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Palestinian Arab Support for Osama Bin Laden

Arafat's Radio Calls America 'Heretics' and 'Dogs'

On Oct. 26, 2001, Yasir Arafat's official radio station broadcast a sermon denouncing the United States as 'heretics,' 'dogs,' 'imperialists,' and killers.' The sermon was delivered by Yusuf Abu Snena, an Islamic preacher and official of the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Religious Affairs, at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and broadcast on Arafat's official 'Voice of Palestine' radio station.

Snena said: 'The attack on our Islamic allies [Afghanistan] seems to be a repetition of the First World War, reminding us of the cooperation between the heretics to bring down the German nation, which was destroyed by the heretic nations, thus giving those heretic and imperialist nations the freedom to invade our Arab Muslim homelands. These heretic nations are once again attacking, like dogs, Muslim Afghanistan, and are fighting Islam everywhere...Hostile American planes are killing innocent people...These are heretic nations seeking to destroy Islam...Imperialism is returning to the Arab regions, through the guise of a 'war on terror'...We urge all Muslims to unite in a war against the Crusaders, and that Allah will bring vengeance upon them.

(Translation courtesy Israel Resource News Agency.)

Arafat's Fatah denounces 'American oppression' An official editorial on the web site of Arafat's Fatah movement (http://www.fateh.net/e_editor/01/300901.htm) on October 15, 2001, declared that 'the U.S. administration is planning to impose its hegemony on the world as a limitless tyranny ... The U.S. is a country that does not respect human rights or international legality.'

Arafat's Fatah denounces 'American oppression' A statement by Arafat's Fatah movement on Oct. 1, 2001 asserted that 'The massive operation [attacking the World Trade Center] showed the failure of the U.S. to protect itself when those it oppressed reacted to the policies of hegemony and discrimination it has been practicing throughout the world ... The U.S. is now reaping what it has sown, especially the mass killings it committed for no reason.'

([Http://www.fateh.net/e_editor/01/150901.htm](http://www.fateh.net/e_editor/01/150901.htm))

Arafat's News Agency: 'America Should Stop Fighting the World' Arafat's official news agency, WAFA, stated on October 11, 2001 (<http://www.wafa.pna.net/EngText/10-10-2001/page012.htm>) that as a result of the attacks 'we can estimate the USA has realized that it should reconcile with the world rather than fight it.' Also as a result, 'Israel was excluded from the international coalition...the world before the 11th of September is not the same like after that date...Maybe from that date on, AIPAC won't be able to rule the USA, or will not attempt to, they certainly will not dare to expose the USA to any further sabotage action.'

The WAFA statement also said that if Israel were included in the coalition, 'it will sabotage and destroy this coalition, because of its ideology of 'God's chosen people', and its social and educational structure will destroy the coalition.'

PA Official Urges Arabs: 'Don't Join U.S. Coalition' The PA-appointed chief Muslim religious official in Jerusalem, Sheikh Ikrimah Sabri, declared in his September 28, 2001 sermon (which was broadcast on official PA radio): 'It is forbidden for a Muslim to go against another Muslim...This killing is regarded as a severe sin...We call upon America: No to war, no to the killing of innocents, no to the killing of elderly women and children, no to [being under your] guardianship, no to [your] intervention in other peoples' issues, no to imperialism, no to occupation.'

(Translation courtesy of the Middle East Media Research Institute)

Arafat's Radio Station Claims 'Israel Carried Out the Attacks' The PA's official radio station, Voice of Palestine, reported on October 7, 2001, that 'the FBI has handed a report to the Palestine National Authority which states that the Israeli Mossad is responsible for the September 11 terror attacks in the U.S. The FBI report states that U.S. law enforcement officials have nabbed three cadres of Mossad operatives in New York in connection with the September 11

attacks.'

(Translation courtesy of Israel Resource News Agency)

PA Newspaper Declares:

'America is Not the Master' An editorial in the PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah on October 3, 2001 and was signed by the newspaper's editor, Hafez Barghouti, asserted: 'Three weeks after the 'earthquake', the Americans had to revise their thinking on many issues, perhaps the most important of which is its foreign policy that regarded others from an exaggerated sense of superiority, which caused it not to see things clearly. The earthquake forced the Americans to get down out of their ivory tower and take a realistic look at what is happening on the planet. They view themselves as its master, but actually they have discovered that there has been a huge build-up of hatred against them.'

(Translation courtesy of Palestinian Media Watch)

Arafat Aide Says America is 'Worse Than Bin Laden' In a statement published in the PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah on Sept. 14, 2001, the Director-General of the PA Ministry of Information, Hassan Al-Kashef, equated the attacks in New York and Washington with what he called 'the American killing of Arabs in Iraq and elsewhere: 'If the airplanes' blasting into the World Trade Center towers in New York is considered terror carried out by a few individuals, the murder of Arabs by Israel and by American weapons and all the American killings of Arabs in Iraq, in the Sudan, and in Libya is official terror, and those responsible are the U.S. and Israel. These are war crimes; these are crimes of mass destruction.'

(Translation courtesy of the Middle East Media Research Institute)

The Associated Press reported (Sept. 11, 2001) that 'thousands of Palestinians celebrated Tuesday's terror attacks' by singing and dancing in the streets, honking horns, distributing candy to passersby, and firing their guns in the air in Nablus (Shechem), Arab sections of Jerusalem, and Palestinian Arab refugee camps in Lebanon. PA police officers joined in the celebrations in Nablus and Ramallah, Israel Radio reported.

Palestinian Arabs Hold Pro-Bin Laden Rallies The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported on September 17, 2001 that 'about 15,000 Palestinians marched last Friday at a rally in the Gaza Strip in which demonstrators carried posters of Saudi terror mastermind Osama Bin Laden.' On October 8-9, 2001, thousands of Palestinian Arabs held rallies in Gaza to praise Bin Laden and denounce America's anti-terror actions in Afghanistan. On October 12, 2001, thousands of Palestinian Arabs held rallies in Ramallah and Nabalus to protest America's actions against Bin Laden. The rally in Ramallah was led by Marwan Barghouti, secretary-general of Arafat's Fatah movement.

Only 7% of Palestinian Arabs Support America's Action; An October 2001 poll found 76% of Palestinian Arabs oppose any involvement by Arab regimes or the Palestinian Authority in America's anti-terrorism coalition, and only 7% believe America's anti-terror actions in Afghanistan are justified.

(New York Times, Oct. 12, 2001)

Bin Laden Cell Operating in Arafat-Controlled Gaza Strip. The New York Times (Sept.23, 2001) quoted a 'senior American official' as saying that earlier this year, the Israeli authorities discovered 'an Al Qaeda cell in Gaza.'

PA Police Tried to Help Bin Laden Terrorist Escape Last year, Palestinian Authority policemen used violence to try to prevent Israeli soldiers from arresting a Bin Laden terrorist, Nadim Abu-Okal, when he tried to slip across the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

(Jerusalem Post, June 2, 2000)

Arafat's Fatah Linked to Bin Laden - U.S. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) said after a briefing by senior law enforcement officials that they believe Osama Bin Laden is 'very much involved with Hezbollah, Fatah, and other terrorist organizations.'

(Associated Press, Sept. 13, 2001)

Bin Laden Terrorist, With Bomb, Caught Entering Israel A Bin Laden terrorist armed with a 'radiological backpack bomb' was captured trying to enter Israel in September 2001, via a border checkpoint at Arafat-controlled Ramallah.

(United Press International, Oct.14, 2001)