

A Call for Jihad to Stop the Gaza Assault

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

Transcript of Usama Bin Laden Audio Recording Produced by the As-Sahab Media Foundation
“In the name of Allah, the Compassionate and Merciful... O’ my dear Islamic nation, I am not standing before you during these difficult days in order to offer denunciations and condemnations of what has befallen our people in Gaza as a cover to hide behind. Rather, I am addressing you today to state a word of truth that will, Allah willing, help us to restore what has been unjustly stolen from us. It is a word of truth that does not flatter a king or prince, a cleric or minister. It is a word of truth that does not recognize fraudulent international legitimacy, nor that fears the United Nations Security Council which spreads terror among oppressed peoples in small countries such as Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Kashmir, and Chechnya. It is a word of truth that the whole world has attempted to confront and remove from our religious ideology and our lives, in order to remove us afterwards. It is the holy jihad to liberate Jerusalem. Jerusalem, O’ Jerusalem has been desecrated, and Muslims have neglected the duty of jihad...”

O’ nation of Islam, the greatest failure of previous efforts to liberate Palestine was that those who led these efforts were the same rulers who had betrayed the trust of their people. During the 1948 war, Muslims were mystified as to why they were defeated. However, the real shock would have been if they had won that war—for how could we possibly be victorious when our rulers had delegated responsibility for that war to the then-de facto ruler of Jordan, the British General Glubb Pasha? How could our Islamic nation possibly be triumphant when the commander of its armies is also its enemy? At that time, each of our rulers had a similar Pasha guiding him. For instance, in the Arabian Peninsula, the de facto ruler was the British General Phillip... Anyone who reads any part of the British documentation on this subject knows how ignorant our people were at that time. Such deceptions still exist today, but with different faces and names. In every capital [of the Muslim world] today, there is a Bremer—whether overt or covert—along with an Allawi who executes his orders. In every nation, there is a Sistani or a Tantawi, along with phalanxes of... clerics, as well as phalanxes of writers, intellectuals, and journalists, all of whom falsely bestow legitimacy on the agents of the crusaders in our countries. All of these actors are the enemies of our Islamic nation, and we must be wary of them. We are aware of most of them, and what is noteworthy about them is that rulers have granted them control over the media in order to address and deceive the masses on a regular basis—while blocking honest clerics from delivering a Jumah [Friday] sermon, even in a remote village.”

“Another failing of this age is that we can see many slogans being raised for the liberation of Palestine, most of which are meant to waste the cause. One of the most noteworthy of these responses is what governments are doing today through ministerial meetings and the referral of the case to the Security Council and the United Nations. This is one way to evade responsibility and squander the cause of Palestine. Another way is the request by some clerics and preachers that the rulers support Palestine; this too is just another way to evade responsibility and cause the loss of the blood of the martyrs and the Al-Aqsa mosque. How can we beg the agents of our enemies? Aren’t these people fed up with begging for so long during all these protracted decades? ...There is another means; namely, when leaders of Islamic movements ask for permission from our rulers to wage jihad in order to free Palestine, or calling upon the [rulers] to fulfill the demands of their people. This is also yet another way to evade responsibility, and

the result is simply burying their heads in the sand, deceiving the followers of their movements and leading them astray. It is a wasted effort. These people should honestly admit to their fellow brothers that the burden is too heavy and that they are not fit to shoulder it, because the infidels—globally and locally—tyrannize anyone who attempts to work on behalf of or declare the truth of this cause. It is a duty to call for jihad and to mobilize the youth into jihadi fighting units in the cause of Allah against the Zionist-Crusader alliance and their agents in the region—and not to waste the energy of the youth in street demonstrations without carrying any weapons. Those leaders should give the opportunity to their courageous, qualified brothers to lead the movement during these difficult times so that they may carry out their Islamic duty... There is only one righteous path to liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Palestine; namely, jihad in the cause of Allah as we have said before... It is through [waging jihad] and combat that the power of the infidels can be confronted. I say to my Islamic nation: being satisfied by merely holding the rulers and clerics responsible, but then still refraining from taking any action, does not absolve you from responsibility. Rather, it is yet another way of evading [your duty]. In the holy Quran, the command of Allah is clear: namely, that participation in jihad in his cause by wealth and by self should continue until it becomes a collective duty.”

“O’ my Islamic nation, you are capable of defeating the Zionist entity with your basic abilities and your great latent potential without any support from our rulers, despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of them are standing in the trenches of the Zionist-Crusader alliance. O’ my Islamic nation, I would like to reassure you that I am certain that the matter is easy for you—Allah willing—if you follow the righteous path, rely on almighty Allah, use the means provided by [Allah], and avoid other trivial matters along the path. Here, I present to you two pieces of evidence proving that you can defeat our enemies with only a small part of your actual capabilities. The first is the devastating defeat of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, with the guidance of Allah, thanks to the efforts of our people, and without the intervention of any of the armies of our governments. Public winds blew in support of the mujahideen vessel during that war. Since that day, the flag of the Soviet Union has been obliterated from the world and has been cast into oblivion, all praise to Allah. The second piece of evidence is that the U.S. regime, after the fall of the Soviet Union, became the only player in the game and sought to impose its hegemony and policies over the entire world. Thus, the rulers of our region surrendered more than ever to the U.S. government, which increased its tyranny and support for the Zionist entity in order to cause chaos in Palestine. At that time, a group of your brothers declared jihad against that single unipolar force, the Hitler of this age, the rhinoceros whose horn we broke—whose fortresses we shook, and whose towers we demolished. As a result, it burst forth out of rage and declared that it would find the leaders of the mujahideen, dead or alive, in order to restore its image and make an example of anyone who refuses to learn their lesson...”

“Today, the U.S. is staggering under the attacks of the mujahideen and their consequences. [It is suffering from] a human, political, and financial drain. It is drowning in a financial crisis, so much so that it is begging from big and small countries alike. Now, its enemies are no longer in fear of it and its friends have no respect for it. We should take the following into consideration. You know that the first entity to lose from the decline of U.S. injustice is the Zionist entity, which stands to lose one of its most critical lifelines and fundamentals of its existence. The dramatic and rapid decline of U.S. power was one of the important motivations for the Israelis to launch this brutal attack on Gaza, in a desperate attempt to make use of the last days of the two terms of Bush and the neoconservatives. During that era, the United States had such strength, financing, resolve, determination, and deeply-ingrained hatred that nobody else needed to attack the Muslims or strike at the forces opposing U.S. hegemony in the region. As a result, the forces of the White House crashed against the rock of the mujahideen in Afghanistan and were drowned in the swamps of Iraq. Thus, the Israelis are in a hurry to defeat their

adversaries in Gaza, and replace them with Abbas and his authority. They seek to protect their rear. Therefore, they carried out this horrible massacre before the end of Bush's term in office, before the weakness of America becomes any more apparent, before the collapse of the veto system which the world has begun to despise, and before the calls to abandon its flagrant injustice and arrogance become louder and louder.”

“O’ my Islamic nation, the discussion of the weakness and decline of American hegemony and the collapse of the American economy is not based upon mere hope alone. It has been acknowledged by their senior leaders what they can no longer hide. Incoming [U.S.] Vice President Biden has stated, ‘The crisis is worse than we expected. The entire American economy is in danger of collapse.’ The Spanish Finance Minister has stated, ‘The entire world economy may collapse.’ Furthermore, former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has stated, ‘The Great Depression will seem like a picnic compared to this economic crisis.’ French President Sarkozy described the crisis as ‘very deep, leaving the global financial system on the edge of catastrophe.’ I would like to say that they are still in the midst of the catastrophe, praise be to Allah, as a result of the injustice of those unjust people. The German Foreign Minister has stated, ‘The world will never return to where it was before the crisis. The U.S. will lose its status as a superpower in the global financial system.’ I cite to you U.S. intelligence reports which have confirmed that U.S. power will decline during coming years.”

“O’ my Islamic nation, the jihad waged by your sons against the Zionist-Crusader alliance is one of the key reasons, after the grace of Allah, for all these destructive consequences for our enemies, which have become clear and obvious after seven years of war. I would like to reassure you, my Islamic nation... that we believe that Allah has bestowed on us patience that will enable us to continue jihad for another seven years, seven more after that, and even seven more after that, if Allah wills it. Patience is our best weapon, and piety is the best sustenance. If we are martyred in the process, then this is what we have sought... The real question is: can the United States persist in its war against us during the coming decades? The reports and signs seem to indicate the exact opposite. Reports indicate that about 75% of the American people are pleased with the departure of the president who embroiled them in this war which they cannot survive, and who drowned them in the economic whirlpools that have submerged them. He created a grave inheritance for his successor, and left him with two unattractive options—like being forced to swallow a double-edged sword that will wound him however he deals with it. The worst kind of inheritance is a protracted guerrilla war against a patient, stubborn opponent, that has been financed by interest-based loans. If he withdraws from the war, it will be a military defeat. If he continues it, he will drown in the economic crisis. How will he act, having inherited two wars, not one of which he is capable of continuing? And we are in the process of opening new frontlines, Allah willing.”

“O’ my Islamic nation, you should cooperate with your mujahideen brothers to continue jihad against the enemies of the religion, and to continue exhausting them on these two fronts, and other fronts that are open before you against the Zionist-Crusader coalition and its agents in the region, in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Waziristan, the Islamic Maghreb, and Somalia. O’ my Islamic nation, it is your duty to support them all with your wealth and yourselves until it is adopted as a collective responsibility. Praise be to Allah, I have personally experienced jihad, and I know its financial costs. However, the religious donations of a single prominent Muslim businessman are enough to cover the entire expenses of jihad on all active frontlines with our enemies today... The contented individual is the one who has been guided by Allah to contribute to promoting his religion, defending his Prophet, and saving the Islamic nation and Allah’s messenger, prayers and peace be upon him... I know that greed does not prevent many of the Muslim merchants from spending money in the cause of Allah, but rather they are prevented by

their fear of the United States and its agents in the region. However, I say to them that this is not an excuse, as you are in the abode of temptation and trial... There must be hijrah [migration to the land of jihad], and there must be coverage of expenses of support and establishment of the religion. The best of humanity [the prophet Mohammed], prayers and peace be upon him, was forced by infidels to hide in a cave, leave behind his family, clan, and home, and to emigrate from the best land, honorable Mecca. So, you should hurry up to do the same, and you should take the precious opportunity, and not waste it. You have the excellent model provided by Allah's messenger, prayers and peace be upon him. Can one not find a place to hide somewhere? Is the land of Allah not vast enough to carry out the religious duty of financial jihad?"

"...O' my Islamic nation, all these wars, crises, and calamities bear accompanying gifts [for us], and wise people would not just let them pass them by—but, rather, they should make use of them. Thus, you have an excellent opportunity to resist the injustice and oppression that have been waged against you (both from inside and outside) for several decades, and to forcibly seize your rights. Those who insist to you that the path to regain your rights passes through the ballot box and who present to you the example of the peoples of the West are merely deceiving you and telling you lies. They do that either out of fear of the rulers, or out of greed for wealth. The peoples of the West who they are referring to, in fact, have managed to regain their rights by means of revolution and the power of weapons. Following the seven-year long war for control of America waged by France and Britain, both nations endured major economic crises that forced the rulers to impose taxes on their peoples. That—along with previous oppression and injustices imposed by kings upon their subjects—was the catalyst that ignited the French Revolution. King Louis XIV used to say, 'I am the state, and the state is me.' The same holds true for our kings and presidents. The French people seized the excellent opportunity from all those calamities, and revolted against their unjust king, who sucked their blood and their wealth. They overthrew Louis XVI and drove him to the guillotine, seizing back their rights by force. There is no place for the ballot box in our lands, which are under the domination of tyrants. They only mean to deceive us. What is regrettable, and what we need to be aware of, is that most of our clerics and preachers promote this great fraud. Also out of that same economic crisis, the Americans revolted against Britain in order to obtain their rights. They did not do so using democratic methods—with which they are using to deceive us today in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere—but, rather, by reclaiming their rights by means of blood and weapons... We Muslims believe that the Islamic nation has the essential right to elect its president. We also believe in advisory councils. However, we believe that Western-style democracy is not only a great deception, but moreover, an unacceptable religious innovation that amounts to polytheism. Muslims can never accept being ruled other than by the religion of almighty Allah, and not by the man-made laws that they have devised themselves. In our religion, fighting in the cause of Allah entails combat against the invading aggressors and the renegade rulers in order to make the word of Allah supreme. Then, everything will return to normal and rights will return to their true owners."

"In conclusion, I would like to say to our people in Palestine: may Allah increase your rewards, accept your dead as martyrs, and speed the recovery of the wounded... O' my brothers in Palestine, you have suffered terribly, as your ancestors have over the past nine centuries. Muslims are united in sympathy for you after what they have seen and heard—and we, too, are sympathetic for you because we share your same reality. The sentiments of the mujahideen for what you are going through are huge. The mujahideen, like you, are also being bombarded by the same aircraft, and they lose their dearest family members in the same way that you have... Allah has willed that this year should bear witness the signs of dawn and good tidings, namely, the decline of the Zionist-Crusader wave. And there is still more to come, Allah willing. We support you, and we will not let you down, Allah willing. We share the same destiny in fighting

the Zionist-Crusader alliance. Thus, we shall fight until we emerge victorious, or fall as martyrs in the cause of Allah...”