

## **Bin Ladin Warns Iraqis Against Joining Anti-Al-Qa'ida Tribal Councils, Unity Govt** December 30, 2007

[Please note: Images may have been removed from this document. Page numbers have been added.]

On 29 December, a Jihadist forum participant posted several links to a 56-minute audio message by Al-Qa'ida Organization leader Usama Bin Ladin entitled "The Way to Foil Plots", produced by the Al-Sahab Media Production Organization, the media arm of Al-Qa'ida Organization. The 56-minute audio recording plays against the background of a still image of Bin Ladin and a map of Iraq.

The following is a translation of Usama Bin Ladin's audio message:

"God be praised. We laud Him, we beseech help from Him and ask His forgiveness; we seek God's protection against the evils and mischief of our souls and from the bad results of our deeds.

Whoever is guided by God cannot be misled by anybody, and whoever is denied guidance will find nobody to guide him. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except God, the One, without any partner. And I bear witness that Muhammad is servant and His Messenger. Now then, to the dear Islamic nation in general, to our patient and steadfast brothers in Iraq's fronts and fortress towns in particular, to the people of knowledge and favor, to the leaders of the mujahidin groups and members of their shura councils, to the chieftains of the free and proud tribes, and to my brother mujahidin, may God's peace and blessing be upon you. My talk to you is about the plots that are being hatched by the Zionist-Crusader alliance, led by America, in cooperation with its agents in the region, to steal the fruit of blessed jihad in the land of the two rivers, and what we should do to foil these plots. It is no secret that America is using all military and political means to entrench its troops in Iraq. Having realized its military failure, it stepped up its political and media efforts to deceive Muslims. One of its wicked schemes was to tempt the tribes and buy their allegiance to form the councils of dissension, which they termed as awakening councils. Many free and proud tribes have refused to form such councils and to sell out their religion or defile their honor. I pray to God to entrench their feet firm on the path of right and make them a treasure in support of Islam. May God bless them, their families, and property, and may God reward them in the best way. At the same time, some weak-hearted people have accepted this. One of these was the misled and the misleading one, Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Rishah, and some of his family members. These have betrayed the religion and the nation. They have brought lowliness, scandal, and disgrace to themselves and to those who followed them. This disgrace will live with them forever unless they repent. The vilest of tradesmen are those who trade with their religion and that of their followers. They sell out their religion in return for a mortal world. Despite this, they have not enjoyed themselves in this world after the lions of Islam have immediately killed them as a punishment to them and deterrence to their likes. Bush and his soldiers were of no use to them. Thus, they have lost life in this world and in the hereafter. And this is the biggest loss. I advise those who proceeded on the path of temptation to wash out this infidelity and disgrace by a true repentance. Almighty God says: "Unless they repent thereafter and mend (their conduct); for Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Koranic verse, Al-Nour (The Light), 24:5)

"Recruiting hypocrite chieftains of tribes is one axis. America, along with its agents in the region, is seeking through the other axis to form a new government that is loyal to it, like the Gulf countries' governments, instead of Al-Maliki government. This government will also be called a national unity government. This name appeals to many people, particularly those who have become tired of war. The Muslims should know the true nature of this government before

welcoming it. The national unity government means that all groups of people agree to glorify the homeland more than glorifying anything holy to them. This means that the homeland has the upper word and that it is above anything. Thus, all sides meet in the middle of the road and accept half solutions. This means that the Ba'thists and the other parties should relinquish some of their principles and the Muslims should relinquish some of their religion. This stipulates that the Muslim should accept the rule of the man-made laws and that these man-made laws should share the Islamic shari'ah in enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong. This sharing is the capital polytheism that takes one out of his religion and puts the one who does so in hell forever. We seek God's protection from hell.

"In the name of the homeland and patriotism, the Gulf countries have supported America to allow it to invade Iraq so that its people will suffer from the woes they are suffering from now. All this was for the sake of not erasing the homeland of the map, as they claimed. The truth, however, was their fear of not erasing them, not the homeland. Their former ally, Saddam, was erased, but Iraq was not erased. In the name of the homeland and patriotism, the Crusaders are being strengthened in the land of two rivers too by installing a government that is agent to America, a government which agrees in advance to the existence of major US bases in the land of Iraq and gives the Americans whatever they want of Iraq's oil according to the oil law to continue to subjugate it and maintain absolute hegemony over the rest of the countries of the region. Regrettably, however, is that parties and groups that are affiliated with knowledge, (Islamic) call, and jihad participate in this high treason. This is a kind of confusing truth with falsehood. Some people saw some of these leaders cooperating directly with the Americans, as the leader of the so-called Islamic Party did. He openly called for signing long-term security agreements with America. The people have also seen other leaders cooperating indirectly through America's agents in the region, particularly the ruler of the land of the two holy mosques (Saudi Arabia). Riyadh cannot receive and support these leaders unless they accept a national unity government. The sane people should learn a lesson from the fate of the HAMAS Movement's leadership. It (HAMAS leadership) relinquished its religion and did not achieve worldly gains when it obeyed the ruler of Riyadh and others by entering the national unity state and respecting the unjust international charters. Will the honest ones in HAMAS correct its course?

"Just as the rulers of Riyadh tempted the leaders of HAMAS, they are seeking to tempt the mujahidin groups in Iraq. They allow some groups to confidently move in the Gulf countries to receive support, but not official support, which these groups reject. The support is channeled under the banner of raising donations by some unofficial scholars and preachers. Many of them, however, are loyal to the state and seek to implement its policy in Iraq by pulling the rug from under honest mujahidin's feet. The mission of these scholars and preachers is to convince the leaders of these groups of the same previous condition; that is, accepting a national unity government, in addition to urging them to air tendentious propaganda against the Islamic State of Iraq and fight it if possible. This is one of the secrets of the fierce military and media campaign against the state. One sees it as very strange how these leaders lost the trust they held and went to put their hand in the hand of one of its most malignant foes, the ruler of Riyadh. His support for and collusion with America's invasion of Iraq have been confirmed. Is it a secret today to the Muslim youths, let alone their scholars, preachers, and the leaders of the mujahidin, that this ruler is the main US agent in the region? He took upon himself to tempt and tame every free, virtuous, and honest person with the aim of dragging him to the path of temptation and misguidance. He (the ruler of Riyadh) accepted this path to himself when he is in his nineties. It is the path of betraying the religion and the nation and submitting to the will of the Crusader-Zionist alliance. What a miserable path is their path. However, will the scholars and the honest ones come back to their senses? This is what we wish.

"The advocates of this approach justify their collaboration with the enemies of the nation, of the rulers of the region and their agents, by the fierce shocks the people of Islam have sustained at the hands of the Al-Sadr Army and the treacherous (Badr) brigades, led by Abd-al-Aziz al-Hakim and members of the Al-Da'wah Party inside and outside Al-Maliki's government. I say that the crimes of these sides have exceeded all limits, and one cannot believe what they are doing against the people of Islam. But these are facts on the ground and they are being tasted by our brothers there in Iraq. These people have ambitions and goals to expand their crimes outside Iraq. Despite all this, it is possible to stop the crimes of these militias and their expansion, God willing, by relying on Almighty God and by unifying the mujahidin's efforts to fight the invaders and their henchmen. This can also be achieved by urging all Muslims to support the mujahidin with all that they need.

"Amir Ahmad al-Khalayilah, Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, may God have mercy on him and on his brothers, was the first to hoist the banner of exposing these criminals, fighting them, and stopping their expansion. Instead of supporting them you have betrayed them, prevented the mujahidin from fighting them, and divided fighting into two parts; fighting the Americans only is an honest resistance, but for you, fighting these apostate militias and members of the army and the police, who are the supporters of America and its tools in occupying Iraq and killing its free people is a dishonest resistance of whose advocates you wash your hands of. God has nothing to do with these divisions. God's Messenger, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, used to fight his cousins from Quraysh (the tribe of the prophet). It is religion that preserves blood, not race or homeland. Scores of your companions, of those loyal to and the unofficial scholars of the rulers in the land of the two holy mosques and elsewhere have shared you this twisted approach. This has given a great chance to these militias to go too far in destroying the land and killing the people.

"You wish to save your life but you have not followed the right path to do so, the ship cannot sail on land. (Verse of poetry)

"Furthermore, if it was your concern about deterring the evil of these sides that urged you to be loyal to the infidels and the apostate governments, then was it not your duty to be frank with your brothers who trusted you and obeyed you in order to establish an Islamic state? Was it not your duty to inform them that you have failed to achieve the agreed-upon goal and accepted a national unity state, whose truth is a pagan unity state in which the exalted word is not for Almighty God, but for the homeland and its priest? I call on the misguided ones to fear God in themselves and in their nation, not to waste the fruit of this chaste and pure blood that was shed for the sake of consolidating religion and entrenching the state of Muslims, and to resort to the truth, especially since resorting to the truth is better than indulging in falsehood.

"Brother mujahidin: What is our duty to foil these serious plots, which seek to foil jihad in the land of Iraq and prevent the establishment of an Islamic state on the entire land of the two rivers to serve as support for and assistance to the people of Islam everywhere, foil America's plan to partition Iraq, and serve as the first line of defense for our nation? I say and stress that one of the greatest duties is to pool the efforts of all honest mujahidin to be able to stand as one rank and to fight for the sake of upholding the word of God and to work persistently to foil all their plots. It would be useful here to recall an effort in the past to unify the leaders of Afghan mujahidin, which includes important lessons that are related to our topic. We had made these efforts with Shaykh Abdallah Azzam, may God have mercy on him. After months of seeking to achieve unity among them and removing the obstacles that some of them used to claim that they obstruct unity, after removing these obstacles, and after they claim that there was another obstacle, and so on and so forth until we had reached the conclusion, which Shaykh Abdallah

(Azzam), may God have mercy on him, summarized in a few words to explain how difficult the mission was and how the amirs (leaders of jihad) were attached to the emirate. He said: 'Will the ruler of Riyadh abdicate in favor of the ruler of Jordan or vice versa for the sake of the nation's unity?' The answer of the brothers was that this is not possible. He said: 'And so, (Abdul Rasul) Sayyaf will not abdicate in favor of (former Afghan President Burhanuddin) Rabbani or (Islamic Party Leader Gulbuddin) Hekmatyar and vice versa.' One of the mujahidin had a strong opinion about these leaders. He was an old wise person who had a long experience in life with people. At the time, we used to reject his strong-worded statement about them. I will try to convey to you some of what he said. The conclusion is that those leaders are tradesmen who care about their leadership and give priority to their personal interests over the cause. We used not to believe what he said about them. This has delayed our realization of the sound conception of persons and events. The harmful consequences of this are no secret. With the passage of days and succession of facts, things began to become clear and to prove what he said about some of them. In fact, developments have come to confirm things that we had never expected due to the fact that we were young and lacked experience at the time. Today, however, you have learned that the Northern Alliance, led by Rabbani and Sayyaf, became supporters for America against the mujahidin in Afghanistan.

"The same thing applies to Iraq today. The Islamic Party and some fighting groups support America against Muslims. This is a clear infidelity and an open apostasy. We seek strength from Almighty God. Members of the Islamic Party and those fighting factions should disavow their leaders and correct the course of their parties and groups. If this is not possible, they should leave those hypocrite leaders and join honest mujahidin in the Land of the Two Rivers. America exerted great efforts in the past to convince Afghan leaders through the governments of Riyadh and Islamabad to join a national unity government with communists and secularists who came from the west. The government of Riyadh sought the help of its men of the unofficial scholars to infiltrate the ranks of the mujahidin. These were influential speakers who incite the people to perform jihad and collect huge funds to the leaders of the mujahidin. On the set time, they asked the Afghan leaders to unite with the communists and secularists under the so-called national unity state. At this point, their true nature was exposed to the effect that they are evil scholars and men of the tyrant. They obstructed the plan to achieve unity among the leaders of the mujahidin when they tempted one of them with a big amount of money and promised him to be the president of Afghanistan. However, they have not fulfilled their promise, but for the sake of this promise of the chair of president he procrastinated with us for a long time on the issue of unity. Eventually, it became clear to us that he had mortgaged his decision with the Riyadh intelligence chief, who personally arrived in Peshawar to follow up on the issue in cooperation with the Pakistani intelligence. His envoys to this leader were two well-known of the unofficial scholars, taking into consideration that most of the leaders had agreed on this as a result of the pressures exerted by Riyadh and Islamabad. At this point, efforts were made to foil this issue. We do not have much time here for more details. So, the current situation is similar to the past one. The government of Riyadh continues until this day to carry out the same malicious roles with many Islamic action leaders and commanders of mujahidin in our nation. God suffices us against them.

"Among the reasons behind the Afghan leaders' failure to achieve unity is that the decision to achieve unity was in their hand. So, it is difficult for many people to appreciate the interests of jihad and the nation if they are parties to that equation. Thus, the leader or the amir will then mix the personal with the public and believe that he and his party are the best to lead all the mujahidin groups in support of the religion. In light of this, he will cling further to the emirate and exaggerate the mistakes of the other sides of the leaders and the parties. Furthermore, he does not see his own mistakes or those of his party. In such a case, he will be the defendant and

the judge at the same time. So, he cannot pass a sentence against himself to quit the emirate and abdicate in favor of another amir on whom most of Muslims might be unanimous. Their case in this tragedy is like the case of the kings and presidents in our countries. When examining their objections and excuses it becomes clear that they are baseless due to delaying unity and most of them revolve around issues to improve the emirate. However, their insistence on this has led to wasting necessitates, the most important of which are the religion, the soul, and honor. Infidelity has emerged in Kabul, corruption has prevailed, roads were cut off, blood was shed, honor was violated, money was plundered, and the mujahidin became weak. The exalted word was really for former President Najib (Mohammad Najibullah) while leaders of the parties were misleading members of their parties into believing that they are the rulers of Kabul and that they will establish the shari'ah of Islam. Many members of their parties used to accept these lies. However, a number of the honest ones refused to sell their religion in return for worthless worldly things. They also refused to cancel their brains or to be driven like cattle. Everyone of the brother mujahidin should examine things, use his brain and not cancel it, and distinguish between his good intention about the leaders and being intelligent and smart who weighs things and men with the scale of Islam. He should not be an opinionated person who follows his leaders blindly. Those who remained with the leaders in Kabul, like Sayyaf and Rabbani, supporting them against Muslims after all that happened, have backed the infidels against Muslims. This is one of the nullifiers of religion. Their good intention about their leaders is not an excuse for them. They have to watch their hearts, should disavow polytheism and polytheists, and embrace Islam once again, for how many people were misguided from the right path as a result of their fanaticism to their leaders and seniors aimlessly? They should consider God's saying: 'Our Lord! We obeyed our chiefs and our great ones, and they misled us as to the right path.' (Koranic verse, Al-Ahzab (The Confederates), 33:67)

"Among the lessons also is that the brothers should not be deceived by the names of the parties or their leaders. Sayyaf was one of the most prominent leaders of the mujahidin. He was very well-known. The name of his party was the Islamic Unity Party. However, he later helped America against Muslims. This is clear infidelity. The same thing applies to Rabbani, whose party is the Islamic Afghan Association. This is also the case of Ahmed Shah Masoud, who went to the Crusaders in Europe, offering himself openly as a tool to topple the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Some misled ones claim that he is a martyr. Although some of the Afghan leaders made mistakes, praise be to God, others remained firm, honest, and sincere. This is what we believe and God is their judge. Among these were Shaykh Yunis Khalis (leader of the Islamic Party-Khalis), may God have mercy on him, and Shaykh Jalaluddin Haqqani, may God watch over him. They both issued fatwa (formal religious ruling) on the necessity to perform jihad against the American invasion of Afghanistan and contributed to it. The whole world has never seen the sincerity and firmness of mujahid amir, Mulla Mohammad Omar, in fighting the alliance of global infidelity and in refusing to submit to them for this will make him lose the trust. He refused to abandon the shari'ah or extradite those who sought his support of the muhajirin (immigrant) Arabs because they are his brothers in religion even if the emirate and its chair disappear. These are great positions that show great men. This is what we believe and God is their judge. There is a great difference between the position of a Muslim ruler and the positions of the hypocrite rulers who cooperated with America in the global war against Islam. The first sacrificed his rule for the sake of his religion, and the others are sacrificing their religion for their rule. The difference between them is the same difference between faith and infidelity. There is a great difference between the positions of the faithful men and the positions of the hypocrites who look like men.

"Some people might say that some of the leaders of jihad in Afghanistan, who made mistakes, had a precedent because they had hoisted the flag of jihad at an early time against the Russians,

and so, we should give them the excuse. However, I say that we should distinguish between the mistake that should be corrected for those who possess good qualities and the crossing of hudud (boundaries), which should be applied to everyone. The woman who stole during the time of the prophet, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, had a precedent in Islam and hegira. Despite this, she was punished in order to save the nation from the way of perdition. So, one should think of this. I have mentioned these leaders out of this, for they have committed one of the nullifiers of Islam, which is helping the infidels against Muslims. The approach of appeasing masters and leaders is common among many Muslims. This is why the advocates of this approach have deviated from the right path. It was said that 'the wound will open again later if it is not treated well.' (Verse of poetry) We should beware this. Applying hudud (punishment for committing a sin) is a religious duty through which the one who commits it can be cleansed and the Muslim society can become pure. Otherwise, this will be the road to perdition. The prophet, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, said: 'The thing that ruined peoples before you was that if a dignitary steals they will not punish him and if a weak person steals they will punish him. By God, if Fatimah, the daughter of Muhammad, steals, I will amputate her hand.' The conclusion on this issue is that the brother mujahidin, especially in the shura councils, should not yield to the excuses of the amirs of groups by obstructing unity and accord. They might have real excuses, but they should not prevent the achievement of unity and adherence to the rope of God. The wise and intelligent ones should not insist on clinging to the branch even this will lead to the loss of the origin, especially since everyone will be lost. Shaykh al-Islam Ibn-Taymiyah, may God have mercy on him, said: 'When people abandon some of what God ordered them to do, enmity and hatred will spread among them, and if the people become disunited they will become corrupt and vanish, and if they are united, they will be good and have mastery. Unity is mercy and disunity is torture.' So, how would the case be at a time when you see parties, factions, and committees, which include great preachers who are affiliated with our nation, are being tempted and fall at the doors of the rulers of Najd (Saudi Arabia)? One of the reasons for this is the delay of unity. Some amirs might have a hidden desire for the emirate, which is the real reason that prevents unity. We should not have fanatical enthusiasm about men, parties, or groups, but about the truth. We should help the one who adheres to the truth and if he orders us we will obey him.

"We will correct the one who deviates from the right path and order him to adhere to the truth, for the most truthful thing is to adhere to the truth. One should follow the example of those who died of the exemplary ones. A living person cannot be saved from temptation. Know the truth and you will know its advocates. The truth is not known by men but men are known by the truth. Here, we should mention the people who were the first on the issue of unity and accord due to the credit they deserve. Muslims were pleased when a number of the amirs of groups, which are fighting for the sake of God, and a number of chiefs of steadfast and mujahid tribes unified their stand under the banner of monotheism and pledged allegiance to honorable Shaykh Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi as amir of the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). The abdication of these amirs out of adherence to the rope of God is a sign of their truthfulness, justice, fairness, impartiality, and concern about the interests of Muslims. This is what we believe and God is their judge. May God reward them in the best way. Their accord is a blessed and great step toward unifying the other efforts to form the major group of Muslims.

"Muslims have heard that some brother amirs and scholars in some mujahidin groups have not been able to be where the decision was made. I say that the annoyance of these brothers is not embarrassing, and restraining themselves from anger is the right path to take. This was due to the difficult security situation, which makes it hard for the brothers to move around or communicate. Nonetheless, the brothers have noted that they had sent you letters and waited for almost two months for your arrival, so that no final decision would be made in your absence.

So when will you be able to arrive? Some of Prophet Muhammad's closest companions were agitated when they found that a decision was made under the shed of the Bani Sa'idah tribe without them, may God be pleased with them, being consulted. At the same time, Abu-Bakr, Umar, Abu-Ubaydah, and those who were with them at the time, may God be pleased with them, had no intention to ridicule the concerned parties, but made the decision because the situation and complications at the time forced them to rush to make it before consulting with the rest of the concerned parties, for fear of sedition and disunity. The agitated group later pledged allegiance to Abu-Bakr and later their allegiance was confirmed. What is meant here as a prerequisite by the shari'ah is the unity of Muslims under God's banner and their allegiance to one amir in order to establish and support God's religion. This matter should be accomplished expeditiously, because it is a great duty toward God. God Almighty says: 'And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves;' (Koranic verse; Al-Imran 3:103) The states that call themselves Muslim states are many. However, those with discerning know that they all lack the prerequisites that are regarded as the most important prerequisites of Muslim states, chief among which is upholding God's shari'ah, not to mention that the sovereignty of all of them is flawed, and that they all, without exception, cooperated, in one way or another, with America in the world war on Islam, which is a nullifier of one's Islam. Nonetheless, many people treat these states as if they were sovereign Muslim states. This treatment is religiously impermissible, given all that has been said.

"I would like to say that those who were agitated for not being consulted should not be embarrassed, as it was mentioned above, because their desire was to unify Muslims' ranks. However, had they believed that the time was not appropriate and had they had the intention to delay God's will and the Prophet's desire, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, for the opinions they had accumulated throughout the past years, their agitation would be unjustified, because it is impermissible to wait and hamper religious matters. But when the people were raised and lived far away from the Islamic state, most of them were sluggish and felt unembarrassed by the delay in establishing this state. Accordingly, the brothers should be advised in this matter.

"Despite the significance of shura in the emirate, which is very clearly confirmed by many texts; such as Caliph Umar's statement in which he said that the decision of the amir should be final, being the person who represents the unity of Muslims' ranks, should the conditions prevent the concerned parties from adopting a united stand. What would have happened had the same situation of the Bani Sa'idah shed been repeated, and what would also happen had the emirate not been established, unless after consulting all the concerned parties? Umar then would have not pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr without waiting for the consultation to take place, Abu-Bakr would have not accepted Muslims' pledge of allegiance to him, and the companions, may God be pleased with them, would have not also paid allegiance to Abu-Bakr.

"Had complete empowerment been a prerequisite of the establishment of an Islamic state at present, Islam would not have seen a state of its own. This is because everybody knows that given the huge military superiority of the adversaries, the latter can invade any country and topple its government, as happened in Afghanistan. They toppled the Ba'thist Iraqi Government. Nonetheless, the fall of the state is not the end of the world, nor does it mean that the Islamic community and the Islamic imam collapsed. As a matter of fact, jihad against the infidels should continue, as is happening in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Somalia.

"Recalling how the situation of the first Islamic state was during the time of the Uhud and Al-Ahzab events; when the cries of war and the invading tribes were besieging Medina, the first capital of Islam; and how the conditions of Muslims were when only few people defected from

Islam in the Arab Peninsula following the death of the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, will emphasize that complete empowerment is not a prerequisite of making a pledge of allegiance to the imam, or of establishing an Islamic state. It is not right to say to the person that has been empowered to rule the Islamic emirate that he will neither be listened to nor be obeyed, because the enemy can topple his government.

"It is strange that we have not heard similar words from some of those who raise similar slogans and who live in the Gulf States, such as Kuwait, when the Ba'athists toppled their government. On the contrary, their eloquent orator was speaking loudly expressing support for legitimacy. That is, in support of the Al-Sabah rulers who do not follow God's shari'ah and who had not have the power, though little, to make decisions in Kuwait.

"Brother Muslims, since seeking unity of ranks under monotheism is one of the greatest duties, negligence of this duty is one of the deadly sins. Unless Muslims are brought together under one group and imam, the religion of God will not be applied, paths will not be safe, and seditions will not be repressed. Nor will security be achieved, conspiracies aborted, many of those of the common Islamic people who joined the mujahidin groups become disciplined, or other great matters be brought under control. God keeps order through (the power of) the sultan (ruler) more than He keeps order through (the power of) the Koran. A Muslim that delays the establishment of an Islamic state is more sinful than that who quits his group or abandons Islam, because by doing so he would be letting hundreds of millions of Muslims live under the tyrant and pagan regimes. Encroachment on religion has reached too far and it has become imperative to stop it, because this issue is very important and serious and should not be postponed. This is because on its bases the knowledge of Islam and Muslims' worldly victory and heavenly deliverance are founded, God willing." Brother Muslims in Iraq, repeated appeals were addressed to the mujahidin leaders urging them to get together. However, some of them failed to heed these appeals while some others heeded the appeals. The amirs of the mujahidin groups and their shura councils' members took a serious move to set right what was wrongly done and sought to unify all the mujahidin under one banner to confront the campaign of Crusaders and renegades, because this is a righteous duty. God Almighty ordered us to be unified and prohibited us from taking unilateral stands. See how global and local infidelity, in all its forms, has united and the wolves of the tyrants are eating peaceful lambs on daily basis. All leaders should be united under one group and be committed to this group. This is a legitimate demand and a sacred duty at this present time. Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, told Hudhayfah, may God be pleased with him, when he asked him about the action to be taken in a similar situation, that he should adhere to the Muslim group and its imam. If this was difficult to achieve, efforts should be directed to the establishment of the great Muslim group and this should become a duty to be performed by every Muslim and mujahidin, through pledging allegiance to the group that is the most committed to righteousness and truthfulness. God Almighty says: 'O ye who believe! Fear Allah and be with those who are true (in word and deed).' (Koranic verse; At-Tauba 9:119) He who follows the local and global campaigns of infidelity can see that they are primarily targeted against the Islamic State of Iraq. For America is repeatedly carrying out campaigns, one after another, against the same city. As a matter of fact, there has been an ongoing campaign against the whole of Diyala for the past six months. The same holds true for Mosul and Salah al-Din. Other campaigns are being carried out by the army, the National Guard, and the police, not to mention other campaigns carried out by the Al-Sadr and Al-Hakim militias. Besides, all neighboring countries without exception are targeting the Islamic State of Iraq, not to mention the awakening councils, parties, and groups of dissension led by Tariq al-Hashimi, who betrayed the faith and the Ummah. This is to be added to the media campaigns aimed at misrepresenting the Islamic State of Iraq for which the Riyadh rulers, their scholars, and their media outlets are to blame.

"I believe that all these ferocious campaigns against the mujahidin in the Islamic State of Iraq are staged because these mujahidin are deeply committed to righteousness and the Prophet's teachings, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, quoting Waraqah Bin-Nufal when he told the Prophet that 'no man has ever brought what the Prophet has brought, without being antagonized.' Amir Abu-Umar (al-Baghdadi) and his brothers are not of those who would bargain over their faith and accept half-solutions, or who would meet the enemies halfway. Rather, they come out openly with the truth and satisfy the Creator even if this were to result in angering the creatures. They do not heed the blames of others against them as long as they do their deeds for the sake of God. They refused to take by surprise, without exceptions, the governments of any of the Muslim world capitals. They refrained from being subjects to polytheists, because they were aware that religion is for God Almighty, Who supports whoever He wants of his slaves. He does not support the polytheists in order to strengthen His religion. Tyrant and polytheist rulers cannot strengthen the religion. What proves this is the Prophet's hadith, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, when he said: 'O boy, I am teaching you that you should worship God in order to keep yourself safe and that He would always be on your side. If you want to ask, ask God, and if you want to call for help, call for God's help; and know well that if the Ummah would do something good for you, it cannot do anything other than what God has written for you. If the Ummah would cause you harm, it cannot do anything other than what God has written against you.' This was narrated by Imam Ahmad.

"Had the leaders of the Islamic State of Iraq joined hands with any neighboring state so that the latter may provide it with backing and support, as some groups and parties have done, the situation would have been different. This is because they have budgets of 10 or 100 millions and their bounty is guarded by their spears. Had they known, this would be the best bounty, but they have lost their decisionmaking and independence because they depend on the support of other countries. If the United States and its agent rulers exert pressure on the supporting state, the pressure would directly move on to the secretary of the party or amir of the group. The people have openly witnessed this thing happening in Lebanon. Following the resounding speeches about pride and dignity and about Palestine and its support, and following (Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah's) challenge that the entire world cannot impose its will on him, Resolution 1701 was accepted, which was adopted by the United Nation, the US tool. The core of this resolution is the entry of Crusader armies into Lebanese territory. Are people unaware that these armies are the other face of the US-Zionist alliance? Nonetheless, (Hizballah) Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah is deceiving people. He welcomed these armies in public and promised to facilitate their mission even though he knows that they were coming to protect the Jews and seal off the borders in the face of the honest mujahidin. He did so to accommodate the wishes of the states that are backing him - those states that possess honorable and decent money, about which he talked previously. Why then should (former Egyptian President Anwar) Al-Sadat and (late Jordanian King) Husayn Bin-Talal be considered traitors for accepting treaties that stipulate the closure of borders before the mujahidin to carry out operations against the Jews? On the other hand, why should the Hizballah secretary general be honored for accepting a similar resolution? How would the people understand Hizballah's accusation of the Lebanese deputies' majority of being agents for the United States, although they certainly are? Furthermore, how Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, who collaborated with America to invade Iraq and prohibited the people from fighting it, has been described as a martyr hero by the Hizballah secretary general? Isn't it real hypocrisy? Another type of this category of people is those who force their army personnel to take six-month renewable vacations when they are pressured by their financing and backing state. Has anybody in this world ever heard that an army takes vacation while the enemy is deployed in its country? This is part of the characteristics of those who make their decisionmaking dependent on financing states.

"If we want to elaborate on this issue, it will take us too long. However, free Muslims, like Amir Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi and his brothers, find it easier for them to sacrifice their lives than place jihad for the sake of God in the hands of any ruler or ally with such rulers against their Umma h. Many people are unaware of the background and conduct of the amirs of the mujahidin in Iraq because of the circumstances and security requirements of the war. However, I reckon that ignorance about the affairs of the amirs of the mujahidin in Iraq is harmless ignorance if they have been recommended by trusted, fair persons, such as Amir Abu-Umar (al-Baghdadi), who has been recommended by trusted, fair mujahidin. He was also recommended by Amir Abu-Mus'ab (al-Zarqawi), may God have mercy on him, and War Minister Abu-Hamzah al-Muhajir, who all were recommended for their patience and steadfastness under the thunderbolts of air raids in the Hindu Kosh Mountains. They are well known by your brothers in Afghanistan, and I trust God that they are as such. Refraining from pledging allegiance to one of the amirs of mujahidin in Iraq after their recommendation by trusted, fair persons under the pretext of not knowing their conduct leads to great evils, one of the gravest of which is obstructing the establishment of the great Muslim nation under one imam, which is a nullifier.

"In conclusion, I assure Muslims in general and our people in the neighboring states in particular, that they will see nothing from the mujahidin but all that is good, God willing. We are your sons. We are defending the religion of the nation, and we are defending its sons. The Muslim victims who fall during the operations against the infidel Crusaders or their usurper agents are not the intended targets. God knows that we are deeply saddened when some Muslims fall victim. Yet, we hold ourselves responsible and seek God's forgiveness for that. We beseech God to have mercy on them and let Paradise be their final abode and to compensate their families and relatives. You must be aware that the enemy deliberately takes its positions among the Muslims to let them serve as human shields for it. I would like to emphasize to our mujahidin brothers to be cautious not to expand in taking unilateral stands and to be keen about their operations in terms of targeting the enemy within legitimized discipline and far away from Muslims as much as they can without hampering jihad for the sake of God.

"In fact, our enmity is with the agent rulers, to whom we give no assurances. Rather, we are seeking to topple them and to refer them to the Islamic judiciary. How can we assure them while they have befriended the enemies of the nation and have done this nation great harm? How can we assure them while they have mixed the law of humans with the law of God Almighty? How can we assure them while the path to the broadest front for the liberation of Palestine passes through the lands that are under their control? I assure our kinfolk in Palestine in particular that we will expand our jihad, God willing, and we will not recognize the Sykes-Picot borders or the rulers appointed by the colonialists. By God, we have not forgotten you after the 9/11 events. Will anyone forget his own family? However, after those blessed raids, which hit the head and heart of global infidelity, the biggest ally of the Zionist entity, America, we are now busy fighting it and its agents, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan, Islamic Magreb, and Somalia. If it is defeated along with its agents in Iraq, God willing, then soon will the legions of mujahidin march, in successive brigades, from Baghdad, Al-Anbar, Mosul, Diyala, and Salah al-Din to restore Hittin to us, God willing. We will not recognize a state for the Jews, not even on one inch of the land of Palestine, as did all the rulers of the Arabs when they adopted the initiative of the ruler of Riyadh years ago.

"They were not sufficed by committing this great calamity, but the people have recently witnessed the sponsor of the subdued being dragged to Annapolis to exercise on them what the Americans did to her ancestors before; but not to be sold, rather to sell. What are the things they are selling? They are selling Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the blood of the martyrs. There is neither power nor strength except from God, Whom we pray to give them what they deserve.

Thus, the people have become surer now of who are the trustworthy and who the traitors are, and also who are the ones that are being toyed with by the Zionists' hands. (Bin Ladin cites two lines of poetry that focus on anguish by the fall of Jerusalem and emphasize betrayal of God by states, not individuals.) Nor will we respect the international conventions recognizing the Zionist entity over the land of Palestine, as the HAMAS leadership did, or as stated by some Muslim Brotherhood leaders. It will be a jihad for the liberation of entire Palestine, from the river to the sea, God willing, joining hands with the sincere mujahidin there from the cadres of HAMAS and other factions, who denounced their leaders for deviating from righteousness. Blood calls for more blood and demolishing calls for further demolishing. I will repeat my swearing by saying: 'By God, we will support you even if we creep on our knees or taste what Hamzah Bin-Abd-al-Muttalib tasted, may God be pleased with him.'

"Finally, I would like to remind my precious Islamic Ummah by saying: O people, you have gained many experiences in the events that passed, so stop the passing of time and playing. Listen, realize, wake up, and take the lessons because the issue is enormous and grave. Where would you go, and what do you expect? The heat of the battle is increasing and it is only a little that separates you from what has been plotted against you. Our only rescue is by responding to God Almighty's orders and avoiding His prohibitions. Among His greatest orders is performing jihad for His sake in order to overcome the overt evil and subdue the covert one. Slaves of God, pay your debts and rush to perform your duties, particularly in the fields of jihad where your brothers have opened the road and secured the needs, taking into account that yourselves, honor, land, money, and whatever you possess are threatened, topped by the threats against your religion. (Bin Ladin cites two lines of poetry stressing that money cannot redeem religion.) The issue is serious, not ludicrous, and it was said before that 'I was eaten when the white ox was eaten.' Today is Baghdad, and tomorrow will be Damascus, Amman, and Riyadh. Fear God like His trusted people, and do not heed the blames of others for fearing Him. Your mujahidin brothers need little money for the ammunition and weapons by which they fight for God's sake - amounts which one merchant among you can afford that will lead, God willing, to defeating the head of the global infidelity. Until when will you continue to fear America and its agents? Don't you have a daring merchant who will free himself from submission and the cuffs of slavery and who will remember death and poverty so that he will prepare himself for the day when he meets God? The person was born without money and will leave this world without it. He should fear God and manage his days and money in a manner that benefit him in the other life; run his affairs with confidentiality; and use our prophet as a model.

"He disappeared from Quraysh in a cave and migrated secretly to Al-Ansar, may God be pleased with them. He makes his security preparations and he immigrates when the situation requires, remembering the reward that he will get and his active efforts in support of religion, and in rescuing the Ummah of Muhammad the Trustworthy, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, at a time enemies have gathered around it from all places. What a trust and honor have been bestowed by God on him, similarly as He did to Uthman, may God be pleased with him, when he solely equipped an army to fight the Romans. Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, said at the time that Uthman would not be harmed after what he had done that day.

"God Almighty says: 'And spend of your substance in the cause of Allah, and make not your own hands contribute to (your) destruction; but do good; for Allah loveth those who do good.' (Koranic verse; Al-Baqara 2:195) He also says: 'Not equal among you are those who spent (freely) and fought, before the Victory, (with those who did so later). Those are higher in rank than those who spent (freely) and fought afterwards. But to all has Allah promised a goodly (reward). And Allah is well acquainted with all that ye do.' (Koranic verse; Al-Hadid 57:10) It

was said that one should behave like the generous if he cannot be one of them, because it is a good thing to do.

"The support of true mujahidin, particularly in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Islamic Maghreb, and Somalia is the main project for the entire Ummah and its first line of defense against all its enemies who harbor ambitions on it and by which it will find its righteous course in its earthly world and religion. Through this support, the Ummah will achieve its pride and safety as well as its security in all fields. Yes, they are the fields of your military, social, food, and economic security so that your oil and wealth will be preserved as well as your money, which is being robbed from you because of its unjust linkage to the dollar. The support of Mujahidin is the project of the entire Ummah for the sake of liberating all Palestine, which would make the Al-Aqsa Mosque smile and would free female and male prisoners, God willing. Believers will then rejoice God's victory. God is triumphant, but the majority of people do not know. My last prayer is to thank God."