

The Jamestown Foundation

November 18, 2004

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

In our effort to bring you timely information on terrorist activities, Jamestown has translated a letter posted on an Islamist website earlier today purporting to be "a letter from Shaykh Osama bin Laden to the Pakistani People." The letter mentions events in Karachi, possibly referring to a shooting that took place on Nov. 10 in which three were killed, or to violent (but not fatal) clashes and anti-US demonstrations which also took place in Karachi recently. It has not yet been confirmed whether the message is in fact from Osama bin Laden, but if so, it would seem to indicate that al-Qaeda may be placing greater strategic significance on Pakistan in an effort to unite Pakistanis and Afghans under a larger jihad against the U.S. and its interests in the region. Perhaps most striking about this recent statement is bin Laden's reference to Mullah Omar and the gratuitous praise he devotes to the Taliban leader. The cryptic statement appears to suggest that bin Laden is trying to mobilize support for Mullah Omar among Pakistanis in anticipation of a significant upcoming event.

To our Muslim brothers in Pakistan,
Peace and Allah's mercy and blessings be upon you. It is with regret that I have learned of the killing of some of our brothers.

The Muslims in Karachi express their rejection of the aggression by American Crusader forces and their allies in the Muslim lands of Pakistan and Afghanistan. We ask Allah to accept them as martyrs and unite them with the Prophets, the righteous, the martyrs and the best of companions, and that he grants their families patience and solace, and blesses them with sons and wealth, and rewards them; and Islam is the best reward.

It is no wonder that the Muslim community in Pakistan defends its Islam, as Pakistan is considered the first line of defense for Islam in this region, as Afghanistan was the first defense line for itself and Pakistan from the Russian invasion for more than twenty years.

Therefore, we hope that these brothers will be the first martyrs in the battle of Islam in this era against the new Judeo-Crusader incursion, led by the senior crusader, Bush, under the flag of the cross. This battle will be considered one of the eternal battles of Islam.

We call on our Muslim brothers in Pakistan, with all that is in their ability, to defend Pakistan and Afghanistan from the invasion of the crusading American forces. The Prophet, Peace be upon him, said: "He who does not join the war expedition, or equip, or looks well after a warrior's family when he is away, Allah will strike him with a sudden calamity before the Day of Resurrection" narrated by Abu Dawoud.

O brothers, I bring you the good news that we are steadfast on the way of Jihad for the sake of Allah, in imitation of His Prophet, and shoulder to shoulder with the true-believing and heroic Afghan people under the command of the mujahid, empowered through his faith and Commander of the Faithful, Mullah Muhammad Omar.

We ask Allah for His support against the powers of unbelief and tyranny, and to destroy this new Judeo-Crusader force on the lands of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

(If Allah helps you, none can overcome you: If He forsakes you, who is there, after that, that can help you? in Allah, then, Let believers put their trust. 3:160)

Your brother in Islam,

Osama bin Muhammad bin Laden