

Bin Ladin Cited on Prince Sultan's US Visit

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[Article from bulletin No. 48 issued by the Islamic Reform Movement of Saudi Arabia, IRM; received by fax: "New Offer for Bin- Ladin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having lost hope of persuading the Taleban movement to hand over [Saudi dissident Usama] Bin Ladin, the Saudi Government and the parties collaborating with it abandoned the request for his extradition and asked, instead, for Bin Ladin to be silenced and his activities frozen. All the parties exerted pressure to have the shaykh silenced. But the movement always refused to do that and ignored the requests, and the reports of delegations coming from and going to the embassy of "the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques" in Pakistan became a joke among Taleban circles, who declared that their commitment to the shaykh is principled and cannot be backtracked on. The Saudi Embassy recently tried to send a direct message to Shaykh Bin Ladin himself to offer not to demand his extradition "in return" for his stopping attacking the United States and Saudi Arabia. The shaykh's advisers say the offer is like trying to exchange something you do not own for something you cannot do.

Meanwhile, the Bureau for the Study of Islamic Conflicts has quoted Shaykh Bin Ladin as saying the following regarding Prince Sultan's visit to the United States:

"We understand that the visit was an enthronement ceremony by the Americans for Sultan to declare him king of the country of the Two Holy Mosques in place of King Fahd, leapfrogging Crown Prince 'Abdallah. The meaning of this is clear and conspicuous: The United States, which excluded the people of the peninsula from its political calculations, has now excluded the Al Sa'ud from the process of choosing the country's ruler. As a result of this US foolishness, we expect a further widening of the resistance against the US occupation of the country of the Two Holy Mosques and also the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian land. We are not interested much in who is in power in the country as long as he is under the protection of the US crusading occupation. What we are interested in is our people's awareness of the dimensions of the current battle and the need for them to join the mujahidin and get ready for the day of the decisive confrontation, with its heavy costs in terms of money and lives. Everything is of little importance when it comes to defending God's religion, Islamic holy places, and Muslim countries, for the sake of applying God's law."