

PolicyWatch #1804

## On the Record: Mourning Usama bin Laden

May 4, 2011

*The following is a sampling of reactions from various Islamist leaders, commentators, and organizations following the death of Usama bin Laden.*

### **Lashkar-e-Taiba (Pakistani Militant Group)**

"Usama bin Laden was a great person who awakened the Muslim world...Martyrdoms are not losses, but are a matter of pride for Muslims...Usama bin Laden has rendered great sacrifices for Islam and Muslims, and these will always be remembered."

-- Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, leader of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Lashkar-e-Taiba's charitable front, Reuters, May 3, 2011.

### **Jihadists/Al-Qaeda**

"Congratulations, Usama...Woe, Obama...And woe to the traitors of Pakistan."

-- Hani al-Sibai, senior member of Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Jihadology.net, May 2, 2011.

"To the Lion Sheikh Usama bin Laden, God have mercy."

-- Hamid bin Abdullah al-Ali, radical Kuwaiti cleric, Jihadology.net, May 2, 2011.

"This news has been a catastrophe for us. At first we did not believe it, but we got in touch with our brothers in Pakistan who have confirmed it."

-- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula member, Agence France-Presse, May 2, 2011.

"Al-Qaeda didn't die with him. Jihad will not be dampened just because he's dead, because jihad is a command of the religion, not of individuals."

-- Spokesman for Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid (formerly Jemaah Islamiyah, the banned group responsible for the 2002 Bali bombings), Agence France-Presse, May 3, 2011.

### **Hamas/Palestinian**

"We condemn the assassination and the killing of an Arab holy warrior...We regard this as a continuation of the American policy based on oppression and the shedding of Muslim and Arab blood."

-- Ismail Haniyeh, senior Hamas political leader, *Los Angeles Times*, May 2, 2011.

"[The killing of bin Laden is] state terrorism that America carries out against Muslims...[The United States] harmed itself by provoking Islam and Muslims."

-- Ismail al-Ashqar, Hamas lawmaker, *New York Times*, May 2, 2011.

"[Anyone killed while fighting] the American occupation and the Israeli occupation [is] a martyr, regardless of who he was...We consider them our brothers in this case."

-- Yehia Moussa, human rights representative in the Hamas parliamentary bloc, *New York Times*, May 3,

2011.

"The Western dogs are rejoicing after killing one of our Islamic lions. From al-Aqsa Mosque, where the future caliphate will originate with the help of God, we say to them -- the dogs will not rejoice too much for killing the lions. The dogs will remain dogs and the lion, even if he is dead, will remain a lion."

-- Imam at the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, [YouTube](#), May 2, 2011.

## **Taliban**

"Now Pakistani rulers, president Zardari and the army will be our first targets. America will be our second target."

-- Ahsanullah Ahsan, spokesman for Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (group of Pakistani Taliban affiliates) Reuters, May 2, 2011.

"We are proud [of] the martyrdom of Usama...We shall definitely take revenge [on] America as well as Pakistan, as they aided Americans in this operation. All the government functionaries are on our hit list. We shall never spare any one of them...We already have our people in America, and we are sending more there."

-- Ahsanullah Ahsan, CNN, May 3, 2011.

## **Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood**

"[The group] is against violence in general, against assassinations, and in favor of fair trials."

-- Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood statement, Associated Press, May 2, 2011.

"[The Muslim Brotherhood supports] legitimate resistance against foreign occupation for any country, which is the legitimate right guaranteed by divine laws and international agreements."

-- Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood statement, *The Atlantic*, May 3, 2011.

"Islam is not bin Laden."

-- Mahmoud Ezzat, deputy supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, Agence France-Presse, May 2, 2011.

"I ask Allah to have mercy upon Usama Bin Laden, to treat him generously, to enlighten his grave, and to make him join the prophets, the martyrs, and the good people."

-- Kemal Helbawy, Britain-based Muslim Brotherhood leader, OnIslam.net, May 2, 2011.

## **Iran**

"We hope that this development will end war, conflict, unrest, and the death of innocent people, and help to establish peace and tranquility in the region...This development clearly shows that there is no need for a major military deployment to counter one individual...Iran, as one of the main victims of terrorism, strongly condemns any act of terror in the world including organized terrorism in the Zionist regime [of Israel]."

-- Ramin Mehmanparast, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, *Washington Times*, May 2, 2011.

*Compiled by Washington Institute research assistant Sam Cutler and interns Divah Alshawa and Mark Donig.*

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