

“And at this sensitive period in time, the American elections were in full swing, elections which George W. Bush won in a doubtful manner, with the backing and support of a gang of military men, conservatives and heads of major corporations, chief among them Donald Rumsfeld, one of the American government's hawks, his deputy, Wolfowitz, known for his racist tendencies, and Dick Cheney, the actual head of the administration, who made it his priority to implement a militant colonialist policy agenda for the Islamic world. So he appointed a group of conservatives, adding Douglas Feith and William Lody to Wolfowitz in the Defense Department and placing John Bolton third in the State Department after Armitage and Powell. Stephen Hadley became chief aide to National Security Advisor Condoleeza Rice, while Louis “Scooter” Libby was appointed to Cheney's chief of staff. And Dick Cheney continued to abide by the interests of the economic octopus Halliburton, the corporation of which he was president and from which he continued to receive his salary.”

(Footage of Dick Cheney speaking in English with Arabic subtitles)

“Let me tell you about Halliburton, the company I ran. I'm very proud of what I did at Halliburton and the people of Halliburton are very proud of what they accomplished and I frankly don't feel any need to apologize for the way I spent my time over the last five years as the CEO and chairman of a major American corporation.”

(Footage of Ayman al-Zawahiri speaking in Arabic)

“The White House gang in the early days of Bush presidency was a bunch of cocky fools motivated by Crusader hatred, an all-consuming greed, and blind faith in the power of iron and explosives, which led them to imagine that they could take over the entire world and they pretended to forget that there is something called religion, Islam, morals, honor, and love of martyrdom. They pretended to forge all of that because they neither understand, nor know nor appreciate it. And thus they threw themselves their people and their nation into a sea of fire from which they are uselessly trying to rescue themselves.

This group has implicated America in a historic quandary; if it pulls out of Afghanistan and Iraq now, it will lose everything, while if it stays on, it will bleed to death.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic)

“Despite the colonialist leanings of this administration and illegitimacy of participation in the elections, some of those affiliated with knowledge, like Dr. Safar al-Hawali, encouraged the Muslims to elect Bush, as affirmed by Hawali in his open letter to the American president after the events of Blessed Tuesday. And on the same level behind the walls of the Pentagon, preparations were under way for the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq. There is no better proof of that than the testimony of the head of the White House’s antiterrorism department at the time.”

(Footage of Richard Clarke speaking in English with Arabic subtitles)

“The president in a very intimidating way left us, me, and my staff, with a clear indication that he wanted us to come back with the word there was an Iraqi hand behind 9-11. Because they had been planning to do something about Iraq from before the time they came into office.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic)

“Among the reasons for their plans to invade Afghanistan was to secure the passage of gas pipelines from the Caspian Sea to the Arabian Gulf, in addition to restoring and promoting the cultivation of narcotics, which had been prohibited and eliminated by the Islamic Emirate.”

(Footage of Adam Gadahn speaking in English with Arabic subtitles)

“The American attack on Afghanistan had been planned for a long time. The Americans were bloody mad about a number of things—the Islamic Emirates eradication of opium farming for one, its domination of strategic energy reserves, as well as the root of a proposed gas pipeline in the Caspian Sea, and most of all the application of Shar’ia law, sheltering the Mujahideen and refusal to hand over or even expel Shaykh Osama. And I think when the Emirates snubbed the ally envoy (inaudible), that was pretty much it. America had to take revenge, had to draw blood. It basically went berserk. I personally saw one of the threat letters the Americans sent to the Emirates in late 2000 or early 2001. It was something like the mafia might send. No heading, no greeting, no signature no seal, just a few lines of vague threats they hoped would intimidate but obviously didn’t have the desired effect.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic)

“As for Iraq, the new administration continued to implement its plans to destroy it by stepping up air strikes on its infrastructure and frightening the embargo against its people

to pave the way for invading and occupying it in order to gain control of the region's oil fields. And the godfather of this approach was the deputy defense secretary Wolfowitz.”

(Bob Woodward of The Washington Post speaking in English with Arabic subtitles)

“Wolfowitz had been mentioning it a lot. He felt that it would be easy and actually proposed an enclave strategy of going in and ceasing the oil fields in Iraq and using it as a base for other attacks against Sadaam's regime. Clearly, informally Wolfowitz was driving for considering any way this idea of invading and taking over a part of the country.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic and English subtitles)

“The sons of monotheism continued to prepare in the blessed hills of Afghanistan certain that the important thing is sincerity and honesty and not how much or how many and that the thrones of the oppressors can be crushed with only a little.”

(Footage while male voices sing in Arabic)

“My fortress is when I am shaken
By a wave of afflictions
And patience is my provision in the severity of trials
So let them demolish my house
My house built of mud
Or a tent woven
From the December wind I will continue to rain on them
The lava of volcanoes
And my anger makes them taste humiliation with disgrace
They will not live in my land
For me to be inferior
So let them spill my blood
For it to flow on the earth
They will never rest in the place of purity
We will erupt like a volcano
And burn like coals
O nation of unbelief
With your red infidels
We shall never be pleased
With humiliation and repression.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic)

“And while the sons of monotheism were continuing to prepare a volcano of Islamic anger erupted in the Blessed Land in response to the murderer Sharon's desecration of the destination of our Prophet's [peace be upon him] Night Journey. And the Zionist

Crusader criminally didn't stop there, no, their criminality was crowned by the slaughter of innocent children in the arms of their fathers.”

(Ayman al-Zawahiri speaking on screen in Arabic with English subtitles)

“The events of the al-Aqsa left an open wound in the heart of every Muslim. Every Muslim, as he watched the bullets pierce the body of Muhammad al-Durra, felt that those bullets were piercing the body of his own child and that there must be a response; there must be a deterrence and there must be retaliation.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic and English subtitles)

“The earthshaking response and retaliation came with the Mujahideen's targeting of the American destroyer USS Cole which had been roaming the region to protect the Zionist entity.”

(Footage of Osama bin Laden speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“Allah—Exalted is He—granted your brothers' victory. May He accept from them all in Aden 9 months ago and they dealt a blow to the heart of American prestige. This supposed god, the Hubal of the age, which has made itself a god worshipped beside Allah legislating for the people as it pleases and playing with the blood and honor of the Muslims at will. So the striking of the Cole came as a success granted by Allah striking not only the American military but also the most modern piece of military equipment in the world running on the seas. And you heard how they used to describe it that it can fend off large numbers on many fronts—land, sea and air—but Allah the Exalted made its striking easy for two young men who believed that what Allah the Exalted has is better.”

(Footage with male voiceover in Arabic and English subtitles)

“The attack caused a collapse of morale among the American government and people including high-ranking military men, foremost among them the forces chairman Tommy Franks.”

(Footage with male unidentified voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles)

“I turned off the light above my seat and tried to sleep before landing in Amman but I couldn't. This attack on the destroyer Cole bore the fingerprints of al-Qaida who had been silent for a number of months. And it was obvious that the operation was carried out after a lot of planning.”

(Footage with regular male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles)

“After the crushing defeat suffered by the infidels of the Cross at Aden the Mujahideen breathed the fragrance of jubilation and their hearts filled with certainty of the approach

of their date with victory. And among those faces emigrating to Allah were the artisans of glory the heroes of Manhattan raid who rid themselves of the life of luxury and comfort for subsistence living in their food and drink and entire life realizing that luxury is the enemy of Jihad and that what Allah has is better and longer lasting.”

(Footage of Arabic men circled around plates of food on the ground speaking in Arabic)

“Allah is the one who chooses. Allah doesn’t choose just anyone for this. The bombing of Nairobi and Dar al-Salam were successful. May Allah accept it from the brothers. Allah is the Greatest. Frankly, the brothers by the grace of Allah opened a new door to injuring the enemy. Then the Cole operation came their way. After Nairobi they started guarding all the embassies because they thought the next strike was going to be against embassies. But all praise due to Allah it came where they least expected it in a destroyer which they said has so many weapons and strikes at a long distance but it all turned out to be false, by the grace of Allah. We ask Allah to make the next operation shock them. Allah willing, it will fall on their heads from where they least expect it. The love of martyrdom in Allah’s path is the weapon with which America and unbelief will be destroyed with Allah’s permission because if a person wants to kill himself in the path of Allah, how can you stop him? How can you deal with someone like that? We ask Allah to grant us success.”

(Footage with male voices singing in Arabic)

“Let the Kuffar hear our news
We ride our steeds without a problem
We will wage Jihad until we die
And meet Allah on the Day of Resurrection
We praise Allah for the day our Lord gave us victory
The day when we destroyed the Cole on the sea
We praise Allah for the day our Lord gave us victory
The day when we destroyed the Cole on the sea
A little raft made clear our threat
And blew up tyranny and disgraced it
Let the Kuffar hear our news
We ride our steeds without a problem
We will wage Jihad until we die.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles with footage of George W. Bush, Muammar Gaddafi, and Saddam Hussein interacting with other world leaders)

“While the idol-kings were rushing to secure their thrones, and for that, permitting the Zionist/Crusader coalition to take control of the countries of Islam and the Ummah’s sacred places and destinies, the first signs of unity and closing of ranks began to appear from Afghanistan. And Allah blessed those good efforts made by the sincere sons of this Ummah, with the uniting of the groups al-Qaeda and al-Jihad.”

(Footage of Al-Qaeda members singing in Arabic with bin Laden and Zawahiri there watching; Arabic singing over video footage)

“O young men, hasn’t the time come to return to the oasis of faith, for you to rule
And tomorrow the world will be happy with you
And for the arrogant and stubborn to be subdued
O young men, come to glory
Come and climb the high mountains
Come on and shout all you men
Come say to all the people, ‘We don’t care.’”

(Footage of Zawahiri sitting against plain brown background, addressing camera, speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“The union between al-Qaeda and al-Jihad was in response to the legal obligation and genuine need. To combat the fierce Zionist/Crusader war against Islam and Muslims it was illogical to remain divided. And I call Allah to witness that is consider this union among the best of deeds and one which I ask Allah to accept from us. And only Allah knows the blessings and boons which it brought us. It is enough that it cooled the chests of the Muslims and choked the throats of the unbelievers. And we reach out to every sincere worker to ask him to join this blessed caravan in the path of Allah.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with video of a computer screen showing a website in Arabic)

“Even as the Mujahideen were making great advances in their preparations to strike the Hubal of the age, there were incessant calls and appeals from symbols affiliated with knowledge and Da’wah which stirred up doubts and baseless arguments in the ranks of the youth of Islam. The first of those doubts was that we are powerless to confront America and those with her.”

(Footage of Shaykh Abdullah-Azzam speaking at a podium, perhaps at a religious service)

“However, men, as they make their accounts, often disregard the superpower which directs the universe and to which all matters remain. ‘To Allah belongs the unseen of the heavens and the earth and to Him goes back every affair for decision! So worship Him and put your trust in Him. And your Lord is not unaware of what you do’ (11.12.3). They overlook, as they make their human and worldly considerations, the statement of Allah, the Exalted. ‘Isn’t Allah enough for his servants?’ (39.36). Of course! ‘Isn’t Allah enough for his servant?’ Certainly!’ And they try to frighten you with others beside him.’ Like the superpowers. ‘And they try to frighten you with others beside him. And he who Allah causes to stray, no one can guide.’ (39.36) ‘And for he who Allah guides, no one can lead astray. Isn’t Allah Exalted in power, Lord of retribution?’ (39.39) Without a doubt. The people disregard this issue. And you will only hear the Muslims repeating ‘How can such and such thing happen when America isn’t happy about it? And how did such and such action succeed when Russia is angry?’ It is as if—and Allah is high above what they think greatly Exalted—it is as if America and Russia have become

gods next to Allah the Exalted. Why? Because Allah cannot be beaten, cannot be defeated. His power cannot be lowered. And this is what has been forgotten by the major powers and those who revolve around the major powers to the extent that it has been forgotten by many good Muslims. Yes, Allah wanted us to prove to the Muslim Ummah that ‘I am the Powerful, Almighty, and Proud.’ And that when any Muslim people, however weak, illiterate and impoverished might be, makes Jihad and defends its religion, Allah will grant it victory.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles. Screen changes to blue background with inset video box showing Muslim and Western leaders interacting.)

“Another group raised a baseless argument that said that the youth going for Jihad will leave the country to the disobedient ones and wrongdoers.”

(The shot switches to full screen of a video of bin Laden speaking from a podium to an unseen crowd in Arabic with English subtitles. Single, continuous shot of bin Laden.)

“And here is the problem which is brought up by those with an extreme attachment to means and methods, saying ‘you advocate emigration. But is it right for all the people to go and leave the country to the disobedient ones and wrongdoers?’ And so on. I tell them that when the Messenger, peace be upon him, ordered emigration and it became an individual duty for his Companions with whom Allah was pleased no one made these baseless excuses or said ‘How can we leave Mecca to Abu Jahl?’ The people of today make these excuses because of their distance from the true conviction and reliance which Allah ordered. And then, when the sufficiency has been reached, when—Allah permitting—a few thousand good, healthy and disciplined young men who love Allah and His Messenger go out, we will be the first to say to the Arabs and Muslims, ‘The sufficiency has been reached.’ Do you know the number which we want—the percentage of the Muslims which we want? We want one man from every 100,000 Muslims. Over there they’re shouting and vilifying us, saying ‘Usama wants to empty the country for the unbelievers, wrongdoers, and idol-kings.’ Oh servants of Allah, fear Allah! We want one man out of every 100,000. What harm is there in that? How many Muslims die each day? We ask Allah to guide us all.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles—blue screen with inset video of men recovering dead bodies from the streets, but not clear from what country)

“Another group questioned the reason behind the Mujahideen’s focus on striking the Americans instead of making their main target the Jews, who killed and displaced our brothers in Palestine.”

(Video returns to full screen of bin Laden speaking to crowd in Arabic with English subtitles)

“America and Israel are two sides of the same coin. So if you see that your enemy has protected his right ear and fortified it well, don’t waste your time hitting the right ear, cut

off the left ear and he will die. The result is the same. The Americans are spread all over the world and they don't have a doctrine like the Jews who want to stay in Palestine. And they are backers of the Jews. After they were hit in Khobar CNN came and met with the comrades of those killed who were themselves involved in the incident. They were crying. The host asked the American soldier 'What's your name?' He replied 'So and so son of so and so' Bush, son of Bush. The host asked 'What do you want now?' He said, 'I want to go back to my country.' So this is his wish. He has one foot here and one in his country. Antarah was asked, 'What is it that you do to make the people fear you?' He answered, 'I look in the faces of the people, and go first for the one who looks weak and cut off his head first, because it's easy. And when his blood is spilled, the strong ones get scared.' So the Americans don't have a cause, neither in Palestine nor on the Arabian Peninsula. The soldier, that is—his leaders have a cause, but as a soldier, he wavers. And their interests are spread all over the globe so it's easy to strike them. Inasmuch as we hit them fast and raise the morale of the Muslims—you, by the grace of Allah, are the fruit of past strikes—the Muslims are honored and they feel that Islam is strong and is able to win against these unbelievers. And just to give you the good news there are also some strikes against the Jews coming up.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; blue screen with inset video of bombings and U.S. soldiers carrying repatriated soldiers)

“And some claimed that the Mujahideen target innocent civilians in their operations.”

(Black full screen of Zawahiri addressing camera, speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“There is no difference in the Shari'ah between a soldier and civilian. Rather, the Shari'ah divides people into combatant and non-combatant. And the combatant is anyone who helps in the fight with his body, wealth, or opinion. According to this criterion, the peoples of the West are combatant because they have willingly elected their leaders and representatives in the parliaments who draw up the policies which murder our children, occupy our countries, and plunder our treasures. And are the ones who pay the taxes which fund these policies and provide the armies which attack us with troops, backing, and support. We are obliged to defend our faith, children, and resources. America and the West affect our cities with 7 ton bombs, carpet bombing and chemical weapons, then they demand that we confront them with our light weapons only. That's not possible. As they bomb, they will be bombed, and as they kill, they will be killed. The Truth, Exalted is He, says 'The prohibited month for the prohibited month, and for all things prohibited, there is the law of retaliation. So if anyone attacks you, attack him as he attacked you (2.19.4).' And the entire world knows that the American army, despite its large amount of equipment, is very weak on the ground and that its basic tactic in combat is the bombing which destroys everything and kill the residents to force its enemy to give up. And then they demand that we not strike them in their countries?”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; blue screen with video inset of rows of Muslim men in traditional clothing lined up in possibly a mosque)

“Another group of those affiliated with Da’wah put toward the argument that now is the time for the Ummah’s youth to seek knowledge and receive spiritual training and that it is much too early to push the youth into the battlefield.”

(Full black screen with bin laden addressing crowd in Arabic with English subtitles)

“The misconception that is raised today about the seeking of knowledge was never raised in the time of the pious predecessors with whom Allah was pleased. And if a person were to reflect a little, these arguments will disappear and cease to exist. I mention, just as a reminder, the day of the conquest of Mecca and those who became Muslim on that day—Abu Sufyan and those with him, Allah was pleased with them all. They embraced Islam on the day of the conquest. When was the conquest, servants of Allah? It was on the 20th of Ramadan, right? They were polytheists, sons of polytheists, grandsons of polytheists, i.e. polytheism had run in their blood for a long time, to the extent that after they became Muslim, one of them, if he swore out of excitement, would swear by Lat and Uzza and then have to renew his faith and ask forgiveness. So they became Muslim on the day of the conquest, and the Hunayn campaign was in the month of Shawwal. Got it? They became Muslim on the day of the conquest, after doing what they did. The messenger of Allah said to them ‘What do you think I will do to you?’ They said, ‘You are a noble brother, son of a noble brother’—because today there is a sword, so the hearts know the truth. The sword helps the unbelievers to know the truth and know Islam. OK, how many days are left in Ramadan? At most, ten. And the Hunayn campaign was in Shawwal. So they, according to the Fiqh of the people today, according to the knowledge-seekers of today, what would they have to do? Not just seek knowledge, first, they must understand the fundamentals of the religion. This is a polytheist, son of a polytheist, grandson of a polytheist, great grandson of a polytheist. But the infallible one who doesn’t speak according to whims didn’t say ‘Abu Sufyan you and the Muslims of the conquest stay in Mecca and with you will stay Abdullah bin Masud, Abdullah bin Abbas, Umar bin al-Khattab, All, Abdullah bin Umar, and Zaid bin Thabit (Allah was pleased with them)’ those famous scholars of the Companions. He didn’t say, ‘Stay here and we’ll leave the Companions with you for them to educate you.’ This doesn’t happen, because the word ‘There is no God other than Allah’ is the spirit of the Ummah. This is an Ummah of Jihad. The purpose of knowledge is to act according to it and to wage Jihad with it. As for us learning it without acting according to it, this is a problem. Today, we are acting on knowledge, by the grace of Allah. Were it not for knowledge, we wouldn’t have known that Jihad is our individual duty and we wouldn’t have known what Allah wants from us. So knowledge is needed for action. Knowledge is not an objective in and of itself. Knowledge is needed to show us the way to worship Allah the Exalted as He ordered.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; full screen footage of Arab men in traditional clothing walking through hills of Afghanistan)

“In the midst of the flow of baseless misconceptions and flimsy arguments concerning the Jihad and its people, the Mujahideen left the neglected ones behind them, surrounded by their doubts and continued to make their way towards their desired goal. And Shaykh

Abu Abdullah personally supervised all stages of the plan, even keeping tabs on the stage which the team of pilots had reached through the coordinator of the attacks, Abu Ubaidah–Hamzi bin al-Shibh—and the head of logistical support Zahir–Zakariyya al-Housawi. And planning for September 11th did not take place behind computer monitors or radar screens, nor inside military command and control centers, but was surrounded with divine protection in an atmosphere brimming with brotherliness, sincerity, and a love for sacrificing life and belongings to help Allah’s religion.”

(At this point the video replays the opening graphic of the floating As-Sahab logo, with male Arabic singing. There are also graphic lights flashing behind the logo. White text in English and Arabic appear on the screen that says “As-Sahab Media.”)

Knowledge is for acting upon: The Manhattan raid (part 2)



Image 3. Screenshot of “Knowledge is for acting upon: The Manhattan raid (part 2)” video.

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles with footage of American airliner flying, CIA Operations Center, inside of a building with a row of desks lined with computers and monitors, Arab men, some in traditional Arab clothing and some in Western clothing, sitting on the floor of a building listening to a speaker)

“The brother pilots continued their preparation in complete calm deep inside America, disregarding the huge media ruckus surrounding American security and intelligence capabilities whose noise filled the world and the brother pilots taught the youth of the Ummah a powerful lesson in sacrifice, courage, certainty in Allah’s victory, and true

reliance on Him. And they reined in the mouths of those who rant that those who undertake martyrdom operations are unemployed, empty failures in life. These brothers abandoned a life of luxury and ease after the world had opened its doors to them and they bought what Allah has. We consider them to be so and Allah is their Reckoner.”

(Footage of Gadhafi addressing camera in English with Arabic subtitles)

“All the brothers who took part in the raids on America were dedicated, strong willed, highly motivated individuals with a burning concern for Islam and Muslims. And they had to be chosen for such a difficult mission. They were definitely not failures looking for a way out. Look at the pilots, Mohammed Atta, Moran Shoshayee, Zineddine El-Ramahi, Hani Hanjori. All of them had lived and studied in the West. All of them had the world within their reach if they had wanted it. But how could they live with themselves if they were to enjoy the worldly life while their Ummah burns.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of bin Laden and Zawahiri watching Al-Qaeda members in a formation outside)

“The visits of the Mujahid Shaykh Abu Abdullah to the training camps continued in order to select the strike force for the Blessed Tuesday attack and other elements for carrying out martyrdom operations subsequent to it with Allah’s permission.”

(Footage of single shot of bin Laden speaking to unseen crowd in Arabic with English subtitles)

“Some people think that the issue is training only. One of them will say ‘I already know this.’ Even if you know it, take it again. But there are other purposes—the elements must get to know one another because this Jihad doesn’t rest on one person. The members of the squadron must know one another in order to build confidence between them. And the instructor must acquaint himself and write the reports—which, in the end, reach me—that this brother was patient, showed endurance, was well-mannered and tolerant, and so on. This one is a candidate for the martyrdom operations abroad, whereas one whose temper is short and patience thin won’t be able to bear up on the outside. And we can only know that from here. Your brothers in Nairobi spent nine months in an apartment while their brothers smuggled them the TNT and they pounded it. Can you be that patient? You aren’t patient with us here for two hours, so how can we send you there for nine months? A lot of things stem from the time you spend here, and your reward is there if you intend to emigrate, prepare, and perform Ribat. So for Allah is all praise.”

(Footage of men in black ski masks with male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles. Men are simulating on each other how to cut throats. Simulating sitting in airline seats then rising and taking people hostage with pocket knives and box cutters)

“And Allah chose from among the candidates for participation in the martyrdom operations a group of unique heroes to be the young strong-arms who would take control

of the planes until the moment of impact. Their only weapons, after their certainty in Allah and reliance on Him, were nothing but blades which people use to cut paper and open packages. The heroes of the raids received their intensive training at the hands of the martyr Abu Turab the Jordanian, who had the honor to take part in the previous Afghan Jihad. The knights of the two raids received at the hands of their instructor numerous martial arts. They trained in how to deal with security forces and the clandestine guards inside the plane, and learned how to take over the navigation cabin, enable the pilots to fly the planes towards the targets and ensure protection for them until the moment when the aircraft crash into their targets.”

(Footage of Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri walking in the desert with their followers; men singing in Arabic; machine gun shots are heard.)

“Tighten your blood in your veins and rise up
And don’t be afraid if you’re going to glory
Tighten your blood in your veins and rise up
And don’t be afraid if you’re going to glory
Don’t talk or hesitate or suppose
Just wage Jihad and your courage will be strong with Allah’s help
Don’t talk or hesitate or suppose
Just wage Jihad and your courage will be strong with Allah’s help.”

(Male voice over in Arabic with English subtitles continues with same footage)

“The visits of the Mujahid Shaykh Abu Abdullah to the training camps continued to encourage the youth to sacrifice themselves cheaply in the path of Allah and to motivate them to join the caravan of the knights of the martyrdom operations. The champions competed in this arena and the lovers thronged doors which had been thrown wide open to them. And all of them answered the call of Allah obediently and expectantly.”

(Footage of Osama bin Laden addressing unseen group in Arabic)

“So talk yourselves into martyrdom operations. Encourage yourselves a lot. In the beginning you won’t be used to the idea and you’ll think it’s a difficult thing. But you only came here because in your heart is love of Allah and love of His Messenger, peace be upon him. We consider you to be so and we don’t exonerate anyone before Allah. So talk to yourself, because to the same degree that the number of young men who carry out martyrdom operations increases the time of victory gets closer with Allah’s permission.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic; footage of Al-Qaeda members with black ski masks lined up holding black flags; machine guns are heard shooting; footage of rocket propelled grenades being shot in the air)

“So the heroes knew the virtue of the work which they were to embark on, and its great status in Allah’s eyes, and that it is among the best ways to get close to Allah. And the youth realized what others did not that the difficulty of direct confrontation between the

people of faith and the people of unbelief doesn't mean surrendering to them and that with martyrdom operations it will be easy to infiltrate their ranks and inflict huge losses on them.”

(Footage of Wail al-Shihri, One of the Martyrs of the Manhattan Raid, reading in Arabic while sitting in studio with a background of photos from September 11th attacks)

“And when I and my brothers carried out research and asked about what will weaken them and upset their plans we found that the martyrdom operation is the best way to wound the enemies and terrorize them especially when confronting them with regular, conventional tactics is not feasible. As for its legal status, most people of knowledge, past and present, have permitted it and shown that it is a great way to bring oneself nearer to Allah the Exalted.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic; footage of an Arabic man carrying an injured child; footage of children operated on in a hospital)

“At this point in time the Muslims in Palestine were suffering the ugliest types of oppression and persecution and the hearts of the Mujahideen were breaking and full of rage towards what their brothers in the Blessed Land were undergoing. And the Mujahideen's primary concern became how to lift this oppression from the Muslims in Palestine in particular and the world's Muslims in general.”

(Footage of bin Laden addressing unseen crowd in Arabic)

“Your brothers and sisters in Palestine due to the severity of the oppression they are experiencing went out a few days ago carrying banners with which they addressed the Mujahideen here. They said, ‘We are waiting for assistance from the people of Afghanistan.’ You have been addressed and your names mentioned so fear Allah the Exalted and give victory to this great word and give victory to the people of ‘There is no God other than Allah’ and you will be successful, Allah willing.”

(Video switches to footage of bin Laden addressing an unseen crowd, but it is a different clip. Here you can see him speaking from a podium with several microphones.)

“To our brothers in Palestine, we say the blood of your children is the blood of our children, and your blood is our blood. The blood is the same and the destruction is the same, and we call Allah to witness that we shall not abandon you until the victory is complete or we taste what Hamza bin Abd al-Mattalib tasted. And we give you the good news that the reinforcements of Islam are on their way and that the reinforcements of the Yemen will continue with the permission of Allah, the One, the Only.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic; various clips of bin Laden speaking to unseen audiences; footage of American fighter jets flying, aircraft carriers in ocean)

“Although the addresses of the Mujahid Shaykh Abu Abdullah in that period rarely appeared in the media, the release of some statements motivated the enemy to declare a state of high alert and call up all his fleets and warships in anticipation of new attacks similar to the destruction of the American destroyer USS Cole.”

(Footage of bin Laden speaking to unseen crowd in Arabic)

“Just days ago, America warns its nationals in the region to be careful and take precautions, then raises the level of readiness for the American forces in Kuwait, then two days later raises the threat level for the forces in Bahrain and Doha to its highest level. And two or three days after that it orders all its employees in the American embassy in Sana’a and their families to leave Sana’a for America because there is information that terrorist operations targeting them are imminent. Then early yesterday morning the radio stations announce—and your brothers recorded the report on tape—that two American investigative teams in Yemen, one from the navy and the other from the FBI, have left Yemen in a hurry in compliance to orders from the American government because they received specific and credible information that the Mujahideen are preparing to strike them around this time. And for Allah is the credit.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic; footage of Arabic men in black ski masks exercising outside, practicing hand-to-hand combat on each other)

“The training of this group of glory-makers and martyrdom lovers continued to properly prepare them to join their brothers who preceded them to the land of the enemy where the battle would be fought. And during the training the champions combined hearing and obeying with distinguished performance of the exercises given them, which they would spend most of their day learning before applying it by slaughtering camels. But the heroes of the raids didn’t depend on their strength and power or on the special training they received. Rather they depended on Allah the Exalted who is Able to do all things. And during this period they were closer to Allah than at any other time.”

(Footage continues with male voices singing in Arabic)

“The clatter of the war is music to his ears
And the echo of the machine gun waters his heart
Steadfast in his chest a thousand echoes
Of the terrifying sounds of battle
The clatter of the war is music to his ears
And the echo of the machine gun waters his heart
Steadfast in his chest a thousand echoes
Of the terrifying sounds of battle
So silent, you think him ill, but if he speaks how great his fight
He loves death even if the people have kneeled
To seek this life in complete comfort
He loves death even if the people have kneeled
To seek this life in complete comfort

The clatter of the war is music to his ears
 And the echo of the machine gun waters his heart
 Steadfast in his chest a thousand echoes
 Of the terrifying sounds of battle
 His concern in his chest burns
 From the distressing concerns of the Muslims
 Glory is reflected in his eyes
 So they fill with sadness and his tears flow
 His concern in his chest burns
 From the distressing concerns of the Muslims
 Glory is reflected in his eyes
 So they fill with sadness and his tears flow
 He came with the soul of a death-defying believer
 With him in the fight is the glory of Islam
 He fires for a near victory
 Or to ransom the religion he meets his death
 He fires for a near victory
 Or to ransom the religion he meets his death
 His concern in his chest burns
 From the distressing concerns of the Muslims
 Glory is reflected in his eyes
 So they fill with sadness and his tears flow
 A long pioneer his wound bleeds
 His resolve like Umar's he refuses lowliness
 His resolve is not shaken by armies
 Or a coward who kicks up dust
 A lone pioneer, his wound bleeds
 His resolve is not shaken by armies
 Or a coward who kicks up dust
 Helping the religion is in his heart
 He follows the truth and not the (ineligible)
 He follows the footsteps of a timeless generation
 Which brought t to the world guidance and benefit."

(Male voiceover in Arabic)

"On the soil of Kandahar and on a number of occasions, evenings of poetry and inspiring speeches were held under the supervision of the Mujahid Shaykh Abu Abdullah who made certain that the heroes of the raids participated in those parties by reciting poems and songs in front of the guests in order to show the youth of the Ummah living examples of heroism."

(Footage of Mohand al-Sharir, One of the Martyrs of the Manhattan Raid, speaking to unseen audience in Arabic with microphone)

“We congratulate the Muslims on the occasion of the blessed Eid and we congratulate our Shaykh Usama bin Ladin on this fine occasion and we ask Allah that the next Eid be a celebration of victory and establishment for the Muslims. I read this poem to you before but there’s nothing wrong with reading it again.”

(Sings) “O youth of truth come to eternity
Prepare to go out
For unbelief has snarled
From Aden to London
From Kabul to Washington
From Mecca to Rome
And from Medina to Dublin
So forge the passports
And oppose all who bootlick
And whoever finds a way
Should come to us
Light a fire in the infidels
To raise from us the shame
Don’t fear or be afraid
But say ‘I am rough’
We shall water the ground with our blood
To raise the banner of truth
And we shall water the ground with their blood
And their banner of unbelief shall fall
So no, by Allah I don’t care for air or ground weapons
And TNT is better than them it heals our hard wounds
Palestine calls us O sons of Abu Mihjan
My sons’ blood is spilled and the rulers of the Arabs are mirages.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with footage of Donald Rumsfeld and other U.S. military leadership talking; a graphic of Tommy Franks’ book)

“At the same time, America military plans were in place to strike Afghanistan and the enemy took the necessary arrangements in that regard as it awaited the launch hour, as stated subsequently by the American general Tommy Franks, who said that preparations for war continued to the 10th of September.”

(Footage of Gadahn speaking in English with Arabic subtitles)

“By the middle of 2001 the threats and warnings were becoming more frequent and more specific. I remember hearing a former Pakistani diplomat telling the BBC months before September 11th that the American had informed their allies during a meeting in Germany of their plan to invade Afghanistan in the autumn before the first snowfall. Which is what they eventually did. So we knew it was coming. The question was, do we sit back and wait, or do we surprise them with a preemptive strike.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with footage of men dressed in traditional Arab wear sitting in front of computer screens and printing out maps)

“On the other side and after the pilots completed the training stage and became ready to execute their missions the surveillance team finished gathering the necessary data on the preliminary targets which had been determined previously. And following consultation and exchange of opinions according to the results of the surveillance four strategic targets were chosen for the military, psychological, and economic impact their hitting would have on the American government and people. Next, the documents office supervised teaching the heroes how to forge official documents and papers and the appropriate ways to traverse security barriers before they left Kandahar.”

(Footage of bin Laden speaking to unseen audience in Arabic)

“And we gave you the good news a few weeks ago that brothers of yours have departed carrying their heads in their hands seeking death where it is found for the pleasure of Allah, the Exalted. So I ask Allah the Exalted to grant them victory and direct their fire for He is Custodian of that and Able to do it. The news by the grace of Allah is delightful. The brother is asking about the brothers who went out for martyrdom operations in Allah’s path. Their news is delightful and their going out has terrified unbelievers international by Allah’s grace. And I strongly advise you to increase your prayers for them and beseech Allah the Exalted in your prayer to grant them success, make firm their foothold and strengthen their hearts. He is Custodian of that and able to do it.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with footage of bin Laden)

“Because of the number of announcements made by the Shaykh about the operations, some of the brothers asked if this wouldn’t have a negative effect on plans for the operation.”

(Footage of bin Laden speaking)

“Fine, when we talk here we know that our words must reach them. So we give you the good news and ask you to pray on one hand and we wage a psychological war against the enemy and strike this prestige in front of the world on the other. So there’s no harm in it.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with footage of Al-Qaeda members marching in formation)

“The Mujahideen spoke about their intentions to strike the Hubal of the age many times before the blessed strikes despite the danger that posed to the operation in order to shake the prestige of the enemy in front of the world, break his ability to ward off the strikes when they came before it’s too late and to call on the leaders among the sons of the Ummah to contribute to the taking of the Ummah’s crucial decisions. And in this is a response to those affiliating with Islamic work who stigmatize the Mujahideen as

detached from the Ummah in the taking of the fateful decisions which concern the Ummah's future.”

(Footage of Mohand al-Sharir, One of the Martyrs of the Manhattan Raid, speaking in Arabic in front of screen with a collage of photos from September 11th attacks. It looks like he's reading from script)

“So to our virtuous scholars your Islamic Ummah is waiting for you whether by coming yourselves or by issuing Fatwas to take us out of this bitter state of affairs. The Ummah's youth need role models who sacrifice and exhort, especially from those like you and they have confidence in you so it is your duty to awaken the people and incite them to Jihad and imitation of the Prophetic biography because you will be asked by Allah about your knowledge—what did you do with it and did you faithfully relay it to the people? And by your telling them that Jihad is only a collective duty you are prolonging the humiliation and disgrace of the Ummah. So fear Allah and act for a day when the people are gathered for accounting and the man will flee from his brother, mother and father. They will stand before Allah to retaliate from you if you don't fulfill the trust of knowledge and applying what Allah and His Messenger, peace be upon him, ordered. If we reflect on the life of the Chosen One, peace be upon him, we find that he spent his life Da'wah and emigration and Jihad. He participated—peace be upon him—in 28 military expeditions to raise the banner of monotheism and emigrated from his country to escape with his religion, so why haven't you sacrificed and emigrated to the land of Afghanistan where the Law of Allah rules, or extracted yourself from under the boots of the apostate tyrants to prepare and exhort and take the Ummah out of its current state. That will not take place through debating and talking a lot—there must be sacrifice and giving. Where are we from His statement, ‘O you who believe!’ What is the matter with you that when you are asked to go forth in the cause of Allah you cling heavily to the earth? Do you prefer the life of this world to the hereafter? But little is the comfort of this life as compared with the hereafter. Unless you go forth He will not punish you with a painful punishment and put others in your place. But Him you would not harm in the least for Allah has power over all things (9:38:39).”

(Footage of bin Laden addressing unseen crowd)

“Allah says ‘Whoever disbelieves in the idol and believes in Allah has grasped the strongest handhold (2:256). So to disbelieve this idol is a must and the best of good deeds is that you order the people to—‘There is no God other than Allah’—and fight for that as stated by the predecessors with whom Allah was pleased.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with footage of riots in streets of Arab towns)

“Meanwhile, the Mujahideen were closely following the events around them and studying the reaction of the Arab and Islamic street to these events in order to know how prepared the people were to receive the operation and in order to draw up a strategic plan for the repercussions that would follow the attack.”

(Footage of bin Laden addressing unseen audience)

“So these events and the other repercussions have an impact on the hearts of the Muslims young and old. Perhaps your brothers in the information department will send a cassette recorded only a week ago after the closing of the embassy in Yemen of a debate on al Jazeera between a man who supports normalization with the Jews and another man who opposes normalization. They ran an opinion poll over a period of two days and broadcast the results during the program. The number of participants in this poll was nearly 29,000 from the states of the region. The percentage who supported striking the Americans militarily was 91%. This is a large number and an extraordinary transformation from a little while ago. So for Allah is all praise. We’ll ask our brothers in information to send a copy, Allah willing. This is a miracle, servants of Allah. A few years ago a person would hide and be scared and was a stranger even among his family. And suddenly, this great help falls from the sky by the grace of Allah the Exalted making Jihad acceptable and this Ummah, from East to West, has become an advocate of Jihad. So for Allah is the credit.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with footage of three of the September 11th attackers (unidentified) speaking (last messages) to camera sitting in front of screen with photos of World Trade Center on fire, Pentagon)

“The heroes recorded their last wills and testaments in which they clarified the reasons and motivations behind their carrying out this blessed act. These messages also included advice and directions for the Islamic Ummah and exposed the traitorous apostate governments. And the martyrdom seekers didn’t forget to send messages to the American government and people.”

(Footage of Hamza al-Ghamdi, One of the Martyrs of the Manhattan Raid, speaking to camera in front of screen with photos of September 11th attacks)

“Finally I send this messages to every American in the Muslim lands in general and to the American forces and government in the land of the Two Sanctuaries in particular, and I say to them words fed by the honor of Allah and watered by my blood I swear by Allah, my shadow will not leave your shadow until the most impatient of us dies. And I say to America if it wants its armies and people to be safe then it must withdraw all its forces from the Muslim lands and depart from all our countries. If not then let it await the men prepare its coffins and dig graves for its citizens and let it prepare to taste the woe and destruction which is coming the way of its leaders and people with Allah’s permission. O Allah make it fall on our hands. O Allah, water the tree of Jihad with our blood. O Allah accept us as martyrs and gather us with the Prophets, truthful ones and martyrs, and what fine companions they are. O Allah send prayers and peace on the best of Creation and gather us with him in the highest garden of Paradise. O Allah, have I conveyed? O Allah, be my witness.”

(Footage of Wail al-Shihri, One of the Martyrs of the Manhattan Raid, addressing camera in front of screen with photos of September 11th attacks)

“As for this message of mine, I ask Allah the Great, Lord of the great Throne, that it only reach you after this unbelieving nation caves in with our blood. I ask Him to punish them at our hands and that He makes use of you to complete this path after us—stand next to the word of monotheism whose helpers have become few and remove humiliation and disgrace from our Ummah by expelling the Americans from the Arabian Peninsula expelling the Jews from Palestine and expelling all unbelievers and trespassers from the Muslim lands. And respond to the order of Allah. And fight them on until there is no more persecution and the religion in its entirety is for Allah’s (9:39) and His order, ‘Fight them.’ Allah will punish them at your hands and disgrace them and help you to victory over them and heal the breasts of a believing people (9:14).”

(Male voiceover with footage of commercial aircraft taking off from airports)

“The arrival of the strike force in the battlefield was completed and they joined the squad commanders—the four pilots—and each squadron was handed the target assigned to it as well as the execution plan and date of battle which wouldn’t be long in coming.”

(Footage of bin Laden addressing unseen audience)

“We are at the gates of a major fight. We are preparing these days to fight the infidels. Your brothers went out to strike and they went out to strike. America and Russia came out wanting to strike the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan and the Mujahideen in Afghanistan. So I advise myself and you to be patient and God fearing.”

(Footage of Gadhafi addressing camera in English with Arabic subtitles)

“In hindsight, everything that Al-Qaeda was doing was preparation for the Manhattan and Washington raids and the expected crusader invasion. The training got tougher. There was a greater emphasis on Islamic and political education. And the median Da’wah outreach was developed and expanded. Everyone knew that something big was in the offing, including the Americans, but of course only a select few knew the details. The Americans had been on high alert since the bombing of the USS Cole, closing their embassies and issuing travel alerts almost weekly. Because they had rather foolishly assumed that whatever was going to happen would happen outside America like every other major Jihadi operation, with the exception of the first World Trade Center bombing. I personally thought that the major attack everyone was talking about would take place somewhere in the Islamic region like the Arabian Peninsula for instance. It never crossed my mind that something might happen on enemy soil.”

(Male voiceover with footage of men in Arab clothing, riding in military trucks through desert)

“In Afghanistan, the domestic preparations began in order to be ready for any contingency. The Mujahideen dug camouflaged trenches in the hills and reinforced the Islamic Emirate’s frontlines by increasing the number of fighters in them, especially those with military expertise. And the basic needs of the fronts including equipment, ammunition and logistical support, were met. And all of that was at the direction of the

Mujahid Shaykh Abu Abdullah—may Allah protect him—and under the direct supervision of a number of prominent senior military commanders.”

(Footage of bin Laden addressing unseen audience)

“We are about to move, with Allah’s permission, to a number of places. And those of you who graduate from the courses may join us later for us to seek their help after seeking the help of Allah, the Exalted. And the nature of the conditions after the strike will require of you things easy for those whom Allah makes it easy. So be patient with us for a while until victory is achieved with Allah’s permission. Today by Allah’s grace we are redrawing the map of the Islamic world for it to become one state under the banner of the Caliphate with Allah’s permission. And today, by His grace we are writing a pure history of the people of Faith in this age in which oppression, tyranny, corruption, and unbelief have spread all over the world. So happy is thee whom Allah steadies beside the banner of monotheism.”

(Males singing in Arabic with footage of Al-Qaeda members marching in formation; Arab leader meeting with Bush Sr., World Trade Center on fire)

“The word is the word of the sword
Until the wrongs are righted
The despicable ones have even wronged
The Messenger of the people of strong will
Our sanctuaries would not have been desecrated
Our sanctuaries would not have been deserted
Had the lions surrounded them the filthiest of bandits
Have attacked us
So where are the swords?
They have forgotten that we are defiant ones
Who defend like lions
We are those who trampled with our steeds
The thrones of empires
The word is the word of the sword
Until the wrongs are righted
The despicable ones have even wronged
The Messenger of the people of strong will
The word is the word of the sword
Until the wrongs are righted
The despicable ones have even wronged
The Messenger of the people of strong will
We are those who built our forts Out of skulls
Which we brought from the land of the tyrant
By force and on top of the booty
Our Messenger is the one who made us
Noble builders of glory
Our Messenger is the sun of truth

Who lit the face of the world
The word is the word of the sword
Until the wrongs are righted
The despicable ones have even wronged
The Messenger of the people of strong will
He lit the lamp of a night, Black from misguidance
And created from a few people
A generation coming with the dawn
So they destroyed a head of aggression
And humiliated every oppressor
War against every aggressor
And peace for every peaceful one
The word is the word of the sword
Until the wrongs are righted
The despicable ones have even wronged
The Messenger of the people of strong will
The word is the word of the sword
Until the wrongs are righted
The despicable ones have even wronged
The Messenger of the people of strong will
We are those who built our forts Out of skulls
Our Messenger is the one who made us
Noble builder of glory
Our Messenger is the sun of truth
Who lit the face of the world
The word is the word of the sword
Until the wrongs are righted
The despicable ones have even wronged
The Messenger of the people of strong will
The word is the word of the sword
Until the wrongs are righted
The despicable ones have even wronged
The Messenger of the people of strong will
He lit the lamp of a night
Black from misguidance
And created from a few people
A generation coming with the dawn
So they destroyed a head of aggression
And humiliated every oppressor
War against every aggressor
And peace for every peaceful one.”

(The screen then fades to black)

**Al Qaeda/as Sahab:
Hafiz Usman & Adam Gadahn propaganda [English]**



Image 4. Screenshot of “Al Qaeda/as Sahab: Hafiz Usman & Adam Gadahn propaganda [English]” video.

The video opens with the As-Sahab logo and graphic effects of light filters on a black screen. A video animation of an SUV with American flags on the front is driving through a parking lot while escorted by two sedans. As it passes a parked car the parked car intentionally backs into it, blowing up the SUV. Video shows footage of Hafiz Usman walking in slow motion. Men singing Arabic are heard in the background.

(A screen slate appears that reads in English “The Will of the Martyr” “Hafiz Usman” “Who carried out the martyrdom operation against the American consulate at the gate of Islam (Karachi)”)

(A second screen slate reads “Let us live with honor” “Or die as martyrs.”)

(Usman is wearing traditional Arab clothing and speaking in Arabic with no translation. The video then shows Gadahn in traditional Arab clothing speaking in English.)

“The amount of respect we hold for your international law is even less than the respect you hold for defying Sharia.”

(Usman speaks again in Arabic with no English subtitles)

(Shot of Zawahiri wearing traditional Arab clothing speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“So have confidence, Muslims of Pakistan, in Allah’s promise of victory for His believing worshippers and follow in the footsteps of your brother Qari Usman and those Mujahideen who preceded them, those who find honor in their Lord and refuse to be humiliated.”

(Male voices singing in Arabic with English subtitles with a shot of a mosque turret)

“We love Allah and Jannah
And the path of al-Musafa is Sunnah
We love Allah and Jannah
And the path of al-Musafa is Sunnah
We want the banner of Tawheed
To stay at the summit”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Arab men kneeling and praying inside a mosque)

“The Islamic world, home to more than one and a half billion Muslims. The Ummah that bears the final message from Allah and whose members renounce false gods and prostrate themselves to Allah alone. They declare that ...”

(Male voice singing in Arabic with English subtitles while footage continues to play)

“The command is for none but Allah (12:40)”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of American military with full gear on walking through desert; footage of President George W. Bush greeting other world leaders)

“But alas! This Ummah has become subject to the Jews and Christians and has been enslaved by the United Nations Security Council which was created for the security of kufir and his allies.”

(Footage of bulldozers removing branches with following text in English shown with no voiceover)

“The Jewish Army bulldozes the Lands of Muslim Palestinians.”

(Footage of a group of Arab men where one Arab man is arguing with a U.S. soldier; a woman’s voice is heard in Arabic in the background with English subtitles)

“This is our land! What are you doing here?”

(The soldier pushes the man. The woman pushes the soldier back and then begins screaming until she is subdued by the Arab man. She screams at the soldier in Arabic with English subtitles)

“By Allah I will carry out an operation against you! I’ll attack you and blow you up! Ah! How will I raise my children? Woe is me! Go away, get out of here!”

(A different Arab man from the group yells in Arabic with English subtitles)

“Each and every one of us is Usama bin Ladin!”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; shot changes to footage of what looks like a senate floor. A screenshot of the website ‘USAID’ is shown; George W. Bush is talking and walking with Arab leaders)

“This global kufr has put into place a set of international laws against Allah’s Shariah. This kufr has contaminated our educational systems with apostasy and heresy. It has trapped our economies in the chains of usury. It has undertaken its program of limiting our population and killing our offspring under the banner of family planning and consequently our sisters and daughters have become barren. And by sheltering under the labels of information technology and culture it has unleashed a storm of decadence and immorality that has ruined the ethics and character of the young generation and resulted in the death of shame in Muslim societies. And under this (ineligible) same global structure of kufr, both the theoretical as well as hands on training of the thinkers and politicians of the Muslim world started on a basis of atheism, in order to make them capable of upholding Western ideologies and values under the cloak of democracy. With the help of secret conspiracies and clandestine revolutions these international Tawaghee imposed upon this Ummah of Tawhee factions and rulers who, instead of prostrating themselves to the Lord of the Ancient House, the Kaaba, prostrate themselves to the lord of the White House. These apostate leaderships, in turn, imposed laws of kufr which are in open contradiction to our divine Shariah and explicitly ridicule Islamic traditions and our religious rites.”

(Footage continues with man singing in Arabic with English subtitles)

“If any do fail to judge by what Allah hath revealed they are unbelievers (5:44)”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of U.S. soldier scoping out a building in Muslim town; soldiers riding on military vehicles in desert)

“By using these evil Crusader rulers the Pharaoh of this age, America proceeded to personally conquer our lands by establishing its military bases throughout the Muslim world. And so today, the entire Muslim nation is subject to the tyranny and oppression of the Crusader disbelief.”

(Footage of bombings, sick Arab children in hospital with male singing in Arabic with English subtitles)

“Say: O people of the book!
Do you disapprove of us for no other reason than that we believe in Allah

And the revelation that hath come to us and that which came before
And that most of you are rebellious and disobedient? (5:59)”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles)

“To avenge these atrocities of the kuffar, there rose from the Gate of Islam, Sindh a brilliant star by the name of Hafiz Abu Usman.”

(Shot of Usman walking in slow motion. Screen slate says “When I emigrated from my home.”)

(Shot of Usman sitting in desert under a tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles. A semiautomatic weapon rests against the tree.)

“I was blessed by Allah to see the Islamic Emirate for the first time about a year before it fell, and all praise is for Allah. After a three-month stay there I experienced a truly unusual blessing from Allah. In my third month there my mother became ill, and sent my father to bring me back for her sake. When my father came to the land of Jihad for the first time to take me back and saw the life of the Mujahideen he decided to stay there himself. Back home my mother became very worried so my father forced me to return home, and I came back but my father stayed in Afghanistan! So because of the blessed Islamic Emirate and its Jihad my parents became convinced about Jihad and all praise is for Allah. I returned to Afghanistan with my parents’ permission two months before the fall of the Emirate and all praise is for Allah. I spent my first few days with some Pakistani companions in Qarah Bagh then I went to another camp of the Mujahideen in the same area. Thereafter, Allah granted us strength and we left for Qunduz. We were in Qunduz during the American air strikes and remained there for the whole bombing period. During this period we witnessed a lot of help and support from Allah. Brothers would be martyred, but no one got disheartened. I was present when a battle against Masood’s men took place at Oasht-e-Archi in Takhar. The U.S. planes were bombing the place from above while the Mujahideen fought below. In spite of the bombing the Mujahideen did not leave a single bunker and all praise is for Allah. Even Masood’s men started asking each other over the wireless ‘What sort of people are these? What sort of youth are these?’ We are fighting them on the ground and the Americans are bombing from above and yet they are not leaving their bunkers.”

(Ayman al-Zawahiri speaking in Arabic with English subtitles; sitting in a plain, dark room.)

“In this will, the martyred brother (may Allah have mercy on him and house him in His spacious Gardens) relates what he suffered of the oppression and crimes perpetrated by the Americans and their helpers against the Mujahideen of the Taliban and al-Qaida after committing treachery against them. And perhaps in the martyrdom of our brother Qari Usman is an example to be followed by the Muslims in Pakistan and all the lands of Islam. He took part in the Jihad with the Taliban against the Northern Alliance the agents

of the Crusaders, then nearly died while being held captive by them due to the severity of the tuberculosis which spread among the prisoners.”

(Usman sitting under tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“Then they took our money and weapons and everything else after which they put us into the containers. But before we were put into the containers we saw—and it was nighttime—we saw our wounded brothers being buried alive. This continued for three days.”

(Off-screen male voice asks: “Were the Americans with them?”)

Usman: “Yes, the Americans were with them.”

(Offscreen male voice: “You yourself saw the Americans?”)

Usman: “I personally saw the Americans taking pictures of these scenes. Then we were put in the containers—shipping containers. The number of Mujahideen at the start of the siege was without a doubt more than 20,000. Then after the brothers were buried alive they put more than 300 brothers into each container. They herded us in like sheep. For Allah is all praise [in every circumstance]. When I was inside the container there was no ventilation and no oxygen and the number of brothers in each container was large. We spent one day and one night in the containers and in each container more than 200 brothers were martyred due to suffocation and lack of ventilation. The situation was extremely difficult. All praise is for Allah [in every circumstance]. After a half hour of the container being in motion I felt pain and dizziness in my head. Then I remembered and for Allah is all praise. Ayat al-Kursi [the Verse of the Footstep] and Surat Yasin, which I had memorized, and after reading Surat Yasin all the pain went away and I felt nothing for the rest of that day and night. After the containers, they put all the brothers in Shiberghan prison. Look at how many brothers were left. We were 20,000 at the outset but after the containers and the burying alive of the brothers, only 3,700 remained and the rest were martyrs. Then we entered Shiberghan prison which was small and cramped with insufficient space. We spent five months and most of the time brothers spent even more than five months sitting with their knees pressed to their chests. I spent a year and a half in Shiberghan prison. I was soon taken ill with tuberculosis which causes severe coughing, but for Allah is all praise, I witnessed Allah’s help from the very first moment. Two of the brothers saw the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in their dreams and I would see in my dreams my martyred friends which made me very happy. Most of the brothers persevered and began to memorize the Quran and those who could not properly read it began to learn how. And for Allah is all praise despite the difficulties and tragedies we saw Allah’s help often and many good dreams and Allah guided the brothers to perform good deeds.”

(Zawahiri speaking in Arabic with English subtitles; sitting in dark room)

“Then when Allah favored him with health and freedom, he returned to Jihad against the Crusaders under the banner of the victorious—with Allah’s permission—Commander of the Believers, Mulla Muhammad Umar. And he never stopped until he attacked with his ear full of explosives, the employees of the American Consulate in Karachi, to inflict great harm on them with Allah’s help and power.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of the American Consulate in Karachi on fire after being bombed; David Foy’s funeral)

“This knight, who had enlightened his heart with all thirty parts of the Quran, presented his life to avenge the overthrow of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. On the morning of the second of March, 2006, Abu Usman carried out a splendid martyrdom operation against the American consulate in Karachi, Pakistan. This consulate is the largest spy den of the American CIA in Asia. As a result of the attack the supervisor of the CIA’s activities in Asia, David Foy, was sent to hell. This kaafir had served the US army in different capacities for 23 years and now he was responsible for the secretive missions of the CIA throughout Asia. He had been assigned with the task of maintaining the supremacy of the American Taghut throughout this region and with the parenting of the worldwide apostasy movement, especially in the Pak-Afghan region. This chief of kufr met his fate just a day before the Pharaoh of this age arrived in Pakistan to be saluted by an army allied to him and fighting his Crusade.”

(Male voice sings in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of car bombings)

“But sorrow thou not over (these) people without faith (5:68)”

(President George W. Bush speaking at a press conference with no Arabic subtitles)

“We’ve lost at least one U.S. citizen in the bombing—a foreign service officer—and I send our country’s deepest condolences to that person’s loved one and family. Terrorists and killers are not going to prevent me from going to Pakistan.”

(Screen changes to shot of Usman driving a car moving in slow motion with screen slate that reads “The Kuffaar Can’t Defeat Martyrdom Operations” in English)

(Shot of Usman sitting outside but in a new place, against a plain white wall, speaking in Arabic with English subtitles; interjected with his voiceover with footage of him building a bomb)

“When I made the intention for this act, I received a lot of help from Allah. My decision to present my life to Allah is no big deal. I swear by the Almighty if I had as many lives as I have hair on my body, I would have sacrificed them all. It would have made no difference to me. But I have just one life. The most important thing is that Allah is pleased. This is the reason why I wish to give away my life to Allah. And the other objective of this act is that the severest of losses be inflicted upon the kuffaar; losses that will make them remember for generations that a Muslim neither fears death nor carries

any love for this life. Only the religion of Allah is beloved to him. And it is this religion of Allah that gives us the courage to carry out martyrdom operations. What prepares a person for them? Allah's religion and nothing else. Today, these kuffaar have everything. They lack no resources, so they are afraid of death. They want to live in this world forever, whereas a believer says 'O Allah, send for me today! Call me to Your Presence today and do not delay it until tomorrow!' This is the reason why I wish to present my life to Allah. To all those who hear this message: pray for me. And after that, persuade yourselves to do as I did. By Allah, when you have talked yourselves into doing so, you'll see how the help and support of Allah comes down upon you."

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of world trade center burning with inset photos of men responsible for September 11th attacks)

"So blessed are those Mujahideen who are stabbing the heart of Zionist/Crusader kufr by carrying out martyrdom operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the rest of the world and severing their own heads to rid the lands of Islam of the filth of the kuffaar. Our martyred brother Abu Mus'ab Al-Zarqawi arranged more than eight hundred martyrdom operations in Iraq on the instructions of the Amir of Jihad, Shaykh Usama bin Ladin. Consequently, the arrogance of the Pharaoh of this age was broken. And these operations are not limited to Iraq alone. On the frontline in the land of Khorasan the Mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate are arriving from all over the world for martyrdom operations."

(Usman sitting under tree, speaking in Arabic with English subtitles; switches between footage of him under tree and him building bomb)

"Look at Iraq today. Why is each and every youth inclined towards martyrdom operations? Why are they using these tactics? Is it because, first and foremost, this is a means by which a person meets his Lord. That's as far as the hereafter is concerned. As far as this world is concerned, look at the grouping of kuffaar, look at the amount of technology they have. Yet they lack the means by which to save themselves from these operations. They are stunned. Allah's religion with which He has blessed and honored us is such that it has freed us of the sorrows of this life as well as the anguish of death and all praise is to Allah. The brothers who are enduring torment in Guantanamo, the many who are detained in the prisons of Afghanistan, the large numbers who have been imprisoned for so many years, for what are they suffering? For the sake of the religion of Allah only. And by God, the love of Allah in the hearts of those who have suffered torture for the sake of Allah is such that I just cannot explain to you. Only the person who comes to this path of Allah himself can taste the sweetness of this love and can experience its tranquility in his heart. You'll become free of all worldly grievances. You'll have no worries concerning subsistence or any other troubles. But for God's sake, try to change your hearts. The chief element in the whole body of a person is the heart. Ask Allah for assistance. Then you will see how the help and support of Allah will be at your side just as it was with the esteemed Companions (may Allah be pleased with them all). Today, it is possible for Allah to be at our side and His support to be with us in the same way—Allah willing—but on the condition that we purify our hearts, abstain from sins, and present our lives for sacrifice in the Cause of Allah."

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Usman walking through hills, making a bomb, packing bomb into car trunk)

“Just as the Islamic Shari’ah categorizes the killing of any person under the headings of ‘killing with right’ and ‘killing without right,’ considering killing without right to be strictly prohibited and a great sin but killing with right an act of worship and a means to achieve Allah’s pleasure. It also informs us of the two categories of killing oneself: the first is ‘without right’ which means taking one’s own life in despair at Allah’s mercy or out of anger, or to escape from suffering, or any other such reason. Without doubt such an act is suicide and strictly prohibited and the one guilty of it deserves a most severe torment in the hereafter. The second category is ‘with right’ taking one’s own life in the interest of Islam. Jurists of all times have remained in agreement that such an act is not only permissible but amongst the best means of achieving martyrdom. Many Arab and non-Arab Muslim scholars of today have also declared martyrdom operations to be among the greatest forms of martyrdom in the path of Allah. Therefore, whoever takes his life despairing at Allah’s mercy or throws himself into a situation where death is certain—e.g. lying on the railroad tracks, drinking poison or exposing himself to the bite of poisonous snakes—such a person is guilty of an unlawful death, because what really matters is the intention of the person committing suicide, not the means used by him. In contrast, the person who sacrifices his life to earn Allah’s pleasure or in the interest of Islam by putting himself in a situation where his killing or death is certain, whether at the hands of others or at his own hands, in both cases he will be a martyr in the path of Allah. The biographies of the esteemed Companions (may Allah be pleased with them all) are witness to the fact that they carried out martyrdom operations in all the ways which were possible at that time. Of course, there were no explosives present in those days for us to find an example of a Companion taking his life by this method. Hence, we should mourn the lack of understanding of those people who make the legitimacy of such an acknowledged matter ambiguous due to this apparent difference in many wars of the recent past, soldiers of Muslim countries destroyed enemy tanks by fastening bombs to their bodies and blowing them up by lying down before them. The opinions of jurists regarding this issue are very clear.”

(Male voiceover continues in Arabic with screenshot of English scrolling text)

“The Status of Martyrdom Operations in the Islamic Shari’ah”

“Al-Imam al-Jassas (may Allah have mercy upon him) quotes the opinion of Imam Mohammed (may Allah have mercy on him) regarding the explanation of the verse of Surat al-Baqarah.”

“And be not cast by your own hands to ruin.” (2:195)”

“If a man were to attack 1000 men by himself there would be nothing wrong with that if he thought he would survive or wouldn’t survive but would inflict slaughter on them. If, however, he neither thought that he would survive nor that he would slaughter them, I

dislike it for him, because he would be exposing himself to ruin without benefitting the Muslims.”

“If, on the other hand, he neither thought that he would survive nor that he would slaughter them, but would embolden the Muslims by that to make them do what he did and kill and slaughter the enemy, there is nothing wrong with that, Allah willing.”

“And if he neither thought that he would survive nor that he would slaughter them, but his act would terrify the enemy, there is nothing wrong with that, because this inflicts greater harm and benefits the Muslims.”

“After quoting this opinion, al-Imam al-Jassas (may Allah have mercy on him) says:

“If in destroying himself, there is benefit for the religion, then this is a noble rank with which Allah has praised the Companion of the Prophet in His statement, (text in Arabic)”

‘Allah hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs (in return) is the Garden [of paradise]; they fight in His cause, and slay and are slain’ (9:111).”

(Male voiceover continues in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Usman preparing bomb)

“Likewise, many similar incidents from the life of the Companions (may Allah be pleased with them all) have been narrated where a single Companion penetrated the ranks of the kuffaar in order to inflict damage upon the enemy or to raise the morale of the Mujahideen or merely for the sake of martyrdom while knowing that death was certain should he go ahead. Moreover, it has been established that the Companions made pledges and took pledges to die on numerous occasions. And in the battle of Yamama when the devoted Companions of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) were involved in the war against Musallima the Liar a decisive turn approached when all the kuffaar took refuge in a garden. When no immediate means to defeat the kuffaar was seen, Hazrat Baraa bin Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) decided to undertake a martyrdom operation of his own. He said to his companions, ‘O my Muslim brothers! Lift me and throw me into this garden.’ Whereupon the Muslims lifted him and when he reached the height of the wall he jumped into the garden and into the midst of the kuffaar and fought them until he succeeded in opening the gate. Although he was not martyred in his attack, his act was akin to leaping to one’s death. And the history of Islam is full of such events.”

(Screen changes to slate in English that reads: “No to Jihad with intelligence agencies”)

(Shot of Usman sitting under tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“As for General Pervez Musharraf: examine the state of affairs before and after he stepped into power. He provided enormous assistance to America against the Islamic Emirate. Consequently, numerous Mujahideen were martyred there. What is more he

arrested more than five hundred Arab Mujahideen in Pakistan of whom many even today are confined to prison in Cuba.”

(Shot of General Musharraf in Western clothing speaking in English with a very thick accent. There are no Arabic subtitles. His words are for the most part unintelligible, but below is the best translation pieced together.)

“I used a discipline force for 37 years; we have been doing what the government has been telling them. Without Al-Qaeda it would not have been possible for 680 people—would not have been possible if the intelligence—if I was not doing an excellent job.”

(Shot of Usman sitting under the tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“And now he is working to establish relations with Israel about which Allah has said in the Quran: ‘Never will the Jews or the Christians be satisfied with thee unless thou follow their religion.’ (2:120) He is trying to institute relations with these Jews who are known enemies of ours from day one. And he is always repeating in his addresses that he will finish off the terrorists. Whom does he mean by terrorists? He means the Mujahideen. He says that he plans to finish off the Mujahideen by all means and that the population should assist him in doing so. But for God’s sake, if we help him here, what will we say there? Praying five times a day on one hand and providing assistance to him on the other: is this righteousness? In a recent address, he said that rape is a profitable business for women.”

(Shot of General Musharraf sitting in a chair speaking in native language with English subtitles at a press conference.)

“Those who say what I have said they start saying that God knows where he has come from. Is this some outsider? Or maybe he’s not a Muslim. What’s the matter?”

Shot of Usman sitting under tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles

“For God’s sake, he is the biggest devil, he is the greatest apostate, he is the greatest hypocrite—so finish him off first!”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Mujahideen marching through hills)

“O lions of Islam, and O knights of the nation of monotheism! Do not part with your sacrifices for the sake of these intelligence agencies the agents of the Taghut. Do not become a rented soldier of this Crusader-allied army which has played its role as the loyal soldier of international kufr at every twist and turn of history. These American-backers say that they were forced to support the Crusader kufr against Islam: i.e., the Lord of the Ka’aba could not force them, as they saw it to help Islam and Muslims but their lord sitting in the White House was so powerful in their eyes that he forced them to adopt the path of apostasy. These are the transgressors who have sold the Muslims of

Afghanistan into the slavery of the Cross, demolished the victorious Shari'ah of Allah and joined Richard's army instead of Salahuddin's in this Crusade of the twenty-first century. They have become like the hordes of al-Dajjal against Isa (peace be upon him).”

(Shot of Usman in front of white wall speaking in Arabic with English subtitles; interjected with footage of Pakistani men (some in Western clothing) rioting in the streets, Pakistani soldiers riding in vehicles down the street)

“Assess the arrests throughout the world and you will see that the largest number of Mujahideen have been arrested from Pakistan. The most arrests and murders of Mujahideen: where have they occurred? They have occurred in your Pakistan. So for God's sake, Jihad is not a name for a struggle carried out under the influence of an intelligence agency. Jihad is what is carried out only and truly for the sake of the religion of Allah. Whatever hardship comes along the way for the sake of his religion we must fight firmly. It isn't right that we be fighting in Kashmir in collaboration with these agencies. No! These are the hypocrites, these are the true hypocrites clad in army uniforms. Come and see what a massive operation they are carrying out here in Waziristan. And we still call them Muslims?! How can they be Muslims?! Whom are they fighting? They are fighting the Mujahideen!”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Pakistani and other world military leaders at a conference; Pakistani tanks rolling down street; U.S. soldiers jumping out of planes and shooting from tanks)

”The martyr Hafiz Usman knew that these intelligence agencies were nothing but agents of the Taghut and that it was these same agencies who hindered the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet Union in 1989 and converted it into an arena for international conspiracies. And subsequently, in 1995, when the Commander of the Believers, Mulla Mohammed Umar, laid the foundation of an Islamic Emirate and began the implementation of the commandments of the Shari'ah these very same agencies declared their recognition of the Islamic Emirate. But when global kufr attacked the Islamic Emirate and devastated the whole of Afghanistan, these traitors to Islam supported the Crusader kufr against the Muslims and informed the Americans of all of Afghanistan's military secrets.”

(Shot of Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri standing outside watching Al-Qaeda members sing in Arabic with English subtitles)

“We are the lions climbing the mountains of Jihad
O Quds, we swear we are coming to you for Jihad
These are the troops at your beck and call
They are the sons of the faith who have returned to the summit for Jihad.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles with same footage showing)

“These are the people who revived the Prophetic tradition of Hijrah in these times and proved to be a living example of the verse, ‘And those who believed, emigrated and waged Jihad’ (8:74) and settled in Afghanistan to live their lives according to the Shari’ah and to raise the banner of Jihad and reside in the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.”

(Shot of bin Laden speaking in Arabic with English subtitles to an unseen crowd)

“They have left their homelands, they have left their wealth, and they have left their uncles to escape with their religion for the sake of Allah and His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Where are they going? To people distant and strange with whom they have no kinship or relationship.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of riots in the streets; Pakistani soldiers walking streets; soldiers carrying dead covered bodies on stretchers)

“But these Mujahideen in the Cause of Allah were arrested by those same Pakistani agencies who proceeded to sell them to the Crusaders. Then in the 1990s it was these same agencies of the Taghut who assured the oppressed and helpless Muslims of Kashmir of their help and support but when the Mujahideen demonstrated steadfastness in Kashmir they incarcerated the Kashmir Mujahideen, enhanced their friendship with the Hindus, sealed the routes to Kashmir, and betrayed the blood of a hundred thousand Kashmiri martyrs! So O people of faith! Remember the saying of the Prophet of Allah (peace be upon him): ‘A believer is not stung twice from the same hole.’ Reassess your faith and carry on your Jihad with the help of trust in Allah alone and the support of the believers! And beware of the hated faces of the employees of the ISI who have repeatedly betrayed the Muslims. Due to the conspiracies of their masters Afghanistan has become Crusader occupied Afghanistan and Kashmir is still Hindu-occupied Kashmir. And because of them, the dungeons of Guantanamo are inhabited today.”

(Shot of General Musharraf at press conference speaking in native language with English subtitles)

“The question is what interests does Pakistan have in the Afghanistan issue?”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Pakistani soldiers in formation)

“O Muslims! These betrayers of the Ummah can never be sincere to its Mujahid supporters! Their religion is nation-worship, not Islam. ‘Pakistan First’ is their motto for the sake of which letting millions of Muslims in Kashmir and Afghanistan be slaughtered is an act of worship for them!”

(Shot of General Musharraf at press conference speaking in native language with English subtitles)

“When a storm is blowing, one should lower his head and protect it, lest it blow away with the wind.”

(Shot of bin Laden speaking in Arabic with English subtitles to unseen crowd)

“A group of them feared men as much as—or even more than—they feared Allah. These people don’t want fighting. ‘Would that you had granted us respite for a little while’ (4:77).”

(Shot of Usman sitting under tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“These men who are expending their lives and giving away their wealth for the sake of Allah’s religion have to endure taunts from the whole world for this. The kuffaar will be taunting them in any case out at least you, O Muslims, should be thoughtful towards them. Remember them in your prayers and aid them with your wealth. Today the Mujahideen who have kept their struggle unpolluted by the fifth of the security agencies are so few in number they can be counted on fingers. They have sacrificed themselves solely to seek the pleasure of Allah. Look around the world, and I mean the whole world. If the kuffaar of the globe fear someone, it is these few Mujahideen. Why is this so? Assess the reason behind each case and you will find it to be the same. These Mujahideen sacrificed everything they possessed—their lives, their fortunes, their families—and left their homes for the sake of Allah and performed Jihad to hoist the banner of Islam. For instance, look at Shayk Usama may Allah protect him. It was the same Usama before blessed with so much wealth and living a life of content. But today, after he sacrificed everything for the sake of Allah, the mere thought of him terrifies Bush and gives him nightmares. Why? All because of this sacrifice for Islam. And Allah has elevated him in status to such heights that he will be remembered for centuries by the kuffaar, Allah willing. My request to you is to do the same. Make an intention to present your life and fortune to Allah. And pray to Allah that He brings you to a group that is free of influence from any security agency. Only then will you experience the pleasure of Jihad performed with the purity of faith and only then will you witness help and support from Allah.”

(Shot of Zawahiri sitting in dark room speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“And from this pulpit I call on the Ulema of Pakistan to exhort its people to aid the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan with their wealth and persons, and to explain to the people the rules of loyalty and disloyalty and that everyone who helps the Americans and Crusaders to kill and fight the Muslims and capture them and hand them over to the Crusaders is a kaafir just like them and his ruling is their ruling. Allah says ‘O you who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends and protectors: they are but friends and protectors to each other. And he amongst you that turns to them for friendship is of them. Verify Allah guides not a people unjust’ (5:51). Imam al-Tabari, may Allah have mercy on him, said, ‘So the one who is loyal to them helps them against the believers is from the people of their religion and sect.’ And Allah says, ‘Let not the believers take for allies unbelievers instead of believers: and whoever does that has no relation with Allah except (if done verbally only!) as a precaution to guard yourselves

from them. But Allah cautions you (to fear) Him, and the return is to Allah.’ (3:28) Imama Tabari, may Allah have mercy on him, said, ‘He means by that that he has disowned Allah and Allah has disowned him with his apostasy from his religion and entrance into infidelity.’”

(Male voice singing in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Arab soldiers blindfolding Arab men and detaining them in the back of a truck)

“And incline not toward those who do wrong lest the Fire touch you, and ye have no protecting friends against Allah and afterward ye would not be helped” (11:113).

(Screen changes to a slate with Usman pictured; English text reads “Or did you think that you would enter paradise ...”)

(Usman voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; then shot of Usman speaking while sitting in a plain, white room)

“I swear by All-knowing Allah, today we are heedless of this obligation of Jihad. If only we were to raise this banner high and give away our lives to Allah. It was Allah who sent down His assistance through angels at Badr and Uhud. And it is the same Allah today. What has changed is you and me. The change has just occurred in us. Allah is the same as ever, always ready to aid us. The words of a Qudsi Hadeeth say that each night Allah descends to the sky of this world [to answer the prayers of those who pray]. There He is, waiting to assist us, but we are the ones who have isolated ourselves from His mercy because of our sins, our foolishness and our love of this world though these are not the characteristics of the believers. A Hadeeth of the Messenger (peace be upon him) says that this world is the prison of the believer and paradise of the kafir. If you wish to carry out Jihad and want to go out in the Cause of Allah, you’ll have to sacrifice everything. This is the primary requirement. You’ll have to leave everything. You’ll have to forsake worldly pleasures. You’ll have to leave your home at all costs. And secondly, you will meet suffering in the way. Look at the life of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and the lives of all the other Messengers, and you will come to know how much hardship they underwent. This is a sign of being on the truth. It is said in a Hadeeth of the Prophet (peace be upon him) that whoever Allah loves most is tested most. And Allah Himself says: ‘Do ye think that ye shall enter the Garden without such [trials] as came to those who passed away before you? They encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even the Messenger and those of faith who were with him cried, ‘When (will come) the help of Allah?’ (2:214)’ And then what did Allah say? ‘Ah! Verify, the help of Allah is (always) near!’ Allah burdened the esteemed Companions (may Allah be pleased with them all) with such difficult trials that even they asked, ‘O Allah! When will your help come? When will your help come?’ Serving the religion and handling our households at the same time—this cannot be done, my friends! My last will and advice to you is this: keep the banner of Jihad raised high, and sacrifice your body, soul and everything you have for it.”

(Shot of Usman sitting under tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“The gardens of your Lord await us—they are our true objective! Our true abode is Paradise! The maidens of paradise who are longing to meet us—they are waiting for us! But we struggle only for this worldly life. Even today He calls out to us ‘O my slave! My gardens await you! My blessings are in store for you! Come towards Me, walk on My path!’ But our hearts suffer from that awful disease—love of this life and hatred of death. My friends! This world is not our true dwelling nor are its profits our goal. We were sent to this world only to worship Allah so that He be pleased with us. This was the sole reason Allah sent so many Apostles (peace be upon them) to the world—to guide man to worship their Lord and reach paradise.”

(Screen slate with shot of Usman; text in English reads “The Muslims are like one body”)

(Shot of Usman sitting under tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“I have a request to the respected students who are studying in madrassas. Today in Pakistan, these madrassas are functioning in large numbers and all praise is for Allah. However, in spite of the presence of so many madrassas in the country, the government lies in the hands of apostates. In this situation our esteemed scholars bear primary responsibility. And secondary responsibility falls upon the respected students. You are acquiring knowledge and you understand that the sole aim of these studies is the triumph of Allah’s religion. But how does this religion triumph? This religion cannot be established until and unless people make sacrifices for it. Of what use are these studies? Of what use are these studies if you busy yourselves in them while your sisters are subjected to cruelty and oppression?”

(Footage of soldiers inside an Afghani home; a baby is shown crying. The screen slate reads in English “Nangarhar, Afghanistan: The brutality and oppression committed by American and Afghan forces.” An American soldier yells something repeatedly in Arabic but the subtitles are ineligible.)

(Shot of Usman sitting under tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles; interjected with footage of U.S. soldiers beating men on the ground and screen slate reads in English)

(“Crusader Brutality in Iraq” while Usman’s voiceover continues; footage of men detaining other men by vehicles with screen slate in English that reads “Oppression of Palestinians by Jewish forces”)

“On one hand you study, and on the other your mothers await your help? Is this what the Prophet (peace be upon him) taught us? No! He taught us that all Muslims are like a single body—if a part of it feels pain, the rest is affected. Look at the condition of the world’s Muslims today. You’ll find cruelty and oppression everywhere you look. Yet you are busy in your studies. I swear upon Allah, such studies are of no use. Allah will question you on the Day of Judgment—when children were orphaned and your sisters brutally attacked, and you yourself heard of what they underwent why did you even then not respond? What use does Allah have for such studies? Acquiring religious knowledge

is an obligation on the Muslim community as a whole whereas avenging the cruelty and oppression that Muslims are undergoing is an individual obligation upon each one of us! The kuffaar are extremely preoccupied by their arrogant mission today. They know that this religion is true. I swear upon Allah they see in it the truth yet knowingly strive to oppress and tyrannize us. We, on the other hand, are busy in our studies?! Merely praying five times a day—will this suffice?! No! I swear upon Allah we will be questioned on the Day of Judgment about our neighborhood beset with tyranny and oppression. The Islamic Emirate was stolen from us; the entire Emirate was snatched away yet we took no heed. Will Allah not question us about this? Such a large number of Taliban and other Mujahideen made sacrifices for it, so many were arrested, so many martyred, and so many went missing. But what did we do? We continued to study, even then.”

(Footage of men dressed all in black invading a compound; U.S. soldiers beating and detaining men found inside; screen slate reads in English “Nangahar, Afghanistan: the brutality and oppression committed by American and Afghan forces.”)

A U.S. soldier yells in English at a man to “get down on the ground.”

(Shot of Usman under tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“If we closely study the life of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and analyze the mission that kept him occupied till his last breath, we will find that it was Jihad. The last day of his life is marked with the dispatching of an army under Usama bin Zaid (may Allah be pleased with him). Today, we have forgotten that real mission of ours. Jihad is an obligation upon Muslims. Yet today, most people do not even consider it obligatory. We seek Allah’s refuge from the evils of this belief. In fact, Jihad is as much an obligation upon a believer as prayer and fasting.”

(Shot of Usman speaking Arabic with English subtitles; sitting in plain, white room)

“Look at the abundance of different factions and movements in the Muslim world, all working for a common interest. Look at the Tablighi Jama’at, working all over the world—all praise is to Allah. Look at the madrassas; look at the welfare organizations, all functioning throughout the globe. But today, who is it that America fears from beyond the seven seas? It is those who raise the banner of Jihad—America panics only at them. It only wants to finish them off. Jihad was the actual task of a Muslim. Study your history—as long as the Muslims kept the banner of Jihad aloft, they ruled the whole world. But when they forsook this banner of theirs and this obligation that was upon them look at what Basra and Bukhara underwent. Even today we remember the massacre of ninety thousand scholars of Islam in a single day—a single day! Why did this happen? Weren’t there madrassas present there? There were so many of them, but their inhabitants had become heedless of one thing and that thing was the obligation of Jihad.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of U.S. soldiers invading a madrass; madrassas being blown up; President George W. Bush getting out of a fighter aircraft)

“So O seekers of the knowledge of religion and O respected scholars, do not be negligent with these Crusader usurpers! And remember the time when in Muslim India fourteen thousand Muslim scholars were hanged. Up to eighty scholars a day used to be hanged in the Shahi mosque of Lahore. These noblemen of the nation were hurled into the fiery furnaces, branded with scalding hot metal, placed in sacks and thrown into rivers and tied to trees and riddled with bullets. The beard was declared unlawful throughout India and a thousand Islamic madrassas were demolished in Delhi and the rest of India. O scholars of the nation! All of this was done by the British Crusaders following the Jihad of 1857. And now the American Crusaders have invaded the lands of Islam for history to repeat itself. The chief of kufr himself has declared this invasion to be a Crusade. And this war persists on every front. Our Lord has already informed us about these kuffaar, saying, (Male voice singing in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Arab towns being bombed) ‘Nor will they cease fighting you until they turn you back from your faith if they can’ (2:217).”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of bombing continues; footage of soldiers marching in desert; footage of Western and Arab leaders shaking hands; footage of World Trade Center bombings)

“So O righteous scholars, O seekers of the true religion, O knights who shatter the enemy’s ranks! Organize a global Jihad to fight this worldwide apostasy movement that has been forced upon Muslims under American supervision, and expel these American and British Harbi (combatant) kuffaar from this region. We declare war against these usurper Americans and nations of NATO until they cease both their open and concealed wars against the Islamic world. O kuffaar! We will continue to rain fire upon you and your co-conspirators until we humiliate the Crusader nations which insulted the Prophet of Truth (peace be upon him) and defeat you and your American masters.”

(Shot of Usman sitting under tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“The Noble Quran was extremely dishonored in Guantanamo Bay. So inhumanely was the Book of Allah burnt, its pages torn and even flushed down the toilets. One cannot imagine what event, if not this will possibly propel the Muslim Ummah and its youth towards Jihad?! Even the Word of Allah has been burnt and flushed today, yet there are young men who don’t even try to take this path. For God’s sake, it will be the same Quran that will complain to Allah about us on the Day of Judgment. It will say, ‘I was robbed of my honor yesterday and they remained silent. They merely arranged a couple processions in response! Was this all I deserved—a couple of processions in reply to the act of burning and flushing me?’ If the Quran should raise this question on the Day of Judgment, what answer will we be able to give? Look at what happened in Shiberghan. Look at what happened in Masood’s jail. I witnessed with my own sinful eyes in the occasion when the brothers there were buried alive. It was the same Americans there and

the same apostates with them, and they buried our brothers alive to die screaming. If on the Day of Judgment they ask you—‘We gave away our lives, what did you do?’—what answer will you give them? For God’s sake, O Muslims, come to your senses! Will you say on that day that the five daily prayers were enough for me? Or that serving my parents was all that was necessary? Look at your Prophet. Look at the companions. Look at the graves of so many of them which you find scattered all around the world! Why is that? Because they journeyed for the success of Allah’s religion. But what do we have today? What good deeds have we stored up? None! We have none at all. That is why I request you to keep the banner of Jihad raised. Surrender your lives to Allah, and then see how Allah helps and supports you. You will feel pleasure in life. Grasp these weapons in your arms, for they are the believer’s true adornment. At the Prophet’s death, six swords were present in his house. Throughout his life, he never ate his fill on three consecutive days, yet despite that, six swords used to hang in his house. Towards what does this motivate us?”

(Screen shot of Usman standing with English text that reads “To my loved ones”)

(Shot of Usman standing outside against plain, white wall speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“I communicate my will to my parents, as to do so is the Sunnah. May Allah bless you with patience and firmness and grant you the success of this life and the hereafter. I could not give you anything in this world; but now, with the blessings of the act I am about to undertake, I will enter heaven on the Day of Judgment, Allah willing, taking you with me. The second part of my will to my parents is do not weep when you hear the news of my martyrdom because this is the path and this is the death that a believer yearns for. This is the death of glory. What death can be better than this where Allah Himself takes my soul? It is said in a Hadeeth that when a person is martyred Allah himself takes his soul. What greater cause for rejoicing can there be? We all have to die one day. Allah has said in the Quran that when death comes upon someone it arrives not a moment early nor a moment late. You are aware of the things I went through before this. But death was not decreed so it did not arrive. As death was not decreed Allah saved me from those close calls. And when it does arrive one cannot be saved. So never be sad about my passing from this world. For I am going out victorious and extremely fortunate by the grace of Allah and I state this with confidence. As for my brothers, if, for the pleasure of Allah and the prosperity of His religion they too ask your permission for Jihad please do not forbid or stop them. This is the reality of this worldly life today we have it and tomorrow it will be lost. As for my nephews and nieces, teach all of them the skills that will help them serve Allah’s religion and will also benefit you in the hereafter. Regarding those who come to our house at my martyrdom, treat them with the utmost respect so that they know that this is the path of the truth and that I have not given my life for some worldly gain. Imagine if I had died for this world in some robbery or murder how would it be for you? So thank Allah that He is accepting your son for His Cause. All praise is to Allah. And pray to Allah to grant me steadfastness and to make Allah’s pleasure the sole objective of what I am about to do with nothing else polluting my intention. I wish to make this sacrifice only for Allah to be pleased with me and for His

religion to prosper. I have no other objective. My message to my brothers is this: serve your parents as much as you can. Who knows about the life of this world? Today we have it, but tomorrow we may lose it. Therefore, try to please your Lord. Anyone who succeeds in this will be successful both in this world and the hereafter. And Jihad is one of the most important of the paths leading to eternal success. Martyrdom is met on this path. I have always asked Allah in my prayers that He grants me a martyr's death and for this, all praise is to Allah. I just ask you to pray that Allah makes me resolute. Rouse others to this path after me and tell them how abundant its pleasures are. The hardship it contains is limited to this temporary world. A pain so brief is no pain at all. Meanwhile in the hereafter, never-ending success lies in wait. Just ask yourself for a moment what lies between me and Allah? Only death blocks my way to heaven. Once I pass through death, I'll be meeting my Lord. For a human being, no fortune is greater than entering paradise where life has no end. Think about the life of this world if pauper lives it in the same way that a king lives it. This life is no more than a test. If it had not been a test Allah would never have burdened His Prophet (peace be upon him) with so much suffering. Consider the sufferings the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) underwent. In spite of having eleven wives he left all of them behind whenever he went out to the battlefield. Why? This is an evident proof of the fact that whoever adopts the righteous path will have to face hardships and suffering, but in reward, Allah will grant him everlasting success. To my companions in prison and to those who are still in captivity my message is this: continue your Jihad for which you have suffered so much. This is the important thing to do without which we have no deeds to present to Allah. Keep praying to Allah that He grants us steadfastness and makes us firm on the path of Jihad until the last breath. To all those who are living in the land of Jihad my request is that they continue Jihad for the sake of Allah. Allah will bless us with His help and support and destroy the unbelievers. Allah willing, we will be successful. To my parents, my brothers, my friends, and everyone else my message is: The only thing that will prove valuable in the hereafter is your service to Islam. This world will leave you in the lurch. And as for death, it has a fixed time to it. Allah says in His Holy Book: 'Say: The appointment for you is for a day which you cannot put back for an hour nor bring forward' (34:30). Look at Hazrat Khalid bin Walid (may Allah be pleased with him). He took part in 125 battles. But where did he die? He died on his bed. Death is not related to notions. Khalid bin Walid used to penetrate the enemy ranks in battle. Not even one hand span of his body was free of wounds—in spite of all this, Allah decreed that he die on his bed. I wish to deliver my will to you as Mohammed Siddique has done before me, and I say to you the same thing that he said. Follow in the footsteps of those who have given up their lives to restore the esteem of Allah's religion on earth those who are still enduring the prisons of kufr. Look at Ramzi Yousef, look at brother Khalid (Shaykh Muhammad), may Allah free them. For what did they give away their freedom? They sacrificed it for Allah's religion. Struggle resolutely, especially against this accursed regime of Musharraf's. Against this regime make sacrifices as these brothers did. May Allah grant us firmness on this path and give us patience. I am sure that if Allah wills He will bestow His help and support on us."

(Shot of Usman sitting in field with screen slate that reads in English "Occupiers, not ambassadors")

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of men burning American flag)

“When a few lion-hearted Muslims retaliated against these abusive nations Bush told his faithful slaves that they should safeguard the Crusader embassies in Muslim countries.”

(Shot of George W. Bush speaking from what looks like inside the White House)

“I call upon the governments around the world to stop the violence, to be respectful, to protect property, to protect the lives of innocent people massacred serving their countries overseas.”

Male voiceover in Arabic. Screen slate with scrolling English text:

“Why target the embassies and consulates of Harbi nations?”

“O thinkers who think with an American mindset! With what justification do you criticize the attacks of these embassies?”

“Aren’t they the dens of conspiracy which are making every effort by way of these apostate rulers to eradicate what remains of Islam in our educational systems and make them completely infidel?”

“Isn’t it the case that military attaches connected to the forces of land, sea, and air are present in these planning centers and are preoccupied with the strengthening of their military bases in Muslim lands?”

“Don’t they organize special courses, tours, and conferences to train the military forces of Muslim countries to stay in harmony with them? Don’t generals in the armies of Muslim countries receive bribes through these embassies to make them steadfast in their slavery?”

“Aren’t the political advisors of the kuffaar a part of these embassies and conspire with anti-Islam political parties to use them for the completion of their objectives?”

“Aren’t these embassies using their NGO counterparts to spread moral decadence, women’s liberation and nudity and indecency throughout the Ummah? Aren’t they killing off our offspring under the cover of family planning?”

“Aren’t these the embassies that provide political asylum to those who insult Islam, abusively use their tongues against Allah and His Messenger (peace be upon him) and apostatize from Islam? Aren’t the examples of Taslima Nasreen, Salman Rushdie, and the Afghan apostate Abdul Rahman enough to awaken us?”

“Aren’t these embassies complicit along with the apostate leaders in the arrest and assassination of hundreds of Mujahideen of Islam? Weren’t these embassies behind the

arrests and suspicious killings of the scholars of Islam, influential Muslim intellectuals and sincere leaders who share the grief of Muslims?”

“Jami’ah Uloom al-Islamiyyah Binnori Town’s Mufti Nizamuddin Shamzai, Maulana Habibullah Mukhtar and Mufti Abd al-Sami’, Jami’ah Farooqiyyah’s Maulana Inayatullah, Maulana Hamid ur Rahman and Mufti Iqbal, Jami’ah Binnori’s Mufti Atceq ur Rahman, Islamabad Central Jamia Mosque’s Maulana Abduallah, Doctor Javed Ahmed Khawaja, Doctor Ghulam Murraza Malik, Maulana Ara ur-Rahman Saqib, Maulana Yousef Ludhiyanvi (may Allah have mercy on them all): these are just a few examples. Dozens of other people were killed and many were arrested and are still imprisoned. And many were abducted and no news of them has been heard since.”

“Don’t these embassies offer trips to Western countries to the scholars, thinkers and other such people of influence in order for them to observe the “paradise” of Western civilization in its entirety with their own eyes so that they can convince their publics on their return of the eternal superiority of the West and scrape out from their hearts their belief in the supremacy of Islam and their disavowal of kufr?”

“Aren’t these embassies spreading immoralities such as alcohol, drugs, prostitution, and homosexuality in Muslim societies, all things which Allah has deemed unlawful?”

“Isn’t it clear how the immoral women of the embassy task force are used to corrupt political leaders and other influential people so that they can be blackmailed and made to serve their causes?”

“Aren’t these the same embassies working to promote Christianity in all Muslim countries? Aren’t they responsible for the legal, administrative, and financial patronage of the Crusader Christian missionaries so as to take Muslims apostates from Islam and convert them to Christianity?”

“What is more, massive aid comprising billions of dollars is provided by these embassies for the propagation of Qadianism, Ismailism, and Judaism.”

“Not only that, the provision of medical and educational facilities and employment and should there be any threat to their life, safe havens to those who apostatize through these efforts is planned and funded by these dens of conspiracy.”

“And isn’t it the case that, in spite of all these accursed endeavors, when these plotters’ havens are established in Muslim lands, the United Nations’ international law affords them immunity, as it considers the land on which any embassy sits to belong to its home country and to be a place where they can live according to their infidel laws and civilization?”

“Most regrettably, these laws are implemented even in the holiest places of the Muslim Ummah, the Two Noble Sanctuaries, as the House of Saud has also accepted the laws of

the United Nations as their Shari'ah instead of the Shari'ah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).”

“Hence, these installations are undoubtedly dens of conspiracy and not merely foreign embassies. They are bases of the kuffaar’s military and ideological invasion of our lands.”

(Shot of Adam Gadahn sitting inside against a colorful backdrop speaking in English with no Arabic subtitles)

“The crusader West’s so called diplomatic missions in the Islamic world have long been breeding grounds of intriguing conspiracy against Muslims and their religion. For centuries the enemies of this believing nation have successfully implemented their anti-Islam, anti-Muslim designs by exploiting the protection which Islamic Shari’ah affords to international delegations and peaceable unbelievers. From the plotters and imposters who toppled the (inaudible) state and created and backed the regimes which continued to deprive the Muslim nation of its rights to today’s gain of saboteurs and spies, years of bitter trial and experience have revealed the danger they pose and shown that the only way to deal with them when they refuse to leave on their own accord is to expel them by force.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with a screen slate of scrolling English text)

“The status of Harbi embassies and ambassadors in the Islamic Shari’ah”

“Allah ordered His Messenger to demolish the Dhirat Mosque, whose purpose was causing mischief, promoting infidelity, spreading discord amongst the believers and providing safe havens for plotting to those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger. Have these embassies, built for the very same purposes, become holier than that mosque so that they are given a blank check with which to conspire against Islam and Muslims from the Nile to Kashgar?”

“These Harbi enemies of Islam may vow a thousand times that their intention is nothing but good but Allah witnesses that they are definitely liars. So demolishing these embassies and blowing them up with explosives is actually the revival of a forgotten Prophetic tradition.”

“The concept of immunity for embassies and consulates provided for by the international infidel law of the United Nations has no place at all in Islamic law.”

“The new Crusader plan for world domination relies on the Taghut that is the United Nations, because today, the law of the United Nations dominates the world instead of the law of Allah. Today, good is what this organization states to be, good and evil is what its resolutions declare evil. Today, this organization tells the world who humanity’s benefactors are and who its enemies are.”

“Today, the United Nations is running the democratic system through the Security of Kufr Council to inflict its Crusader-Zionist evil upon the Muslims. In fact, global kufr established the United Nations Organization merely to democratically justify its infidel actions. And today, its democracy is being propagated as the universal religion on humanity.”

“The time has come for the Muslim Nation and its leaders to openly declare that they accept only the laws of Allah and reject all infidel resolutions passed in the light of the charter of the United Nations.”

“According to the blessed Shari’ah, kuffaar can only enter the land of Islam as (ineligible Islamic term) or ‘mustamins,’ whereas these so-called envoys do not fit into either of these definitions. They do not come here by seeking asylum from Muslims, they come as rulers and occupiers.”

“And even if we supposed that they come here as mustamins, the Shari’ah still does not allow mustamins to remain in our lands for more than one year. The author of al-Hidaya writes, ‘Should the Harbi come to us under security agreement, he may not reside in our land for more than one year. And the basic rule is the Harbi is not to be permitted to permanently reside in our land except through enslavement or by paying jizyah (tribute), because he will become a spy against us and cause harm to the Muslims.’”

(Shot of Gadahn sitting in decorated room speaking in English with no Arabic subtitles)

“Law and logic tell us that these criminals and subversive elements have no place among the Muslims. Our martyred Shaykh Abdullah al-Hazim, among others, has emphasized that if it is determined by the reliable scholars of the Shari’ah and the trustworthy leaders of Jihad that these unbelievers are working against the interests of Islam and Muslims then we are permitted to fight and kill these criminals after giving them sufficient warning. And today the scholars of Islam and leaders of Jihad have repeatedly warned the enemies to cease their conspiracies and leave our land and repeatedly made it clear to the Muslims that fighting and killing them is not merely permissible, but in fact obligatory.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with screen shot of scrolling English text)

“The status of Harbi embassies and ambassadors in the Islamic Shari’ah”

“According to the international infidel law, the land on which embassies and consulates sit does not remain the property of the host country, but becomes a part of that infidel country itself. Thus, the ambassadors are at full liberty to do whatever they want inside its boundary.”

“Moreover, the ambassador, his vehicle and possessions are legally immune from the law of the host country even outside that area, whereas all scholars of the Ummah have agreed that giving even a hand span of Muslim land to the people of kufr is absolutely

Haraam, and not just that, but according to the majority of the Islamic jurists, a mustamin is not exempt from the commandments of Shari'ah that are imposed in the land of Islam, but subject to them.”

“So in reality, the present day concept of ambassadors and embassies is in complete contradiction to the Shari'ah.”

Shot of Gadhafi sitting in decorated room speaking in English with no Arabic subtitles

“As for our message to the Americans and their crusader allies it is this: the amount of respect we hold for your international law is even less than the respect you hold for divine Shari'ah. And our observance of it is comparable to your observance of Shari'ah. How can we comply with a law which contradicts divine law in whole and in part. How can we recognize a law which states that the embassy or consulate is for all intensive purposes an enviable fortress which the host country has no right to enter or monitor when our Shari'ah commands us to liberate every hands' span of Islamic land occupied by the unbelievers. How can we comply with a law whose inequities and double standards are more obvious than the noonday sun? The diplomatic immunity and freedom from arrest and prosecution behind through which you hide and international law theoretically sanctifies, apparently it didn't apply to Mullah Abu-Salam, ambassador of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and Islamabad whom you forced out of Pakistan so you could arrest him and send him off for torture and humiliation in the dungeons of Guantanamo Bay. Nor is the right of states to establish foreign missions and friendly states which your law is supposed to uphold given to the Islamic Emirate whose embassies and consulates in Arabia the Gulf and Pakistan you forcibly closed down with threats and intimidation.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with screen slate of scrolling English text)

“The status of Harbi embassies and ambassadors in the Islamic Shari'ah.”

“And even if we were to accept that these Harbi kuffaar are ambassadors who have been granted asylum, this asylum has been given to them by the international infidel law and apostate rulers and thus is not an asylum granted by Muslims which we are bound to respect.”

“A hadeeth of the Prophet (peace be upon him) tells us that the protection granted by any ordinary Muslim will be considered to be the protection of all of them. But if an apostate infidel gives refuge to a Christian, Jew, or polytheist, then Muslims are not at all bound to respect it.”

“And even if we were to suppose that these ambassadors really were given protection by Muslims, even then this protection is a revocable contract which can be repeated anytime after giving a warning.”

“Thus, when the kuffaar attacked us from all sides, the Mujahid leaders of the Jihad, who understand which policies are appropriate and which are not, repeatedly warned them to leave Muslim lands and announced that the ambassadors who come to our territories and the embassies and consulates established in our lands have no asylum, and that they are our permanent military targets but even so these Harbi (combatable) kuffaar sit in our lands like captors. So their lives and properties have indisputably become lawful for Muslims.”

“The matter is undeniable: these so-called envoys are in fact spies and Harbi (combatant) kuffaar who have no refuge. Likewise, these embassies and consulates are not what they are supposed to be, but are breeding grounds of intrigue and conspiracy. So killing these Harbi kuffaar who come into our lands and targeting these embassies is a religious obligation and a genuine act of worship.”

“Some people raise the argument that the United States of America is Dar-us-Sulh or ‘land of peace,’ and not Dar-ul-Harb, or ‘land of war,’ so how can military operations against it be permissible? We wonder how anyone can still doubt that America is ‘Dar-ul-Harb,’ after all it has done.”

“It has besieged Iraq for the last sixteen years, slaughtered two million Muslims there and rained millions of tons of explosive and uranium upon it. It has inflicted attacks upon Sudan and is constantly aiding the Christian rebels there. It has repeatedly invaded Somalia, and is imposing Crusaders and apostates upon the Muslims there. Due to the moral support and patronage provided by America, more than a hundred thousand Muslims have been slain at the hand of filthy Hindus in Kashmir. It is this same America that backs the Russian Crusaders in Chechnya. As a result, two hundred and fifty thousand Muslims have been massacred and more than six hundred thousand have been left homeless. It has taken hostage the Muslims of Palestine and the Aqsa Mosque by way of the Jews. And don’t those who declare America ‘Dar-as-Sulh’ see the bleeding wounds of Crusader-occupied Afghanistan and East Timor?”

“Even if we were to accept that America is a state that had some peace treaties with us, it is a well known fact that it has broken all such pacts. These Americans have returned to their original Harbi selves. A single act of treachery is enough to prove that they established their military dominance even in the holy land of the Ka’aba, the peninsula of Mohammed (peace be upon him), and set up bases there.”

“Therefore, making use of all sort of weaponry against them, suppressing their supremacy and dominance, weakening them by all possible means and terrorizing them in every manner is permitted.”

(Scrolling text turns to Arabic with male voice singing in Arabic. Then text turns back to English with male voice still singing in Arabic.)

“But if they violate their oaths after their covenant, and attack your faith, fight ye the chiefs of unfaith, for their oaths are nothing to them, that thus they may be restrained.

Will ye not fight people who violated their oaths, plotted to expel the Messenger, and attacked you first? Do ye fear them? Nay, it is Allah whom ye should more justly fear, if you believe! Fight them, and Allah will punish them by your hands, disgrace them, help you [to victory] over them, and heal the breasts of believers, and still the indignation of their hearts. And Allah turns (in mercy) to whom He wills, and Allah is all-Knowing, all-Wise” (9:12-15).

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Western soldiers marching, soldiers riding in military vehicles; missiles being dropped and cars blowing up; Madrid and London terrorist bombings; Arab and Western leaders shaking hands)

“Likewise, the rest of the Crusader nations at war with the Muslims are allies of the Crusader Americans in their assault upon the religion, lives, properties, and sanctities of Muslims and bear equal responsibility for all their crimes. The kuffaar of all these countries, including their ambassadors are Harbi (combatant) infidels. Let the chief nations of kufr know that we consider the whole Muslim nation as one and that an assault on any Muslim locality will be considered as coming from all allied infidel nations. We declare open warfare against America, all the crusader nations of its NATO pact, and India. Their plotting dens and the conspirators that dwell within are our target. These Harbi nations invade Muslim territories including Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Somalia, Chechnya, the Arabian Peninsula, and wherever else they feel inclined to do so. Therefore we too shall attack them all over the world wherever and whenever we want, with Allah’s permission. The ruins of Washington and New York are milestones for us; in devastation of Madrid and London we take pride, and targeting Tel Aviv, Moscow and Delhi is our legal right. Therefore, O esteemed Scholars of Islam do not allow the ambassadors of the NATO countries and America to enter your mosques. Do not sit with them should your hearts become like theirs’. By painting your mosques and roofing your madrassas they want to develop a soft spot in your hearts for their chiefs of kufr. So beware of their evil, and make it clear to the Ummah that expelling these conspirators from Muslim lands is obligatory and that they have no right to enjoy peace and a safe haven.”

(Shot of Zawahiri sitting in a plain, dark room speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“My Muslim brothers in Pakistan: the backing of Jihad in Afghanistan with wealth and persons is the way to your honor, the way to expel the Americans from the region, and the way to liberate Kashmir and stop the aggression of the Hindus against the sanctities of the Muslims there.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Western leaders walking; U.S. soldiers monitoring vehicle checkpoints; Hindu men rioting in the streets)

“O Americans, how can you say that your ‘innocent’ embassies and consulates should not be touched when your missions in Karachi, Islamabad, Uzbekistan and Tehran have strengthened your Crusader occupation of Afghanistan and your embassies and consulates in Qatar, Kuwait, Riyadh and Bahrain have provided you with full assistance

in your invasion of Iraq? And by establishing your very first embassy in the surroundings of the Aqsa Mosque instead of Tel Aviv you virtually declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel. O Hindus! The only objective of your embassies and consulates in Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Kabul is to give a boost to your satanic plots against Islam and Muslims in the region.”

(Shot of Gadahn sitting in decorated room speaking in English with no Arabic subtitles)

“Therefore, we shall continue to target you at home and abroad just as you target us at home and abroad. And these spy dens and military command and control centers from which you plotted your aggression against Afghanistan and Iraq and which still provide moral military material and logistical support to the crusade shall continue to be legitimate targets for brave Muslims like our martyred brother Usman until and unless you heed our demands, stop the crusade and leave Muslims alone.”

(Shot of Zawahiri sitting in plain dark room speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“And the Muslims in Pakistan must know that it is now their personal duty to fight the Americans in Pakistan and Afghanistan and back those who fight them. And they must rush to join the fronts of Jihad in Afghanistan, where the lions of Islam under the leadership of the commander of the Believers Mulla Muhammad Umar (may Allah protect him) rain down blows on a daily basis on the Americans and their Crusader allies. And the first signs of the defeat of the Americans have begun to appear on the horizon with Allah’s permission, and it is overtaking them faster than it overtook the Russians, with Allah’s help and strength. America, which boasts that it is the strongest power in the history of mankind is being defeated today in Afghanistan and Iraq, by the grace of Allah, at the hands of the Muslim Mujahideen who rely on their Lord alone and no one else. And the agents of America in Islamabad who have sold you out and sold out Kashmir, are shaking with fear at the defeat of their mistress America, who is today cursing them despite all their acts of betrayal.”

(Male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of Al-Qaeda member riding a horse through the desert while shooting a gun into the air)

“Pay attention, infidels! Your organizations, your companies, your trade, and your ambassadors all over the world will remain our targets as long as our heads rest upon our shoulders. And our Jihad against you will continue until this civilization of kufr is history and a Caliphate based on the Prophetic model has been restored to this earth.”

(Footage continues with male voice singing in Arabic with English subtitles)

“I’m not asking you to accompany me
Cover my back for me, O brother
Don’t let the hands of evil catch me”

(Screen slate of English text that reads “O Allah bring me together with our prophet Muhammad peace be upon him”)

(Usman sitting under tree speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“In the end, I pray to Allah that He blesses me with martyrdom, and grants me a death like that of the Pakistani brothers who took part in the events of London. May Allah join me with the brothers who were martyred in the events of 11 September and bless me with the company of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and all those who have been martyred up to this day. May Allah always grant success to the Mujahideen and remove the difficulties of those who are supporting Jihad and the Mujahideen with their words, wealth, and lives. May Allah grant them success in this life and the next and bless us all with martyrdom in His path.”

(Male voice singing in Arabic with English subtitles; footage of car bomb being prepared; Usman praying, Usman hugging his friends goodbye; Usman driving away in the car packed with the bomb)

“Send me a car, packed with explosives
Arm me with weapons, raise my spirits, and strengthen my heart
Send me a car, packed with explosives
Arm me with weapons, raise my spirits, and strengthen my heart
Then pray for me when I am gone
And never disregard the steps that lead to the Gardens
Then pray for me when I am gone
And never disregard the steps that lead to the Gardens
We have recognized the truth as truth
Support us
We are the army of Allah
Which desires death
Send me a car, packed with explosives
Arm me with weapons, raise my spirits, and strengthen my heart
Send me a car, packed with explosives
Arm me with weapons, raise my spirits, and strengthen my heart
Then pray for me when I am gone
And never disregard the steps that lead to the Gardens
Then pray for me when I am gone
And never disregard the steps that lead to the Gardens
We have recognized the truth as truth
Support us
We are the army of Allah
Which desires death
Accept from me my last farewells
As I proceed for a martyr’s raid
From which I may not return
For I am setting up a scenario

Give me your blessings
O blessed souls
I am going to meet my Lord
Those whom I knew in the path of Allah
To them I announced this good news
Accept from me my last farewells
As I proceed for a martyr's raid
From which I may not return
For I am setting up a scenario
Give me your blessings
O blessed souls
I am going to meet my Lord
To those whom I knew in the path of Allah
To them I announce this good news"

(Footage continues with male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles)

"From Jabir (with whom Allah was pleased) that they asked 'O messenger of Allah, what is the best Jihad?' He replied, '[That of] the one whose steed is crippled and his blood spilled' (Musnad Ahmad)."

(Final shot is a black screen with white text all in Arabic with no English subtitles. The last line is the number "1428.")

The solution

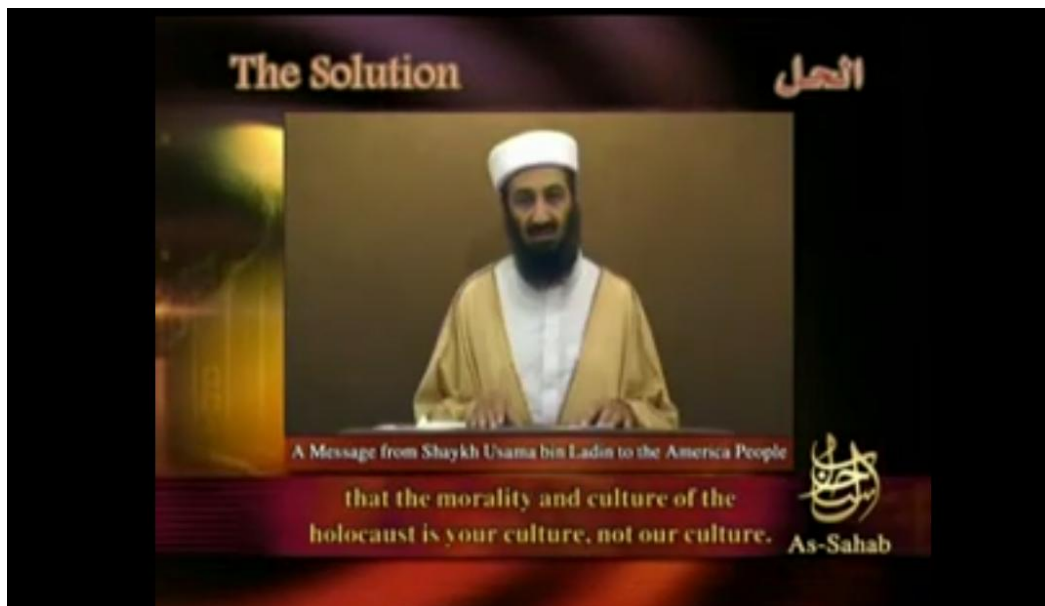


Image 5. Screenshot of "The solution" video.

There is an introduction slide in all Arabic. Osama bin Laden is shown set against a plain, brown background speaking in Arabic with English subtitles. At the top of the slate where the subtitles are it reads “A Message from Shaykh Usama bin Laden to the America People.”

(Video begins with bin Laden reading from a script, but the screen freezes at 1:57, with the audio continuing.)

“All praise is due to Allah, who built the heavens and earth in justice. And created man as a favor and grace from Him. And from His ways is that the days rotate between the people. And from His Law is retaliation in kind: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth and the killer be killed. And all praise is due to Allah, who awakened His slaves’ desire for the Garden and all of them will enter it except those who refuse. And whoever obeys Him alone in all of his affairs will enter the Garden and whoever disobeys Him will have refused. As for what comes after: Peace be upon he who follows the Guidance.

People of America: I shall be speaking to you on important topics which concern you, so lend me your ears. I begin by discussing the war which is between us and some of its repercussions for us and you. To preface, I say: despite America being the greatest economic power and possessing the most powerful and up-to-date military arsenal as well; and despite it spending on this war and its army more than the entire world spends on its armies: and despite it being the major state influencing the policies of the world, as if it has a monopoly on the unjust right of veto; despite all of this, 19 young men were able—by the grace of Allah, the Most High—to change the direction of its compass. And in fact, the subject of the Mujahideen has become an inseparable part of the speech of your leader, and the effects and signs of that are not hidden. Since the 11th, many of America’s policies have come under the influence of the Mujahideen and that is by the grace of Allah, the Most High. And as a result, the people discovered the truth about it, its reputation worsened, its prestige was broken globally and it bled dry economically, even if our interests overlap with the interests of the major corporations and also with those of the neoconservatives, despite the differing intentions. And your information media, during the first years of the war, lost its credibility and manifested itself as a tool of the colonialist empires, and its condition has often been worse than the condition of the media of the dictatorial regimes which march in the caravan of the single leader. Then Bush talks about his working with al-Maliki and his government to spread freedom in Iraq, but he in fact is working with the leaders of one sect against another sect, in the belief that this will quickly decide the war in his favor. And thus, what is called the civil war came into being and matters worsened at his hands before getting out of his control and him becoming like the one who plows and sows the sea: he harvests nothing but failure. So there are some of the results of the freedom about whose spreading he is talking to you. And then the backtracking of Bush on his insistence on not giving the United Nations expanded jurisdiction in Iraq is an implicit admission of his loss and defeat there. And among the most important items contained in Bush’s speeches since the events of the 11th is that the Americans have no option but to continue the war.

This tone is in fact an echoing of the words of neoconservatives like Cheney, Rumsfeld and Richard Pearle, the latter having said previously that the Americans have no choice in front of them other than to continue the war or face a holocaust. I say, refuting this unjust statement, that the morality and culture of the holocaust is your culture, not our culture. In fact, burning living beings is forbidden in our religion, even if they be small like the ant, so what of man?! The holocaust of the Jews was carried out by your brethren in the middle of Europe, but had it been closer to our countries, most of the Jews would have been saved by taking refuge with us. And my proof for that is in what your brothers, the Spanish, did when they set up the horrible courts of the Inquisition to try Muslims and Jews, when the Jews only found safe shelter by taking refuge in our countries. And that is why the Jewish community in Morocco today is one of the largest communities in the world. They are alive with us and we have not incinerated them, but we are a people who don't sleep under oppression and reject humiliation and disgrace, and we take revenge on the people of tyranny and aggression, and the blood of the Muslims will not be spilled with impunity, and the morrow is nigh for he who awaits.

Also, your Christian brothers have been living among us for 14 centuries; in Egypt alone, there are millions of Christians whom we have not incinerated and shall not incinerate.

But the fact is, there is a continuing and biased campaign being waged against us for a long time now by your politicians and many of your writers by way of your media, especially Hollywood, for the purpose of misrepresenting Islam and its adherents to drive you away from the true religion. The genocide of peoples and their holocausts took place at your hands; only a few specimens of Red Indians were spared, and just a few days ago, the Japanese observed the 62nd anniversary of the annihilation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by your nuclear weapons. And among the things which catch the eye of one who considers the repercussions of your unjust war against Iraq is the failure of your democratic system, despite its raising of the slogans of justice, liberty, equality, and humanitarianism. It has not only failed to achieve these things, it has actually destroyed these and other concepts with its weapons—especially in Iraq and Afghanistan—in a brazen fashion to replace them with fear, destruction, killing, hunger, illness, displacement and more than a million orphans in Baghdad alone, not to mention hundreds of thousands of widows. American statistics speak of the killing of more than 650,000 of the people in Iraq as a result of the war and its repercussions. People of America: the world is following your news in regards to your invasion of Iraq, for people have recently come to know that, after several years of the tragedies of this war, the vast majority of you want it stopped. Thus, you elected the Democratic Party for this purpose, but the Democrats haven't made a move worth mentioning. On the contrary, they continue to agree to the spending of tens of billions to continue the killing and war there, which has led to the vast majority of you being afflicted with disappointment. And here is the gist of the matter, so one should pause, think, and reflect: why have the Democrats failed to stop this war, despite them making the majority? I will come back to reply to this question after raising another question, which is: why are the leaders of the White House keen to start wars and wage them around the world, and make use of every possible opportunity through which they can reach this purpose, occasionally even creating justifications based on deception and blatant lies, as you saw in Iraq? In the Vietnam

War, the leaders of the White House claimed at the same time that it was a necessary and crucial war, and during it, Rumsfeld and his aides murdered two million villagers. And when Kennedy took over the presidency and deviated from the general line of policy drawn up for the White House and wanted to stop this unjust war that angered the owners of the major corporations who were benefitting from its continuation. And so Kennedy was killed, and al-Qaida wasn't present at that time, but rather, those corporations were the primary beneficiary from his killing.”

Al Qaeda recruits children



Image 6. Screenshot of “Al Qaeda recruits children” video.

This video was collected by the Department of Defense and starts with a slide that says “Video depicts training of children for kidnapping, assassination, and terrorism against Iraqis.”

It begins with footage of three young boys standing against a white wall with a black cloth in it, wearing ski masks, and carrying automatic weapons. The video has a date stamp of 13 7 2007.

The center (and smallest) boy speaks in Arabic.

Next is footage of boys training how to detain people. They approach and stop a man riding by on a bicycle with their guns. They yell at him in Arabic and he gets on the ground. They detain him by holding his hands behind his back and then start walking with a gun pointed to the back of his head.

Next is footage with the boys training on how to carjack someone. They pull out the male driver, force him to the ground with a gun pointed to the back of his head. They then stand him up and start walking him somewhere.

Next is footage of many boys with masks and guns. The front row is sitting and the back row is standing. It looks as though they were posing for a photo. A couple of them are holding a single finger in the air. The boys are dressed in black shirts and black pants, but the shirts look like sports uniforms.

Next is footage of the boys running out of a building single file carrying guns. They all repeat the same word in Arabic and you can hear men's voices in the background. It sounds like they are the ones holding and operating the camera.

Next is footage of the boys jumping out of a parked van one by one carrying guns.

Next is footage of a man in all black and a black mask helping the boys go under barbed wire into a compound area. Again here you can hear a man's voice speaking in Arabic by the camera.

Next is footage of the boys infiltrating this compound area by going through a gate and climbing the wall. A man in all black with a black mask gives hand signals and verbal directions in Arabic.

When the boys enter the building they encounter men (simulating occupants) and they detain them. Once the occupants are detained, the boys cheer in Arabic and chant Allah.

The last shot is of the boys in what looks to be the same building they infiltrated, sitting in a circle with their masks on singing in Arabic.

Al-Qaeda leader on Obama's victory



Image 7. Screenshot of "Al-Qaeda leader on Obama's victory" video.

There is no music in this video. It begins with three stills pieced together—(left) President Barack Obama wearing a yarmulke walking with a group of men, (middle) Ayman al-Zawahiri, (right) black and white photo of Malcolm X.)

(A male voiceover in Arabic with English subtitles)

“Barack Obama has won the presidency of the United States of America, and on this occasion, I would like to send several messages. First, a message of congratulations to the Muslim Ummah on the American people’s admission of defeat in Iraq. Although the evidence of America’s defeat in Iraq appeared years ago, Bush and his administration continued to be stubborn and deny the brilliant midday sun. If Bush has achieved anything, it is in his transfer of America’s disaster and predicament to his successor. But the American people, by electing Obama, declared its anxiety and apprehension about the future towards which the policy of the likes and of Bush is leading it, and so it decided to support someone calling for withdrawal from Iraq. The second of these messages is to the new president of the United States. I tell him: you have reached the position of president, and a heavy legacy of failure and crimes awaits you. A failure in Iraq to which you have admitted, and a failure in Afghanistan to which the commanders of your army have admitted. The other thing to which I want to bring your attention is that what you’ve announced about how you’re going to reach an understanding with Iran and pull your troops out of Iraq to send them to Afghanistan is a policy which was destined for failure before it was born. It appears that you don’t know anything about the Muslim Ummah and its history, and the fate of the traitors who cooperated with the invaders against it, and don’t know anything about the history of Afghanistan and its free and defiant Muslim people. And if you still want to be stubborn about America’s failure in Afghanistan, then remember the fate of Bush and Pervez Musharraf, and the fate of the Soviets and British before them. And be aware that the dogs of Afghanistan have found the flesh of your soldiers to be delicious, so send thousands after thousands to them. As for the crimes of America which await you, it appears that you continue to be captive to the same criminal American mentality towards the world and towards the Muslims.”

(Footage of Obama walking with Jewish men from graphic)

“The Muslim Ummah received with extreme bitterness your hypocritical statements to and stances toward Israel, which confirmed to the Ummah that you have chosen a stance of hostility to Islam and Muslims. You represent the direct opposite of honorable black Americans (switches back to stills) like Malik-al-Shabazz, or Malcolm X (may Allah have mercy on him). You were born to a Muslim father, but you chose to stand in the ranks of the enemies of the Muslims, and pray the prayer of the Jews, although you claim to be Christian, in order to climb the rungs of leadership in America. And so you promised to back Israel, and you threatened to strike the tribal regions of Pakistan, and to send thousands more troops to Afghanistan, in order for the crimes of the American Crusade in it to continue. And last Monday, your aircraft killed 40 Afghan Muslims at a wedding party in Kandahar. As for Malik al-Shabazz (may Allah have mercy on him), he was born to a black pastor killed by white bigots, but Allah favored him with guidance to Islam, and so he prided himself on his fraternity with the Muslims, and he condemned the

crimes of the Crusader West against the weak and oppressed, and he declared his support for peoples resisting American occupation, and he spoke about the worldwide revolution against the Western power structure.”

(Footage of Malcolm X giving a speech)

“New bridges must be built, because in the minds of the majority of our people today, Africa is too far away, so the only way you and I can point them in that direction is build new bridges. We have to have the type of understanding of Africa and the type of understanding of our people here in order to build a bridge, a contact, a line of communication between the two. And once the lines of communication have been established and our African brothers can stretch forth their hands and reach us, and we can stretch forth our hands and reach them, why there’s nothing that this blue-eyed man in this country can do to you and me successfully from that day onward ... ”

(Footage of an interview with Malcolm X)

“One thing that I found in all of my travels was that all of the Africans, not only Africans but the Asians and the Muslims, look upon us as their long lost brothers.”

(Footage of Malcolm X giving a different speech)

“There’s a worldwide revolution going on. It goes beyond Mississippi, it goes beyond Alabama, it goes beyond Harlem. What is it revolting against. The power structure. The American power structure? No. The French power structure? No. The English power structure? No. Then what power structure. An international, Western power structure.”

(Video switches back to stills)

“That’s why it wasn’t strange that Malik al-Shabazz (may Allah have mercy on him) was killed, while you have climbed the rungs of the presidency to take over the leadership of the greatest criminal force in the history of mankind and the leadership of the most violent Crusade ever against the Muslims. And in you and in Colin Powell, Rice and your likes, the words of Malcolm X (may Allah have mercy on him) concerning “House Negroes” are confirmed.”

(Footage of Malcolm X giving a different speech)

“You have to read the history of slavery to understand this. There were two kinds of Negroes. There’s the old house Negroes and the field Negro. And the house Negro always looked out for his master. When the field Negroes got too much out of line he held them back in check. He put them back on the plantation. The house Negro could afford to do that because he lived better than the field Negro. He ate better, he dressed better, and he lived in a better house. He lived right up next to his master in the attic, or the basement. He ate the same food his master ate and wore his same clothes. And he could talk just like his master. Good diction. And he loved his master more than his

master loved himself. That's why he didn't want his master hurt. If his master got hurt he say 'what's the matter boss, we sick?' When the master's house caught on fire he tried and put the fire out. He didn't want his master's house burned. He never wanted his master's property threatened. And he was more defensive of it than the master was. That was the house Negro. But then you have some field Negroes who lived in a hut, had nothing to lose. They wore the worst kinds of clothes, they ate the worst food, and they caught hell. They felt the sting of the lash. They hated their master. Oh yes they did. If the master got sick they prayed that the master would die. If the master's house caught fire they prayed for a strong wind to come along. This was the difference between the two. And today you still have house Negroes and field Negroes. I'm a field Negro."

(Video switches back to stills.)

"You also must appreciate, as you take over the presidency of America during its Crusade against Islam and Muslims, that you are neither facing individuals nor organizations, but are facing a Jihadi awakening and renaissance which is shaking the pillars of the entire Islamic world; and this is the fact which you and your government and country refuse to recognize and pretend not to see. As for the third message, it is to the Muslim Ummah. I tell it: America, the criminal, trespassing Crusader, continues to be the same as ever, so we must continue to harm it, in order for it to come to its senses, because its criminal, expansionist Crusader project in your lands has only been neutralized by the sacrifices of your sons, the Mujahideen. This, then, is the path, so stick to it. As for the fourth message, it is to the lions of Islam, the Mujahideen. I tell them: may Allah reward you in the best way for your historic heroics, which have ruined America's plans and rendered its projects ineffective. So be firm and resolute. Your enemy's stagger has begun, so don't stop hitting him. And I say to my brothers the Mujahideen in Iraq in general and the Islamic State of Iraq in particular, and to its Amir, the towering mountain Abu 'Umar al-Baghdadi: your enemy has admitted defeat, and the forthcoming stage is expected to be dominated by conspiracies and betrayals in order to cover the American withdrawal, so you must persevere, for victory is in an hour of perseverance. And I tell my brothers, the lions of Islam in Somalia: rejoice in victory and conquest. America is gathering its wounds in Iraq, and Ethiopia is looking for a way out, and for this reason, the stage of conspiracies and machinations has begun. So hold tightly to the truth for which you have given your lives, and don't put down your weapons before the Mujahid state of Islam and Tawheed has been set up in Somalia. And I tell all Mujahideen everywhere: the Hubal of the age has begun to falter and recede, and Allah has granted you success and honored you by making you the most important cause of that, so be resolute on the path of Jihad until you meet your Lord while He is pleased with you.

And my fifth message is to all the world's weak and oppressed. I tell them: America has put on a new face, but its heart full of hate, mind drowning in greed, and spirit which spreads evil, murder, repression and despotism continue to be the same as always.

And the Mujahideen of Islam, by the grace of Allah, continue to be the spearhead of the resistance against it to restrain it from injustice, aggression, and arrogance. As for my

final message, it is to the American people. I tell it: you incurred defeat and losses from the foolish actions of Bush and his gang, and at the same time, Shaykh Usama bin Ladin (may Allah preserve him) sent you a message to withdraw from the lands of the Muslims and refrain from stealing their treasures and interfering in their affairs. So choose for yourself whatever you like, and bear the consequence of your choice.”

**Gaza not again:
Al-Qaeda propaganda video**



Image 8. Screenshot of “Gaza not again: Al-Qaeda propaganda video” video.

The video opens with Arabic music, graphic background and moving Arabic writing.

(Gadahn voiceover speaking in English with no Arabic subtitles)

“The truth about the present treachery about the Islamic rulers of the (inaudible) world over recent decades is crystal clear in the Ummah’s latest tragedy under Palestine.”

(Footage of a young man in traditional Arab black clothing speaking angrily in Arabic as he points his index finger to the camera)

(Footage of an explosion on a city street)

(Footage of another man (old) in traditional Arab white clothing speaking in Arabic. He looks to be giving a speech as evidenced by several news microphones next to him.)

(Footage of Gadahn wearing traditional Arab clothing, speaking in English with no Arabic subtitles)

“Whatever the case might be, one thing is clear. The American military has not learned its lessons.”

(Footage of more explosions and graphic (computer) blood drops on the screen; another young man in traditional Arab clothing speaking in Arabic; Arabic-dressed men shooting semi-automatic weapons; Arabic-dressed man riding a horse in the countryside; a vehicle being blown up by a roadside bomb)

(A graphic of a patterned cloth blowing in the wind as men sing in Arabic. The center of the cloth then shows footage of bombs being dropped from the sky. The center of the cloth then shows the words “How to Prevent a Repeat of The Gaza Holocaust.”)

(Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles; black and white video footage of the items and incidents mentioned below)

“For the Zionist crusader enemy the murder and extermination of populations is a genuine natural talent. They are the ones who exterminated the Native Americans and occupied their homelands. They’re the ones who killed nearly 400,000 people in Japan with fire bombs. While in Germany, their fire bombs killed 60,000 in Hamburg in one night in 1943. And 135,000 people in Dresden in one night in 1945. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki America killed more than 150,000 Japanese in order to swiftly bring to an end a war in which Japan’s defeat was already certain. In the Viet Nam War, America made liberal use of carpet bombs as well as Agent Orange, an herbicide and (inaudible) used to strip trees of their leaves and destroy crops in order to deprive Viet Cong fighters natural resources, plant cover and food supplies. Agent Orange provides chemical dioxin, one of the most poisonous substances on earth. Just three ounces in the water supply of New York is enough to poison its total population. Approximately 500 pounds of dioxin was dropped on Viet Nam. And approximately 200 million Vietnamese suffered exposure to it. Its serious effects include birth defects which can be passed down over three generations and rare types of cancers. The Vietnamese government estimates that those caused abnormalities in 500,000 births. But the United States hasn’t taken it upon itself to pay any compensation to the Vietnamese.”

(British man speaking in English with no Arabic subtitles, interviewing a Vietnamese journalist)

British man: “When you took these pictures and you knew you had these pictures ...”

(Vietnamese man starts to cry uncontrollably; his photos of dead Vietnamese children are shown.)

(Vietnamese man speaks in Vietnamese and it is translated into English, but with no Arabic subtitles.)

“This is a hard hitting picture about pain, cruelty, and death. They don’t often show it. It was the 15th of April, 1972. We heard that the Fong Lee Bridge, which is about four

kilometers from High Fong, was under fire from B-52s. We went there; nobody was alive except us. Everybody had been killed. Everything had been destroyed. It looked like hell. It was so horrible I didn't want to take any pictures, but I had to record what was left by the war. We have to find any way, reporters and civilians, Vietnamese as well as other peoples of the world to prevent war, to prevent scenes like this from happening again.

(Different male voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles; footage is shown of young ill Iraqi children)

“In this blockade of Iraq, America killed more than a million Iraqi children. And when the former American secretary of state was asked in 1996 about the death up until then of half a million children because of the sanctions, she made her infamous comment ‘I think the price is worth it.’ America and its allies use missiles using depleted uranium. Three hundred and thirty tons of it was fired at Iraq in the first Gulf War. God alone knows how much of it was used in Afghanistan in the second Gulf War. Depleted uranium causes a number of dangerous illnesses including leukemia, cancers of the lungs and digestive system, kidney damage, birth defects and miscarriages.”

(A male Iraqi physician in Western clothing is in a hospital speaking to a reporter in English with no subtitles)

“This baby, named Ama Salin, one year old infant and we diagnosed him with pneumonia. He couldn't receive the proper treatment, and therefore the baby died.

“We have shortage of (ineligible) antibiotic. This patient needs it.”

(Footage of Dr. Labib Kamhawi, President, Human Rights Association of Jordan, speaking in English with no Arabic subtitles)

“What is it to the UN and the Americans to impose sanctions? I mean, only crazy people would do this. I mean, this is medicine. What's multiuse? Are they going to make atomic bombs out of a few tablets of medicine here or there.”

(Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles while footage of bombings are shown)

“The cascade of blood continues to flow unabated in Iraq and Afghanistan, where America is killing hundreds of thousands of defenseless inhabitants. The village of Azizabad and the Shindand district of Afghanistan province is the scene of American atrocities. Ninety human beings, most of them women and children are killed. A pentagon spokesman says later that he considers it a justifiable strike.”

(A news report shows an Arabic man speaking in Arabic, with English subtitling. The slate says “Father of Victim of American Bombing of Azizabad Village.”)

“I swear by Allah that I just removed my son from beneath the rubble. As you can see, there is no sign of al-Qaida here. Among those killed are 49 children, 41 women, and three old men who were unable to go to the mosque.”

(Another man in the report speaks in Arabic with English subtitles. The slate says “A Resident of Azizabad.”)

“It is an extremely painful event. The American forces didn’t kill just one or two families: they killed all of the area’s inhabitants. Those who left their houses found nowhere to hide: the whole area is under attack by American forces.”

(Footage of President George W. Bush speaking, but with no audio; a voiceover of another man speaking in English with no Arabic subtitles)

“Then the liar Bush comes out in September 9th address to the United Nations’ general assembly to tell them that America fights Al-Qaida, which kills the innocent. Following that up with a cold apology for the Shindand massacre and her sisters. But of what good are the apologies of deliberate murderers.”

(President Bush’s audio is now on. The slate says “The Liar Bush.”)

“By deliberately murdering the innocent to advance their aims these extremists defy the fundamental principles of international order. They show contempt for all who respect human life and value dignity. They reject the words of the Bible, the Koran, the Torah, or any standard conscience of morality.”

(Footage of past presidents speaking with Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles)

“This fakery and flagrant lying is the methodology followed by all American administrations, whether Democratic or Republican to justify their ugly crimes against humanity.”

(Footage of military tanks riding down road, with Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles)

“This selective view or reality buttressed by these fear-based appeals represents a larger pre-board pattern, a repeated claim that the United States is using military force with great reluctance.”

(Footage of President Lyndon Johnson. The slate says “Lyndon Johnson Democrat.”)

Inaudible sound

(Footage of President Ronald Reagan speaking. The slate says “Ronald Reagan Republican.”)

“The United States does not start fights.”

(Footage of President George Bush Senior speaking. The slate says “George Bush Sr. Republican”)

“America does not see conflict.”

(Footage of President Bill Clinton speaking. The slate says “Bill Clinton Democrat”)

“I don’t like to use military force.”

(Footage of George W. Bush speaking. The slate says “George Bush Jr. Republican”)

“Our nation enters this conflict reluctantly.”

(Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles; footage of soldiers carrying American flag down street)

“And only for the most virtuous reasons. First and foremost to spread freedom and democracy.”

(Video of Johnson)

“We want nothing for ourselves. Only that the people of South Vietnam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.”

(Interview with journalist Norman Solomon speaking in English with no Arabic subtitles)

“The rhetoric of democracy is part of the process of convincing people that even though unpleasant things must be done sometimes in its name, like bombing other countries, democracy is really what it’s about.”

(Footage of Regan at press conference)

“The United States has been engaged in an effort to stop the advance of communism in Central America by doing what we do best, by supporting democracy.”

(Interview with Solomon)

“It’s almost as though repeating it enough times makes it so.”

(Johnson at a press conference)

“Our cause of liberty, our cause of freedom, our cause of compassion and understanding.”

(Bush Sr. addressing nation from White House)

“Our people want democracy, peace, a chance for a better life and dignity and freedom.”

(Clinton addressing nation from white house)

“We want to lift lives around the world, not take them.”

(Regan addressing nation from White House)

“We maintain our strength and order to deter and defend against aggression, to preserve freedom and peace.”

(Bush Sr. addressing nation from White House)

“No one, friend or foe, should doubt our desire for peace.”

(Clinton addressing nation from White House)

“The United States wants peace.”

(George W. Bush at press conference)

“We seek peace. We strive for peace.”

(Voiceover by Gadahn in English with no Arabic subtitles; footage of American companies, dead Muslims)

“In other words, America is ruled by a political, economic, social and cultural entity which carries in its folds hostility to many of the world’s weak and oppressed. Among them, the Muslims. As for the propaganda which accompanied Obama’s election, and which he said he’ll take an approach different to his predecessor Bush, it is nothing more than a continuation of the policy of methodical disinformation, followed by American politicians yesterday and today. Indeed Obama’s own statements contradict those claims.”

(Slate that says Barack Obama Speech to AIPAC Conference)

“Our alliance is based on shared interest and shared values. Those that threaten Israel, threaten us. Israel has always faced these threats on the front lines. And I will bring to the White House an unshakable commitment to Israel security.”

(Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles; footage of Obama)

“This relationship between the forces of evil, America and Israel, becomes powerfully apparent in American diplomat Charles Freeman’s withdrawing his nomination from the

post of American National Intelligence Director under pressure from the Jewish lobby. This incident has a number of implications which deserve to be examined.”

(Gadahn sitting in room speaking in English to camera with no Arabic subtitles)

“First, Freeman’s assertion that Israel’s policies don’t coincide with the interests of the American people was enough to earn him the wrath of the Zionist lobby and expose him to the effects of that wrath. If this is how mere words were received, one can only imagine the reception concrete actions would get. Second, his admission that the Mujahideen raids on New York and Washington were a result of American support of Israel also angered the Zionist lobby and other elements which want to pull the wool over the eyes of the American people when it comes to the real reasons for the threats they face. And third, the Freeman case shows how opposition to America’s relations with the Zionist state and their negative effects on American people has even begun to seep into the highest levels of the American political pyramid.”

(Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles; footage of Washington D.C. area)

“However, this opposition is not reflected in Obama’s assurances that Al Puz will remain the undivided capital of Israel.”

(Footage of Obama at AIPAC conference. His words are in English subtitles with narration in Arabic.)

“Any agreement with the Palestinian people must preserve Israel’s identity as a Jewish state, with secure, recognized, defensible borders; and Jerusalem will remain the capital of Israel and it must remain undivided.”

(Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles; footage of military helicopters flying overhead and military members on ground, dead Muslims covered in sheets)

“Obama also states that he will increase the size of American forces in Afghanistan in order to spill more innocent blood there and in Pakistan.”

(Footage of 2008 U.S. presidential debate)

Commentator: “You think more U.S. troops should be sent to Afghanistan. How many and when?”

Obama: “Yes, I think we need more troops. I’ve been saying that for over a year now. And I think we need to do it as quickly as possible because it’s been acknowledged by the commanders on the ground that the situation is getting worse, not better. We had the highest fatalities among U.S. troops this past year than anytime since 2002. And we are seeing major offense taking place by Al-Qaeda and Taliban crossing the border and attacking our troops in a brazen fashion. They are feeling emboldened. We cannot separate Afghanistan from Iraq because what our commanders have said, we don’t have

the troops right now to go into Afghanistan. So I would send two to three additional brigades to Afghanistan.”

(Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles; footage of U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden)

“Obama’s deputy, Joseph Biden, is even more frank than the president, stating that one of their administration’s priorities is to eliminate Islamic schools in Pakistan. A threat which brings to the surface American politicians’ intense hatred of Islam and Muslims.”

(Biden at 2008 U.S. presidential debate)

“Pakistan already has nuclear weapons. Pakistan already has deployed nuclear weapons. Pakistan’s weapons can already hit Israel and the Mediterranean. Iran getting a nuclear weapon would be very, very destabilizing. They are not close to getting a nuclear weapon that’s able to be deployed. So they are both very dangerous, they would both be game changers. But look, here is the fundamental problem I have with John’s policy of terror and instability. John continues to tell us that the central war in the front on terror is in Iraq. I promise you, if an attack comes in the homeland it will come as our security services said, it’s going to come from Al-Qaeda planning in the hills of Afghanistan and Pakistan. That’s where they live, that’s where they are, that’s where it will come from. And right now that resides in Pakistan. A stable government needs to be established. We need to support that democracy by helping them not only with their military but with their governance, as well as their economic well being. There have been 7,000 madrassas built along that border. We should be helping them build schools to compete for those hearts and minds of the people in the region so we are actually able to take on terrorism.”

(Ustaz Muhammad Anwar al-Haq Haqqani Chancellor, Dar-ul-Uloom Haqqania Madrassa, addresses camera speaking in Arabic with subtitles in English)

“When the colonists occupied the subcontinent, they attempted to change and mutilate the ideas and teachings of Islam. Today, we have the same situation. The West, the anti-Islam powers are attempting to mutilate Islamic values, teachings, and religious tenets.”

(Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles; footage of bombed buildings and injured children in hospital beds)

“Statements have been backed up by actions. Obama’s election is accompanied by the murder of dozens of innocent people in the bombing of a wedding in Kandahar. And following his inauguration, bombings by American drone aircraft killed dozens more women and children and elderly men in the tribal areas of Pakistan.”

(A man is interviewed in Arabic with English subtitles. A slate says “Resident of the Tribal Region.”)

“The army is unable to reach the strongholds of Taliban Pakistan, so it is targeting civilians to make them hate Taliban Pakistan and support the army against the movement’s fighters. This is all being done to satisfy America and implement its plot which aims to stir up strife between the civilians and Taliban.”

(Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles; footage of U.S. military aircraft flying overhead; U.S. presidents meeting with Islamic leaders)

“This criminal behavior by the great idol of the age, America, toward the Islamic peoples wouldn’t be happening were it not for the alliance between the powers of the unbelieving West and the apostate governments of the Islamic world—a Satanic coalition which actively seeks to prevent the setting up of the Islamic state so it can continue to plunder the Muslims’ treasures, especially oil, the foundation of the global economy. These are facts which the puppet media of the apostate regimes in the Islamic world attempts to hide from the Muslim Ummah.”

(A slate says “Dr. Abdullah al-Nafisi University Professor” at a press conference, speaking in Arabic with English subtitles)

“All of our media is subject to the will of corrupt regimes ... sagging regimes ... subordinate regimes ... regimes which have been sleeping with the devil for 60 years; living with the devil in one bed. That’s why we must never depend on them, ever. Young people today have to delete from their minds anything called “the official regime.” Gordon Thomas says that there is no dividing line between the Israeli Mossad and Arab intelligence services. There is one dividing line. In other words, there is a single security system shared by these Arab regimes and the Zionist entity. Just imagine: if there is a single security system, it means the only thing left is the paying of salaries and that sort of thing. Do you understand how? As for information, instructions, developments, leaderships, methods and objectives, it’s all the same.”

(Gadahn voiceover in English with no Arabic subtitles; with footage of U.S. leaders meeting with Islamic leaders)

(Moving graphics of John Perkin’s book, then a graphic of a world map with various company logos (United Defense, Actelis, Indigo, The Aerostructures) overlaying it.)

“The states of the non-believing West represented by America and its European allies actively work to defend the thrones of the tyrants of the Islamic world, to ensure through that their control and plundering of the Islamic world’s treasures. This collusion becomes clear in the writings of the American, John Perkins, a former member of what is called the corporatocracy, principal actor in American policy making, and one of those presiding over the ... ”

VIDEO ABRUPTLY STOPS AT 19:45

**Ayman-Dhawahiri:
I have never been a member of Muslim brotherhood!**

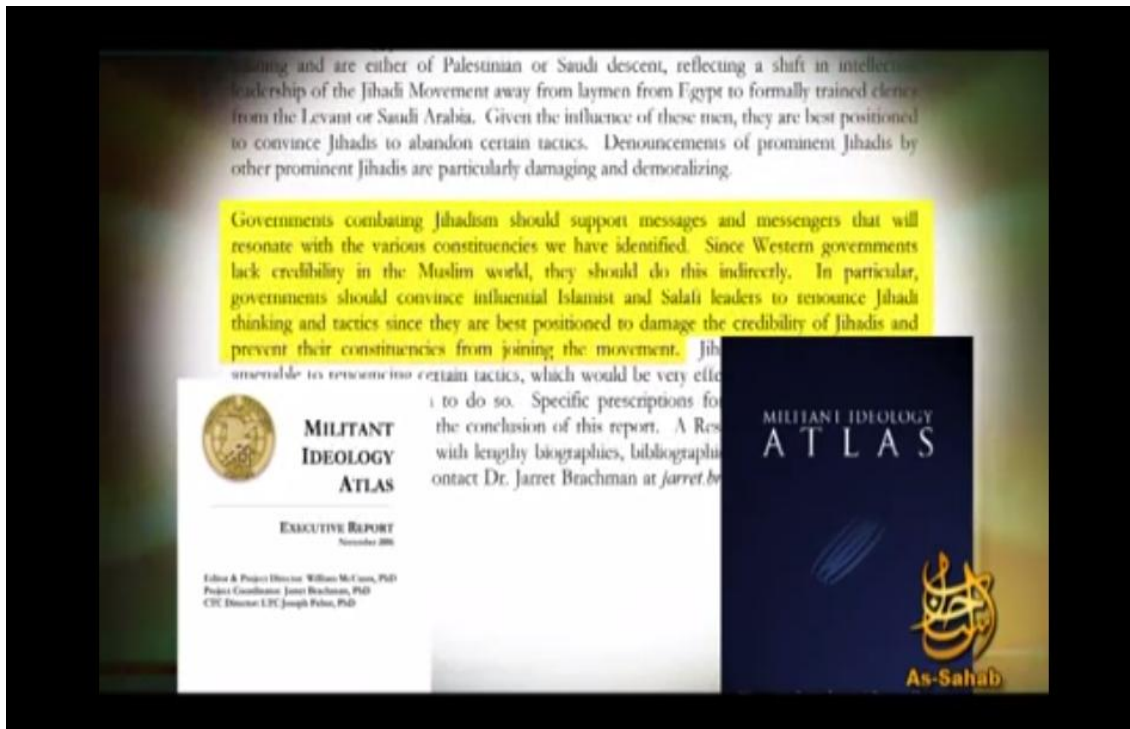


Image 9. Screenshot of “Ayman-Dhawahiri: I have never been a member of Muslim brotherhood!” video.

The video begins with footage of Ayman-Dhawahiri set against a plain, brown backdrop being interviewed by an unseen man. The As Sahab logo is in the bottom right corner. Both men are speaking in Arabic with English subtitles.

Dhawahiri: “There is a campaign of lies being waged against the Mujahideen, and this campaign is not exclusive to journalists and writers who bootlick the governments, but in fact, research centers which profess scientific integrity and neutrality are also implicated in it.”

Interviewer: “Like who?”

Dhawahiri: “Like the American army’s Combating Terrorism Center, and like the Center on Islam, Democracy, and the Future of the Muslim World at the American Hudson Institute.”

Interviewer: “What have they said, in brief?”

Dhawahiri: “For example, the American army’s Combating Terrorism Center published a book which included a 1 ½ page report about me featuring a total of 13 errors.”

Interviewer: “Like what?”

Dhawahiri: “Like how I joined the Muslim Brothers when I was 14 years old, although I’ve never in my life joined the Brothers; and how I was responsible for the killing of the tourists in Luxor in 1997, although I have no connection—neither close or distant—with this incident, which brothers from the Islamic Group carried out and claimed responsibility for, and the security organs have never accused me of it or even come close to accusing me.”

Interviewer: “The strange thing is that the Discovery Channel at the end of Ramadan broadcast a film called ‘The Age of Terror’ in which there was a lengthy segment about the Luxor incident and your responsibility for it.”

Dhawahiri: “It’s the war of lies.”

Interviewer: “OK, and the other 11 errors?”

Dhawahiri: “These they’ll have to find out for themselves. Do they think they can have enormous budgets spent on them, then have me come along and correct their mistakes for free?”

Interviewer: “And have they said anything about al-Qaida?”

Dhawahiri: “Yes, and one of the funny things about this center which considers itself to be an expert on al-Qaida is that it produced a book about what it claims are al-Qaida’s weak points which it called ‘Harmony and Disharmony.’ In it, it attributed to me a book rebutting Shaykh al-Albani, may Allah have mercy on him, although the book isn’t mine, but is from a series whose production I used to supervise in an al-Jihad Group a long time before joining al-Qaida. And what makes the bereaved laugh is that they said that this book has Hadeeths of Ibn’Abbas (with whom Allah was pleased) and ... ‘King Al-Shaj’ai!’”

Interviewer: “And who is this ‘King Al-Shaj’ai’?”

Dhawahiri: “I too thought a lot about who this ‘King Al-Shaj’ai’ might be. Then by searching the aforementioned book, I found that they mean the noble Companion ‘Awf bin Malik al-Ashja’i!”

Interviewer: “Ah. It appears that they are well-versed in Ilm al-Rijaal [the study of Hardeeth narrators]!”

Dhawahiri: “And in this book, they define apostasy as al-Qaida sees it as including all those who differ with al-Qaida’s interpretation of Islam!”

Interviewer: “Glory be to Allah! They placed al-Qaida among the Khawarij!”

Dhawahiri: “And they define the Khawarij as being ‘an extremist group of Shiite [sic],’ as far as the Murji’ah, they are also ‘a division of the Shiite.’”

Interviewer: “Amazing! It seems they’re also well-versed in the sects!”

Dhawahiri: “As for the Alliance of Favors, they define it as ‘a council which was formed by Prophet Mohammad prior to the spread of Islam. This council was composed of tribal elites in the Arab Peninsula to deal with issues of their people.’”

Interviewer: “Amazing! The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) witnessed the Alliance of Favors as child, and it wasn’t to deal with Arabs’ affairs, it was to unite to prevent injustice in Makkah!”

Dhawahiri: “That’s but a small part of their copious knowledge and integrity. As for the Center on Islam and Democracy at the Hudson Institute ... ”

Interviewer: “We’d like to make do with one example from this center, because we’ve talked a lot about these centers.”

Dhawahiri: “One example only, Allah willing. This center publishes a journal entitled Current Trends in Islamist Ideology. In the fifth issue of this journal, there is an article by an individual called Tawfiq Hamid in which he attacks the Mujahideen and which he fills with insults to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). This liar claims that he attended a number of speeches of mine which I gave in the mosque of the Cairo medical school, and that I was bearded and dressed in the style of the Taliban and that he shook my hand several times, and that I complimented him. These are all egregious and blatant lies.”

Interviewer: “None of this ever happened?”

Dhawahiri: “Never. I never grew a beard in Egypt except in prison, neither before nor after.”

Interviewer: “That’s in Egypt: otherwise, I see you in front of me right now bearded.”

Dhawahiri: “Yes, that was in Egypt.”

Interviewer: “And was this due to security requirements?”

Dhawahiri: “Yes, as my friends and enemies know.”

Interviewer: “Then from where did these stories come?”

Dhawahiri: “Nothing can be ruled out from someone who attacks the Noble Prophet (peace and prayers of Allah be upon him).”

Interviewer: “Glory be to Allah! Unbelief and lying have come together in him.”

Dhawahiri: “And he writes in the journal of a center which professes scientific specialization.”

Interviewer: “Fine, let’s suffice with these examples, because those centers’ stories appear to be long ones.”

Dhawahiri: “And their lies are longer! But I hope you will permit me to make a final observation about the deceitful information war against the Mujahideen.”

Interviewer: “Please.”

Dhawahiri: “In more than one book by the American army’s Combating Terrorism Center, two extremely critical things were emphasized: first, that the information war against the Mujahideen must be clandestinely funded from behind a curtain and following the methods used in the Cold War against the Communist bloc. And I referred to this in the book ‘The Exoneration’ while talking about the killing of the girl Shayma (may Allah have mercy on her) during the attack on the Egyptian prime minister.”

(Footage of highlighted portions of a CTC report with a male voiceover in Arabic—the text says, “The United States government must fund media campaigns that focus on turning Muslim public opinion against the Jihadis, but in a very low key and indirect manner. In particular, the U.S. must harness the power of the ‘Shayma Effect,’ broadcasting images of Jihadi attacks that have killed Muslim children.”)

(The second part of the highlighted text says “In light of the foregoing points highlighting the deleterious effects of direct U.S. action in the region, it is essential that the U.S. operate behind the scenes. Thus, media campaigns like those mentioned above must be carefully managed by professionals using some of the same, excellent information strategies and organizations that the U.S. employed so effectively in the Cold War.”)

(Video returns to interview)

Dhawahiri: “And the second thing is that Western governments must attack Mujahideen by convincing Muslim leaders and Salafists to condemn the Mujahideen.”

(Footage of the cover of “Militant Ideology Atlas” with male voiceover in Arabic)

(Video shows inside of atlas with a portion highlighted that says “Governments combating Jihadism should support messages and messengers that will resonate with the various constituencies we have identified. Since Western governments lack credibility in the Muslim world, they should do this indirectly. In particular, governments should convince influential Islamist and Salafi leaders to renounce Jihadi thinking and tactics since they are best positioned to damage the credibility of Jihadis and prevent their constituencies from joining the movement.”)

(Video returns to interview)

Interviewer: “Then this calls for investigation and research into many of the statements attacking the Mujahideen.”

Dhawahiri: “Of course. It is a war in which they deem everything to be permissible.”

Interviewer: “And here the importance and seriousness of Jihadi media in bringing the truth to the Muslim Ummah becomes clear.”

Dhawahiri: “Of course, and this is why I request all who desire fairness, whether those who agree with the Mujahideen or those who oppose them, to listen directly to their words without an intermediary, and to appreciate that the Crusade is waging a propaganda campaign where most important elements are lying, misdirection and concealment or distortion of the facts.”

Interviewer: “So what about the tiresome talk in the media about honesty, integrity, professionalism, and so on?”

Dhawahiri: “Ah. These things are like Saddam’s weapons of mass destruction.”

**Adam Gadahn: March 7, 2010
video with transcript**



Image 10. Screenshot of “Adam Gadahn: March 7, 2010 video with transcript” video.

The video begins with an Arabic musical introduction.

Gadahn is dressed in traditional Arab clothing, set against a background of flowered wallpaper with a semiautomatic weapon lying against the back wall. He speaks in English with Arabic subtitles.

“The Mujhedeem brother, Nadal Hassan, is a pioneer, a trailblazer and a role model who has opened a door with a path and showing the way forward for every Muslim who finds himself among the unbelievers and yearns to discharge his duty to Allah. When brother Nadal was issued orders which conflicted with Islamic doctrine and values, he resisted them until the last bullet. The Mujhedeem brother, Nadal Hassan, used firearms in his assault on Fort Hood. But the fact is, today’s Mujhaded is no longer limited to bullets and bombs when it comes to his choice of a weapon. But as you start to make your plans you shouldn’t make the mistake of thinking that military bases are the only high target in American and the West. On the contrary, we should look for targets which epitomize Western decadence, depravity, immorality, and atheism. It is rapidly becoming clear that this already hot global battle is about to get even hotter. This is a war which knows no international borders and no single battleground. And that’s why I’m calling upon every honest and vigilant Muslim; unsheathe your sharpened sword and rush to take your rightful place among defiant champions of Islam like Mir Imal Kansey, Mohammed Boyeri, Nadal Malik Hassan and many others like them.”

(Video switches between Arabic and English subtitling, with no moving graphics)

“Oh you who believe fight the believers who are closest in proximity to you and let them find harshness in you and know that Allah is with those that fear him. The year 2009 the inaugural year of a new administration in Washington ended in a truly miserable fashion for the crusader West and its intelligence organs who suffered a series of moral and material blows which culminated in the bloody deaths of at least eight CIA operatives in a masterfully planned and executed martyrdom operation inside their clandestine base in Afghanistan. This crushing blow came a few days after the compromising of American’s supposedly airtight security in a valiant attempt by a heroic soldier of Al-Qaeda to bring down an American airliner over Detroit. But I would like here to take you back to an earlier event, one whose hero wasn’t a member of Al-Qaeda or any other Islamic group. He was in fact a ranking officer of the United States Army, Major Nadal Malik Hassan, who this past Autumn opened fire on a group of American soldiers preparing to deploy to Afghanistan deep within the Army’s largest domestic base, Fort Hood, Texas.

According to official Army figures, at least 13 crusaders were killed and more than 30 wounded in this surprise attack. Major Nadal Malik Hassan himself was shot, wounded and captured and has had charges filed against him in a crusader military court of inquisition in preparation for a summary show trial whose outcome is not in question.

America may let the thugs of Blackwater off the hook and may give the depraved guards of Abu Gahraib and the homicidal gang rapists of Almic day Iia slaps on the wrist but it goes without saying that such concessions don’t extend to defiant Muslim heroes like Major Nadal Malik Hassan. The fact is the heroic Fort Hood operation opens up a whole host of new opportunities for discussion of the hypocrisy, hubris and less than wholesome

aspects of the Western crusader culture which bestows peace prizes on war presidents and condemns Christmas messages from captured American soldiers as cruel even as it continues to torture and humiliate the Muslim prisoners in its own custody. However, in the interest of brevity, I'll leave such topics for another day in favor of shining further light on the nature and motivations of the man behind this historic and trendsetting operation, our Mujahed brother, Nadal Malik Hassan. We consider him to be a righteous man but we don't purify him before Allah. Our Mujahed brother Nadal Hassan has shown us what one righteous Muslim with an assault rifle can do for his religion and brothers in faith. And he has reminded us of how much pride and joy a single act of resistance and courage can instill in the hearts of Muslims everywhere. The Mujahed brother, Nadal Hassan, by the grace of Allah and with a single 30 minute battle singlehandedly brought the morale of the American military and public to its lowest point in years. The Mujahed brother Nadal Hassan, lightly armed, but with a big heart, a strong will and a confident step again brought into sharp focus the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of America and again proved wrong those who claimed that America cannot be hit where it hurts. And more significantly, the Mujahed brother, Nadal Hassan, a pioneer, a trailblazer and a role model who has opened a door, lit a path and shown the way forward for every Muslim who finds himself among the unbelievers and yearns to discharge his duty to Allah and play a part in the defense of Islam and Muslims against the savage and heartless and bloody Zionist crusader assault on our religion, sacred places and homelands. Just as significant and deserving of contemplation and emulation as what the defiant Mujahed brother, Nadal Hassan, did, is what he didn't do. Courageous brother Nadal didn't give the orders of men priority over the orders of Allah nor did he fear the wrath of men more than the wrath of Allah. And defiant brother, Nadal didn't make the youthful mistake in joining the American Army the excuse for making the mistake of a lifetime. And taking part in the fighting and killing of Muslims in Afghanistan, Iraq or anywhere else. This is why I believe that defiant brother Nadal is the ideal role model for every repentant Muslim in the armies of the unbelievers and apostate regimes that like him has come to the correct conclusion that true Islam isn't in a name or a set of rituals, but in fact is in total submission and obedience to Allah and total disobedience to and disassociation from the unbelievers. When brother Nadal was issued orders which conflicted with Islamic doctrine and values, he resisted them until the last bullet, and thereby broke the mold of the mindlessly obedient soldier. A mold preferred and cultivated by the militaries of the world but totally rejected by Islam, which says loudly and clearly obedience to a created being and disobedience to the creator is impermissible. Not only did defiant brother Nadal break free of the influence of the unbelievers he had grown up and worked with and served under he also broke free of the evil influence of the anti-jihad, pro-crusade sheiks and muftis who attempt to legitimize the killing of Muslims in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere using the flimsiest pretexts and excuses imaginable. Defiant brother Nadal didn't try to silence his conscience or justify obeying his commanders and remaining in the ranks of the unbelievers with those sheiks scandalous' fatwas which permit the impermissible, prohibit the obligatory and condone the murder of Muslims in the name of fighting terrorism or in the name of protecting salary and position or in the name of preserving the good reputation of American Muslims and dispelling the doubts of their patriotism and loyalty to America. Brother Nadal didn't try to hide behind such ridiculous excuses because he knew that however

many famous signatures it might carry and whatever fancy title it might have, no fatwa in this world can possibly justify breaking the clear and ambiguous agreed upon laws of the Sharia like the law forbidding the killing of Muslims or the law ordering loyalty to the believers and disloyalty to the unbelievers. And he knew that on the day of judgment all the ornama, molis, muftis and imams of this world put together ... way of thinking that military bases are the only high-value targets in American and the West. On the contrary, there are countless other strategic institutions and installations which, by striking, the Muslim can do major damage to the crusader West and further our global agenda and long-range strategic objectives. We must look to further undermine the West's already struggling economies, with carefully timed and targeted attacks, on symbols of capitalism which will again shake consumer confidence and stifle spending. We must keep in mind how apparently even successful attacks on Western mass transportation systems can bring major cities to a halt, cost the enemy billions, and send his corporations into bankruptcy. We must erode our enemy's will to fight by killing and capturing leading crusaders and Zionists in the government, industry and media who talk the talk but don't walk the walk, and are only interested in prosecuting their profitable wars as long as it's other people who are in the line of fire, not them. We should look for targets which epitomize Western decadence, depravity, immorality, and atheism. Targets which the enemy and his mouthpieces will have difficulty trying to pass off to the conservative Muslim majority as illegitimate targets full of innocent people. And finally we mustn't allow our lawless enemies to provoke us with their evil, sadistic, and murderous crimes into crossing boundaries laid down by Allah and his profits. Or doing anything which may have negative repercussions on the image of the jihad and reputation of the jihadi regime. We must always remember that our role models aren't our enemies. Our role models are the prophet, his companions, and righteous and god-fearing Mujahedeen. We must always remember that we are different than the Zionists and crusaders with whom we are locked in combat. We are not outlaws, we are not gangsters, we are not hypocrites, we are not barbarians, we are not opportunists and mercenaries, we are not enemies of freedom and civilization. We are not cowards who wage wars from behind the controls of pilotless aircraft. In other words, everything our enemies are we are not. And everything we are, they are not. We are people of courage, honor, decency and chivalry and ethics who selflessly sacrifice themselves for the noblest cause on earth. And that is why every Muslim and every Mujahed must continue to take the high road and protect the moral high ground which we have fought so long and hard to secure. My dear brothers in Islam, with America and 25 of its NATO allies beginning to deploy another 30,000 occupation troops to Afghanistan, and with armed American drones now violating Islamic airspace and terrorizing Muslim populaces from Iran shah to Mogadishu and with the American war president and his rabid British poodle plotting fresh aggression against Yemen, and with the United States consolidating its cruel treatment of our brothers of Islam at new or newly commanded Muslim-only concentration camps in Illinois, Bagram and elsewhere it is rapidly becoming clear that this already hot global battle is about to get even hotter. This is a war which knows no international borders and no single battleground and that is why I'm calling up on every honest and vigilant Muslim in the countries of the Zionist crusader alliance in general and America, Britain and Israel in particular to prepare to play his due role in responding to and repelling the aggression of the enemies of Islam. This is the golden, once in a lifetime opportunity to

reap the rewards of jihad and martyrdom we have been waiting for. So unsheathe your sharpened sword and rush to take your rightful place among defiant champions of Islam like Mir Amal Kamsey, Mohammed Boyeri, Nadal Malik Hassan and many others like them. Men who have been true to their covenant of the law. Of them some have been martyred and some are still waiting, but they have never changed in the least. My Muslim brother, jihad is neither the personal property nor the exclusive responsibility of any single group, organization, or individual. Instead, it is the personal duty of every able-bodied Muslim on the face of this earth. Until the last Muslim captive is freed, and the last piece of occupied Islamic land is recovered and until Muslims live in security and happiness in the benevolent shadow of the Islam state. Allah has given you faculties of reason, judgment, and choice within the guidelines of Islam and it is for you like your heroic Mujahed brother, Nadal Hassan to decide how, when and where you discharge this duty. But whatever you do, don't wait for tomorrow to do what can be done today and don't wait for others to do what you can do yourself. So fight. In a lost cause, you are held responsible only for yourself and rouse the believers. Allah will restrain the might of the unbelievers. And Allah is strongest in might and strongest in punishment. Thank you for watching, and may Allah guide your steps.”

REFERENCES

Primary Sources

“Adam Gadahn March 7, 2010 video with transcript,” on *Public Intelligence*, accessed March 16, 2011, available at <publicintelligence.net>.

“Al Qaeda/as Sahab: Hafiz Usman & Adam Gadahn propaganda [English],” on *Google Video*, accessed March 16, 2011, available at <video.google.com>.

“Al-Qaeda leader on Obama’s victory,” on *YouTube*, accessed March 29, 2009, available at <youtube.com>.

“Al Qaeda recruits children,” on *YouTube*, accessed March 16, 2011, available at <youtube.com>.

“Ayman Dhawahiri—I have never been a member of Muslim brotherhood!” on *YouTube*, accessed March 16, 2011, available at <youtube.com>.

“‘Gaza, not again’ Al-Qaeda propaganda video,” on *Public Intelligence*, accessed March 16, 2011, available at <publicintelligence.net>.

“Knowledge is for acting upon—The Manhattan raid,” on *Google Video*, accessed March 29, 2009, available at <video.google.co.uk>.

“Osama bin Laden—November 9th, 2001,” on *Google Video*, accessed March 29, 2009, available at <video.google.co.uk>.

“The solution,” on *Google Video*, accessed March 16, 2011, available at <video.google.com>.

Secondary Sources

Books

Abbate, Janet. (1999). *Inventing the internet*. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Barnett, Brooke, and Amy Reynolds. (2009). *Terrorism and the press*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc.

Bergen, Peter L. (2001). *Holy War, Inc. Inside the secret world of Osama bin Laden*. New York: The Free Press.

Bernays, Edward. (1928). *Propaganda*. Brooklyn: Ing Publishing.

Creel, George. (1928). *How we advertised America*. New York: Harper.

Kraybill, Donald B., and Marc A. Olshan. (1994). *The Amish struggle with modernity*. Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England.

Lewis, Bernard. (2003). *The crisis of Islam*. New York: The Modern Library.

Postman, Neil. (1992). *Technopoly*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Rashid, Ahmed. (2008). *Descent into chaos*. New York: Viking.

Rogers, Everett. (1994). *A history of communication study*. New York: The Free Press.

Schement, Jorge Reina, and Terry Curtis. (1995). *Tendencies and tensions of the information age*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.

Tenner, Edward. (1996). *Why things bite back*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Journal Articles

Aboul-Enein, Youssef H. (2004). Ayman Al-Zawahiri: The ideologue of modern Islamic militancy. *Counterproliferation Papers*, 21, 1-20.

Davis, Benjamin. (2006-2007). Ending the cyber jihad: Combating terrorist exploitation of the Internet with the rule of law and improved tools for cyber governance. *CommLaw Conspectus*, 15 (1), 119-187.

- Erturk, Yakin. (1991). Convergence and divergence in the status of Moslem women: The cases of Turkey and Saudi Arabia. *International Sociology*, 6 (307), 307-320.
- Hadden, Jeffrey K. (1993). The rise and fall of American televangelism. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 527, 113-130.
- Harwit, Eric. (2004). Spreading telecommunications to developing areas in China: telephones, the Internet and the digital divide. *The China Quarterly*, 180, 1010-1030.
- Maher, Shiraz. (2007). Road to jihad. *Index on Censorship*, 36 (4), 144-147.
- Meyer, Christina. (1991). Underground voices: Insurgent propaganda in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Peru. *Rand*, N-3299-USDP, 1-29.
- Nacos, Brigitte L. (2003). Terrorism as breaking news: Attack on America. *Political Science Quarterly*, 118 (1), 23-52.
- Rabasa, Angel, Peter Chalk, Kim Cragin, Sara A. Daly, Heather S. Gregg, Theodore W. Karasik, Kevin A. O'Brien, and William Rosenau (2006). Beyond al-Qaeda Part 1: The global jihadist movement. *Rand*, F49642-01-C-0003, 14-22.
- Thomas, Timothy L. (2003). Al Qaeda and the Internet: The danger of 'cyberplanning.' *Parameters, US Army War College Quarterly*, 33, 112-123.

Videos

- Mallon, Paul J., Jr., and Ian Stimler. (2002). *Manufacturing consent: Noam Chomsky and the media*. New York: Zeitgeist Video.

Online Materials

“Al-Qaeda websites ‘hit by Western cyber attacks.’” (October 22, 2008), on

Telegraph.co.uk, available at <telegraph.co.uk/news>.

“Al-Qaida/Al-Qaeda (the base).” (March 29, 2009), on *GlobalSecurity.org*, available at

<globalsecurity.org>.

Baker, Peter, Helene Cooper and Mark Mazzetti. (May 1, 2011). “Bin Laden is dead,

Obama says,” *The New York Times*, available at <nytimes.com>.

Edwards, Bob. (November 29, 2002). “Saudi Arabian teens being influenced more by

Western culture,” *National Public Radio Morning Edition*. (EBSCOhost service

No. 6XN200211291102).

Khatchadourian, Raffi. (January 22, 2007). “Azzam the American.” *New Yorker*,

available at <newyorker.com>.

Kohlmann, Evan. (May 20, 2008). “Where’s the beef? Mystery grows surrounding the

whereabouts of Adam Gadahn,” on *Family Security Matters*, available at

<familysecuritymatters.org>.

Murphy, Dan, and Jill Carroll. (July 16, 2007). “Al Qaeda ramps up its propaganda,” On

The Christian Science Monitor, available at <csmonitor.com>.

“Osama bin Laden speaks in chilling 9/11 anniversary video from the grave.” (Sept. 13,

2011), on *news.com.au*, available at <news.com.au>.

Whitlock, Craig. (June 24, 2008). “Hearts and minds: Power of ‘The Clouds’ Al-Qaeda’s

growing online offensive,” on *The Washington Post*, available at

<washingtonpost.com>.

The World Factbook. (August 23, 2011), on *Central Intelligence Agency*, available at
<cia.gov>.

VITA

Graduate College
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Jessica Marie Martin

Degrees:

Bachelor of Arts, 1998
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Thesis Title: The Information Battlefield:
Al-Qaeda's Use of Advanced Media Technologies for Framed Messaging

Thesis Examination Committee:

Chairperson, Gregory Borchard, Ph. D.
Committee Member, Gary Larson, Ph. D.
Committee Member, Julian Kilker, Ph. D.
Graduate Faculty Representative, David Dickens, Ph. D.