

Al-Qa'ida Leader Bin Ladin Calls for Jihad To End 'Siege' of Gaza

March 21, 2008

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

Terrorism: Al-Qa'ida Leader Bin Ladin Calls for Jihad To End "Siege" of Gaza On 21 March, a forum participant posted to a jihadist website several links to an 11-minute 42-second audio recording of a message by Al-Qa'ida leader Usama Bin Ladin, entitled "The Way for the Salvation of Palestine." The message is released by Al-Sahab Media Production Organization, the media wing of Al-Qa'ida.

A translation of the audio message follows:

Bin Ladin

"Praise be to God and God's prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon his family and companions.

"My beloved Islamic nation: God's peace, blessings, and mercy be upon you. My talk to you is about the Gaza siege and the way to deliver Gaza and all of Palestine from the hands of the Zionist enemy. First, I say that one of the greatest catastrophes that break the hearts of the bravest of men is when they see their children experience slow death due to malnutrition and absence of medicine as a result of this unjust siege.

"My Muslim nation: Palestine and its people have been suffering a great deal for almost a century at the hands of the Christians and Jews. Both opponents have not captured it from us through negotiations and dialogue, but by iron and fire, which is the way to regain it. Iron can only be cut with iron. God Almighty showed us the way to stop the oppression of the infidels by saying: "Then fight in Allah's cause - Thou art held responsible only for thyself - and rouse the believers. It may be that Allah will restrain the fury of the Unbelievers; for Allah is the strongest in might and in punishment." (Koranic verse: An-Nisa (The Women) 4:84). It is through arousing the believers and jihad, the oppression of infidels can be stopped. What is it that stands in our way to wage jihad for the sake of God? It is the enormous number of shackles with which that Crusader-Zionist alliance tied the rulers of this region, who in turn tied us by these shackles through the ulema and the media affiliated with them.

"Worshippers of God: This unjust siege on Gaza has shown and confirmed that the sons and leaders of the nation are besieged by the enemies, and that they lack free will and freedom. Their weakness and humiliation were clear to the nation, so how can the besieged break the siege imposed on others? How can these people give something they do not possess? This is the bitter truth that must be faced and efforts must be made to find the right solutions away from the fruitless ideas and weak viewpoints of our enemy rulers of the region.

"My Muslim nation: Despite the tight siege on you, you have a great opportunity to regain your freedom and emerge from submission and subordination to this Crusader-Zionist alliance. For this to happen, you must be free from the shackles of humiliation and subservience, with which the agents of this alliance--the rulers of our countries and their helpers--are tying us, particularly the shackles of the ulema affiliated with the sultan and the shackles of the leaders of Islamic groups, whose methodology now includes recognizing the ruler who betrayed religion and the nation and becoming part of the political system of the state. There is no difference

whether this group is part of the government or the opposition. This also applies to other groups whose caution has become too great to the extent of reaching the degree of fear that prevents one from carrying out jihad--an act of worship that the ruler is forbidding and which is the peak of religion and the way to stop the oppression of the infidels and end the siege of the Muslims. Some of these groups justify sycophancy toward the ruler and abandoning jihad by citing the pretext of the interest of the (Islamic) call to the extent that this claim has become an idol to be worshipped instead of God. Under its cover, the orders of the group leaders are taking precedence over the orders of God Almighty and His messenger, God's peace and blessings be upon him. This is manifest error.

"My Muslim nation: It is imperative to be free from these false shackles and to surrender and be slaves of God Almighty, the One who has no partner, and only then one can be free and can strive to liberate his nation, Palestine, and Al-Aqsa Mosque, thus he will see the doors wide open to the path of freedom and dignity, to the fields of courage and fighting, and to the fields of killing and fighting for the sake of God, as the case is in Afghanistan, Waziristan, the Islamic Maghreb, Somalia, Kashmir, and Chechnya, and in the most important of fields and the one that infuriates the enemy the most, Baghdad, the house of the caliphate, and the surrounding areas. It is in these areas and under the shadows of swords that pride arises. Any place, where pride arises, where the necks of the unjust are broken, and where the believers get their revenge is a good field.

"My Muslim nation: It is no secret to you that Iraq today is the closest field of jihad to support our kinfolk in Palestine. So attention should be focused on it and it should be supported. The duty of providing support is the most confirmed duty of the Muslims in the neighboring countries. The people of Al-Sham (Levant), the people of the blessed land, should sense the great favor God has bestowed upon them and to do what they should do to support their mujahidin brothers in Iraq. It is a great opportunity and a major duty for my brothers the Palestinian emigrants (in Arab countries), between whom and jihad on the plains of Jerusalem a barrier has been built. They should shrug off the illusions of the parties and groups immersed in the ploy of polytheistic democracy. They should rush to take their positions among the ranks of the mujahidin in the land of the two rivers, where they will provide support and rely on God and support His cause, so that He will support them, with the will of God. Afterward, there will be a march toward Al-Aqsa, with its blessed environs, and thus the mujahidin from abroad will converge with their brothers inside (Palestinian areas). Thus, God willing, they will return to us the glory of Hittin (battle in which Muslim armies under Saladin defeated the Crusaders in 1187 A.D), and the Muslims will be reassured with clear victory.

"My Muslim nation: A siege that causes death is the gravest and most horrible form of injustice. No one engages or participates in it except one whose heart is made of stone or is harder. Our Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, said: A woman entered Hell because she tied up a cat, refusing to feed it or let it go to find something to eat, until the cat died. If this concerns the siege of a cat to death, slaves of God, so how about the siege of hundreds of thousands of orphaned children and widowed women? It is a great misfortune and a grave crime, whose repercussions and woes my words cannot describe.

"My Muslim nation: This deadly blockade has started after the Annapolis Arabs gave America and the Zionist entity their support against the mujahidin in Palestine, which is one of the 10 nullifiers of Islam. By this support, they have become partners to this odious crime. Muslims must loathe them, call down evil upon them, strive to remove them, and publicly disavow them by those who can, but if not possible, then do so in their hearts.

"What has made the calamity even graver is that some alleged senior clerics and preachers have come to the nation in its latest ordeal with misleading ideas. That was when they appeared to praise the nation's rulers and to pin the hopes of the nation on them to lift the siege, while knowing that those rulers are a basic pillar in the crime of the siege. They are similar to the ones who try to flee fire by jumping into the hot pan.

"Worshippers of God: We are before three groups: The group of mujahidin and their supporters; the group of those who without any excuse fail to support Palestine through jihad for the sake of God; and the group of the Crusader-Zionist alliance and their supporters, topped by the rulers of the region and the ulema of evil. Those who belong to the first group are the happy ones, and I beseech God to make us and you among those. Those deprived of this happiness are the ones that belong to the second group, which fail to support religion. The miserable ones are those who belong to the third group, from which we ask God to keep us away.

"Finally, I say that Palestine will not return to us through the negotiations of the capitulating rulers and their conferences, nor will it return through the demonstrations of the preachers lagging behind in jihad and their elections. Both are two faces of the calamity of the nation. Palestine will return to us, God willing, if we wake up from our slumber and if we adhere to our religion and defend it with our money and souls. (Here Bin Ladin recites several lines of poetry, in which he warns the Muslim nation against being a slave to foreigners who occupy its land, and calls for fighting and waging jihad to oust the occupation and liberate Jerusalem and other occupied lands)

"God Almighty, we ask you to grant us your favors and save us from Hell in the afterlife. We beseech you to ease our suffering as well as the suffering of our besieged people in Palestine and in other Muslim countries. God, make the mujahidin in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Islamic Maghreb, the Arabian Peninsula, Somalia, Chechnya, and everywhere victorious. God, defeat our enemies of the Jews, the Christians, and their supporters. God, defeat the Arab and foreign tyrants and their supporters, who are nothing compared to your strength. God Almighty, we seek refuge in you and we derive our strength from you. Be merciful toward our weakness, give us strength, make our feet firm, guide our aim, unify our ranks, and make us victorious over the infidels. You are our supporter and the best to rely on. My final prayers is praise be to God."