

Dr. Ayman al Zawahiri: Four Years After the Tora Bora Battles; From Tora Bora to Iraq

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

In the name of God, praise be [to] God, and peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of God, his household, companions, and loyalists.

"Brother Muslims everywhere, God's peace and blessings be upon you. At the beginning, I start my statement by expressing my sympathies with my brother Muslims in Kashmir and Pakistan's northern areas for the calamity that has befallen them. I beseech the Almighty God to have mercy on the dead, heal the wounds of the wounded, give shelter to the homeless, and support and preserve the widows and orphans. I appeal to all well-meaning people and popular charity organizations in the Islamic world to provide relief, assistance, and aid to their Muslim brethren in Pakistan.

"I know that many benevolent people and Islamic charity organizations have been harmed by America's crusader war on Islam. America has been watching Islamic charity work, harassing it, and limiting its activities. However, despite all of that, and although the [Pakistani President Gen. Pervez] Musharraf government is just a section of the US intelligence, I appeal to all Muslims not to abandon their religious duty toward their Muslim brethren in Pakistan.

"My brothers and I had wished that we were now among our afflicted brothers, treating their wounded and offering our sympathies to the bereaved. However, we pray that God would help us to victory soon, so that the barriers and bans imposed by the enemies of Islam to hinder inter-Muslim cooperation could be removed.

"This earthquake needs that we pause for reflection and consideration regarding the great powers of God, the Irresistible, the Mighty. It also requires from us a sincere return to our religion, so that God would spare us His wrath, a sincere repentance, so that God would forgive us, and a reassessment of the past, so that we would know why these disasters have befallen us and where we have been guilty or lax to deserve such disasters. We beseech God that He would forgive us and heal our wounds, together with all the Muslims.

"Dear brothers, these days four years ago, the glorious Tora Bora battle was waged. That battle, like the other battles of resisting the new Zionist-Crusader campaign, revealed the extent of cowardice and frailty characterizing the Crusaders and their renegade supporters. In Tora Bora, with its rough terrain and biting weather, about 300 mujahidin stood their ground during the savage US bombardment for 12 days. They resisted the US legions of the Cross and herds of the renegades, who surrounded and besieged them, and shelled them with all types of bombs, including seven-ton bombs. However, they did not dare break into their positions, where they would face bitter and sure death.

"The Americans were not brave enough to storm the Tora Bora positions, although they were certain that Shaykh Usama Bin Ladin, may God watch over him, was there. They resorted to their familiar approach of assembling hypocrites and bandits, in addition to the aerial bombardment. The Americans watched the battle from afar. They pushed the bandits and gangs of the hypocrites, under the leadership of Haji Qadeer, Hazrat Ali, and Mohammed Zaman, who, thanks to God, returned each time [having] failed, carrying their dead and wounded."At the end, they tried to play against the mujahidin the same dirty game they had played in Qunduz and Qal'e Jangi. Thus, they asked them to hold the fighting. After they agreed on the time and place of negotiations, they broke their pledge, saying, 'No negotiations, and we want nothing but your blood.' That happened when they found that the mujahidin refused to leave their positions, lay down their weapons, and or give up their steadfastness, and when they discovered that the negotiations would not enable them to practice the treachery they had hoped for.

"Afterward, the bandits and mercenaries entered Tora Bora after making sure that it had been completely vacated by the mujahidin. They were followed by the cowardly Americans. They then claimed that they had killed 200 of the mujahidin in Tora Bora, although all the martyrs in the battles of Tora Bora were around 30: Ten of whom as a result of the bombardment and 20 while they were retreating to join other mujahidin. So where were the 200 bodies, you liars and impostors? The Americans could not parade any of the mujahidin of Tora Bora. However, they managed, through bribes, to get the mujahidin after they crossed into Pakistan, where one of the tribes betrayed them after agreeing with them to host them and protect them. This is the truth of the powerful and formidable US forces. The Americans did not break into Tora Bora, for they are too cowards to do so. The American soldiers do not fight for a faith, do not trust their leaders, and do not die for a principle.

"I want the Americans to ask their president, 'Why didn't the US Special Forces break into Tora Bora to capture Usama Bin Ladin, given the fact that they waged the war to capture him and destroy his group?' I want them to ask him where were the 200 bodies they claimed [to have killed] in bora Bora. I want them to ask him what was the truth behind the retreat and fleeing of the Americans in Shahi Kut and the truth of their losses and failure in Afghanistan up to this day? And why have Taliban and its mujahidin supporters remained strong and united, inflicting blows to the Americans and raising the banner of jihad? Why is all this happening after the alleged war on terrorism, despite the huge amounts of money spent on it? Or are they too coward[ly] to ask, and is he too coward[ly] to answer? The fact that Bush is hiding from his people so as to continue extorting them into paying money for him to spend on his failed plans is that the majority of the Afghan people were and continue to support Taliban and their mujahidin supporters, thanks be to God.

"We used to hear about the lying, treachery, deception of the people of the West. However, no one had thought that they are so deceptive, even among themselves. I had not imagined that they fear the word 'why' so much. They fear it, run away from it, and avoid it in anyway possible. They do not want anybody to ask why they were attacked in New York and Washington, why they failed in Afghanistan, why they stumbled in Iraq, why their leaders are leading them like sheep to the slaughterhouse, why the oppressed of the world hate them so much, and why the Muslims bear such animosity toward them. They do not want anybody to ask why all the security services and systems failed to achieve security for them, although they spent huge amounts of money on them. They do not want anybody to ask why despite all the growing spending on defense and security, they move from fear to fear and from panic to panic. They do not want anybody to ask why their policies have brought them all these disasters, why the Muslims defend their faith with all this courage, and why they make all these sacrifices. Nor do they want anybody to ask why someone is considered a crazy, criminal, blood-thirsty terrorist who kills just for the sake of killing if he makes them suffer only a small part of what they had already made others suffer, especially the Muslims. They stubbornly and rudely prevent anybody from asking why they insist on lying after each scandal and why their leaders underestimate the intelligence of their people.

"Why does [British Prime Minister Tony] Blair, for example, insist that Iraq has nothing to do with the London bombings, although those who carried out the bombings said repeatedly and unambiguously that they carried out these heroic operations because of Britain's crimes against the Muslims in Palestine, Afghanistan, and Iraq? Why does Bush still insist on lying, despite his public scandal, in full view of the world--the scandal of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the scandal of the link between the Ba'hist regime and al Qa'ida? He had been so stubborn that he sent his Secretary of State Colin Powell to the UN Security Council to present evidence about that. Afterward, the entire world discovered that the whole issue was nothing but sheer lying. Because the peoples of the West hate, detest, and run away from the word 'why,' they will end up in utter failure and complete defeat, God willing By allowing themselves to be fooled by lies and illusions they will destroy themselves, ruin their countries, and lead their economies to bankruptcy.

"Peoples of the Crusader West: Your ancestors had been deceived by Pope Urban II [1042 - 1099] in the 11th century, when he urged them to wage the Crusader Wars because the pagan Muslims, the enemies of Christ, as he alleged, had attacked the tomb of Jesus Christ, may God's peace be upon Him. They had

deliberately lied to the mobs of the West, ignoring the crystal clear fact that the Muslims were not pagans. In fact, they had uprooted paganism wherever they had gone. Moreover, they are monotheists, who worship Allah, the One and Only, who begetteth not, nor is He begotten, and there is none like unto Him [Koranic verse, Sura 112]. They ignored the fact that the Muslims cannot be enemies to Jesus Christ, peace be upon Him, for they believe in Him as a prophet. Rather, they consider Him one of the apostles of inflexible purpose. They believe in the Bible sent down to Him. Indeed, they believe in all the prophets, messengers, and books of God. The result of that charlatanism was Crusader Wars that continued for about two centuries. Those wars ended in the utter defeat of your ancestors. Today, Bush and Blair are deceiving you, using the same methods of deception, when they drag you to successive wars under the pretext of the war on terror, eliminating weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and spreading freedom in the world.

"They are leading you in all these lies and tricks, while you are acting like brainless herds. The secrets of the devil's Crusader alliance are being revealed to the world. Thus, the swindler [Italian Prime Minister Silvio] Berlusconi said in his recent statement in late October [2005] that he had opposed the invasion of Iraq. He then met with Bush the next day. Afterward, they refrained from answering the journalists' questions after the meeting. They agreed on collecting the spoils, but disagreed when they had to pay the tolls.

"One has only to wonder at the extent of the spread of lying in the Western thought and policy. Every crime has to have a lie to cover it. Whenever a lie is revealed, there must be another lie to cover it. Their latest flimsy lie is that their allegation that they want to spread freedom and reform in the world in general and in our countries in particular. However, it was all much ado about nothing. [Egyptian President] Husni Mubarak is still in his place after 25 years of crimes and corruption. [Saudi Arabian King] Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz is still in place after the death of his brother, who had been unconscious for years. The rest of the agents of Caesar — Washington — are still in the places they had been appointed in. Corruption, looting, dissolution are still the same.

"Meanwhile, oil continues to be stolen, while the US bases are where they are, and affiliation with America has not changed. Israel continues to enjoy military supremacy and continues its massacres and monopoly over nuclear weapons. Torture, oppression, and injustice are all still there. How can America be a promoter of freedom in the world, while it is spreading its secret prisons all over the world? It is exporting the detainees to its Egyptian, Jordanian, Saudi, and other agents for torture by proxy. The US campaign for reform—after the dust has settled— has made one significant US achievement, which is changing teaching curricula and the policies of the ministries of Awqaf [Kuwait's Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs] and information to agree with the US Crusader war on Islam and the Muslims of Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The Americans consider those changes essential and important so as to transfer the Muslim nation from the faith of monotheism, jihad, and enjoining what is just and forbidding what is wrong to the faith of secularism, moral dissolution, military capitulation, political affiliation, economic looting, to turn the Muslim nation into a humiliated, obedient, and defenseless herd. They did so in order to banish, besiege, and isolate the hard-working sincere scholars, the scholars of jihad, resistance, and enjoining what is just and forbidding what is wrong, from the masses of the Muslims, and to bring to light, polish, and decorate the scholars of begging, appeasement, and capitulation.

"But as the Americans were exposed in Tora Bora, they are still being exposed daily after four years of their Crusader war against Islam which they falsely call [a] war against terror. Everybody has now learned that America will not realize freedom in our country. Rather, it is the last person who would want to see that because the establishment of a free government in our countries will mean the end of subservience to America; It will also mean a capable Islamic state that seeks to mobilize the Muslim nation in a war of liberation from the crusader-Zionist aggression.

"Everybody now knows that all those who wagered on America's desire to change conditions were only players in a badly-directed theatrical with silly context. They also know that the nation will not wrest its

freedom, dignity, and independence except by staging jihad in the sake of God against the United States and its lackeys, and that begging for freedom from the United States will only yield further US aggression, violation of sanctities, stealing oil, occupation of countries, supporting Israel, and fighting Islam.

"I was very surprised by the reactions in the western press and media to our demand to the West to leave our countries and to stop stealing our wealth and supporting the corrupt rulers in our countries. They went mad and accused us of foxiness, cunning, extremism, and demanding the impossible. So, what is required from us so that they would be pleased? To bless their occupation of the countries of Islam, applaud their stealing of oil and the Muslims' wealth, demand more crimes by the tyrannical agents? What is this nonsense? What is this attempt to belittle of the Muslims' humanity and the most basic of their just rights? Who on this earth would accept to see his land occupied, his wealth stolen, and criminal thieves imposed on him?

"I was also surprised to hear Bush scaring the Americans by saying that the Muslims are seeking to establish the caliphate [an Islamic system of government] on the land of Islam and to destroy Israel. My God! Who appointed you, O charlatan and liar, an emperor over this world to stop us from seeking to establish the caliphate and to impose Israel on us? If you were deluded by the strength of your armies, then we have, with the help of God, exposed them in Afghanistan and Iraq. With the help and support of God, we exposed them as mere tonnes of steel and explosives abandoned by your coward soldiers at every confrontation. The establishment of the caliphate is the duty of every Muslim and is the hope of the Muslim nation. You want this nation divided to more than 50 states so that Israel could find it easy to tame anyone who revolts against the crusader-Zionist policy. You should understand that we are a single nation, who do not recognize the Sykes-Picot Agreement [drawn up in 1916 by British diplomat Mark Sykes and French diplomat Francois Georges-Picot to define the roles of England and France in the Middle East], Percy Cox maps [Sir Percy Cox was the British High Commissioner to Iraq from 1920 to 1923], and Durand lines [In 1893, British diplomat Sir Henry Mortimer Durand fixed the border of Afghanistan along a 1,200-mile line running from Western China to Iran, which had the effect of dividing Pashtun tribes between Afghanistan and Pakistan], whether you like it or not. You will have no security unless you deal with the nation of Islam on the basis of respect and understanding and not on the basis of theft, robbery, and crimes.

"O, Bush, the son of Bush, you should know that in spite of you, and even if it means you die of your frustration and lose your mind, removing Israel is an individual duty on every Muslim. The caliphate, against which you conspired and destroyed 80 years ago, will be back, God willing. Palestine, which you usurped, will be liberated, God willing. The Muslim nation is rallying around its mujahidin sons, even if the religious scholars of beggary, the ulema of flattery, and the philosophers of defeat, try to appease you.

"Because the Muslim nation is rallying around its mujahidin sons, the only concern of their propaganda and philosophers now is to persuade the people to bring about change through peaceful action. However, the nation has known its way to jihad and the carrying of arms. My God! We should abide by political action while the enemies of Islam are carrying out every violent, savage, and cruel action and while Israel is armed to the teeth with all the conventional and non-conventional weapons. If we abide by political action, they will then ask us to abide by the international norms and laws, which mean nothing to them. If we abide by them, they will demand us to impose restrictions against all those who support terrorism and fight Israel. If we abide by that, they will demand us to publicly recognize Israel and establish normal relations with it. Has Israel not recently objected to HAMAS' participation in the elections because it seeks to remove Israel? If we abide by recognizing Israel, they will demand us to renounce religious fanaticism and extremism and abandon the Islamic Shari'ah. After we do all that, they will only accept us as prisoners in the jails of their agents.

This is the foxy, cunning game of absorbing the people's fury, which will only lead to loss because any path other than jihad will lead only to failure. The gimmick of promoting American democracy in Egypt ended up with the farce of Husni Mubarak's re-election. All those who wagered on America have lost their stakes. The tyrannical US power continued to defy the world, waiting for another power to defeat it.

[Egyptian poet Ahmad] Shawqi was speaking the truth when he wrote the following lines in praise of Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him:

"If you confront evil with goodness, you will be frustrated; but if you confront evil with evil, it will retreat

"You urged them to stage a jihad that will bring them glory, for war is the system governing the world and nations

"The followers of Isa [Jesus] have prepared every cutting sword, but we only had division amongst us

"Whenever you were invited to war, you hurried, throwing in brave men, with God throwing in His angels

"Your banners were held by men seeking to take God's revenge; they were fighting for the sake of God, and relaying on God.

"Talking about elections the US way in Egypt, we recall the American elections in Afghanistan and Iraq. In a previous speech, I mentioned the presidential elections in Afghanistan where it took 15 days to count the votes. However, this time, the votes for the parliamentary elections in Afghanistan took one month to count, during which the ballot boxes were being moved between the highway robbers, the war lords, and the armies and intelligence services of the United States. This is evidence on the progress of democracy and freedom in Afghanistan. You wise men in the world can imagine what could be done within this month in Afghanistan.

"As for the charade of the referendum on the constitution in Iraq, it surpassed the referendums of [late Egyptian president Jamal] Abdul Nasset and Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi Government was so zealous regarding the number of votes to the extent that they spoiled the broth. They had to return the broth to the kitchen once again to fix and to avoid the scandal. The desired result was announced 10 days later. All this was under the supervision of the United Nations, the world's false witness. The United Nations is governed by five superpowers that can steer it the way they want. The foul smell of scandals in the United Nations is now filling the air, especially with regards their fair handling of the oil-for-food program! They had to announce some facts, but what is hidden is even worse. The important thing here was to please the Caesar of Washington.

"All these gimmicks and charades cannot deceive the Muslim nation. All these governments have been imposed by the United States on the Muslim nation. If it were not for the columns of tanks, squadrons of warplanes, and thousands of missiles, and the destruction of cities, these governments would not have been able to assume power. Was the true nature of Al-Ja'fari's agent government not been exposed by its defense minister, who on 4 November stated that he will destroy houses over the heads of the Muslims in Iraq and their children unless they give in the mujahidin? This lackey dog of the Cross will destroy houses over the heads of Muslims and their children, using the warplanes of the Crusaders. This is America's democracy that it brought to Iraq.

"I will not address this dog. Instead, I address his two masters: Bush and Blair. I say: God willing, you will pay for these statements. God is our supporter, and you have none.

"Brother Muslims: I thank God for allowing us to stand fast in the face of the most brutal Crusader campaign that was launched against Islam throughout history. I bring you the good tidings that your brothers in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine are striking painful blows and directing deadly stabs against your enemies and that they are daily advancing one step closer to Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem], with the help and might of God.

"Muslim nation: The hope of your victory is being achieved at the hands of your mujahidin sons in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, and Chechnya.

"O, nation of Islam: The arena of jihad in Iraq is now the most important arena of jihad in this age. The nation should support the heroic mujahidin of Iraq, who are fighting in the frontline to defend Islam's glory and dignity.

"Beloved brothers in the Iraq of the caliphate and Jihad: Stand fast and hold your ground. Victory is achieved through patience and perseverance. The enemy has begun to falter, so do not hesitate in chasing him until he withdraws in retreat, God willing

"O, nation of Islam everywhere, especially around Iraq, I urge you to take care of your brothers the mujahidin in Iraq, especially my beloved brother Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, who I knew very well and was close to him. God is my witness; I have only seen good things from him. I know that he is sincere and faithful and his heart is pained by the pains of his nation. God knows better his hidden intents, which I hope are as good as his public ones. O, Abu-Mus'ab: Be patient, stand fast, and rely only on God. I urge you to take good care of your brother mujahidin, and I urge your mujahidin brothers to take good care of you.

"To all the heroic, beloved amirs [leaders] of Jihad in Iraq: Stick to unity and show fear of God for the sake of the nation of Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, who is expecting your unity and agreement.

"O, Beloved brothers, all the mujahidin in the Iraq of caliphate and jihad: I urge you to take care of Iraq's valiant tribes, the Arabs of Jihad, the Kurds of conquest, and the Turks of faith. They are the substance of Jihad and the origin of courage and sacrifice. O dear mujahidin, take good care of them because they have always been the soldiers of Islam throughout history.

"O, brother mujahidin in the Iraq of caliphate and jihad: I do not ask you only to treat well your brothers in Iraq, but I also ask you to serve them, make sure their needs are met, lend support to them, and defend their faith, dignity, and sacred things, with everything you hold dear.

"I urge Iraq's tribes, clans, noblemen, and lions to take good care of the mujahidin. They are your sincere brothers who are defending Islam and its glory.

"I also urge our masters, the sincere and active ulema of Iraq, to assume their important role to guide the nation and to promote jihad and give the nation the glad tidings about the coming conquest, God willing. I urge them to preserve the ideology of monotheism against those who want to belittle the governance of Shari'ah or the doctrine of Al-Wala and al-Bara [allying with the faithful and renouncing the non-believers], and establish a government based on race, ethnicity, secularism, or renouncing of the governance of the Shari'ah.

"I also warn all the Muslims in Iraq against all those who discouraged the jihad against the Crusader occupier. Regardless of all claims, such a person is a traitor to God and His Prophet and virtuous family members and companions, God's blessings be upon them, and a traitor to all Muslims.

"God has said, 'No men can be its [i.e. a mosque's] guardians except the righteous; but most of them do not understand.' [Koranic verse, excerpted from Sura 8:34]

"God also said, 'Those in whose hearts is a disease, thou seest how eagerly they run about amongst them, saying: "We do fear lest a change of fortune bring us disaster." Ah! perhaps Allah will give (thee) victory, or a decision according to His will. Then will they repent of the thoughts which they secretly harboured in their hearts.' [Koranic verse, Sura 555]

"I urge the people of Iraq in general, and the mujahidin in particular, to rally around their sincere, active scholars, and to defend them, and lend support to them.

"O, nation of Islam, O, Muslims in Turkey, Al-Sham [Greater Syria] and the Arabian Peninsula: Take care of the mujahidin of Iraq. Support them with men, money, ammunition, and prayers. They are fighting at the gates of Palestine. We hope things will proceed well and they establish direct contact with the lions of Islam in the surroundings of Bayt al-Maqdis and achieve the greater conquest and the clear victory, God willing

"In conclusion, we say praised be God Almighty and God's peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad, His family and companions."

The following is an edited translation of an audiotape attributed to al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, parts of which were aired by Aljazeera on April 23, 2006. (It is not known where or when the recording was made.)

It is not known where or when the latest message was recorded

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the world, prayer and peace be upon our prophet Muhammad, his kin and all his companions.

Peace, Allah's mercy and blessing be upon you, as I am directing this speech to all the Islamic Umma, to continue talking and urging them to support our prophet Muhammad, and to punish the perpetrators of the horrible crime committed by some Crusader-journalists and apostates against the master of the predecessors and successors, our prophet Muhammad.

The holy verses of the Quran and the holy prophetic teachings have all clarified the need for according love, respect and obedience to our prophet. Allah, the Almighty, has made it a taboo to offend him, saying in the Quran those who harm Allah and his messenger would be damned and severely punished.

It was also confirmed by an authentic source that prophet Muhammad said no one could be faithful until he loves me more than he loves his parents, his sons and all other people. Therefore, the Umma has reached a consensus that he who offends or degrades the messenger would be killed. Such offence is regarded as kufr (infidelity).

We ask Allah to give his blessings to whoever decried the behaviour of the infidels who have offended the prophet in every part of the world, and blessings to those who have died in the process, while we vow to Allah to avenge for those whose blood have been spilled.

The West is incapable of recognising the rights of others. It will not be able to respect others' beliefs or feelings. The West still believes in ethnic supremacy and looks down on other nations. They categorise human beings into white masters and coloured slaves.

This is why they established institutions and enacted laws to maintain their supremacy by creating the United Nations and the veto power They regard jihad for the sake of God or defending one's self or his country as an act of terror. US and Europe consider jihad groups in Palestine, Chechnya, Iraq and Afghanistan as terrorist groups, so how could we talk or have understanding with them without using weapons?

On their part, the rulers of our region consider the US and Europe as their friends and allies while looking at the jihad groups that fight against the Crusaders in Iraq and Afghanistan as terrorist groups as well. So how can we reach understanding with those rulers who deny us the right to defend ourselves and our religion without carrying arms?

The net result of their thinking is for us to abandon jihad and acquiesce to remaining as their slaves. This is

impossible, God willing.

The Palestine question is a manifestation of such injustices when the allied forces of the Crusaders and the Zionists decided to hand over Palestine to the Zionists to establish a state after committing massacres, displaced the indigenous Palestinians and brought Jews from all over the world to settle in Palestine.

The ongoing injustice and aggression did not stop in the last nine decades, while all attempts to reclaim our rights and exact justice on the Israeli oppressors, were blocked by the leadership of the Crusaders and Zionists' affiance by using the so-called veto power.

Such attitudes were also reflected by their rejection of the Hamas movement and its victory in the elections. Their rejection to Hamas has reaffirmed that they were waging a crusade against Islam.

The US sought to reach southern Sudan, recruited an army of southerners, supported them with weapons and funding and directed them to seek separation from Sudan. Then it exercised pressure against Khartoum government to sign an unjust agreement which permits south Sudan to gain independence from the north within six years.

[Sudanese President Omar] al-Bashir and [US President George] Bush should have been aware that this agreement is not worth the ink by which it was written, and we do not accord the least concern to it. Nobody, whoever he was, has the right to accede an inch of the land of Islam and the south will remain an inseparable part of the land of Isahn, God willing, even if the war continued for decades.

The US was not satisfied by all the sedition and crimes, but went on to incite sedition, the largest of which was the west Sudan sedition by exploiting some disputes between the tribes and sparking a savage war between them that will spare nothing, prior to sending in Crusader troops to occupy the region and steal its oil wealth under the pretext of peacekeeping.

This is a continuous Crusader-Zionist war against Muslims. In this respect I am inviting the mujahidin and their supporters in the Sudan and other countries around, including the Arabian peninsula in particular, to prepare all that is needed for a long-term war against the Crusaders and thieves in western Sudan.

Our objective is obvious, that is defending Islam, the people and the land but not Khartoum government since our differences with them are so enormous, mostly when it backtracked in implementing the Sharia law and abandoned south Sudan.

I urge the mujahidin to get acquainted with Darfur state tribes and land and its surroundings, keeping in mind that the region is about to face the rainy season that hampers means of transport.

This is one of the reasons why the occupation was adjourned for six months. So it is imperative to speed up action and benefit from the time factor by stocking a large amount of landmines and anti-armour grenades such as RPGs [rocket propelled grenades].

What was the aim behind barring arms from the unarmed people in Bosnia and letting the Serb army to massacre Muslims and spill their blood for years under UN cover? It was a Crusader war against Muslims.

What was the aim of the pressure against Indonesia by the Crusaders countries until East Timor, 24 hours after a warning by the UN? A Crusader-Zionist-Hindu war against Muslims.

Meanwhile, a UN resolution passed more than half a century ago gave Muslim Kashmir the liberty of choosing independence from India and Kashmir. George Bush, the leader of the Crusaders' campaign, announced a few days ago that he will order his converted agent [Pakistan President Pervez] Musharraf to shut down the Kashmir mujahidin camps, thus affirming that it is a Zionist-Hindu war against

Muslims.

With respect to Pakistan, some Muslims have done a good job by assisting their fellow Muslims, God bless them, but the Pashtun tribes must be aided after the Pakistan army devastated their homes in Waziristan in order to satisfy the US.

What does the silence over Russian atrocities inside Chechnya mean, along with mutilating their bodies by tying them to tanks while the so-called free world gives its blessings and even secretly supports the aggression? This is a Zionist crusade.

What does the humiliation of Muslims in Somalia and killing 13,000 Muslims mean, along with torching Muslims' bodies? This is a Zionist-Crusaders war.

I will remind Muslims to fear God and to save their brothers in the African Horn from the famine that hit them.

What does the destruction of the infrastructure in Iraq mean and the tragedy that befell them mean? And the use of depleted uranium, besieging Iraq for years, causing the death of more than one million children which amazed all who had visited Iraq, including the Westerners themselves? It is a malicious crusade against Muslims.

What does the reoccupation of Iraq mean by using lies and deception along with murder, destruction, detention, torture and creation of huge military bases to dominate the whole region? It is a Zionist crusade against Muslims.

What about the continuous cultural domination through the setting up of radio stations and TV channels along with the Voice of America, London and others to continue the cultural domination of Muslims, combat our beliefs, change our values, encourage vice and even interfere with school curricula?

How can we explain France's stance on the headscarf and the banning on wearing it at schools, its relentless dealing with the Muslim community and its plan to establish a TV channel in Morocco to combat Islamic awareness there? This is a Zionist-Crusader war.

In conclusion, a war is under way to offend the messenger of Allah, his religion and his Umma (nation). The Muslim preparedness and their jihad should be on a par with these events. The duty of our Muslim nation over this Crusaders' campaign with its different aspects is to focus on supporting the prophet, his religion and the Umma to the best of our ability in all fields.

Despite the numerous Crusader attacks against our Muslim nation in military, economic, cultural and moral aspects, but the gravest of them all is the attack against our religion, our prophet and the our Sharia tenets. The epicentre of these wars is Baghdad, the seat of the khalifate rule. They keep reiterating that success in Baghdad will be success for the US, failure in Iraq the failure of the US.

Their defeat in Iraq will mean defeat in all their wars and a beginning to the receding of their Zionist-Crusader tide against us. Your mujahidin sons and brothers in Iraq have taught the US a hard lesson while in the fourth year of the Crusaders' invasion, they are steadfast and patient and keep killing and wounding enemy soldiers every day.

It is a duty for the Umma with all its categories, men, women and youths, to give away themselves, their money, experiences and all types of material support, enough to establish jihad in the fields of jihad particularly in Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Sudan, Kashmir and Chechnya. Jihad today is an imperative for every Muslim. The Umma will commit sin if it did not provide adequate material support for jihad.

O fellow Muslims, pay no heed for the number of the enemy and their arsenal of arms because victory is a gift of God while the enemy, praise be to God, is experiencing a critical situation.