

## **Excerpts of Purported Statement by Bin Laden**

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

Author: Reuters

Following are excerpts , translated from Arabic, from a statement attributed to Osama bin Laden : About a year has passed since the start of the U.S. crusade declared by the U.S. president in which he led an international coalition of more than 90 nations against Afghanistan.

America is now preparing a new stage in its crusade against the Islamic world, this time against the Muslim Iraqi people to complete its scheme to divide and rupture the [Muslim] nation, rob its riches and pave the way for a greater Israel after expelling the Palestinians. . . .

Oh nation of Islam . . . whether this whole nation is targeted without distinguishing between allies or foes is no longer an issue because the enemy helped us unveil this fact. The issue now is how do we face this flagrant aggression.

If we want God to grant us victory . . . we should arm ourselves with several tools, including: A return to God through repentance, honest work and true intentions.

To unite under God. If it is true that conflict and differences are the main reasons for failure, matters our nation is suffering from, it is true that unity, consensus and faith are the key to victory and the gate to domination.

To stimulate the nation's capabilities, most important of which is the Muslim who is the fuel of battle.

Our nation is one of the richest on Earth. Its resources have for ages been exploited to serve our enemies and conspire against our brethren. And its vast military capabilities are rusting in warehouses in Islamic nations.

It is high time that these capabilities are freed to explode and defend the targeted faith, the violated sanctity, the tarnished honor, the raped land and the robbed riches. . . .

The priority in this war at this stage must be against the infidels, the Americans and the Jews, who will not stop infringing upon us except through jihad.

There are also merchants and capitalists who are not any less important than others in pushing this battle forward to its aim of spreading God's religion and teachings on Earth. Your money will stop a flooding that seeks our destruction. . . .

We congratulate the Muslim nation for the daring and heroic jihad operations which our brave sons conducted in Yemen against the Christian oil tanker and in Kuwait against the American occupation and aggression forces.

By striking the oil tanker in Yemen with explosives, the attackers struck at the umbilical cord of the Christians, reminding the enemy of the bloody price they have to pay for their continued aggression on our nation and robbing our riches.

The heroic Kuwait operation also proves the level of danger that threatens U.S. forces in Islamic countries, and the political office will issue two separate statements on the two operations and their indications. . . .

The timing of the attack against a military target of such importance as Marine forces in Kuwait and the bombing of an economic target the size of the oil tanker in Yemen, and issuing oral and written statements from Taliban and Qaeda leaders who America thought it had killed. . . .

The fact that all this coincided with the one-year anniversary of the start of the Christian crusade is not a coincidence but a clear and strong message to all our enemies and friends alike that the Mujaheddin, thanks be to God, have not been weakened or exhausted and that God repaid those who sinned with their mischief.

We are continuing our path . . . and we renew our promise to God, and to the nation, and our promise to the Americans and Jews that they will not be at peace and should not dream of security until they let our nations be and stop their aggression and support for our enemies. The unjust know what awaits them.