

# The Islamic Truth



## INTERVIEWS WITH CAPTURED RUSSIAN PRISONERS AND WITH FRONT LINE MUJAHIDEEN LEADERSHIP.

*What is really happening in Chechnya? And what should we as Muslims be doing while living in Britain?*

## INTERVIEWS

From Grozny, Chechnya, 23 November 1999.

Transcripts of video-filmed interviews with captured Russian soldiers, amongst them officers and amongst them ordinary soldiers. Some of them gave themselves up whilst others were captured. The video of the interviews will be released on this web-site very soon insha-Allah. These prisoners are from different military sections stationed both inside Chechnya and outside it along its borders.

Amongst them are those that work for External Military Intelligence and amongst them are those that work for the Special Air Forces. All of their interviews were carried out by the Mujahideen leadership, amongst them Field Commander Khattab, Commander Abu Zar and Commander Ismail. We have disclosed the Military Number of the prisoner at the start, for credibility of these

reports only, so that anyone can independently verify this information.

### 23 Nov 1999 Russian Prisoner No. 1: Alex Calcun, ID No. 466-1571, First Officer in Intelligence and Reconnaissance, 92-154 Division

**Question 1:** Identify yourself

**Answer 1:** First Officer in the Russian Military Intelligence. Originally Russian. I was born in Ukraine. My age is 49 years old, married, with one son. I am an assistant to a Corps Commander in Reconnaissance Forces in the 92-154 Brigade. My name is Alex Calcun and my identification number is 466-1571.

**Question 2:** How were you captured?

**Answer 2:** I was captured inside the Chechen Republic in the Tereek Province, near to the city of Baniport, by the Chechen Border Patrol. There were three of us who left in three military trucks to the Chechen border. There was our head, who was a Corps Commander, myself and my friend, a First Officer. We were met by a civilian car driven by a Chechen named Abdul-Laeef, one of the agents of the Russian Intelligence. We entered Chechnya and on the way we were stopped by armed Chechens. They questioned us in the Chechen language and as we were unable to reply to them, they took us out of the car and we were placed in captivity.

**Question 3:** What were the operations or targets that you were tasked with?

**Answer 3:** Our target was to establish a base in this border town of Baniport in order to get to know the roads and the area in general. We had sub-machine-guns in our cases and handguns fitted with silencers. We had to prepare a reconnaissance position for another group comprising seven men equipped with everything from explosives materials, directional mines and range-finding equipment. Our objective was to distribute mines on the roads used by the Mujahideen and the roads used by the refugee convoys. The reason behind these actions was to instil fear and terror into the people prior to the invasion of the Russian forces. (When asked about the reason behind hitting the refugee convoys, he replied that they would blame the Mujahideen for that. This in turn would create problems between the Mujahideen and the common people, helping the Russian Media to portray the Mujahideen as killers and bandits.) After that we were to return by car, or if we had any problems, to meet up at a rendez-vous point and then to radio for a helicopter to pick us up.

**Question 4:** Is there a new strategy of the Russian forces in their second war against the Mujahideen

after the first war? What are the objectives of the Russian forces in this war?

**Answer 4:** I do not know but I do know that we have failed so far.

**Question 5:** What is your opinion on the state of the Russian Army?

**Answer 5:** The morale of the Russian Army is very low indeed because most of the people know that it is an unjust war and they know what the outcome of this war will be. The majority have seen that the ones worse affected by this war are the children, women, old men and ordinary people. The evidence for this is that hitting refugee convoys is one of our objectives. The politics in Moscow behind this war is not just. It is the Russians who are fighting inside Chechnya, not the Chechens who are fighting inside Russia.

**Question 6:** What is your opinion about the morale of the Mujahideen in Chechnya?

**Answer 6:** These people are the ones who will win this war, because they are defending their belief, their religion, their honour and their homeland. As for us, we do not have a cause to fight for.

**Question 7:** What are the reasons behind this war against the Chechen Republic?

**Answer 7:** The reasons are clear: the Generals and the politicians are struggling for rank, status and money and they do not see the poor state of the soldiers with their lack of food supplies and in the extreme cold. This war has no meaning to it at all.

**Question 8:** Who do you think will be victorious or gain the upper hand in this war?

**Answer 8:** We will leave Chechnya quickly and soon.

**Question 9:** What do you wish to say to the Russian Government and to the Russian Military Leadership?

**Answer 9:** To Russia I say that it must end this war before it leads to the disintegration of Russia and solve the problem of Chechnya. Or it must grant independence to Chechnya because the Mujahideen and the Chechen people are well-versed and experienced in war-fare and they are intent on fighting to the very end.

21 Nov. 1999:

### Exclusive Interview with Field Commander Shamil Basayev

**Question 1:** What is the current situation with respect to the Chechen Mujahideen forces in the wake of the Russian offensives in the area?

**Answer 1:** Today, the situation of the Mujahideen is excellent. The Russians are present in the open areas of Chechnya and they have suffered devastating losses. They have lost about 155 military vehicles, about 2000 dead, 12 fighter jets and 7 helicopters have been shot down. However, we believe that the real fighting has yet to begin as there has not yet been any face-to-face battles. We are allowing the Russians to enter deeper and deeper into Chechnya, and then we will cut off all avenues of escape for them and finish off their military sections in Chechnya, one by one, insha-Allah.

**Question 2:** Looking at your withdrawal from Dagestan into Chechnya, it seems like the reason was to draw Chechnya into a new war. Therefore, what is the nature of the relationship between you and the Government in Dagestan? Did you receive any help from the Chechen President Aslan Mashkadov?

**Answer 2:** We did not invade Dagestan. Rather, we went there in order to help our Muslim brothers in Dagestan whilst the Russians were killing them mercilessly. Dagestan is our nation and it belongs to both the Chechens and the Dagestanis. Russian separated us by force and we will unite by force insha-Allah. Our relationship with the puppet Government in Dagestan is that we consider them as our enemies. We never received any help from Aslan Mashkadov, but neither did he ever make obstacles in our path.



*This is a view of a typical town or city in Chechnya. The Russians are bombarding innocent civilians indiscriminately. This under the watchful eye of the 60 cartoonic Muslim states. May Allah(swt) destroy those forces who are stopping our Muslim militaries from intervening.*

**Question 3:** What do you have to say about the silence and inaction of the Arab and Muslim countries regarding the crimes that are being committed against Chechnya?

**Answer 3:** The leaders of the Muslim and Arab countries have either forgotten or they are unaware that all power and strength lies in the Hands of Allah (SWT). For this reason, they are afraid of Russia. Rather, some of them are even hoping and wishing to get closer to Russia. We only feel sorry for them as insha-Allah we will destroy Russia and free them from this fear. However, we do acknowledge and realise the help that the Muslims are giving us, and we say to them, "May Allah reward you with the best reward." We respect their support for us, and the biggest help that they can give us is with their prayers and supplications.

**Question 4:** What are the sources of your supplies and weapons? How do arms and ammunition reach you? And what is your opinion about the rumors that the Saudi exile Usama bin Ladin is one of your financial sponsors?

**Answer 4:** Our sources of arms and supplies are all from the Russian Army. Most of them are previously captured spoils of war and others we bought from them. Even now, we are buying arms and supplies from them if we find the resources and the funds to do so. As for Usama bin Ladin, he is not one of our financial sponsors and neither do I know him. However, I would love to meet him especially after all this propaganda about him.

**Question 5:** Are there any fighters with you from outside the Caucasus region? What do you say about the reports that indicate the presence of volunteers from Muslim nations, especially from Jordanian-Chechens?

**Answer 5:** Yes, we do have Mujahideen, but not from outside, because the Islamic nation is one nation that belongs to all the Muslims. We have one common purpose, which is to expel the Russian forces and to create an Islamic State for all our brothers insha-Allah.

**Question 6:** You are labelled with spreading the Wahabi thought in the Caucasus region. What do you have to say about that?

**Answer 6:** Our Deen (way of life) is Islam. We follow the Quran and the Sunnah and we try to flee from division and dissension. We do not differentiate between the Muslims according to the nicknames and labels that the disbelievers have placed on them. There are four standard Islamic schools of thought in the Chechen Republic, much the same as the rest of the Muslim world. However, the term 'Wahabis' was introduced by the Russians in order to divide the Muslims who live according to the Shariah of Allah. The most important thing is that the term 'Wahabi' does not concern any of the Muslims; it is only a matter of concern to the Russians.

**Question 7:** Do you think that your power matches that of the Russian military machine?

**Answer 7:** Yes, with the Permission of Allah. Had it not been for our trust and Iman (faith) in Allah, we would never have been able to undertake Jihad. Allah says in the Quran "And do not despair and call to peace when you are in a more superior position..."[Quran 47:35]

**Question 8:** What are your thoughts at present? Do you see any short-term solution to solve the crisis of the War in Chechnya?

**Answer 8:** We only see the solution to the crisis of Chechnya with what agrees with the Islamic Shariah. In 1996, a solution to the problem was found not in accordance with the Shariah, which is why the war began a second time.

**Question 9:** With regards to the Chechen refugees, what is their present state? Do you not think that your actions went over the top and led to the worsening of the plight of the refugees, until it became an Islamic catastrophe?

**Answer 9:** Ordinary people are always the worst hit by War. The Chechens know that Allah is testing them. We will continue to struggle as we strengthen our Iman and know that our killed ones are in Paradise and the future is for Islam. And peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allah.



*Muslim's displaced once again by Russian forces. Innocent men, women and children are their planned target. Where are the Muslim armies stationed all over the muslim world? Why are they sleeping?*

## 20 Nov. 1999: Exclusive Interview with Field Commander Ibn-ul-Khattab

**Question 1:** Some people are of the opinion that you are terrorists and rebels, whilst others are of the opinion that you are standing up for an Islamic and humanitarian cause. What is your reply to that?

**Answer 1:** These opinions and labels do not concern us one little bit. We are fully aware of our obligation and our target. We are faced with an Islamic obligation before a humanitarian concern and this obligation is to come to the support of our Muslim brothers in every place, in person and with wealth, as Allah (SWT) said: "And if they ask you for assistance in the religion, then you must go to their aid..." [Quran 8:72].

**Question 2:** What do you think about the rumours that the Chechen fighters and their helpers are on one side and the Chechen people on another? And why are the Chechen people looking to the Russians and the outside world to help them from this calamity?

**Answer 2:** Praise be to Allah that the majority are certain of the victory from Allah and yearning for martyrdom in the Path of Allah. The Caucasian people are fully aware of who the Russian forces are and who the Russian people are. As for the ordinary people, there is no doubt that they do not want war. They are either looking towards the Russians being enemies who hate them and have destroyed their houses and killed their children. Or they are looking to the West to come to their aid.

**Question 3:** What is your opinion about the Russian Army? What about the Russian soldier on the battlefield?

**Answer 3:** Perhaps this question should be asked to the Russian prisoners who surrendered themselves to us. They are present with us now and they will tell to you that the soldiers are in a very bad state and about the rough dealings of the Russian officers towards them. It is a fact that any army that fights without a target and without an ideology or belief, they will have nothing to fight for.

**Question 4:** How do you perceive the state of the Western and Muslim countries?

**Answer 4:** As for the Western countries, they do not act except when it is in their interests and neither do they condemn the Russians much during their oppression of the Muslims. The previous affairs of the Muslims (Bosnia, Kosova, etc.) bear witness to that. As for the Muslim countries, especially the Arab countries, then I am sorry to say that their stance is nothing except fighting against those Muslims who stood by their Muslim brothers in the previous calamities to befall the Muslims.

**Question 5:** What is the current situation from a military point of view? What is the reality of the Chechens giving up their land? And what do you think the final outcome will be?

**Answer 5:** The Russian forces are entering the Chechen Republic from three principal directions: West, East and North. The Russian forces have used a new strategy in their encirclement of several principal towns before they enter them. As for our expectations, then it is possible for the Russians to enter Chechnya but it is impossible for them to remain there. The end of Russia will be in the land of the Caucasus, with the Permission of Allah.

**Question 6:** Do you need any support? What support in particular do you need?

**Answer 6:** The Chechen Republic has been surrounded from all sides. However, the Russian Army is prepared to sell everything for a price. As for previous affairs of the Muslims, one would always find Islamic charities and organisations present. I am sorry to say that there is not a SINGLE Islamic charity or organisation active inside Chechnya at present. Only the Red Cross is present in the Chechen towns and cities. Therefore, we advise the Muslims and the Muslim countries to take a sincere stand with the Mujahideen in the land of the Caucasus.

The Muslim and Arab world is under the grip and influence of the deceiving and lying Western media. Therefore the Muslims are under the impression that the situation is that of an internal Russian affair. The situation demands that the sincere Muslims in the Muslim World stand by their Mujahideen brothers in the land of the Caucasus. Previously, the Muslim World, in particular the Arab countries, were not able to help the Mujahideen in the land of the Caucasus due to the difficulties in finding out the reality of the situation. As for now, however, the Muslim World and others besides them know full well what is happening in the land of the Caucasus.

**Question 7:** Has the cutting off of gas and electricity had an effect on the sick, wounded, children



*Pakistan Armed Forces: Impressive kit, but cleaning their guns in their barracks and praying is not going to stop the Kufri Armies killing our Muslim brothers and sisters in neighboring Kashmir and Chechnya?*

and women?

**Answer 7:** There is no doubt that this has affected the children and the women. However, Praise be to Allah that the land of Chechnya is a land rich in oil and mineral resources. I say that the Russians did not cut off electricity and gas in the 1994-96 war. This is evidence that the Russian Government wishes to obliterate all the Chechens as a race and not only the Mujahideen as they are claiming in the media.

**Question 8:** Do you have a last word or an appeal, and to whom do you direct this?

**Answer 8:** I direct this appeal to the Muslim World and in particular, the scholars and the generous Muslims.

*"I say that the Caucasian people are honest in their religion and their return to Allah (SWT). The Western World is supporting Russia to wage war against the Muslims once again, even if they are claiming the opposite to that. The offensives that the Russian forces undertook (such as in Dagestan) were against towns that announced the implementation of the Islamic Shariah. Indeed this is Christian war and crusade against Islam and its people and it is an obligation upon the Muslims, especially the great scholars, to support their Mujahideen brothers in the land of the Caucasus."*

And Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP JIHAD AND THE MUJAHIDEEN ?

### Fighting in the Jihad and visiting the battlefronts

Obviously the best way of helping Jihad and the Mujahideen is by actually going to the lands of Jihad and physically fighting. This is the only action that lifts a person from the punishments mentioned in the following Ahadeeth: *"Whoever dies and did not fight in battle, nor did he have the sincere wish to fight in battle, dies on a branch of hypocrisy."* [Muslim] It is essential to note that the sincere who wish to fight in battle must be backed up and proven by training for Jihad, together with the saving of money to spend on it. Merely sitting back, making dua and having wishful thoughts does not match this wish. *"Whoever meets Allah without any mark of Jihad on him, meets Allah with a defect."* [Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah] Any Muslim who sincerely wished the supremacy of Islam on this earth must be prepared to give his blood for it. People of other faiths and ideologies are ready to sacrifice their lives but the Muslims are victims of the two diseases mentioned by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in a long hadith describing the last days, *"Love of this life and hatred of death."* [Abu Dawud]

It is believed that if a person is sincere in his heart to Allah and sincerely makes dua to Allah, then Allah will open the way for him to the Land of Jihad and the Mujahideen. In the same way that a determined businessman can travel to Outer Mongolia to clinch a business deal, can an educated person find out how to get to e.g. Bosnia, Afghanistan or Eritrea?

### Raising, collecting and donating money

The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said in an authentic Hadith that *"Whoever equips a fighter has taken part in the fighting (i.e. in terms of his reward, but not as an excuse if the concerned person is a brother)"* [Bukhari]. Around the Muslim world, the Jihad is being entirely funded by donations from individuals. It is not the amount that is given but the sincerity of the person who gives it. We have seen in some cases that thousands of pounds donated by certain people has been finished very quickly, whereas only £10 given by other people has lasted a very long time. Indeed Allah says in the Quran, *"It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is piety from you that reaches Him."* [22:37] in reference to the animals that are sacrificed for the Sake of Allah.

Therefore the first and most important thing that Muslims can do in the West is to donate money and to raise it amongst their families, friends and others. In the UK today, millions of pounds is spent on building and refurbishing large beautiful mosques, whereas the Muslims are still getting further away from their Deen and fewer and fewer people are attending these mosques. Jihad is a profitable investment that pays handsome dividends. For someone who is not able to fight at this moment in time due to a valid excuse they can start by the collection and donation of funds.

**All major scholars of the world today are agreed today that to give Zakah to the Mujahideen is one of the best forms of Zakah.** Muslims in the West give hundreds of thousands of pounds of Zakah money every year to relief organisations, many of which take a healthy cut for unnecessary administrative expenditure [This is of course not allowed since the tax collectors are appointed by the Khileefah and in the absence of the Khilafah only sincere individuals or groups can collect 100% of the Zakah and distribute 100% of it to those categories which have been mentioned in the verse [EMQ 9:60] to the genuine collectors i.e. *Al-'aamileen A'lyha*. Groups or individuals who collect Zakah and use any of it are illegitimate. Many organisations in the UK such as Muslim Aid, Islamic Relief fall into this category - see insert]. To cite an example of priorities, once Ibn Taymiyyah (a very famous scholar who lived in the 13th Century Christian Era) was asked by some people who had the choice between donating their money to either the starving refugees or the Mujahideen. His reply was, "If you do not give it to the starving refugees, then you risk losing these refugees who may die by the Will of Allah. However, if you do not give it to the Mujahideen, then you risk losing not only those Mujahideen, but the refugees they are protecting AS WELL and the Deen of Islam." [Fatawaa'\_Al-Kubara'\_4/608] Because Mujahideen fight for the supremacy and existence of Islam on this Earth, if they were not there, then there would be no more Muslims left as they would all have been killed by the enemies of Islam.

Sheikh Abdullah Azzam was once asked, "Is the Jihad in need of men?". He replied, "The Jihad is in need of money and MEN are in need of Jihad." It is also encouraged for the Muslims to indulge in trade and enterprise in order to generate funds for the Jihad around the world.

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Azzam Publications would also like to inform the Muslims anywhere in the world, that before they part with their money to people who claim to be collecting for 'Mujahideen', they must satisfy four criteria in their minds first: [(1) Has this person actually been on Jihad himself, if so, where and for how long? (2) If this person has not been, is he passing on the money to someone who has physically been on Jihad? (3) Is this person in direct contact with the Mujahideen of the country in whose name he is collecting? (4) Is he prepared to have his references verified from the Ameer of the Jihad in any particular place? Is he in a position to produce written evidence from the Ameer of the Jihad in any particular land as an authority to collect funds on their behalf?] It is unfortunate that there are a number of people who collect under the name of the Jihad but very little, if any, of this money actually reaches the Mujahideen.

### Increasing their knowledge in ALL aspects of Islam and acting upon it

The foremost reason for the failure of the Muslim communities to support and be involved in Jihad is their ignorance of the general obligations required from them as a Muslim. If someone, for example, finds it very difficult to pray five times a day, then this person will have extreme difficulties in the land of Jihad. One who finds it difficult to leave his warm bed in the morning and go to the mosque for the Fajr prayer will have extreme difficulties in leaving his family and luxurious life to travel to the land of Jihad. Jihad is one of the many duties of Islam, and it is the most difficult. One who finds it difficult to practise the easy and small parts of Islam, will inevitably find himself unable to practise the hardest and topmost part, Jihad. The Prophet (SAW) said, *"The peak of the matter is Islam, its pillar is Salah and its topmost part is Jihad."* [Ahmad, Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah]

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