



## BRIEFINGS

July 25, 2008

### Al-Qaeda's Leader in Afghanistan Speaks out



In a rare interview, conducted by the Pakistani TV station "GEO", Al-Qaeda leader in Afghanistan, *Mustapha abu Al-Yazid*,<sup>1</sup> indicated that the person responsible for the suicide attack against the Danish embassy last month came from Saudi Arabia, but did not specify if the perpetrator was a Saudi citizen. He did state, however that he was recruited in Mekkah. During the interview, *abu Al-Yazid* acknowledged his role in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack and admonished Pakistani President Musharraf for having "betrayed Islam by siding with the United States."

Source: Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper –reporter: 'Umar Farouq from Islamabad, July 23, 2008

URL: <http://www.asharqalawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=479897&issueno=10830>

### Islamic Writer *Huweidi* Condemns Coptic Bishop's Declaration: "Copts are not Arabs"



Islamic writer *Fahmy Huweidi* condemned Coptic Bishop *Thomas* for stating during a lecture delivered last week at the Hudson Institute that Copts, the Christian minority in Egypt of which he is a member, do not consider themselves Arabs. The bishop explained that the word



"Copt" derives from the Greek word for "Egyptian". Historically, the word Copt referred to pre-Islamic Egyptians, which were not an Arab culture, and their descendents. The bishop was also critical of what he termed the "Islamization" and "Arabization" of Egypt that has taken place over the centuries. In response, *Huweidi* demanded that the Bishop retract his statement and correct his mistakes, but declined to explain what those mistakes were. *Huweidi* also questioned in whose name the bishop made his statements and why those he labeled as "the Copts' Wise men" did not refute the bishop's words.

Source: Egypt Window – July 22, 2008 –

URL: <http://www.egyptwindow.net/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=9622>

<sup>1</sup> *Mustapha abu-Alyazid*, also known as *Sheikh "Sa'id"*, is an Egyptian who is and has been in Afghanistan since 1988. He is known to have arranged the money transfer to finance the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack, under instructions from Bin Laden, even though he was alleged in the past to be, as a follower of Mullah 'Umar, opposed to the operation.

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