Usama Mahmoud, the official spokesman for al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), clarified the mission of fighters in light of the December 16, 2014, attack by Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) at the Army Public School in Peshawar, and cautioned jihadi groups and fighters about how they present themselves to the public. Mahmoud posted the Urdu message on his Twitter account on February 5, 2015. AQIS had previously issued a statement condemning the TTP attack on the school and distancing itself from the negative fallout, telling supporters that al-Qaeda seeks to defend innocent Muslims and not kill them. Mahmoud reiterated that position, declaring that the group is “strictly against tragedies such as Peshawar and any other attack that targets the public, women, children, and non-combatants”. He charged that it is the Pakistan Army that pushed TTP to carry out such an act, and that the Army and Pakistani government is now capitalizing on the attack to undertake an arrest campaign on women and kill imprisoned fighters. Here, he insisted that fighters concentrate on targeting the Army.

Mahmoud addressed Pakistani Muslims, telling them: “The mujahideen are fighting to end injustice and establish Shariah. You must be aware of their objective and their target. They are also human beings and they are equally prone to make mistakes. However, the majority draws a fine distinction between good and bad, innocent and criminal, combatant and non-combatant. Beloved nation! Recognize your well-wishers, recognize these mujahideen who are sacrificing to protect your faith and worldly welfare.”

Following is a translation of the message:

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful
Usama Mahmoud, Spokesman for al-Qaeda in the [Indian] Subcontinent
Date: 10 January 2015

Understand Them... Recognize Them!

On the Tragic Incident of the Arrest of Honorable Sisters and the Martyrdom of 150 Mujahideen Brothers in Fake Encounters

In the name of Allah, and praise be to Allah. Peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allah. And thereafter:

Following the tragic incident of Peshawar, hundreds of mujahideen brothers who were imprisoned by the Pakistan Army have been killed in fake encounters. Similarly, a number of
honorable sisters have been detained in Swat. "Truly! To Allah we belong and truly, to Him we shall return". [From Al-Baqarah: 156] May Allah accept the martyrdom of our brothers and protect the honor of our sisters from these despots and enable us to avenge these atrocities against our brothers and sisters. Amen.

We are strictly against tragedies such as Peshawar and any other attack that targets the public, women, children, and non-combatants. We consider this un-Islamic and always grieve over such incidents. It is our religious obligation to prevent such attacks, for they blur our goals and strengthen the infidel system. But the question rises... do these incidents occur without reason? Why were those who stood against injustice forced to take that step? They killed more than 135 people and ended their own lives as well. The question is, why were they forced to carry out such an act of vengeance?

Think. Why?

Don’t you think that the atrocities committed by and the anti-Islamic behavior of the Pakistan Army is entirely responsible for this?

Don’t you think that the Pakistan Army is the primary culprit and solely responsible for tragedies such as Peshawar?

Is it possible to stop this bloody cycle through force and atrocities?

Today, the fact is that the despotic army, secular politicians, and atheist intellectuals are using the tragedy of Peshawar to sustain this system that promotes vulgarity, atheism, and injustice. O mujahideen! O lions of Allah sacrificing your lives for the hereafter!

There is only one way to counter the atrocities of the army and this dark night, and that is to concentrate on targeting the criminal Army, which is leading and protecting this system of injustice. We must only target the Army, which is exceeding all limits in suppressing the Muslims of Pakistan. We must only target the Army and other military institutions, which are hired to kill Muslims and protect this American system.

I take this opportunity to make a request of all jihadi organizations and mujahid brothers...We will never be able to undo these brutalities and please our Lord unless we distinguish between innocent and criminal, and unless we truly become a source of comfort for our beloved nation, the innocent Pakistani Muslims. We have emerged with a message, an invitation, and an objective. All devils from among humans, as well as jinn are united to defame us and malign our goals. Therefore, we must be extremely cautious. Each and every step we take must strengthen our message and our objective. Every action we do and every word we utter must clear the dust from our real identity and reputation. Respected brothers! Our success lies in abiding by Shariah. Shariah inculcates us to be wise, and this will bring divine blessings, Allah willing.

May Allah enable us to act firmly against America, its slaves, the Pakistani rulers, and the Army. May Allah make us a source of comfort and peace for our nation, children, women, and innocent public.
My beloved nation!

O my beloved nation, you have been forced to live a miserable life for decades, your faith has been under attack for a long time, and you have been looted and plundered by outsiders and your own people.

O my beloved nation! The mujahideen are fighting to end injustice and establish Shariah. You must be aware of their objective and their target. They are also human beings and they are equally prone to make mistakes. However, the majority draws a fine distinction between good and bad, innocent and criminal, combatant and non-combatant. Beloved nation! Recognize your well-wishers, recognize these mujahideen who are sacrificing to protect your faith and worldly welfare.

Recognize these mujahideen, who are not funded by the Kerry Lugar bill, who are not lured by expensive properties in defense housing societies. They are not fighting for status, promotions, or salaries. They are the ones who are sacrificing their comforts. Their children are martyred and their mothers and sisters are arrested. Hundreds of mujahideen were killed after the Peshawar tragedy, but this is not something new. They have been sacrificing their lives for years. Prisons are packed with mujahideen. But they are not deterred and they do not stop... Why? Because they are fighting for a cause. They have left their homes in obedience of their Lord. They are restless for establishing Shariah. They are among you and from you. Recognize them, for they are your sons and brothers.

May Allah guide all mujahideen, bless us with real success and enable us to distinguish good from evil. Amen, O Lord of the Worlds.

Our last supplication is that all praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, and may Allah pray on the Noble Prophet.

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