An Open Message to King Fahd
Osama bin Laden
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On their behalf:
Usamah bin Muhammad bin Ladin
An Open Message to King Fahd

On the occasion of the last ministerial shuffle
(TN: This phrase probably means changes or reform within the cabinet or ministry).

Praise to Allah and peace and prayers upon the messenger of Allah and his followers and all who follow his guidance.

To King of Najad and al-Hijaz, Fahd bin (‘Abd-al-‘Aziz), peace be upon those that follow the guidance. This is an open message that we are sending you, away from the kingly courtesies and titles of glorification. This is a frank expression to you of some of the things that we can release about the grave matters that you and those around you have committed against the entitlements to Allah, his religion, his creatures, his country, his holy places, and his nation. We will write to you with clarity and truthfulness in this statement, in the hope that we will pierce the veil with which you have surrounded yourself so that you do not have to listen to the truth. We also hope to break through the wall that you have built around yourself that stops the truth from getting to you.

Oh King: the reason for this message is to address the ways in which you and your influential princes have deceived the people and attempted to play with their minds. You sought to absorb their anger against you and their resentment for your rule by establishing marginal and deceptive reforms, which were nothing more than temporary sedatives for the people’s anger and temporary tranquilizers for their resentment. One of the things you accomplished was the establishment of an advisory council, which the nation had awaited for the longest time. But the people’s hopes were dashed when the council was born dead. In addition, the most recent ministerial shuffle that you performed was marginal. It did not touch the tip of the ailment or the root of the affliction which is you, your ministers of defense and interior, the Prince of Riyadh, and the likes of you.

The reason for this important message will not push us to overlook the true reason for our disagreement with you and the basis of the conflict with your regime. The essence of the conflict and its basis is not what springs to mind when you consider the injustices against the believers and how you curbed the rights of religious scholars, preachers, reformers, merchants, and tribal Shaykhs. You worked to spread this injustice during your regime, and you allowed it to continue after that. You generally exposed the nation to insults on its dignity. You desecrated its holy
places, plundered its wealth, and looted its riches. Also during the reign, bribes and commissions became common practice. Favoritism, administrative corruption, and moral corruption have become widespread. You led the nation to an incredible economic decline that drove it to the brink of bankruptcy. We shall review some of these important matters later, after we reveal the essence of our disagreement with you. The basis of the problem is that you and your regime strayed from the requisites of monotheism and its obligations. We are going to release a research paper very soon—Allah willing—that will address the issue of your deviation in more detail. In this message, we will summarize only two aspects of the issue:

Firstly: Your regime changed what was sent down by Allah and your legislation of it.

The text of the Quran, the Sunna, and the sayings of the nation’s scholars all say that anyone who legislates human laws that are contrary to the laws of Allah is an infidel and is outside the faith.

(TN: The next several paragraphs are references to and interpretations of the Quran. The discussion can be summarized by saying that the rulers of Islamic states must rule by the laws of Allah, and not by the laws of man. If the rulers do not follow this maxim, then they are infidels and are outside the Muslim faith. They should be fought until they return to the laws of Allah).

Such proofs from the revelation are correct and frankly communicated by scholars towards the area of dispute. These proofs sever the differences, silence the argument, and mute the stubbornness. We could have found more proofs and communiqués, because this topic forms the main subject in the entire holy Quran, but we did not want to belabor the point. We think that what we have mentioned is sufficient for one who has a heart or for a person who listens and is a witness.

What remains is that we must remind you that you and your regime are practicing the arbitration of these infidel laws, and you are breaking the legitimate laws of Allah. A normal person—apart from a scrutinizing researcher—would not have any problem proving that you and your regime have legislated and governed by positive law and that the people are bound by them. A quick look at the bulletin boards of trade courts and the infidel laws (laws that legalize and allow interest in bank transactions, labor laws, laws of the Arab Saudi Army, and others) confirms the extent to which these infidel laws have expanded and gained influence in the interior of the country.

The memorandum of advice mentions that there are several legal centers that attempt to arbitrate between those who are using the positivist laws, which lead to the decay of both the country and its faithful people from the inside, and those who govern the land in its foreign relations. One example is the role these legal centers take in arbitrating disputes between the states of the Gulf council of cooperation. The legal groups facilitate resolution between the council members and its head, the state of the confessor (Saudi Arabia). These legal committees are the positivist and infidel associations, without a doubt. They issue statements delineating their sources and their laws. For example, in the ninth article of the basic system, it says “The body issues its recommendations and fatwahs (TN: legal decisions) according to the following: 1)-the basic laws of the council of cooperation, 2)-international law, 3)-world conventions, and 4)-principles.
of the Islamic Shari’a.” It goes on to say that it forwards its decisions to the higher council to take appropriate action as it sees fit. What mockery to the religion of Allah and what contempt to his Shari’a?

Did you not have enough godlessness and error? You placed Allah’s heavenly Shari’a and his Quranic laws at the bottom of your list of sources for your arbitration. You placed the scum of human positivist thoughts, the customs and traditions of the pre-Islamic epoch, and the laws of infidel judicial systems above the Shari’a. You placed all of this at the mercy of your high council so that it could take from it whatever it pleases.

What would the protectors of the religion, the guardians of the faith, and the preachers on monotheism say if they had to go before a judge of such bodies and courts, oh servant of the Two Holy Mosques?

The answer is as clear as the four o’clock sun, not loitering, no stuttering, no flattery. As we have pointed before, this is a revelation of disbelief (in Allah) and expulsion from the faith, as proved by the writers, the Sunna, and the entire nation of Islam. Here are some of the fatwas from learned scholars that prove the existence of such laws and how they can be implemented in accordance with the Shari’a.

Shaykh Muhammad bin-((Ibrahim))—may Allah rest his soul—wrote a message about the laws of the trade courts. It was addressed to the Prince of Riyadh of his time, and he left a copy entitled “The System of the Trade Court in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.” We studied almost half of it and discovered that it contains legitimate positivist systems but no legal systems… Some of the laws say that government should be run by fewest people possible. No doubt these laws do not satisfy the laws of Allah and his prophet… This sort of blasphemy against Allah carries you away from the faith (from the fatwa of the Shaykh 12/251).

In a message addressed to the Chief Justice of the high court in Riyadh, Shaykh bin-Ibrahim—may Allah rest his soul—wrote about the law of the system of labor and laborers that is controlled by the office of labor and laborers. He addressed what the judicial court faces. “From Muhammad bin-Ibrahim to the honorable Chief Justice of the high court in Riyadh, peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you. We have reviewed your letter concerning the transactions that came from the office of labor and laborers. This letter should be earmarked for follow-up. In this instance, I ask the court to look into it and take action on it. The court should look into it as part of its integral working. The court may execute a directive from the office of labor, then return to it later to complete action on it in accordance with the instructions and ways that were sent down by Allah. The court is not permitted to be wrapped in this directive because that would be considered not only as consent by the court, but as help to arbitrate in a way that is not in accordance with what Allah as revealed.” Chief Justice, 23/10/1379H (From the fatwa of the Shaykh 12/251).

And on the same subject of the labor and laborers’ system, the scholar Shaykh Abdallah bin-((Hamid)), Chief Justice—may his soul rest in peace—started in a well known message that arbitration by the laws of this regime is an error against Allah and calls for expulsion from the
faith. Here are some of the fatwas that prove the existence of these laws and contrast them with the legitimate laws. There is no reason for digression, because the matter is very clear.

It is well known that there is a clear difference between the one who commits a grave sin by accepting interest knowing that it was forbidden and the one that legislates laws that allow this sin. For example, the one that was aware that it was forbidden to accept the interest and goes ahead and does it, he has committed one of the gravest sins, Allah protect us; however, the one who legislates the laws that allow interest in an infidel.

We do not need to draw the attention of the people towards the bank towers that deal with interest. These bank towers rival the towers of the Two Holy Mosques and operate under the laws of positivism. (TN: The author quotes the Quran to support his views, saying that people do not listen to the word of Allah).

The Second Side: Support of the Infidels and Animosity towards the Muslims

The most significant characteristic of your regime’s foreign policy is that it is tied with the interests of the western and crusader nations and with those Muslim countries that are governed by tyrants. Proving this does to require too much effort. Everyone is aware of this relationship. Your regime boasts about protecting the faith and serving the Two Holy Mosques. Yet this is the same regime that announced the payment of four billion dollars in aid to the former Soviet Union, a country that has not yet washed its hands which are still stained with the blood of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, and that was in 1991. Your regime, the protector of the faith, was also the one who paid billions of dollars to the Syrian government in 1982 as a reward for slaughtering tens of thousands of Muslims in the city of Hamah. Your regime was the one that supported the Christian Maronites of the Lebanese Ktaib party against the Muslims over there. Your (wise) regime was the one that paid billions of dollars to the tyrannical state that is grinding Islam and the Muslims in Algiers. This is the same regime that supported the Christian rebels in Southern Sudan with money and arms.

With all these great things that our regime has accomplished and the crimes that you committed against the religion and the nation of Islam, your regime succeeded that to a certain extent in deceiving some of its people, and it led them away from the truth. But Allah wanted to uncover the real you with the latest events in Yemen, which tore the last of the veils that you had been using as camouflage while misleading your people from behind it. Your military and political support of Yemeni communists was the back breaker that broke your back politically, and it was the shaved that shaved your friendship islamistically… The Yemeni events have revealed a tremendous contradiction. Your support for the Afghani mujahidin was not for the love of Islam; rather it was for the protection of the Western interests that were threatened by a Russian victory over there. The Afghani communist is not different than the Yemeni communist, and the Yemeni Muslim is no different than the Afghani Muslim. So how do we interpret your support for the Muslims against the communists in Afghanistan and your support for the communists against the Muslims in Yemen?!
No one can understand this contradiction except those who know that Western and Crusader countries dictate your policies to you from the outside, because you have tied your destiny with their interests. For this reason, even when you sometimes support some Islamic causes, your motive—as we pointed out—is not your love for Islamic causes and helping its people. Your true motive is protecting the interests of the Infidel Western countries that encounter those Islamic causes, as it happened in Afghanistan.

The proof is this: if Islamic causes conflict with Western interests, you have always stood up to support the Western interests at the expense of the people with Islamic causes. This occurred with the people of Muslim Somalia, where you stood against its interests, and you sided with American policy. You squandered the coerced nation’s wealth and its esteemed men. Before and after that, here is the Palestinian cause that is the mother of all Islamic causes. You blessed the journey of normalization of relations, the journey of bowing down, and the journey of forfeiture that is being followed. You went into a series of peace and surrender actions that were ordained to you. You volunteered to pay a large portion of the operational costs despite the economic crisis that the country was experiencing. You donated on hundred million dollars to the secular authorities of Yasser (‘Arafat), who was brought in to accomplish what the Israeli occupation forces had failed to do, which was repression of the Muslim Palestinian people, fighting against its jihad movements, especially the Hamas Islamic movement. What stopped you from supporting ‘Arafat and receiving him in Riyadh? It was his hostile position towards you, because of his support of Saddam ((Hussayn)) during the Gulf War. You swallowed that insult from him for the sake of your American masters in order to allow the alleged peace process to move on.

There is no deception in this, even if you were not personally convinced with the alleged peace process. You have no alternative in from of you except for compliance with the wishes of your American masters. When President ((Clinton)) visited Saudi Arabia, why did he refuse to visit you in Riyadh and insist that you subserviently and inferiorly meet with him at the American base at Hafr al-Yatin? By behaving this way, the American president was after two things! The first was to confirm that the basis of his visit was his forces that are stationed on that base. The second was to teach you a lesson in subservience and insult, so that you would know that he was in charge, even inside your alleged kingdom, which in reality is no more than an American protectorate subject to American laws.

There is no doubt and there is no dispute among the scholars that standing by the infidels and helping them against the Muslims is definitely one of the violations of Islam. It was mentioned by the Shaykh of Islam Ibn- ((Tymya)) and Shaykh Muhammad bin Abd-al- ((Wahab)) in the ten violations of Islam. (TN: the author quotes the Quran to support his point of view, saying that standing by the infidels and helping them is one of the major violations of Islam).

Oh King, what do the people of pure faith and sincere monotheism say about your infidel acts? What false arguments do the people that defend you use? (TN: the author quotes the Quran to support his point of view, saying that if you argued for them on this earth, who is going to argue for them with Allah at the end of the world).
It has become apparent that your regime is out of step with the essentials of monotheism and the faith which you always claim to protect. Let us review your accomplishments in the religious field, since we have uncovered who you really are on the Shari’a scale.

We will discuss the following points with you:

Firstly: The Economic Situation

There is no doubt that we are all aware of the fact that the country lies on a lake of petroleum that is equivalent to one quarter of the world’s reserves, and no one denies he significance of this. We also realize that the country produces one third of the OPEC oil production. In addition, the average income of the country during the past few years was equivalent to one hundred million dollars a day from the proceeds of the petroleum. Besides that, there was a cash reserve that was estimated at the start of your regime to be one hundred and forty billion dollars, which was at that time more than the reserves of the United States, Britain, and France collectively.

The country was deceived by the shadow of the previous economic data. With the relative scantiness of its inhabitants, the country should have formed an economic phenomenon (TN: a very sound economy). There were those who thought that the day would never come when the economy of the land would collapse, and that never come when the economy of the land would collapse, and that the country would become one of the most indebted countries in the world. But your suicidal policies disappointed those people and others. Less than a decade since you assumed power, all the scales were turned upside down and everything changed. The country became indebted by more than eighty percent of its national gross income. The citizens of a country that used to have the biggest cash reserves were transformed into the citizens of a country that is the most indebted in the world.

The collapsing economic situation has placed a great burden on the life of the citizens and the residents. Their backs are carrying a heavy weight in taxes and duties, and their pockets are being choked by the expensive cost of water, electricity, and food. The prices of these commodities have gone sky-high and have crazily gone up like nothing before. The educational situation is not far from being catastrophic. The schools are suffering from over-crowdedness in the classroom. The students, teachers, and administrators are also suffering. What worsened the situation was the inability of the ministry of education to maintain the existing classrooms and also its inability to build new ones.

The situation of the hospitals is not better than the situation of the schools. The government is unable to maintain the hospitals. Several of the wings of the hospitals were transformed into what looks like human slaughterhouses, in the shadow of the lack of medicines and proper medical care, not to mention the inability of this ministry to build new hospitals.

Another thing that worsened the condition of the country was the increased unemployment rate, especially among young people and college graduates. The number of unemployed is estimated to be one hundred and fifty thousand. This figure keeps rising every year because the job market continues to shrink, owing to the current economic crisis that continues to go from bad to worse.
With the intensification of the crisis and the worsening of the situation, are you and your
government not ashamed to urge the people to save energy and other things at a time when your
conduct was the worst example to the citizens, encouraging them to lavish levels of waste? How
do you urge people to save energy when everyone can see your lighted magical palaces and the
air conditioning running day and night?

How do the people accept your urging them to reduce their spending when everyone sees your
palaces that fill the country and distant parts of the world? Everyone hears about your over-
stuffed bank accounts in the interior and the exterior of the country, filled with money that
belongs to the nation.

The size of your expenditures of the nation’s money on those palaces inside and outside the
country, is incredible and scary. The amount of spending is estimated to be in the thousands of
millions of dollars. The conversation about it is very lengthy, and the one talking about it does
not know where to start. Does he start with the city of Jeddah and the artificial magical islands
on which you built the most luxurious palaces on the widest pieces of land on the coast? Or shall
he start with the city of Riyadh, in which you were not satisfied with merely building palaces on
top of its lands, but you also built beneath it? Or shall he start with your palaces in Muna, al-
Taif, al-Huda, al-Shifa, Mecca “Mukaramah,” Medina “Munawara,” and the rest of the cities of
the country? Or does he leave all that and start with your palaces in all the world’s capitals and
the Western resorts? You have probably not even stepped in many of those palaces during your
lifetime, and you probably will not do so in the remainder of your life.

If this talk came from anyone besides us, maybe you would dismiss it as a lie. But you know
who is talking to you, and you know that they are the most knowledgeable with all the facts
which are no longer hidden from the public, in spite of all your dodging.

Your passion, and the passion of those around you, was building palaces, amassing wealth, and
competing amongst yourselves, That was the main reason behind spending most of your tie and
effort towards that end. The competition between you has torn down your internal relations,
after Hafizah (TN: unclear meaning, possibly a proper name, possibly a reference to those who
memorize the Quran) excited some of you and its anger affected you and the privileged ones that
are close to you. (TN: the author quotes from the sayings of the prophet to prove his point of
view. “The slave of the Dinar is miserable, the slave of the Dirham is miserable, the save of
Marigold is miserable, the slave of velvet is miserable. He is satisfied if he is given, and if he is
not given, he is miserable and deteriorated. If tested he does not have to worry” (as narrated by
Bukhari). The author says that this statement applies to the king and those around him).

You were squandering and spending of the nation’s public wealth, and the only thing you were
worried about was your personal interests and the competitiveness between the members of the
ruling family. This is one of the most obvious reasons that the country ended up on the brink of
bankruptcy, which occurred in the shadow of your (wise) policies. (TN: the author quotes from
the Quran to prove his point, saying that the squanderers are Satan’s brother).
The current economic crisis, with all of its dangers, did not come without advance warning. It was loaded with a number of actions and murderous policies that you and the influential members of your ruling family committed.

Besides what we have already pointed out, such as squandering and spending that you practice, the most important causes of the current economic crisis are as follows:

1 – Your Role in the Tumbling of Oil Prices:

The oil prices started their tumble in the eighties, but that tumbling did not publicly impact the economy of the country until the nineties. You always resorted to the reserve of the country to cover the continuing budget deficit. This was a foolish policy that bled the country’s financial reserve, and it did not offer any solutions to end the crisis that was getting worse every day.

As a reminder, you are well aware that your total subordination and dependence on Western policies forced you to follow their directions. You were told to support your previous friend Saddam (Hussayn) with twenty five billion dollars and with increasing oil production. This forced the price of oil down, thus hurting Iran during its war with Iraq. That had a great deal of impact on the tumbling of oil prices to the current levels, which served the interests of Western consumers. Although the West is careful about not killing the Saudi hen that lays black gold for them, they are more careful to keep the price of these eggs at the lowest possible level.

2 – No Effort to Find Alternative Sources of Income

It is common knowledge that oil is a source of income that is subject to depletion and constant price fluctuations. The country is capable of developing alternative sources of income that are readily available, but your regime has failed to develop those sources. The country has remained totally dependent on the proceeds from oil only.

3 – The Crazy Expenditures on the Allied Forces in the Gulf War:

Despite the financial problems that the country was going through during the Gulf War and the fact that destroying the Iraqi forces and its Muslim population was a set objective of the Western countries, the coalition forces found an opportune time to fleece you by taking advantage of your fear and cowardice. They insisted that you pay the cost of the entire war. You spent approximately sixty billion dollars on that war, with thirty billion going into the pocket of the Americans. Half that amount went to the coalition forces, and the rest of the money was spent locally on commissions, deals, and bribes.

The war expenses did not end there. Your loyalty to the coalition countries pushed you to complete other deals with them as a reward after the war. Those deals cost you approximately forty billion dollars, the supposed price for military and civilian deals with just the Americans. In addition, you made a deal for the purchase of British “Tornado” Aircraft, as a courtesy to the Prime Minister of Britain John ((Major)). You did not even have the manpower in the Saudi army to use these aircraft, as was proven during the Gulf War, not to mention the aircraft’s unworthiness, as attested to by a technical committee in the army. We will provide more details
on this subject later. Instead of establishing a beneficial policy to avert the situation and to correct the economic collapse you and your regime have undertaken suicidal policies that made things worse. These policies are as follows:

1) Depletion of the Nation’s Financial Reserve in the Exterior:

We previously mentioned that the financial reserve of the nation in the exterior was estimated to be approximately one hundred and forty billion dollars at the start of your regime. The nation’s annual income at that time was estimated to be ninety-seven billion. You can imagine with us the degree of stupidity in spending, if you recall that this reserve was completely depleted after only seven years.

2) Borrowing with Interest from Local and International Banks:

You have been warned that dealing with interest is an offense against Allah (TN: the author quotes from the Quran to make his point, saying that when you are dealing in interest, Allah and his prophet are against it). Also, the facts have proven that the system of borrowing with interest that the banks offer public makes the poor poorer, day after day. Despite both of these considerations, you and your regime have drowned the nation in a sea of debt, and there are no signs on the horizon that shows any possibility of getting rid of that debt. The nation cannot even pay just the interest charges on the debt. To give you an example of the size of those loans, with their complex interest rates, became due in 1994, and the country was unable to meet its obligations. This means that repayment of just the interest is going to remain a heavy burden on the country’s budget, prohibiting you from repaying the original loan. Thus you are holding the future of the nation and its future generations captive in the hands of the international institutions whose influence does not stop in the economic domain of the indebted nations. Their influence extends to the political domain of those nations and controls their political decisions. This does not include the two hundred billion riyals that the government owes to more than three thousand merchants and contractors, which the government is having a hard time repaying.

With your behavior, you have broken every statistical record in squandering and spending of the public funds. You have surpassed those before you and those who will come after you. So, our congratulations to you on such an accomplishment! This is not unexpected of you. People like you do not care about the future of their country as much as they care about fulfilling their personal desires and their selfish whims. As you were conducting that behavior, you joined mean such as the Shah of Iran, Marcus of the Philippine, Tchachisku of Romania, and others who sucked the blood of their people and who did not care about the fate of their countries. The nation is truly passing through its most dangerous economic crisis. The first crisis was in 1964/65, which was due to the anarchical management of King Sa'ud. This crisis was ended by his removal from the throne. The second economic crisis was in 1986, and it was due to the sudden collapse of oil prices.

The first crisis was solved by the removal of King Sa'ud and his court from office, and the second crisis was handled by resorting to the country's enormous financial reserves at that time. In light of the total depletion of the country's financial reserves, and the loss of its credibility
inside and outside the country, there does not seem to be any promise that we will find relief from the current crisis in the foreseeable future.

You were unable to handle the crisis at the time when the country had a financial reserve estimated at one hundred and forty billion dollars and did not have any debts. This is proof that you would eventually fail in your efforts to treat the crisis after all the serve was depleted and the country was drowning in rough seas from the loan interest. The poet said: if you are unable to manage when things are under control, then managing when things are not under control is not going to happen.

It is not beneficial that your mass media has led the people astray and made them think that the crisis is almost over. The lies that your mass media spreads are not deceiving a nation whose awareness has reached a level where such exposed lies are not believed.

Your senseless spending of the nation's wealth and your squandering and wasting it and lying about it has all of the qualities for which Allah would pass judgment. (TN: the author quotes the Quran to make his point, saying that Allah does not give guidance to a senseless spender who is a liar, but also a mere common person. But a lying king will get a lot more punishment from Allah than a lying common person).

(TN: The author provides further quotes from the sayings of the prophet, discussing the three types of people that Allah will not talk to on judgment day. Allah will not commend them, he will not look at them, and they will receive painful punishment. These three types of people are an adulterous Shaykh, a lying king, and an arrogant destitute).

In light of the previous facts, it seems that the crisis of King Sa'ud was solved by removing him from power, and that was the best of the basic solutions that were offered.

Yet the only solutions that you have left to choose from are as bitter and harsh as they are useless and ineffective. Are you going to depend on reducing the interest, for example? This action could give temporary relief, although this step has political impacts that are more dangerous than the economic effects. Are you going to risk your ambitious position of leading the council of cooperation and devalue the riyal against other world currencies? Your political ambition and your love of leadership prohibits you from doing that. This is especially true because leading those nations is a dream of yours that was dispelled due to your failure to achieve any respectable status in the Arab and Islamic world. This is something that the nation talked about and hoped to resume that leadership role during the rein of King Faisal. Or are you going to raise taxes and impose more duties on the citizens and residents, in order to save more money for the treasury of a bankrupt nation? This step, no doubt, will be successful in saving part of the liquidity, but its political tails will prohibit you from continuing with it to the end. The citizens are compelled to keep quiet about how you squandered the nation's public wealth. However, they will not be silent when they see their taxes and duties, paid for with the sweat of their brows, being spent to satisfy the pleasures and desires of the reckless influential members of the ruling family.
Another solution remaining in front of you is the sale of government properties to the private sector. Although you have taken some steps towards that purpose, there are some difficulties facing you, which we appreciate from our end. Embarrassment and insults will follow you for selling this property, these items that you consider to be furniture and part of your private residence. Announcing the sale of this furniture is making the degree of your bankruptcy public. Such matters are appreciated and considered by those who are aware of your great concern for pomp, appearances, arrogance, and self-deceit. Your problem in these partial solutions with their bitterness and thing that the root solution will address is eradicating the causes of the crisis, and at the top of these causes is fact that you are in charge of the government. The difficult parity is that your staying will be the cause of your extinction, and your continuing on will be the cause of your end.

Secondly: The Military Situation:

Perhaps you would agree with us that the army of the nation has for decades consumed one third of the national budget. At the same time, a nuclear power like France sends only one percent of its budget on its army. You would also agree with us that despite these astronomical figures that were spent on the army, the truth is that it is nothing but heaps of weans and equipment, with no human resources to use them and there is no gluttony in that. What was spent on this army was not spent to strengthen and prepare for it. Instead it was an expense that became a source of income for the influential princes. It became a pump of compensations to protect your throne and your western masters, with whom you have struck many deals as a tax of humiliation and subordination to them. An example of that was buying seventy F-15 aircraft from America to support George ((Bush)) in his election campaign after the Gulf War. Next came the deal of the Saudi Arabian airline fleet and the deal to expand the telephone system for the sake of ((Clinton)), who lost because of your support to his competitor George Bush (TN: incorrect history). You also bought 48 Tornado aircraft from Britain for the same reasons.

And if we realize what was behind those deals, then we would realize the secret of the shameful action by the minister of defense during the Gulf War.

The air force, which possesses five hundred fighter planes, did not perform anything worth mentioning during the war except downing two Iraqi aircraft that were flying without air cover! As for the navy, which owns thirty ships including twenty missile launchers, they did not fire a single shot during the war. The regular army did not fare any better than the previous two. In order to prepare one brigade of armored cars, they had to bring the required technicians from Pakistan. That is how those billions of dollars that were spent on this army went with the wind. It is bewildering when you look at the incredible number of dollars that were spent on the ministry of defense, which is headed by the oldest minister of defense in the world, Prince Sultan. He has taken care of it for the past thirty-two years, and he is still asking for the opportunity to prove his qualifications after his failure that was uncovered by the Gulf War.

In order to get a comparative view of the amazing expenditures of this ministry, we should note that citizens of the Arabian Peninsula have borne the spending of its army more than what citizens of ten other countries have born. These countries are the United States of America, Germany,
Italy, Egypt, Romania, Poland, Spain, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Ireland. In 1992, the citizens of the peninsula spent more than the citizens of those ten countries collectively, taking into consideration that amongst them are nuclear powers who are members of NATO. We also found another amazing comparison. More money has been spent of each member of the armed forces is the Arabian peninsula than what was spent collectively on a member of the armed forces in the following nine countries: the United States of America, Germany, Belgium, Argentine, China, Iran, The Enemy Israel, South Korea, and Tanzania.

Oh King, don’t you think that it is our right to ask you where all that money went? You do not have to answer, but if you knew the ratio of commissions and bribes that you and your influential prices received (and on top of all of them is the Minister of Defense Sultan) from companies that sell weapons, contracts for building cities and military bases. We will not burden ourselves to ask about the fate of the rest of the money that was spent. It becomes obvious that your and the band of influential princes seize between 40 to 60 percent of the value from every deal.

The greater percentage of the balance of the money is spent on building military bases and facilities that are way too big for the size of the nation’s army and its qualifications. It tells us something that these facilities were not built for your army, but for the use of the American and western forces that are already stationed in several of them. Speaking of these forces, don’t we have the right to ask about the reason that they have stayed so long, with all their amazing numbers and equipment, in the land of the Two Mosques? Is Iraq still an eminent threat to our throne, even after the destruction of its forces and the starving of its people? All the facts attest to the opposite. The danger is not form a broken and starving Iraq, but from the Islamic danger in the interior as the experts say. The country is experiencing an escalating blessed Islamic awakening in all civilian and military sectors. There is no god reason for the army to be crippled and incapable when it is supposed to be protecting the Islamic countries, defending their causes, and protecting the holy lands. It is unimaginable to keep quiet and have this land become an American protectorate, so that the soldiers of the cross defile it with their unclean feet to protect your tumbling throne and the sources of oil in the kingdom.

Oh King, in light of current events, is it not the right of the nation to question who is responsible for the shaking of the peace and the cause of confusion? Is it the system that delivered the country to a condition of chronic military crippling in its effort to tolerate the crusader and Jewish forces who are defining the holy places? Is the system responsible? Or is it the propagandist that calls the nation to arms so that it can take care of itself and have the honor of protecting its religion and defending its holy places and defending its land and its reputation? The truth is that you and your defense minister are to blame in this matter, not the members of the army or the guard, whose goodness, gallantry, and bravery have been witnessed by many. You were afraid of bringing in any reforms to the armed forces and of planting spies in their midst. You were always afraid that any coordination between the armed forces (land, sea, and air) would bring reforms against you, and that was the reason why you would not allow any coordination between them, not even allowing them o et to know one another. All of this despite the fact that coordination was essential for any successful military operation. The price for preserving your throne and afflicted the nation and its citizens with shame, disgrace, and collapse because of the Gulf War.
Summary and Conclusions:

Oh King, we have proven above that your regime has committed sins against Islam that negate its guardianship in the eyes of Allah. We proved the rapid failure and repulsive corruption that must be isolated from the people. We listed the infidel laws that your regime legislated and forced the people to be judged by. We showed it subordination to the infidels. Its support of the infidels against the Muslims is a sin against Islam. Therefore, that regime must be isolated and dealt with.

Its repulsive corruption and ugly failure in the areas of defense, economics, and others has proven the King’s inability to run the nation, even if he had not sinned against Islam and been rejected by the religion. Oh King, you have brought down in the people evil things that they need protection from, and that is non-belief in Allah and poverty.

Among what we presented, it is apparent that the difference between the your regime and the nation led by the religious scholars, preachers, reformers, merchants, and tribal Shaykhs is not one of disagreement or passing conflict. Rather it is a struggle that is rooted between two systems an a deep struggle between two ideologies. It is a struggle between a godly system that is who and that places all matters in the hands of Allah. (TN: The author quotes from the prophet’s sayings to prove his point, saying that Muslims place everything in the hands of Allah).

Based on what was presented, the nation with its religious scholars, reformers, merchants, and tribal Shaykhs at the front are going to go against your regime. It will never be considered as a prohibited abandonment of the rulers, because your regime lacks legitimacy, as we pointed out. What does not exist legally, does not exist at all, as was decided by the scholars.

If the ruler apostatizes, then the whole nation must go against him. However, this does not mean that all behavior of this type is necessarily correct, because for every stage if the change, the process has its work elements, its means, and its objectives.

It is not possible to limit that completely by a quick personal diligence, or by a proactive individual decision. Instead, it is done on behalf of the leadership of the nation, which is made up of the truthful religious scholars, preachers, and reformers who proved themselves during the ordeals and tribulations of their ability to tackle such grave matters.

There is no doubt that at the forefront of the tasks for the current stage is the public disclosure of the truth and the issuance of a statement explaining the meaning and requisites of “There is no Allah but Allah.” This statement will explain the consequences for deviating from it, so that the nation will have insight into its religion and will be aware of its matters.

And far from this and that, we see that you have advanced in age and your that you are sick. Crisis has surrounded you from the inside and the outside. For your own personal welfare, Oh King, and for the welfare of your family and those around your, we ask that your spare the nation, the country, and the citizens. Spare them the trouble and the crisis and the tribulations.
We ask that your tender your resignation, so that you can provide comfort. At the same time, you will be comforted. You will allow the nation to assume its rights through those people that can tie and untie things. You will allow for the selection of someone that can save the nation from this abyss that you have led her to. It has become hopeless for you to reform yourself, since you are advanced in age. A long time ago, a poet said, “There is no dream after a Shaykh has become silly and that the youth dreams about silliness.”

Perhaps you remember how King Sa’ud was in the same position that you are now, although he was ten times more corrupt than you are. At that time, you were the one at the forefront for his removal from office. Well done that day, and I wish that today you would not only tender your personal resignation, but also rid the nation of all of your ministers and your court, since you bear the responsibility of placing them around the necks of the citizens and the nation’s interest. You can try to gain the merit of saving the nation from the ministers’ polytheism and their evilness. Especially that loser, your defense minister, who never handled any matter that brought good out of it, whether it was political or managerial. He blew the borders file with the nation of Qatar, and he almost started a war with Yemen. This is in addition to his failure to manage the defense ministry, and the fact that the air force and the Saudi airlines went bankrupt under his management.

There is no glory in this situation. In the end, the patchy ministerial adjustments that your make only bring in ministers that are tied to the ship of corruption. These ministers reside at the root and at the top of the ruling regime, and they rotate around it. They do not have any say in any of the matters. Even if they had good intentions and sought reforms, their marginal competence and your absolute authority over them would present them with no chance to introduce any reforms. The shadow of the stick cannot be straight if the stick bent.

These demands for resignation and dismissal are not impossible demands. It is the same thing that you and your brothers called for with regards to the deposed King Saudi in the past. And before we put down the pen, we ask you to fully thing this over. Go back and review all the facts before your sense of honor forces you to refuse. Do not decide to punish everyone who tries to deliver this message to you. Think carefully before this message puts you in a fowl mood, as was the case with several of the proposals and advice memos that were sent to you. The most famous example of this was the one that identified the most important and necessary reforms, pointing out the illnesses precision of a scholar, the candor of the preachers, and the compassion of the advisor. The message was very polite and full of reverence. You ignored the advice, and you closed your eyes to those giving the advice. You decided to punish the cream of the nation’s Ulema (TN: religious scholars), preachers, and reformers that had brought it up to you. You came down hard on them with your horses and your men, the custodians and henchmen of your regime, of its oppressive authorities and its entourage of misguided and hypocritical people. You issued fatwa that slandered the nation’s elite Ulema with utter falsehoods. The Ulema are posted with all patience and steadfastness in the dungeons of your prisons and behind its iron gates. We pray to Allah that they would be set free and that their situation be eased. We ask Allah to confirm them and us in the path of his call strengthening the path of his religion. (TN: The author quotes the hadith, saying that there would be no disturbance and that religion is all for Allah). We beseech him to help us to keep our promise to him to avenge his religion and his holy men in
general, and those who are facing all kinds of sufferings and violence on the hands of your prison floggers in particular.

And the last of our supplications is thanks be to Allah lord of the two worlds.

Dated: 5/3/1416 AH
Corresponding to 3 August 1995 AD
On their behalf:
Usamah bin Muhammad bin Ladin

Courtesy of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point