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[Evan Kohlmann]: *“Hi, I’m Evan Kohlmann of Globalterroralert.com, and welcome to the second broadcast of our video cybercast service, bringing you the latest news updates from the world of terrorism and counterterrorism. This cybercast is brought to you thanks to the support of the Nine Eleven Finding Answers Foundation (NEFA).”*

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“We begin this cybercast with an update on the latest controversial message from Al-Qaida’s Deputy Commander, Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, titled ‘Palestine is Our Concern and the Concern of Every Muslim.’ During the audio-recorded address produced by Al-Qaida’s As-Sahab Media Foundation and released on March 11, al-Zawahiri issued a sharp and unprecedented challenge to the Palestinian Hamas movement, accusing the latter of treachery and of abandoning its two decade-long armed struggle against the State of Israel.”*

[Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri]: *“The leadership of HAMAS has finally joined [Anwar] Sadat’s caravan of humiliation and surrender. The leadership of HAMAS has sold Palestine, and—before that—sold the rule of Shariah. It has sold all of this in order that it be permitted to keep a third of the government. In order to keep a third of the seats of this farcical government, the leadership of HAMAS gave up ruling by Shariah and gave up most of Palestine. For a third of the seats of this farcical government, they abandoned the movement of resistance and accepted the government of bargaining; they abandoned the movement of martyrdom operations and accepted the government of respect for international resolutions; they abandoned the heroic struggler movement and accepted the domesticated beggar government; they abandoned the movement of penetrating the enemy throngs with explosives and accepted the government of playing with words in the halls of palaces.”*

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“Zawahiri’s latest round of stinging criticism is yet another sign of friction between Sunni radicals loyal to Muslim Brotherhood groups (such as Hamas) and increasingly uncompromising Salafi jihadists who form the main body of Al-Qaida’s membership. Last December, Hamas Internet forums suddenly stopped broadcasting communiqués and videos from the Taliban and Al-Qaida’s ‘Islamic State of Iraq.’ Conversely, members of notorious Salafi jihadist Internet forums such as the Al-Hesbah network have recently urged administrators to ban any user attempting to express public support for Hamas.”*

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“In Algeria, the GSPC (now known as Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Islamic Maghreb) has continued its wave of violence targeting foreign nationals and members of the security forces. On March 4, Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Islamic Maghreb issued an appeal from its top commander, Abu Musab Abdel Wadoud, urging members of the security forces to ‘repent’ and abandon their support for the Algerian government. On March 5, the group also claimed credit for renewed terror attacks in Boumerdas, Tizi Ouzu, and Bejaia—including an ambush on employees of the Russian company Stroy Trans Gaz as a ‘small gift to our Muslim brothers in Chechnya, whom the government of the criminal Putin is killing and oppressing with the support of the Russian people.’”*

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“Meanwhile, on March 12, the U.S. embassy security warden issued an alert to Americans in Algeria that, ‘There is information that extremists may be planning to conduct an attack against a commercial aircraft carrying Western workers in Algeria.’ At this time, there is no additional information available as to timing or the specific carrier targeted by these extremists. In December 1994, a team of militants from the*



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Algerian Armed Islamic Group disguised in airline uniforms hijacked an Air France jetliner in Algiers, in an apparent failed bid to suicide-crash the aircraft into a civilian target in Paris. The hijacking was eventually thwarted by GIGN counter-terrorism commandos as the plane was being refueled in the city of Marseilles.”

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“On a related note, Moroccan police have arrested over a dozen suspects in connection with a suicide bombing at a cybercafé in Casablanca on March 11. Senior Moroccan Interior Ministry officials said the attack—carried out by Abdelfettah Raydi and an accomplice Youssef Khoudri—was not premeditated, but was rather provoked by an argument with the cybercafé’s owner, who had refused to allow the men to access jihadist Internet websites. According to those officials, Raydi and Khoudri were part of a twelve-man suicide bomb squad which was allegedly preparing attacks on economic and security targets, including foreign vessels docked in Casablanca and tourist landmarks in Marrakesh, Essaouira, and Agadir. Investigators are now attempting to determine the source of the explosives used in the attack, and whether they were obtained with the help of Al-Qaida militants in neighboring Algeria.”*

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“In the United States, on March 6, a federal grand jury in Missouri issued a formal indictment against five officials from the local offices of an Islamic charity, charging them with violating U.S. trade laws and also fraudulently diverting thousands of dollars from a U.S. government development grant into a lobbying campaign aimed at thwarting a Congressional investigation into its links to terrorism. The new indictment comes directly on the heels of another decision last month from the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals upholding the right of the U.S. Treasury Department to freeze the financial assets of the same charity, the Islamic African Relief Agency (IARA), for allegedly helping to finance terrorism. One of the individuals named in the indictment is IARA Middle East coordinator in Jordan Khalid al-Sudanee. A frequent visitor to Iraq, al-Sudanee—whose assets have been frozen by the U.S. government since 2004—was routinely profiled in donor materials produced by IARA and its sister organization ISRA. Yet, in the months of chaos following the fall of Saddam Hussein, al-Sudanee was nonetheless reportedly handed ‘a pass from the Americans’ and even granted access to U.S. ‘military briefings’ in Baghdad. It is not clear precisely when U.S. authorities in Iraq finally recognized al-Sudanee as an alleged terrorist financier. Photos distributed by the charity in 2003 show Sudanee working in Iraq alongside volunteers from another suspect organization, Crescent Relief—which has come under intense scrutiny for its ties to last year’s attempted liquid bomb terror plot aimed at downing commercial airliners traveling between Europe and the United States.”*

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“In the northeastern Spanish city of Zaragoza, police have reportedly arrested 31-year old Gontzal Royo (a.k.a. Mohammed Hassan al-Andalusi) on charges of publishing messages on the Internet supporting and justifying ‘Islamist terrorism.’ Royo, a Muslim convert and the administrator of the Al-Andalus Islamiya site, was a well-known participant on English-language jihadist chat forums – including the now-defunct mujahedon.net and also a bulletin board operated by the military wing of the Palestinian Hamas movement. Using his skills as a graphic artist, Royo designed propaganda posters for Hamas, such as this image glorying Hamas suicide attacks on Israeli civilian buses. When the group claimed credit for the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier last year, Royo offered his unwavering support and urged Hamas to ‘behead the soldiers.’ In other such online postings, Royo boasted of personal friendships with Palestinian militant leaders and of his uncle’s position as an electrician working at a nearby U.S. airbase in Zaragoza.”*

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“Finally, we turn to Iraq, where Al-Qaida’s Islamic State of Iraq has issued a series of new defiant propaganda statements concerning the group’s looming role within the overall insurgency. On March 10, the ISI released a video of an unidentified spokesman for the group, titled ‘The Failure of the al-Maliki and Bush Plan.’ The speaker declared the failure of the latest security clampdown by U.S. and Iraqi government forces, noting, adding ‘the best evidence of the failure of the so called security plan was when the soldiers of the Islamic State of Iraq invaded Badoosh prison in Mosul province, administered by the apostate Maliki government under Crusaders supervision, and so the mujahideen of the ISI, with the guidance of Allah, have freed more than 150 of our brothers held prisoner.”*



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[Evan Kohlmann]: *“On a more scornful note, on March 13, the ISI released a new audio statement from its emir, or commander, Abu Omar al-Baghdadi titled “I Am Aware of My Lord.” In the recording, Abu Omar insists that there is a media conspiracy aimed at dividing the Sunni insurgency, including the dissemination of allegations that the ISI has used force to secure the cooperation of fellow insurgent groups. Yet, despite his initial pretenses towards mujahideen unity, Abu Omar also appears to suggest that other insurgents are actually incapable of fighting U.S. and Iraqi government forces on their own.”*

[Commander Abu Omar al-Baghdadi]: *“How is Jihad in the Land of the Two Rivers if there was no ‘Mujahideen Shura Council’ or the Islamic State? And how things will go if the Islamic State’s soldiers laid down their weapons and stopped Jihad? The answer is known. The honor will be violated; the crops and the cattle will be exterminated. And if you don’t believe it, I ask any fighting group which claims the perfect methodology, the pure banner, and the might in front of [our] enemies, to publish three filmed military operations for breaking into American headquarters—or even just one filmed operation for breaking into just a [single] American military barracks... We consider the members of other Jihadi groups in Iraq as our brothers, but they are disobedient because they didn’t do today’s duty (which is working together under one flag).”*

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“On January 10, the Salahuddin Brigades of the Iraqi Islamic Resistance Front complained in a public statement that fellow Sunni fighters from the ISI had attempted to confiscate its weapons and vehicles in a Baghdad neighborhood after falsely accusing the group of treachery and working in league with the Iraqi government. It is, as of yet, unclear whether these incidents are mere isolated examples or, rather, signs of significant quarreling within the Sunni insurgency in Iraq.*

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“It is also, as of yet, unclear whether the ISI’s provocative behavior was the cause of a new, mysterious split in one of the organizations that it claimed was recently working underneath its umbrella: the 1920 Revolution Brigades. On March 9, the official website of the 1920 Brigades announced that the group was formally dissolving and splitting into two separate factions: the ‘Islamic Jihad’ movement and the ‘Islamic Conquest’ movement. The statement did not offer great detail as to why the split had occurred, only suggesting that the decision was made in order ‘to overcome differences and to preserve our brotherhood in Islam.’”*

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“Here now are excerpts from recent noteworthy propaganda videos released by major Iraqi insurgent groups, including Al-Qaida’s “Islamic State of Iraq.”*

- **Ansar al-Sunnah Army**
 - o Suicide Bomb Attack on Peshmerga Base in Mosul (Released 3/8/07)
- **Mujahideen Army**
 - o IED Attack on U.S. Humvee (Released 3/13/07)
- **Al-Qaida’s Islamic State of Iraq**
 - o Attack on U.S. Armored Vehicle in Anbar (Released 3/17/07)
 - o Attack on U.S. Stryker in Mosul (Released 3/19/07)
 - o Bombing of Iraqi Army Base in Fallujah (Released 3/24/07)

[Evan Kohlmann]: *“That concludes this second edition of Global Terror Alert’s video cybercast. We hope that this presentation has been informational and educational. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact us by telephone, fax, or e-mail. Thanks again for tuning in!”*