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Recording of "Commander Abu Azzam" from "Al-Qaida's Jihad Committee in Mesopotamia"



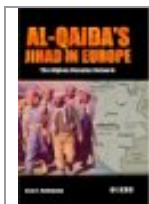
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"...I remember a wonderful story about Shaykh Abu Anas [al-Shami], may Allah bless his soul. We were in the Al-Jazeera (province) where we had our headquarters. After we decided to leave at 11pm, on our return, we were pulled over at an American checkpoint in Al-Saqlawiyya. I was worried that Abu Anas would be captured, but with his strong will, he began speaking with them in English so that they would not recognize him. They searched me and found a pistol on me. When they insisted on arresting us, [Abu Anas] convinced them that we were carrying the pistol for protection from thieves. The dirty American confiscated the pistol and then released us—all due to the eloquence of Abu Anas and the grace of Allah. When we decided to execute the Abu Ghraib prison operation, I went to say goodbye to Abu Anas. He smiled at me and said jokingly, 'Send greetings to [my wife].' I replied to him, 'you will not be killed this time, I ask Allah that you return safe'—and he did return after canceling the operation. Once again, a few days later, he left for Abu Ghraib. I was the last person to say goodbye and I sensed that this was the last time I would see him and I witnessed the light of martyrdom on his face. I told myself that he would not be coming back..."



"Abu Azzam al-Iraqi" discusses Zarqawi's former top deputy in Iraq, Abu Anas al-Shami

"...I asked [Abu Anas] to wait until I received permission from Shaykh Abu Musab [al-Zarqawi] to accompany him. Shaykh Abu Musab told me that he could not allow us both to leave Fallujah: 'Either you go, or else Abu Anas.' I kissed his forehead and asked [Abu Anas] to intercede for me [in paradise]... My heart aches and my eyes cry for you, Abu Anas, and I am saddened by your departure. Before he was martyred during the battle of Abu Ghraib—the battle of honor, dignity, and courage—Abu Anas was in Samarra, teaching and training the brothers. Once he was finished with this difficult task, he sent a message to Shaykh Abu Musab [al-Zarqawi] asking to be included in the Abu Ghraib battle. Some brothers asked him to stay since he was so important. He replied, 'I would rather be killed in the cause of Allah liberating my imprisoned sisters than living this life'... Happy tidings to you, O' brothers, because victory is coming. This will bring satisfaction to the people of Islam everywhere. Abu Anas is gone now, and martyrdom and virgins await him. We consider him as a martyr..."



Al-Qaida's Jihad in Europe: the Afghan-Bosnian Network

"For Bin Laden's involvement in the Bosnian conflicts, see Evan F. Kohlmann, *Al-Qaida's Jihad in Europe*." - U.S. 9/11 Commission Final Report (July 2004)

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