

In The Name Of Allah, The Entirely Merciful, The Especially Merciful

**Al-Andalus Foundation for Media Productions**

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**Press Interview with Sheikh Abu Ubaidah Yusef al-Annabi with France 24 Journalist Wassim Nasr**



**25 Ramadan 1440 H \ 30 May 2019 M**

**In The Name Of Allah, The Entirely Merciful, The Especially Merciful**

**Responses to the Interview by France 24 Journalist  
Wassim Nasr  
With the Chief of the Council of Notables in  
Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb,  
Abu Ubaidah Yusef al-Annabi**

**Praise be to Allah, and peace and prayers be upon the Messenger of Allah, his family, his companions and his followers. And henceforth:**

**May Allah's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you.**

**Before I start to answer the questions sent to us by the famous journalist Wassim Nasr, I would like first to very much thank him for this kind window that he opened for us so that we express directly and clearly our opinions regarding the various issues around us.**

**In truth, I am grateful to him and thankful, because he is courageous and daring in breaking the wall of exclusion and marginalization imposed on us by all media podiums and personalities that closed the doors of free expression in our face.**

**I am sorry to say that all media outlets are like this without exception. Even those that have an honourable record in the fight for the freedom of expression joined this exclusionary and heinous policy.**

**I do not know why these media outlets tend to apply these exclusionary policies toward the Islamic movements that adopted jihad in the Way of Allah as a means to change tyrannical governments. Jihad is a legitimate method to defend the rights of oppressed peoples that seek to live in dignity freely in the embrace of the Islamic faith in which it believes.**

**In the meantime, we find that these outlets have open doors and windows to all coalitions, alliances and personalities that are active in the intellectual and political fields and others, regardless of whether their ideas and methods are extremist or even devious in some instances, which contradicts human nature.**

**I hope after all that outlets pay attention to this serious issue that harms their reputation and their media message before anything else.**

**They should reconsider their policies towards the jihadi movement, because in all circumstances this movement is engraved in the existence of the Islamic ummah. It should in no way be ignored nor should its role be dismissed in the processes of the resurgence of the Ummah.**

**They should respect at least some of their deeply-held principles and values that they believe in, such as the freedom of expression, respect of the other opinion, combating press suppression, and fighting exclusion, and so on.**

**They should be free, truly, when they perform their professional job, away from dictations from government entities that are accustomed to insulting the honourable media which participates in enlightening the public and enriching the world of ideas, methods, and opinions.**

**Once again, thank you Wassim.**

**After this introduction, which is necessary in my opinion, I start by asking Allah to grant me success in responding.**

**The first comment on these questions is that they came in two kinds, one of them regarding the current situation in Algeria, and I will answer these questions first in detail, Allah willing, because they are the topic of the time. I will then answer the other questions, which revolve in general around the issues of jihad in the countries of Sahel and the Sahara. May Allah be the Helper.**

**I start, with the blessings of Allah:**

**Question 1:**

How do you assess the popular activism in Algeria after you called for jihad at the beginning of the year? Do you count on the failure of the Hirak in order to show that the peaceful option is a failure, as is the case in other places you mentioned, or in Algeria itself in the 90s? Or are you in the position of the spectator while insisting that you are not engaged militarily, as you said in your most recent statement regarding the Hirak? And does that mean freezing military activity until matters clear up?

**Response, and success comes from Allah:**

First, let me greet the free Algerian people who astonished the entire world with their strong determination, great tenacity, and their high morals in their ongoing blessed revolution that, during these historic days, is making its way proudly towards reviving the Muslim Algerian ummah anew.

They are truly a great people - great with Islam, Arab identity, history, icons and civilization. They are a people who have been afflicted since the usurped independence by political and financial gangs, which seized power by force, fraud, and deception, and destroyed the religious, cultural, social, and historical constants of the people. The time has come for the people to cast this despicable scum in the trashcan of history, without any regret, and to build in its aftermath a state with solid foundations inspired from the eternal faith of Islam.

I believe that the popular uprising underway in in my country, Algeria, these days is, without a doubt, a pure divine gift that Allah bestowed on these oppressed people, to pull them from the darkness of ignorance, misguidance, and poverty, into the light of Islam, justice, and freedom.

None among the actors on the Algerian scene, parties, associations, or personalities, ever thought the people would rise with all this strength, cohesion, solidarity, and full brotherhood and mercy towards one another.

This uprising is unique. The history of Algeria has never seen its like, even though the Algerian people are known throughout their ancient and modern history for their jihad and numerous revolutions.

It is a people that is known historically for their rebellion against injustice and despotism. They do not like to be debased and do not sleep amid injustice.

We find this nature in the psychology of the Algerian people clearly in the numerous contexts of their resistance witness by Algeria throughout the decades of history, to the point that the Islamic conquest itself entered Algeria in the first 100 years of the honourable Hijrah of the Prophet, at the hands of Uqba bin Nafi and Abu Dinar al-Muhajir, may Allah be pleased with them. He met a strong resistance by the local people, but thanks to Allah, this resistance did not last long. After a short period of time, a great harmony and cohesion took place between the local people and the Muslim conquerors, until Islam become to the Algerian nation like air without which life would not exist.

This rebellious nature continued in the body of the Algerian people until after the departure of the Crusader France invaders from Algeria on 5th of July 1962.

The past sixty years witnessed numerous uprisings and popular revolutions, most famous among them the uprising of October 1988, then the 1992 revolution, the fire of which has not been extinguished even as of today. Then this current uprising followed, and it is not merely a passing uprising, but it has become a massive popular revolution.

The current uprising stands out for two reasons, in addition to its peacefulness, as of this moment, and they are: comprehensiveness and the range. As for the comprehensiveness, all types of people without exception took part in it, men and women, young and old, educated and uneducated, Islamists and non-Islamists. And as for the range, it has spread over all provinces throughout the eastern, western, northern, and southern areas of the country.

This generalness and this spread imparted on this uprising a great strength that forced the real decision-makers, and I mean the senior generals, to submit and listen, even partially, to some of their demands, such as the removal of President Bouteflika, the overthrow of the Ouyahia government, and the imprisonment of numerous personalities who are influential in the political, military, security, and financial spheres, headed by the brother of the president, whose term will soon expire, Said Bouteflika, and the former intelligence chiefs, Lieutenant General Toufik and Major General Tartaq, and the wealthiest men of business and finance in Algeria.

In reality, imprisoning those people, even if it is part of the conflict between elites at the top of the ruling class, which everybody knows, is in fact a strong earthquake on the Algerian scene, and unprecedented. The conflict is still ongoing until the overthrow of the last remaining symbols of criminality, despotism, and corruption among the senior generals who made the Algerian people experience woe after woe for 60 years.

As for the other matter that stands out, and which gave a big impetus to this uprising, is its peacefulness up till now. This gave it acceptance and approval from all strata. It is a normal matter, considering that people who are powerless and do not have weapons with which to defend themselves and their property usually fear wars, because of the death, killing, destruction, and ruin. True is Allah who said: "Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth, and ye know not." [Al-Baqara: 216] As for the Algerian people in particular, the effects of the last 20 years are still engraved with all their pains and sorrows in their collective memory.

As for us, the Mujahideen, we ask Allah, in all honesty and loyalty, to grant our dear people by means of this peaceful revolution an evident conquest, and to accomplish for them their hopes and wishes for change with the least cost. We hope from the bottom of our heart that they retrieve their dignity and freedom without spilling a single drop of blood.

However, these hopes will not be achieved, considering the tyranny, despotism, and oppression by criminal gangs that rule the oppressed Muslim peoples with iron and file. The gangs have proved, through more than one experience, that they will never cede power so easily. Instead, their habit is maneuver, containment, and manipulation. Removing this one and putting another in his place only buys time. Then, when they exhaust all the cards of trickery, malice, and deceit, they resort to the means of oppression, violence, and terrorism.

This is exactly what the enemy of Allah El Sisi did towards our people in Egypt.

It is the very same thing undertaken by the enemy of Allah Gaid Salah these days in terms of maneuvers that have become open and exposed.

In fact, this matter no longer requires proof.

This is on the one hand. On the other, these hopes can not be accomplished considering the tyranny and arrogance of the countries that are hostile to Islam and Muslims, and which are not pleased for Muslim peoples to live in dignity under the umbrella of the kind Islamic Shari'ah.

This is manifest clearly in the words of Allah: "Never will the Jews or the Christians be satisfied with thee unless thou follow their form of religion" [Al-Baqara 120], and His words: "They but wish that ye should reject Faith, as they do, and thus be on the same footing (as they)." [An-Nisa 89]

Because of this and that, you find us holding to the rope of jihad, which we consider to be the only means capable of overthrowing the tyrants on earth, because Allah, who is knowledgeable of the affairs of His creation, knows that nothing counts against those infidels other than combat. "Should He not know,- He that created? and He is the One that understands the finest mysteries (and) is well-acquainted (with them)." [Al-Mulk 14] Allah said: "And fight them on until there is no more Tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah; but if they cease, Let there be no hostility except to those who practise oppression." [Al-Baqara 193] He also said: "And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah altogether and everywhere; but if they cease, verily Allah doth see all that they do." [Al-Anfal 39] There is established proof for that.

Here we mark an important pause. When we say jihad in the Way of Allah is the only means capable of overthrowing the ruling gangs, that does not mean at all that we disregard the other legitimate means. Rather, the armed jihadi solution that we adopt and to which we call is that solution in its general sense which rests on a comprehensive approach that is not limited to military combat activity only. Instead, it includes the areas of radical change of government, political, economic, and cultural and other systems.

Therefore, the rebellious crowds, especially their elites and leaders, must work according to a comprehensive approach that does not exclude armed jihadi activity, because it is legitimate activity that is necessary to defend persons, property, and honour. We find this legitimacy in the texts of the Holy Qur'an and the exalted Sunnah. Even international charters and laws allow pushing away hostility. No aggression in life is greater than that against the religious, historical, and civilizational foundations of a nation or a people.

The first step of this comprehensive approach is to raise awareness among the community that freedom is only obtained through strife and that the faith of Allah, Islam, will not dominate on earth unless its sons sacrifice in its cause their persons, blood, and property.

I believe that after this long explanation it has become clear to you that our adoption of armed jihadi activity does not contradict with our supporting and approving the peaceful revolution of our people. Rather, the two are in harmony and complete one another. If our dear people achieve their hopes for a life in dignity under the rule of Islam by means of this peaceful revolution, then this is what we wish for. And if they fail, they have to be convinced that there is no solution other than the armed jihadi work, the path upon which we proceed. We ask Allah to make us firm for that.

Also, here is an important warning. Since our people are waging a battle to regain their sovereignty, their freedom, and their dignity by peaceful means, we will not be an obstacle before them, and we will not be a cause for their oppression and punishment, because the criminals among the senior generals are awaiting the first opportunity to take revenge by all means of violence against this rebellious people. That does not mean we will abandon armed jihadi activity. That will never be the case until rule in Algeria is for Allah as a reality. "And Allah hath full power and control over His affairs; but most among mankind know it not." [Yusef 21]

## **Question 2:**

What do you consider to be a legitimate target at the level of Algeria? Is the judgment regarding a soldier the same as that regarding an officer and the same as an employee and the same as that on the ruler, just because he is tied to the state system?

### **Response with assistance from Allah:**

To answer this question, my answer will consist of a Shari'ah aspect and a practical aspect. I say:

As for the Shari'ah aspect, two matters have to be differentiated:

First, the rule regarding the employee of the state. We detail this issue and we say: it is of three categories..

The first is those with an infidel message such as the presidency, the parliament, the military and intelligence corps and so on.

The second category is employment, as in the municipalities.

The third category involves permitted functions such as those in the medical and educational fields and so on.

The second matter is targeting, killing, and fighting them. We fight those who fight us and join the lines against us. There is no correlation for us between the one branded an infidel and the one we fight. We may call an infidel one that we do not fight, such as those who avoid us among the apostate and infidel fighters. And we may fight those that we do not call infidel, such as tyrants and aggressors. And Allah is more knowledgeable.

As for those who are proven to have clearly supported the tyrant in such a way that renders them infidels, just like those who fight the Mujahideen with him, this one is from the category of apostasy, even if the person is only a green grocer. But his infidelity is because the quality of apostasy has been proven about him and not about his job.

And from the practical aspect, it is no secret that the Algerian people are controlled since the independence by a criminal gang led by the senior generals who succeeded the rule, one generation after another, until the current generals obtained it. They surrounded themselves just like their ancestors with a bunch of politicians, businessmen, and people of culture and of media. What formed in time from these mafia groups is a gang with deep French ideologies and loyalties. With French support, they managed to seize the means of power (weapons, money, and the media), thus they took full control of the country.'

In reality, the senior generals who make up the army command represented by the Chief of Staff, forces command, regional commanders, and intelligence departments, are the cause of the deep crisis that Algeria has experienced since its independence through today, because they

are the ones who led Algeria since the independence, and especially since the usurping of the will of the people in 1992. They install presidents, ministers, and even the governors. They manage the internal and external affairs of the country. But this scum among the generals whose numbers do not exceed currently 40, would not have been able to control the fate of 46 million Algerians if the members from the various security and military services did not join them.

Therefore, whoever joined the security and military services is an integral part of the corrupt regime that rules the country. They are fully responsible, in terms of Shari'ah and practice, for the crisis the country is going through.

Allow me here to take advantage of this opportunity to renew our call that we addressed to all the members of the security and military services in our recent speech "We Advise You in Allah to Retreat", that you repent to Allah in earnest. Repent for the crimes that you committed against this oppressed people and against its sons the Mujahideen, whom you fought for the past 25 years unjustly and wrongly. Disavow your commanders and cease supporting them. Do not listen to them. Your repentance to Allah and joining your Muslim people are more pleasant to us than fighting you. Whoever repents, Allah will forgive him.

O soldiers and O officers, the Algerian people are waging these days a rare historic epic, hoping to overthrow the gang in order for them to live in dignity and pride, ruled by their sons who are faithful to their Islam and their Ummah. Their revolution has reached the decisive stage. So do not let them down. Do not assist the generals to oppress them anew. Direct your guns towards the generals instead of towards the sons of the Muslim people.

### **Question 3:**

What is the extent of your organizational ties as al-Qaeda, the Council of Notables, and in terms of media with Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam Wal Muslimeen, regardless of the evident pledge? Is there full integration of resources, or is it that the group maintains the freedom of movement and management, and you have a say in the big decisions or not?

### **Response, and may Allah grant success:**

Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam Wal Muslimeen is an integral part of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which is an integral part of the global Organization of al-Qaeda. Jama'at al-Qaeda as a whole, by virtue of its spread from Africa to the Indian Subcontinent on the one hand, and the unjust blockade imposed on our commanders and our troops on the other hand, finds itself obligated to adapt to this hostile reality and to adopt the method of flexible management, which limits itself to identifying the general goal and the guidelines for the strategy of jihadi activity. Details of tactical work on the ground is left to the branches. They design and execute it. It is the same principle used by our branch in the Islamic Maghreb by virtue of our propagation in a number of countries in the region. This method eventually is the one adopted in guerrilla warfare throughout the world in the past and present, and it is the method used by countries when they are in a state of war.

### **Question 4:**

Do the goals of Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam Wal Muslimeen lie within the borders of Mali, and are the operations beyond it in the nearby countries to put pressure on the forces taking part in the war, or is that part of a comprehensive war in the area drawn by the al-Qaeda Command? And what are their Shari'ah limitations?

**Response, and may Allah grant success:**

Jama'at al-Qaeda was established to incite the Islamic Ummah and to sharpen its energies to free every inch of Muslim lands and their usurped sanctities and to restore the well-guided Caliphate according to the prophetic method, and to unite Muslims who are torn apart by the conditions of the powers of global arrogance and destruction. It is the same message of its branches and of every one of its soldiers until Allah grants victory to this faith or we die without that.

Our Muslim people in Mali are suffering from a flagrant direct and hateful Crusader occupation led by Crusader France, the old and new enemy. It has mobilized in order to achieve its interests what it could from its agents and allies. All those are permitted targets to us by virtue of Shari'ah and reason, wherever they are in their country or in our country, until they leave our territory and the alliance with the devil, with France in Mali. Whoever is not like that and remains neutral, we will do the same, whoever it may be, and may Allah grant success.

**Question 5:**

How free are you to choose your battles and their timing according to the mother Organization of al-Qaeda?

**Response, and may Allah grant success:**

The mother Organization of al-Qaeda, as we said in our response to the third question, limits itself to identifying the general goal and the broad lines of every stage according to a comprehensive geo-strategic vision, and it leaves the ground and operational details to the ingenuity of the branches, each according to its circumstances and capabilities.

**Question 6:**

According to the recent statements issued by the leader of al-Qaeda, al-Zawahiri, and a number of statements by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, most importantly that which threatened foreign institutions, it is clear that the area of the conflict will continue to expand to a territory that was somewhat neutral. What is the cause for that? And can we consider this the end of the exception - with the blessing of al-Qaeda - of Mauritania, for example and not exclusive to it, since September 2011?

**Response, and may Allah grant success:**

The cause of that is obvious. It is the ongoing Crusader aggression and its expansion in Muslim territories and their continuous theft of our resources, impoverishment of our people, and starvation of our children, in exposed complicity with the remaining occupiers who are from our own skin, who rule with iron and fire. They oppress every objector to such a systemic theft and impoverishment, instead of listening to the voice of those who would give advice, and instead of putting the interest of their peoples first and before their personal ones.

Our positions and our goals are the same. They have not changed. It is our right by virtue of the laws of earth and heaven, to push out every occupier of our country and every looter of our resources. Also, whoever remains neutral, no matter their name, we still have the same position towards them as long as he remains as such.

Allah said: **"O ye who believe! fulfil (all) obligations."** [Al-Maida 1]

He also said: **"If thou fearest treachery from any group, throw back (their covenant) to them, (so as to be) on equal terms: for Allah loveth not the treacherous."** [Al-Anfal 58]

#### **Question 7:**

You as a branch and al-Qaeda each confirm your targeting France and its interests in Africa. Does that include the workers in French companies, for example, regardless of their nationality and faith, or do you confine yourself to military targets? Is exporting the conflict to France itself valid also? And do you personally or as a council have a say on the issue?

#### **Response, and may Allah grant success:**

France is an unjust occupying country. For centuries it has occupied our territories in direct and indirect ways. It prevents Muslim peoples from practicing their religious rituals and their social customs and traditions on their territories according to the living system they believe in. Moreover, it imposes on us corrupt leaders who are the cause of our underdevelopment, ignorance, and our poverty. It loots our resources without accountability and resorts to invading us and occupying our territory whenever it deems it necessary to continue its greed. It spares none in its invasion, neither a child, nor a weak woman, nor an elderly person.

It is our natural right to defend ourselves and our religious, historic, and civilizational foundations, and to respond to it in kind at the time, place, and circumstance that we want. It is our right to target its colonial arms as a whole: military, economic, and proselytizing, without exception, just as it does to us. This is the law of reciprocity as applied among countries. We will not cease until it ceases its evil first and leaves us to live free on our territories, just as the French and all peoples of the world live freely on their territories.

#### **Question 8:**

Regarding the case of the hostages, and regardless of the obstacles, what makes you keep the old and ill French woman hostage, even though you commended the efforts of her son in the media? My question to you comes in the context of this media choice.

**Response, and may Allah grant success:**

We care more than the French authorities to end the case of the French hostage and other hostages. But the stubbornness of the French government and their disregard for their citizens is the major cause for the delay.

You must not ignore that we too have people imprisoned by the French and their agents, including sick, handicapped, and elderly people, and even minors. There is no strength or might without Allah.

We showed more than once our full readiness to negotiate about the hostages as part of very reasonable conditions and demands. For certain, our demands have been conveyed by means of various channels.

On this occasion, we would like to reiterate to the families of the hostages we hold that impeding the release of your sons and resolution of their case is not because of us.

Here we are again calling on the French government, the French public opinion, and the family of the hostage to hurry to negotiate her release as soon as possible and before it is too late.

**Question 9:**

Do you agree that the idea of expanding the conflict beyond the Sahel came with the blessing of Mokhtar Belmokhtar, who wanted that for a long time? If so, what caused al-Qaeda to reject that then and approve it now?

**Response, and may Allah grant success:**

This opinion is a mere fabrication. The issue of expanding or reducing the conflict is part of the decisive strategies and matters which are only resolved through reference to the higher councils of the group, after deep discussion and study which takes into account the reality on the ground and the circumstances of location and time.

We state to you before that Jama'at al-Qaedat, since its inception under the leadership of Sheikh Usama, may Allah have mercy on him, was established on the basis of liberating every inch of Muslim territories and replacing the apostate agent regimes with a well-guided Islamic rule that is based on Shura and applies justice.

Therefore, the occupation forces are a legitimate target for us all over Muslim territories, until we liberate the last inch of our territories, by permission from Allah. It is also the right of all the occupied peoples of the world to enjoy freedom and to destroy the shackles of occupation.

**Question 10:**

Al-Qaeda talks about the return of wars of ignorance because of the French role, but you know that the said infighting has not stopped for decades in northern Mali, Chad, and the Sahel in general. The various groups of different regions without exception were its fuel. You have experience in that.

**Response, and may Allah grant success:**

When we in al-Qaeda talk about the role of France and its crimes against the African peoples, these words are not based on unproven claims. Rather, they are charges that are based on events as witnessed by reality and history. We do not exaggerate when we say that France is the cause of most of the destruction, ruin, killing and calamities happening in Africa via the "Françafrique" network founded by Jacques Foccart decades ago. It is still sucking the blood of the oppressed African peoples, either through the so-called independence agreements, or by means of leaders who are established by France upon the peoples of the region to rule them with iron and fire, or through its various commercial fronts represented by the occupation companies of pillage such as Total, Areva, and others.

When we accused France of complicity with the Donzo militias that committed the terrifying massacre against our Fulani people, it is that what happened in Ogossagou reminds us of the despicable operations led by Paul Barril and others, who led dirty missions in Rwanda and other areas. These mercenary groups were leading ethnic massacres and nurturing civil wars in various areas of Africa. A French magazine issued a report a few years ago exposing that the genocide that victimized 800 thousand members of the Tutsi tribe by the Hutus in Rwanda on 6th of April 1994, took place with the complicity of senior French officials including the former gendarmerie captain, a close friend of President Mitterrand, Paul Barril, who works currently in the fields of special security and he is still free. This latter provided men and weapons to obliterate the Tutsis with the knowledge of the Élysée Palace. The scandal came out again a year ago after admission by former military officials who worked in Rwanda. They spoke about the incident 20 years later, and not only about complicity but also about their participation and support for this ethnic genocide.

The same excuses provided by the current commander of the Barkhane operation, General Frédéric Blachon, to justify the delay in their intervention in the Ogossagou massacre were provided by the former chief of staff for the Turquoise operation in Rwanda 20 years ago, General Jean-Claude Lafourcade, which left 800 thousand dead who fell in two months, justifying that, as is the case with his current counterpart, with lack of resources.

The issue is no secret to anyone who can see. It is a systematic policy followed by France all over the continent. But the difference today is that considering the modern media capabilities, it is no longer possible to hide all these atrocities when they succeed to hide a lot of it. The most recent of them happened not long ago. It was the scandal of the French mercenaries in the lines of the war criminal Haftar. After the siege, they wanted to withdraw to Tunisia by land and sea with their weapons, on a fast boat and diplomatic vehicles. They were caught by the Tunisian border guards. Then discussion leaked about punishing those who arrested them and denied them entry with their weapons.

So what France is doing in Mali now is similar to what it did in Rwanda. Those massacres started with small operations and then expanded to a full war and a ethnic genocide between the Hutus and the Tutsis.

But in the world today, by the grace of Allah and then by the grace of the mujahideen - the first line of the defense of their Ummah and their faith - we no longer need another 20 years to find out about this filthy French role in the region. Instead, the Mujahideen work to reveal it and expose it to the world through their statements, publications, and speeches by their leaders.

As for the existence of these ethnic conflicts in the past, for decades, this is true, but they were not to the level of this viciousness and atrocity. In the past, incidents such as these happened, but it was easy to stop them and reconcile the parties. However, after the direct French occupation of Mali, that became difficult, because of the presence of the French who did not stop the massacres despite their ability to do so. Instead, they gave their blessings or they turned a blind eye in the best circumstances. They may have provided secret support, as well. The truth will be exposed someday, by permission from Allah.

**Question 11:**

How do you describe the relationship between al-Walid al-Sahrawi in particular and those who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in general in your areas of activity? Do you think that confrontation is inevitable, as in Yemen?

**Response, and may Allah grant success:**

We believe that it is time for the leaders of jihad to hold themselves to account and to review the march of general jihad at least since the beginning of the first wave from the Arab Spring, 2011, to mend the discord, to correct the mistakes, and to instill the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation, piety and devotion in a way that pleases our Lord, and what the Muslims in general are expecting of us, and we especially mention our elders, our youths, and brothers who are held in the prisons of oppression. They are harmed by the fragmentation and disagreement among the Mujahideen and the unity of their enemies, at a time when the nations of infidelity have agreed to eradicate them. We believe that those who have offered themselves cheaply to support this faith and defend Muslims will really seek more than others to unify the word of Muslims, especially after they have seen the mistakes that led to the division of Muslim lines and the weakening of their word in numerous countries. We hope they will return to their brothers and that they will be support and help to us along this path.

**Question 12:**

As one of the most important branches of al-Qaeda, are you still in touch or do you seek out areas where the Islamic state group got empowered as in Sinai or the Chad lake?

**Response, and may Allah grant success:**

I believe that the descriptive word "empowerment" is not accurate, and it is somewhat exaggerated. The presence of the state in these places is no more than the presence of guerrilla warfare. We in al-Qaeda will continue according to our strategy whenever it is possible, and may Allah grant success.

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**In conclusion, I hope to have answered in some detail the questions of the journalist Wassim Nasr. I thank him again and I wish him success and guidance in his work and media activities.**

**Greetings.**

**With the Greetings of your Brothers in**



**Al-Andalus Foundation for Media Productions**

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