



25 September 2006

Letter Exposes New Leader in Al-Qa`ida High Command

On 7 June 2006, American military forces executed an air strike on an al-Qa`ida safe-house near Baqouba, Iraq, killing Abu Mus`ab al-Zarqawi, al-Qa`ida's commander in Iraq. U.S. and Iraqi forces subsequently acquired numerous documents from that safe-house. On 18 September 2006, the Iraqi National Security Advisor, Muwaffaq al-Rabi`i, released one of those documents to Iraqi media. As part of an ongoing collaboration with the Center for the Study of Islamic Political Thought, we have translated the document into English. The document is a letter from a new leader in the al-Qa`ida High Command to the members of the al-Qa`ida High Command. The letter is dated 18 September 2006.

day had half of the number of operations, that is not a problem, or even less than that. So, do not be hasty. The most important thing is that the jihad continues with steadfastness and firm rooting, and that it grows in terms of supporters, strength, clarity of justification, and visible proof each day. Indeed, **prolonging the war is in our interest**, with God's permission. The best acts are those that last, however few they may be, provided that we guard against mistakes building up and that we have integration in the jihadist enterprise. The only thing that you have to fear is yourselves and your own mistakes, not your enemy. By God, your enemy will never defeat you as long as you are patient and steadfast, not having caused damage that is great or frequent; and you seek help in God. It is the grace of God and the grace of the Supporter, and the Almighty will not neglect us. "Now surely the help of God is nigh".

My dear, beloved, faithful brother waging jihad, may God protect you and watch over you and support you and strengthen you. Here I have come to a close concerning what ideas and advice had come to me at this time. I am sorry for going a bit long on you, and