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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Verily, all praise is due to Allah Lord of the Worlds, and there is no animosity except to the evil-doers. Peace and blessing be upon Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets, the perfect example for mankind and the Leader of the righteous Mujahideen. And peace be upon his companions and all who follow their way in good until the Day of Reckoning.

“Never will the Jews nor the Christians be pleased with you (O Muhammed (saw)) till you follow their religion.”

(The Noble Quran, Al Baqarah: 120)

“And they will never cease fighting you until they turn you back from your religion (Islamic Monotheism) if they can.”

(The Noble Quran, Surah Al Baqarah: 217)

These words of the Merciful ring loud and true for all to see in our lifetime. We have lived to witness the greatest nightmare that any Muslim could imagine – the occupation of the Holy Arabian Peninsular by the forces of kufr!

The Messenger of Allah forewarned us that *“A nation does not leave Jihad in the cause of Allah, except it is humiliated”*.

The following book has been put together for the Muslims to know of men who have fought to bring back honour to this nation, and what duties lie before us, which none can escape from.

The book has been divided into two sections. The first is the *Declaration of War* made by one of the greatest examples of Mujahideen alive today, and a man who needs no introduction, as the propaganda machine of the kuffaar has already done that for us – he is Abu Abdullah Usamah ibn Laden. Usamah bin Laden is from that generation of Mujahideen that carried out the Jihad in Afghanistan from the onset, along with Sheikh ‘Abdullah ‘Azzam. Indeed he was considered to be the Sheikh’s right hand man, along with Tameem ‘Adnani (may Allah have mercy on him).

We believe that history will bear witness to the stance of men such as this and set an example for generations to come.

The second part is the tear jerking and warrior inspiring *Will of Sheikh ‘Abdullah ‘Azzam* (may Allah’s mercy be upon him). The Prophet of Allah told us how the reviver of a sunnah will be granted a high rank in paradise. Then imagine a man that revives an obligation, the obligation of Jihad back into the veins of the ummah that has been dormant for over 100 years!

Note:

Just before this book went to press a reward of \$5million was put on the head of Abu 'Abdullah Usamah bin Laden, by the criminal government of the U.S.A., for his capture, conviction and no doubt execution.

Oh Muslim! Know Our Lord is One, Our Book is One, Our path is One, Our goal Our nation is One and Our enemy is One!

Abu Umamah

DECLARATION OF WAR

Against the American occupation of the land of
the two Holy Places

"Expel the infidels from the Arabian Peninsula"

A Message From Usamah Bin Muhammed Bin Laden

To his Muslim brethren all over the world generally and in the Arab Peninsula specifically.

Praise be to Allah, we seek His help and ask for his pardon. We take refuge in Allah from our wrongs and bad deeds. Who ever has been guided by Allah will not be misled, and who ever has been misled, he will never be guided. I bear witness that there is no God except Allah no associates with Him and I bear witness that Muhammed is His slave and messenger.

"O you who believe! Fear Allah (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islam [as Muslims (with complete submission to Allah)]."

(The Noble Quran, Surah Aal Imraan; 3:102)

"O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him (Adam) He created his wife (Hawwa), and from them both He created many men and women; and fear Allah through Whom you demand (your mutual rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, Allah is Ever an All-Watcher over you."

(The Noble Quran, Surah An-Nisa; 4:1)

"O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger (may Allah's Blessing and Salutation be on him), he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise)."

(The Noble Quran, Surah Al-Ahzab; 33:70-71)

Praise be to Allah, reminding you of the saying of the Prophet Shu'aib (as):

"I only desire reform to the best of my power. And my guidance cannot come except from Allah, in Him I trust and unto Him I repent."

(The Noble Quran, Surah Hud; 11:88)

Praise be to Allah, who has stated:

"You are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind; you enjoin Al-Maruf (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam has ordained) and forbid Al-Munkar (polytheism, disbelief and all that Islam has forbidden), and you believe in Allah."

(The Noble Quran, Surah Aal-Imraan; 3:110)

Allah's blessing and salutations on His slave and messenger who said: *"The people are close to an all-encompassing punishment from Allah if they see the oppressor and fail to restrain him."*

It should not be hidden from you that the people of Islam had suffered from aggression, iniquity and injustice imposed on them by the **Zionist and Christian Crusader Alliance** together with their collaborators; to such an extent that the blood of the Muslims became the cheapest and their wealth as loot in the hands of the enemies. Their blood was spilled in Palestine and Iraq. The horrifying pictures from the massacre at Qana, in Lebanon are still fresh in our memory. Massacres have taken place in Tajikistan, Burma, Kashmir, Assam, Philippine, Fatani, Ogadin, Somalia, Eritrea, Chechnya and in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The atrocities committed send shivers through the body and shake the conscience. It is clear that the world not only stood and idly watched these atrocities but conspired with the USA and its allies and under the cover of the iniquitous United Nations, prevented the dispossessed people from obtaining arms to defend themselves.

The people of Islam awakened and realised that they are the main target for the aggression of the **Zionist and Christian Crusader Alliance**. All false claims and propaganda about 'Human Rights', were hammered down and exposed by the massacres that took place against the Muslims in every part of the world.

The latest and the greatest of these aggressions, incurred by the Muslims since the death of the Prophet (may Allah's blessing and salutation be on him) is the occupation of the land of the two Holy Places – the foundation of the house of Islam, the place of the revelation, the source of the message and the place of the noble Ka'ba, the Qiblah of all Muslims, by the armies of the American Crusaders and their allies (We bemoan this and can only say: "There is no Might and Power but that of Allah").

In the present circumstances, and under the banner of the blessed awakening which is sweeping the world in general and the Islamic world in particular, I meet with you today. After a long absence, imposed on the Scholars (Ulama) and callers (Da'ees) of Islam by the iniquitous crusaders movement under the leadership of the USA. Who fear that the Scholars and callers of Islam, will instigate the Ummah of Islam against its'

enemies as their ancestors like Ibn Taymiyyah and Al'iz Ibn Abdes-Salaam did (may Allah be pleased with them). Therefore the **Zionist and Christian Crusader Alliance** resorted to arresting and murdering the truthful Ulama and the working Da'ees (We are not praising or sanctifying them: Allah sanctify whom He pleased). They murdered the Mujahid Sheikh Abdullah Azzaam and they arrested the Mujahid Sheikh Ahmad Yaseen and the Mujahid Sheikh Omar Abdur Rahman (in America).

Following orders from the USA they also arrested a large number of Scholars, Da'ees and young people, in the land of the two Holy Places. Amongst them are the prominent Sheikh Salman Al-Oud'a and Sheikh Safar Al-Hawali and their brothers (We bemoan this and can only say: "There is no Might and Power but that of Allah"). My group and I have also suffered some of these injustices. We have been prevented from addressing the Muslims. We have been pursued in Pakistan, Sudan and Afghanistan, hence this long absence on my part. By the Grace of Allah, a safe base is now available in the high Hindu kush mountains in Khurasan, where by the Grace of Allah, the largest infidel military force of the world was destroyed. This myth of the super power was withered in front of the Mujahideen cries of Allahu Akbar (Allah is Greater). Today we work from the same mountains to lift the iniquity that had been imposed on the Ummah by the **Zionist and Christian Crusader Alliance**, and their occupation of the blessed land around Jerusalem, the route of the journey of our Prophet (may Allah's Blessing and Salutation be on him) and the land of the two Holy Places. We ask Allah to bestow upon us with victory. He is our Patron and He is the Most Capable.

From here today we begin the work, talking and discussing the ways of correcting what had happened to the Islamic world in general, and the Land of the two Holy Places in particular. We will pursue the route to return the situation to its normal path. To restore our people their rights, particularly after the substantial damage and the great aggression, on the life and the Religion of our people. This injustice had affected every section and group of our people: the civilians, military and security men, government officials and merchants, the young and the old people as well as schools and university students. These injustices also resulted in hundreds of thousands of our graduates being unemployed, representing the widest section of the society.

These injustices had affected our people in the industry and agriculture. It affected the people of the rural and urban areas resulting in complaints from all areas. The situation in the land of the two Holy Places is like a huge volcano at the verge of eruption, that would destroy the Kufr and the corruption together with its sources. The explosion at Riyadh and Al-Khobar is a warning of this volcanic eruption, emerging as a result of the severe oppression, suffering, excessive iniquity, humiliation and poverty.

People are greatly concerned about their standard of living; every body talks about the deterioration of the economy, inflation, ever increasing debts and jails full of prisoners. Government employees with limited income, talk about debts of tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of Saudi Riyal.

They complain that the value of the Riyal is greatly and continuously deteriorating among most of the main currencies. Great merchants and contractors await payment of millions of Riyal owed to them by the government. More than three hundred and forty billion Riyal is owed by the government to the people in addition to the daily-accumulated interest. This is in addition to the substantial foreign debt. People wonder whether we are the largest oil exporting Country! They even believe that this situation is a curse put on them by Allah, for not objecting to the oppressive and illegitimate behaviour and measures of the ruling regime who are ignoring the divine Shari'ah laws: depriving people of their legitimate rights, allowing the Americans to occupy the land of the two Holy Places and the unjust imprisonment of the sincere Scholars. The honourable Ulama and Scholars as well as merchants, economists and eminent people of the Country are all informed of this disastrous situation.

Hasty efforts are being made by each group to contain and correct the situation. Everyone is in agreement that the Country is heading towards a great catastrophe, the depth of which is not known except by Allah. One prominent merchant commented, "The king is leading the state into 'sixty-six' folded disasters" (We bemoan this and can only say: "There is no Might and Power but that of Allah"). Numerous Princes share with the people their feelings, privately expressing their concerns and objecting to the corruption, repression and the intimidation taking place in the Country. But the competition between influential Princes for personal gains and interest is destroying the Country. The regime has torn off its legitimacy by adopting the following course of actions:-

- (1) Suspension of the Islamic Shari'ah laws and exchanging them with man made civil laws. The regime entered into a bloody confrontation with the truthful Ulama and the righteous youths (we sanctify nobody: Allah sanctify Whom He pleaseth).
- (2) The inability of the regime to protect the Country, allowing the enemy of the Ummah, the American crusader forces, to occupy our land. The crusader forces thus became the main cause of our disastrous condition, draining on the economy by the unjustified heavy spending on these forces. This resulted in the harsh policies imposed on the Country, particularly in the oil industry, where production is restricted or increased and prices are fixed to suit the American requirements, ignoring the economy of the Country. Expensive deals regarding the purchase of arms are imposed on the Country. People are questioning the justification for the very existence of this ruling regime!

Efforts were made by individuals and by different groups within the society to contain the situation and to prevent the danger. They advised the government both privately and openly, they sent letters and poems, reports after reports, reminders after reminders, they explored every avenue and enlisted every influential person in their movement of reform and correction. They wrote with style of passion, diplomacy and wisdom asking for corrective measures and repentance from the 'great wrong doings and corruption'

that had engulfed even the basic principles of the Religion and the legitimate rights of the people.

It is to our deepest regret the regime refused to listen to the people and accused them of being ridiculous and imbecile. The situation got worse as previous wrong doings were followed by mischief of greater magnitudes. All of this was taking place in the land of the two Holy Places! It is no longer possible to be quiet. It is not acceptable to give a blind eye to this matter.

As these infringements increased and turned into demolishing forces threatening the very existence of the Islamic principles; a group of Scholars who could not tolerate this decline, were supported by hundreds of retired officials, merchants, prominent and educated people, wrote to the King asking for the implementation of the corrective measures.

In 1411 A.H. (May 1991), at the time of the Gulf War, the famous letter of Shawwaal, with over four hundred signatures was sent to the king, demanding the lifting of oppression and the implementation of corrective actions. The King humiliated those people and chose to ignore the contents of their letter; and subsequently the existing bad situation of the Country became even worse.

However the people tried again and sent more letters and petitions. One particular report, the glorious Memorandum of Advice, was handed over to the King in Muharram, 1413 A.H (July 1992), which diagnosed the problem, defined the illness and prescribed the medicine in an original, righteous and scientific style. It explained the gaps and the shortcomings in the policies of the regime and advised the required course of action and remedy. The report covered the following important areas :-

(1) The intimidation and harassment suffered by the leaders of the society, the Scholars, leaders of tribes, merchants, academic teachers and other eminent individuals.

(2) The situation of the law within the Country and the arbitrary declaration of what is Halal and Haram (lawful and unlawful) regardless of the Shari'ah as instituted by Allah.

(3) The state of the press and the media which is fully utilised for spreading falsehood and misinformation. The media carried out the plan of the enemy by idolising certain personalities and circulating scandal amongst the believers, thereby inducing the people away from their Religion. As Allah, the Exalted said:

“Verily, those who like that (the crime of) illegal sexual intercourse should be propagated among those who believe, they will have a painful torment in this world and in the Hereafter.”

(The Noble Quran, Surah An-Noor, 24:19)

(4) Abuse and confiscation of human rights.

(5) The decline of the financial and economic situation within the Country with substantial debt burden and associated interest owed by the government. This is at the time when the wealth of the Ummah is being plundered to satisfy the personal desires of certain individuals, whilst imposing more custom duties and taxes on the nation. (The Prophet (may Allah's Blessing and Salutation be on him) said about the woman who committed adultery: *"She repented in such a way sufficient to bring forgiveness to a custom collector!"*).

(6) The miserable situation of the social services and infrastructure, particularly regarding the supply of water and sanitation, which are the basic requirements of life.

(7) The inadequate training and preparation of the army and the incompetence of its commander in chief. This is in spite of the incredible amount of money that has been spent on the army. The Gulf War has clearly exposed this humiliating position.

(8) Shari'ah laws are suspended and man made laws adopted.

(9) In respect to the foreign policy, the report exposed not only how this policy has disregarded the Islamic issues and ignored the Muslims, but also how assistance and support was provided to the enemy against the Muslims. The cases of Gaza-Ariha and the communist in the south of Yemen are still fresh in our memory, and many more cases can be quoted.

It is confirmed by the people of knowledge and is not a hidden matter, that to use man made laws instead of the Shari'ah and to support the infidels against the Muslims is one of the ten "voiders" that would strip a person from his Islamic status (turn a Muslim into a Mushrik, non believer status). The All Mighty said:

"And whosoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed, such are the Kafirun."

(The Noble Quran, Surah Al-Ma'idah; 5:44).

"But no, by your Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make you (O Muhammed (may Allah's Blessing and Salutation be on him)) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept (them) with full submission."

(The Noble Quran, Surah Au-Nisa; 4:65).

The report was rejected outright, in spite of the fact that it was presented using soft words and a very diplomatic style, reminding of Allah and giving truthful and sincere advice. The importance of advice in Islam is absolutely essential for those in charge of the people. The large number of people who signed this document together with their supporters, was not to be an intercession for this Memorandum. Its contents were totally rejected and those who signed it together with their sympathisers were ridiculed, prevented from travel, punished and even imprisoned.

It is clear that the advocates of the correction and reform movement were utilising peaceful means in order to protect the unity of the Country and to prevent blood shed. Why did the regime obstruct all peaceful routes and push the people towards armed action, which is the only option left for them to implement righteousness and justice. To whose benefit does Prince Sultan and Prince Nayeff push the Country into a civil war, that will destroy everything? Why is the regime consulting those who ignite internal feuds, playing the people against each other and applying pressure on the policemen, the sons of the nation, to abort the reform movement. Thereby, leaving in peace and security such traitors, who implement the policy of the enemy, bleeding the financial and human resources of the Ummah; and consequently leaving the main enemy in the area, the American Zionist alliance to enjoy peace and security.

The special advisor to Prince Nayeff, Zaki Badr, the former interior minister of Egypt was not even acceptable even in his own Country. He was sacked from his position, due to the filthy attitude and aggression he exercised on his own people. It is surprising that he was warmly welcomed by Prince Nayeff to assist him in the sins and aggression. He unjustly filled the prisons with the best sons of this Ummah and caused misery to their mothers. It appears the regime is deliberately setting the military personnel against its civilian population, similar to what has happened in some of the neighbouring countries. It is clear that this is the policy of the American-Israeli alliance, as they are the first to benefit from this conflict.

With the grace of Allah, the majority of the nation, both civilians and military individuals are aware of this wicked plan. They refused to be set up against each other and to be used by the regime as a tool to carry out the policy of the American-Israeli alliance by their agent in our Country the Saudi regime.

Every one is in agreement that the situation can not be rectified (the shadow cannot be straighten when its' source, the rod, is not straight either) unless the root of the problem is tackled. Therefore, it is essential to strike the main enemy who divided the Ummah into small countries and pushed it, for the last few decades, into a state of confusion.

The Zionist and Christian Crusader Alliance moves quickly to contain and abort any 'corrective movement' appearing in the Islamic countries. Different means and methods are used to achieve their objectives. On some occasions the "movement" is dragged into an armed struggle prematurely. Sometimes, officials from the Ministry of Interior, who are also graduates of the colleges of the Shari'ah, are leashed out to mislead and confuse the nation and the Ummah (by wrong Fatawa) and to circulate false information about the movement. At other occasions, some righteous people are tricked into a war of words against the Ulama and the leaders of the movement, wasting the energy of the nation in discussing minor issues and ignoring the main one, that is the unification of the people under the divine law of Allah.

In the shadow of these discussions and arguments truthfulness is covered by falsehood. Personal feuds and partisanship is created amongst the people, increasing the division and weakness of the Ummah. Priorities of the Islamic work are lost, whilst the blasphemy and polytheism continue its grip and control over the Ummah. We should be alert to these atrocious plans carried out by the Ministry of Interior. The right answer is to follow what has been decided by the people of knowledge, as was said by Ibn Taymiyyah (Allah's mercy upon him): "People of Islam should join forces and support each other to get rid of the main 'Kufr' who is controlling the countries of the Islamic world, even to bear the lesser damage to get rid of the greater Kufr".

If more than one duty is to be carried out, then the most important one should receive priority. Clearly after Belief (Imaan) there is no more important duty than pushing the American enemy out of the holy land. No other priority, except Belief, could be considered before it. From the people of knowledge such as Ibn Taymiyyah, who has stated: "to fight in defence of Religion and Belief is a collective duty; there is no other duty after Belief than fighting the enemy who is corrupting the life and the Religion. There is no preconditions for this duty and the enemy should be fought with one's best abilities. If it is not possible to push back the enemy except by the collective movement of the Muslim people, then there is a duty on the Muslims to ignore the minor differences among themselves. The adverse effect of ignoring minor differences, at a given period of time, is significantly less than the adverse effect of the occupation of the Muslim land by the main Kufr. Ibn Taymiyyah had explained this issue and emphasised the importance of dealing with the major threat at the expense of the minor one. He described the situation of the Muslims and the Mujahideen and stated that even the military personnel who are not practicing Islam are not exempted from the duty of Jihad against the enemy.

Ibn Taymiyyah, after mentioning the Mongols (Tartars) and their behaviour in changing the law of Allah, stated that: The ultimate aim of fighting the enemy is to please Allah, raise His word, institute His Religion and obey His Messenger (may Allah's Blessing and salutation be on him), in every aspect and in a complete manner. If the danger to the Religion from not fighting is greater than that of fighting, then it is a duty to fight them even if the intention of some of the fighters is not pure i.e. fighting for the sake of leadership (personal gain) or if they do not observe some of the rules and commandments of Islam. To repel the greater of the two dangers at the expense of the lesser one is an Islamic principle, which should be observed.

It was the tradition of the people of the Sunnah (Ahlul-Sunnah) to join and fight alongside the righteous and non-righteous men. Allah may support His Religion by righteous and non-righteous people as told by the Prophet (may Allah's Blessings and Salutation be on him). If it is not possible to fight except with the help of non righteous military personnel and commanders, then there are two possibilities: either fighting will be ignored and the others, who are a great danger to this life and Religion, will take control; or to fight with the help of non righteous rulers and consequently repelling the

greatest of the two dangers and implementing most, though not all, of the Islamic laws. The latter option is the right duty to be carried out in these circumstances and in many other similar situation. In fact many of the wars and conquests that took place after the time of the Khulafah e Rashideen, the Rightly Guided Caliphs, were of this type. (Majmoo' al Fatawa, 26/506).

No one, not even a blind or a deaf person, can deny the presence of the widely spread mischief or the prevalence of the great sins that had reached the grievous iniquity of polytheism and to share with Allah in His sole right of sovereignty and making of the law. The All Mighty stated:

“And (remember) when Luqman said to his son when he was advising him: “O my son! Join not in worship others with Allah. Verily, joining others in worship with Allah is a great Zulm (wrong) indeed.”

(The Noble Quran, Surah Luqman; 31:13).

Fabricated laws established by man are put forward, permitting what has been forbidden by Allah such as usury (Riba) and other matters. Banks dealing in usury are competing, for lands, with the two Holy Places and declaring war against Allah by disobeying His order:

“Allah has permitted trading and forbidden usury.”

(The Noble Quran, Surah Baqarah; 2:275).

All this is taking place in the vicinity of the Holy Mosque in the Holy Land! Allah (swt) declares in His Holy Book a firm warning (that had not been promised to any other sinner) to the Muslims who deal in usury:

“O you who believe! Be afraid of Allah and give up what remains (due to you) from Riba (usury) (from now onward), if you are (really) believers. And if you do not do it, then take a notice of war from Allah and His Messenger (saw).”

(The Noble Quran, Surah Baqarah; 2:278-279).

This is for the "Muslim" who deals in usury (believing that it is a sin), what is it then to the person who makes himself a partner and equal to Allah, legalising (usury and other sins) that have been forbidden by Allah? In spite of the above, we witness the government mislead and coerce some of the righteous Ulama and Da'ees away from the issue of objecting to the greatest of sins and Kufr. (We bemoan this and can only say: "There is no Might and Power but that of Allah"). Under such circumstances, to repel the enemy, the greatest Kufr, out of the Country is a prime duty. No other duty after Belief is more important than the duty of Jihad. Utmost effort should be made to prepare and instigate the Ummah against the enemy, the American-Israeli alliance, occupying the Country of the two Holy Places and the route of the Apostle (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) to the Furthest Mosque (Al-Aqsa Mosque).

An important reminder: Muslims must not be engaged in an internal war amongst themselves as this will lead to the following grave consequences:-

- (i) Consumption of the Muslims human resources as most casualties and fatalities will be amongst the Muslim people.
- (ii) Exhaustion of the economic and financial resources.
- (iii) Destruction of the Country's infrastructure.
- (iv) Disintegration of the society.
- (v) Destruction of the oil industries.

The presence of the USA Crusader military forces on land, sea and air in the states of the Islamic Gulf is the greatest danger threatening the largest oil reserves in the world. The existence of these forces in the area will eventually provoke the people of the Country to take up an armed struggle against the invaders occupying the land. Consequently the spread of war in the region will expose the oil wealth to the danger of being burnt down. The economical interest of the States of the Gulf and the land of the two Holy Places will be damaged and even a greater damage will be caused to the economy of the world. I would like here to alert my brothers, the Mujahideen, the sons of the nation, to protect this (oil) wealth and not to include it in the battle as it is a great Islamic wealth and a large economical power essential for the soon to be established Islamic state, by Allah's Permission and Grace. We also warn the aggressors, the USA, against burning this Islamic wealth (a crime which they may commit in order to prevent it, at the end of the war, from falling in the hands of its' legitimate owners and to cause economical damages to the competitors of the USA in Europe or the Far East, particularly Japan which is the major consumer of oil in the region).

(vi) Dividing the land of the two Holy Places and annexing the northerly part to Israel. Dividing the land of the two Holy Places is an essential demand of the Zionist and Christian Crusader Alliance. The existence of such a large Country with its huge resources under the leadership of the forthcoming Islamic State, by Allah's Grace, represent a serious danger to the very existence of the Zionist state in Palestine. The Holy Ka'ba, the Qiblah of all the Muslims, makes the land of the two Holy Places a symbol for the unity of the Islamic world. Moreover, the presence of the world's largest oil reserves makes the land of the two Holy Places an important economical power in the Islamic world. The sons of the two Holy Places are directly related to the life style (Seerah) of their forefathers, the companions, may Allah be pleased with them. They consider the Seerah of their forefathers as a source and an example for re-establishing the greatness of this Ummah and to raise the word of Allah again. Furthermore the presence of a group of fighters in the south of Yemen, fighting in the cause of Allah, is a strategic threat to the Zionist and Christian Crusader Alliance in the area. The Prophet

(may Allah's blessings and salutations be on him) said: *"Around twelve thousand will emerge from Aden/Abian helping the cause of Allah and His Messenger, they are the best, in the time, between me and them."* Narrated by Ahmad with a correct and trustworthy chain of narrators.

(vii) An internal war is a great mistake, whatever the reasons for it, the presence of the occupier, the USA forces, will control the outcome of the battle for the benefit of the international Kufr.

I now address my brothers of the security and military forces and the national guards, may Allah preserve you for Islam and the Muslims.

O you protectors of unity and guardians of Faith: O you descendents of the ancestors who carried the light (torch) of guidance and spread it all over the world. O you grandsons of Sa'd Ibn Abi Waqqaas, Alnothanna Ibn Haritha Ash-Shaybani, Alqa'qa' Ibn Anroo Al-Tameemi and those pious companions who carried out Jihad alongside them: you competed to join the army and the guard forces with the intention to carry out Jihad in the cause of Allah raising His word and to defend the faith of Islam and the land of the two Holy Places, against the invaders and the occupying forces. That is the ultimate level of believing in this Religion "Deen". But the regime had reversed these principles and their understanding, humiliating the Ummah and disobeying Allah.

Half a century ago the rulers promised the Ummah to regain the first Qiblah, but fifty years later a new generation arrived and the promises have been changed: Al-Aqsa Mosque was handed over to the Zionists and the wounds of the Ummah are still bleeding there. At a time when the Ummah has not regained the first Qiblah being the route of the journey by the Prophet (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him), and despite of all the above, the Saudi regime has stunned the Ummah in the remaining sanctities, the Holy city of Makka and the mosque of the Prophet (Al-Masjid An-Nabawi), by calling the Christian army to defend the regime.

The crusaders were permitted in the land of the two Holy Places. Not surprisingly though, the King himself wore the cross on his chest. The Country was widely opened from the north to the south and from east to the west for the crusaders. The land was filled with the military bases for the USA and it's allies. The regime became unable to keep control without the help of these bases. You know more than anybody else about the size, intention and the danger in the presence of the USA military bases in the area. The regime betrayed the Ummah and joined the Kufr, assisting and helping them against the Muslims. It is well known that this is one of the ten "voiders" of Islam, deeds of de-Islamisation. By opening the Arab peninsula to the crusaders, the regime, disobeyed and acted against what has been enjoined by the Messenger.

Our youths believe in paradise after death. They believe that taking part in fighting will not bring their day nearer; and staying behind will not postpone their day either. Exalted be Allah who said:

“And no person can ever die except by Allah’s Leave and at an appointed term.”
(The Noble Quran, Surah Aal Imraan; 3:145).

Our youths believe in the saying of the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him): *“O boy, I will teach you a few words; guard (guard the cause of, keep the commandments of) Allah, then He will guard you, guard (the cause of) Allah, then He will be with you; if you ask (for your need) ask only from Allah, if you seek assistance, seek from Allah; and understand with clarity, that if the whole World gathered to (bestow) benefit you they will not benefit you except with what has been determined for you by Allah, and if they gathered to harm you, they will not harm you except what has been determined for you by Allah. The pen is now lifted and the paper has dried, it is fixed, nothing in these statements can be changed.”* Saheeh Al-Jame' As-Sagheer.

Our youths understand the meaning of the following poetic verse:

“If death is a predetermined certainty, then it is a shame to die cowardly.”

Another poet wrote:

“Those who do not die by the sword will die from other means; many causes are there, but one death”.

These youths believe in what has been stated by Allah and His Messenger (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) about the greatness of the reward for the Mujahideen and Martyrs. Allah, the most exalted said:

“But those who are killed in the Way of Allah, He will never let their deeds be lost. He will guide them and set right their state. And admit them to Paradise which He has made known to them (i.e. they will know their places in Paradise better than they used to know their homes in the world).”
(The Noble Quran, Surah Muhammed; 47:4-6).

Allah the Exalted also said:

“And say not of those who are killed in the way of Allah, “They are dead.” Nay they are living, but you perceive (it) not.”
(The Noble Quran, Surah Baqarah; 2:154)

Allah’s Messenger (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) said: *“For those who strive in His cause, Allah has prepared a hundred degrees (levels) in paradise;*

and the difference between two of these degrees is similar to that of the heaven and earth". Saheeh Al-Jame' As-Sagheer.

He (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) also said: *"The best of the Martyrs are those who do NOT turn their faces away from the battle till they are killed. They are in the highest level of Jannah (paradise). Their Lord laughs with them (in pleasure) and when your Lord laughs to a slave of His, He will not hold him to account"*. Narrated by Ahmad with correct and trustworthy chain of narrators.

And, *"A Martyr will not feel the pain of death except like how you would feel when you are pinched"*. Saheeh Al-Jame' As-Sagheer.

He also said, *"A Martyr's privileges are guaranteed by Allah; forgiveness with the first gush of his blood, he will be shown his seat in paradise, he will be decorated with the jewels of belief (Imaan), married to the beautiful ones, protected from the test in the grave, assured security on the day of judgement, crowned with the crown of dignity, a ruby of which is better than this whole world (Dunya) and its' entire content, wedded to seventy two of the pure Hoories (beautiful ones of Paradise) and his intercession on behalf of seventy of his relatives will be accepted"*. Narrated by Ahmad and At-Tirmithi (with the correct and trustworthy chain of narrators).

These youths know that their reward in fighting you, the USA, is double the reward in fighting others not from the people of the book. They have no intention except to enter paradise by killing you. An infidel and an enemy of Allah such as you, cannot be in the same hell with his righteous executioner.

Our youths are chanting and reciting the words of Allah, the most Exalted:

"Fight against them so that Allah will punish them by your hands and disgrace them and give you victory over them and heal the breasts of a believing people."
(The Noble Quran, Surah At-Taubah; 9:14)

The words of the Prophet (may Allah's blessing and salutation be on him): *"I swear by Him, who has my soul in His hand, that those who are killed fighting them today, patiently attacking and not retreating, certainly Allah will let him into paradise"*. Also his (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) saying to them, *"Enter the paradise as wide as the heaven and earth"*.

The youths are also reciting the All Mighty's words:

"So when you meet (in fight – Jihad in Allah's Cause) those who disbelieve, smite their necks....."
(The Noble Quran, Surah Muhammed; 47:4).

These youths will not ask you (William Perry) for explanations, they will tell you singing that there is nothing between us that needs to be explained, there is only killing and neck smiting.

Moreover, they will say to you what their grand father, Haroon Ar-Rasheed, Amcer-ul-Mu'mineen, replied to your grandfather, Nagfoor, the Byzantine emperor, when he threatened the Muslims: "from Haroon Ar-Rasheed, Amcer-ul-Mu'mineen, to Nagfoor, the dog of the Romans; the answer is what you will see not what you hear". Haroon Al-Rasheed led the armies of Islam to the battle and handed Nagfoor a devastating defeat.

The youths you brand cowards are competing among themselves for fighting and killing you, reciting what one of them said:

The crusader army became dust when we detonated al-Khobar

With courageous youth of Islam fearing no danger

If (they are) threatened by the words: "The tyrants will kill you".

They reply that my death is a victory.

I did not betray the king, but he betrayed our Qiblah,

And he permitted in the holy Country, the most filthy sort of humans.

I have made an oath to Allah, the Great, to fight who ever rejected the faith.

For more than a decade, they have carried arms on their shoulders in Afghanistan and they have made vows to Allah that as long as they are alive, they will continue to carry arms against you until you are, Allah willing, expelled, defeated and humiliated. They will carry on as long as they live saying:

O William, tomorrow you will know which young man is confronting your misguided brethren!

A youth is fighting with a smile, returning with his spear coloured red.

May Allah keep me close to knights, humans in peace, demons in war.

Lions in Jungle but their teeth are spears and Indian swords.

The horses witness that I push them forward hard, in the fire of battle.

The dust of the battle bears witness for me and also the fighting itself, together with the pens and the books!

Therefore, to abuse the grandsons of the companions, may Allah be pleased with them, by calling them cowards and challenging them by refusing to leave the land of the two Holy Places shows the insanity and the imbalance you are suffering. Its appropriate remedy, however, is in the hands of the youths of Islam, as the poet said:

I am willing to sacrifice self and wealth for knights who never disappointed me.

Knights who are never fed up or deterred by death, even if the mill of war turns,

In the heat of battle they do not care, and cure the insanity of the enemy by their 'insane' courage.

To terrorise you, whilst you are carrying arms on our land, is our legitimate and moral duty. It is a legitimate right well known by humans and other creatures. Your example and our example is like a snake which entered into a house of a man and got killed by him. The coward is the one who allows you to walk, whilst carrying arms, freely in his land and ensures your peace and security.

These youths are different from your soldiers. Your problem will be how to convince and motivate your troops to fight, whilst our problem is how to restrain our youths to wait for their turn in the fighting and other operations. These youths are commendable and praiseworthy.

They have stood up tall to defend our Religion, at a time when the government has misled the prominent Scholars and tricked them into issuing Fatwas (which have no basis either in the book of Allah, or in the Sunnah of His Prophet (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him)) in opening the land of the two Holy Places to the Christian armies and handing the Al-Aqsa Mosque to the Zionists. Twisting the meanings of the holy text will not change this fact at all. These youths deserve the praise of the poet:

I rejected all the critics, who chose the wrong way.

I rejected those who enjoy fireplaces in clubs, discussing eternally.

I rejected those, who in spite of being lost, think they are at their goal,

I respect those who carried on not asking or bothering about the difficulties,

Never letting up from their goals, in spite of all the hardships of the road,
Whose blood is the oil for the flame, guiding in the darkness of confusion,
I still feel the pain from the loss of Al-Quds in my internal organs.
That loss is like a burning fire in my intestines,

I did not betray my covenant with Allah, when even the states betrayed it!

As their grand father Assim Bin Thabit said rejecting the offer of surrender from the pagans:

What excuse have I to surrender, whilst I am still able,
having sufficient arrows and my bow still has a tough string!

Death is a truth and ultimate destiny, and life will end any way.
If I do not fight you, then my mother must be insane!

The youths hold you responsible for all the killings and evictions of Muslims together with the violation of the sanctities, carried out by your Zionist brothers in Lebanon. You have openly supplied them with arms and finance. More than 600,000 Iraqi children have died due to the lack of food and medicine resulting from the unjustifiable aggression (sanctions) imposed on Iraq and its nation. The children of Iraq are our children. You, the USA, together with the Saudi regime are responsible for the shedding of the blood of these innocent children. On account of all that, whatever treaty you have with our Country is now null and void.

The treaty of Hudaibiyyah was cancelled by the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) when the Quraysh assisted Bani Bakr against Khusa'ah, the allies of the Prophet (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him). The Prophet (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) then fought Quraysh and concurred Makka. He (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) considered the treaty with Bani Qainuqa' as void when the Jews publicly assaulted a Muslim woman, one single woman, at the market. What is then the comparison of you murdering hundreds of thousands of Muslims and occupying their sanctities. It is now clear that those who claim the blood of the American soldiers (the enemy occupying the land of the Muslims) should be protected are merely repeating what is imposed on them by the regime, fearing the aggression and only interested in saving themselves. It is a duty on every tribe in the Arab Peninsula to fight, Jihad, in the cause of Allah and to cleanse the land from those occupiers. Allah knows that their blood is permitted (to be spilled) and their wealth is a booty, (their wealth is a booty to those who kill them). The most Exalted said in the verse of As-Sayf, The Sword:

“Then when the sacred months (the 1st, 7th, 11th, and 12th months of the Islamic calendar) have passed, then kill the Mushrikun wherever you find them, and capture them and besiege them and lie in wait for them in each and every ambush.”

(The Noble Quran, Surah At-Tauba; 9:5).

Our youths are aware that the humiliation suffered by the Muslims as a result of the occupation of their sanctities, can not be kicked and removed except by explosions and Jihad. As the poet said:

The walls of oppression and humiliation cannot be demolished except in a rain of bullets.

The freeman does not surrender leadership to infidels and sinners.

Without shedding blood no degradation and branding can be removed from the forehead.

I remind the youths of the Islamic world, who fought in Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina with their wealth, pens, tongues and themselves that the battle has not yet finished. I remind them about the conversation between Jibreel and the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on both of them). After the battle of Alzab when the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) returned to Medina and before putting his sword aside, Jibreel (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) descended saying: "Are you putting your sword aside? by Allah the angels haven't dropped their arms yet; march with your companions to Bani Quraydah, I am going ahead of you to cast fear in their hearts and to slake their fortresses on them". Jibreel marched with the angels (Allah's Blessings and Salutations may be on them all), followed by the Messenger of Allah (Allah's Blessings and Salutations may be on him) marching with the Muhajiroon and Ansaar. (Narrated by Al-Bukhari).

These youths are aware that, if one is not killed, one will die any way and the most honourable death is to be killed in the way of Allah. They are even more determined after the Martyrdom of the four heroes who bombed the Americans in Riyadh. Those youths who gave dignity to the Ummah and humiliated the Americans, by their operation in Riyadh. They remember the poetry of Ja'far, the second commander in the battle of Mu'tah, in which three thousand Muslims faced over a hundred thousand Romans:

How good is the Paradise and its nearness, good with cool drink,

But the Romans are promised punishment (in Hell), if I meet them I will fight them.

And the poetry of Abdullah Bin Rawaha, the third commander in the battle of Mu'tah, after the Martyrdom of Ja'far, when he felt some hesitation:

O my soul if you do not get killed, you are going to die, anyway.

This is pool of death in front of you!

You are getting what you have wished for (Martyrdom) before, and you follow the example of the two previous commanders,

You are rightly guided!

As for our daughters, wives, sisters and mothers they should take the example from the Prophet's (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) pious female companions, (may Allah be pleased with them). They should adopt the life style (Secrah) of the female companions in respect of courage, sacrifice and generosity in the cause of the supremacy of Allah's Religion.

They should remember the courage and personality of Fatima, daughter of Khatab, when she accepted Islam and stood firm in front of her brother, Omar Ibn Al-Khatab. She challenged him (before he became a Muslim) saying: "O Omar, what will you do if the truth is not in your Religion?" They should remember the stand of Asna', daughter of Abu Bakr, on the day of Hijra, when she attended to the Messenger (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) and his companion in the cave and split her belt in two pieces for them. They should remember the stand of Nusayba Bint Ka'b striving to defend the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's Blessings and Salutations be on him) on the day of Uhud, in which she suffered twelve injuries, one of which left a deep lifelong scar. They should remember the generosity of the early woman of Islam who raised finance for the Muslim army by selling their jewellery.

Our women had set a tremendous example of generosity in the cause of Allah; they motivated and encouraged their sons, brothers and husbands to fight in the cause of Allah, in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnya and in other countries. We ask Allah to accept their deeds and may He help their fathers, brothers, husbands and sons. May Allah strengthen the Imaan of our women in the way of generosity and sacrifice for the supremacy of the word of Allah. Our women should not weep, except over men who fight in the cause of Allah; our women should motivate their brothers to fight in the cause of Allah. Our women bemoan only fighters in the cause of Allah, as said:

Do not moan on any one except a lion in the woods, courageous in the burning wars

Let me die dignified in wars, honourable death is better than my current life

Our women encourage to Jihad saying:

Prepare yourself like a struggler, the matter is bigger than words!

Are you going to leave us for the wolves of Kufr to eat our wings!

The wolves of Kufr are mobilising all evil persons from every where!

Where are the freemen defending the free women with arms

Death is better than life in humiliation! Some scandals and shames will never otherwise be eradicated.

My Muslim Brothers of The World, your brothers in Palestine and in the land of the two Holy Places are calling upon your help and asking you to take part in fighting against the enemy, your enemy and their enemy, the Americans and the Israelis. They are requesting you to do whatever you can, with whatever means and ability, to expel the enemy, humiliated and defeated, out of the sanctities of Islam. Exalted be Allah, who said in His book:

“And if they seek your help in Religion, it is your duty to help them.”

(The Noble Quran, Surah Anfaal; 8:72)

O you horses (soldiers) of Allah ride and march on. This is the time of hardship so be tough. Be aware that your gathering and co-operation in order to liberate the sanctities of Islam is the right step towards unifying the declaration of the Ummah under the banner of "No God but Allah".

From our place we raise our palms humbly, asking Allah to bestow on us His guidance in every aspects of this issue.

Our Lord, we ask you to secure the release of the truthful Scholars, Ulama, of Islam and pious youths of the Ummah from their imprisonment. O Allah, strengthen them and help their families.

Our Lord, the people of the cross had come with their horses (soldiers) and occupied the land of the two Holy Places. The Zionist Jews are desecrating the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the route of the ascendance of the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's blessing and salutation be on him).

Our Lord, shatter their gathering, divide them among themselves, shake the earth under their feet and give us control over them.

Our Lord, we take refuge in you from their deeds and take you as a shield between us and them.

Our Lord, show us a black day for our enemy!

Our Lord, show us the wonderment of your ability against them!

Our Lord, You are the Revealer of the book, director of the clouds, You defeated the allies (Alzab), defeat them and make us victorious over them.

Our Lord, You are the one who can help us and You are the one who can assist us, with Your Power we move and by Your Power we fight. On You we rely and You are our cause.

Our Lord, these youths are together to make Your Religion victorious and raise Your banner.

Our Lord, send them Your help and strengthen their hearts.

Our Lord, make the youths of Islam steadfast and descend patience on them and guide their shots!

Our Lord, unify the Muslims and bestow love among their hearts!

Our Lord, pour down upon us patience, and make our steps firm and assist us against the unbelieving people!

Our Lord, do not lay on us a burden as Thou didst lay on those before us:

Our Lord, do not impose upon us that which we have no strength to bear, and pardon us and grant us protection and have mercy on us. Thou art our Patron, so help us against the unbelieving people.

Our Lord, guide this Ummah, and make the right conditions by which the people in obedience will live in dignity and the disobedient in humiliation, and by which the good deeds are enjoined and the bad deeds are restrained.

Our Lord, bless Muhammed, Your slave and Messenger, his family and descendants, and companions and salute him with a (becoming) salutation.

And our last supplication is: All praise is due to Allah .

Usamah bin Muhammed bin Laden
Friday, 9/4/1417 A.H (23/8/1996 AD)
Hindu kush Mountains, Khurasan, Afghanistan.

WHAT THE KUFFAR SAY ABOUT

Sheikh Usamah bin Laden

Usamah bin Laden, the Saudi militant being hunted by the United States, is waging holy war against the superpower from rat-infested caves in Afghanistan, armed with unwavering faith, bitter hatred and some say a death wish.

But former colleagues say one thing bin Laden is not armed with is hundreds of millions of dollars in inherited wealth. Such reports are exaggerated, these sources say. The Saudi exile's rage against America began when U.S. troops landed on Saudi Arabia's holy Muslim soil in 1990 to oust Iraq from Kuwait, say former friends and followers of the man blamed by Washington for the U.S. embassy bombings in Africa.

"I'm fighting so I can die a Martyr and go to heaven to meet Allah. Our fight now is against the Americans. I regret having lived until now. I have nothing to lose," bin Laden was quoted as saying by Abdul-Bari Atwan, Palestinian editor of the Arabic daily Al-Quds Al-Arabi.

Atwan and others describe a soft-spoken, modest but charismatic man, infused with the serenity of the deeply devout. A half-dozen former friends, neighbors and colleagues interviewed about bin Laden would talk only if their names were not used, not wanting to publicize an association with a man who has become persona non grata almost everywhere.

Beneath bin Laden's calm exterior, they said, lies a burning desire to rid Saudi Arabia of all American influences, a goal that challenges decades of close ties between the Saudi monarchy and Washington.

"Usamah sees the world in very simplistic terms, as a struggle between Muslims on one side, and on the other, Jews and Christians bent on oppressing them," said a former confidant. "He will not rest until either the U.S. leaves Saudi Arabia, or he dies trying to make it happen."

During the 1990-91 Gulf conflict, bin Laden tried to dissuade the Saudi government from allowing "infidel" armies into Saudi Arabia, home of Islam's holiest sites. A one time neighbour says he presented a 10 page report to Prince Sultan, the Saudi defense minister, describing how he and colleagues could train Saudis to defend themselves and how equipment from his family's large construction firm could be used to dig trenches on the border with Iraq and lay sand traps against potential invaders.

But the Saudi leadership turned to the United States to protect its vast oil reserves. When he continued criticizing Riyadh's close alliance with Washington, bin Laden was stripped of his citizenship by the Saudi government, which feared his militant brand of Islam. Before he fell from grace, bin Laden, 44, was a Saudi hero.

For a decade he had fought Soviet occupation forces in Afghanistan as a leader of Arab militants allied with the Afghan Mujahideen. When he returned home, he was showered with praise and donations and was in demand as a speaker in mosques and homes. Over 250,000 cassettes of his fiery speeches were distributed, selling out as soon as they appeared.

In the now banned tapes, bin Laden lashed out at U.S. foreign policy and called for a boycott of American goods. "When we buy American goods, we are accomplices in the murder of Palestinians," he says in one cassette. "American companies make millions in the Arab world with which they pay taxes to their government. The United States uses that money to send \$3 billion a year to Israel, which it uses to kill Palestinians."

After his falling out with Saudi rulers, bin Laden traveled to Africa, seeking refuge in Sudan. But the Sudanese expelled him after they came under pressure from Saudi Arabia and the United States, and he returned to Afghanistan. Although his anti-Soviet crusade of the 1980s was backed by the United States, he distrusted America even then, say former followers.

"We are in alliance with them now because we have common interests, but they are the enemy of Islam," a Saudi comrade from the Afghan days recalled his saying.

Back on familiar terrain in Afghanistan, the bearded, 6 foot 1 bin Laden prepared for a new holy war one that would turn him into Washington's No. 1 public enemy.

Planning strategy in damp caves infested with scorpions and rats, bin Laden maintained a disciplined lifestyle, waking up before dawn for prayers, then eating a simple breakfast of cheese and bread. He closely monitored world affairs, especially U.S. foreign policy in the Arab world. Almost daily, he and his men, Egyptians, Yemenis, Saudis, among others practiced attacks, hurling explosives at targets and shooting at imaginary enemies.

Since last week's U.S. missile attacks on targets linked to bin Laden in Afghanistan and Sudan, dozens of men apparently have tried to enlist in his ranks. Opposition groups say they've received calls from young Muslims asking how to get in touch with him.

The Saudi renegade's path to militant Islam began as a teenager in the 1970s, when he got caught up in the fundamentalist movement then sweeping Saudi Arabia. He was a voracious reader of Islamic literature and listened to weekly sermons in the holy city of Mecca.

A relative remembers his teenage passion for Religion, evident, for example, when he eloquently addressed a roomful of men at a family funeral. "He was well versed in Religion and confident speaking in front of all those people. And he was at most 19," said the in-law.

The only son of a Syrian mother, bin Laden was born in Saudi Arabia's commercial capital, Jeddah, to a conservative family. Among the 54 children fathered by Mohammed bin Laden, a contracting magnate, Usamah quickly developed a reputation as the most pious. Unlike many of his brothers, bin Laden chose to stay in the kingdom for his education, preferring a more Islamic environment. He graduated in civil engineering from Jeddah's King Abdul-Aziz University.

He married in his early 20s and, despite his vast wealth, chose to live in modest apartments with his wives, says a former neighbor who spoke on condition of anonymity. Today his three wives a Syrian and two Saudis and their 15 or so children live in cities near his bases in Afghanistan.

Throughout his career, bin Laden has led a spartan life. In Sudan, he refused the comfort of air conditioning even in the blistering summer heat. "I don't want to get used to the easy life," Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi quoted him as saying. On the Afghan battlefield, he gained a reputation for being a courageous and resourceful commander.

One battle stands out. In 1987, he and his men faced near-impossible odds in the southern province of Paktia. Despite being outnumbered and poorly armed, they defeated the Soviet units. He still proudly shows off an assault rifle said to have been taken from a dead Russian general after that battle. It is an AK-47 he can be seen toting in television interviews.

"He became even more fearless after Paktia," said a former friend. And like others who know bin Laden, this source said he now expects him to fight until the end, "and die in valour."

Biography of Sheikh ‘Abdullah Yusuf’ Azzam

(Shaheed)

Abdullah Yusuf Azzam was born in a village in the North of Palestine named Selat Al Harithia in Genine District in the year 1941. His father's name was Mustafa Azzam who died a year after his son was assassinated. His mother was Zakia Saleh who died one year before the Sheikh was killed. She was buried in Pabi camp.

The Azzam family is a well-known family, one of its members being Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, distinguished as a child, who started making Da'wah at an early age. He was already showing signs of excellence and was recognised by his teachers while he was in elementary school. His peers knew him as a pious child. Since he was a small boy he was known for his determination and serious dispositions. Before he had even come of age, he joined the Muslim Brotherhood.

Sheikh Abdullah Azzam received his early elementary and secondary school education in his village, and continued his education at the agricultural Khadorri College where he obtained a Diploma. Although he was the youngest amongst his colleagues, he was the brightest and most astute. After he graduated from Khadorri College, he worked as a teacher in a village named Adder in the South of Jordan. Later he joined Shariah College in Damascus University where he obtained a B.A. Degree in Shariah in 1966.

After the Jews captured the West Bank in 1967, Sheikh Abdullah Azzam decided to migrate to Jordan, because he could not live under the Jewish occupation of Palestine. The sacrifice of the Israeli tanks rolling into the West Bank without any resistance made him more determined to migrate, to learn the skills necessary to fight.

In the late 1960's he joined the Jihad against the Israeli occupation of Palestine from Jordan. During that time he received a Masters Degree in Shariah from the University of Al Azhar. In 1970 when the Jihad came to a halt, and the PLO was forced out of Jordan, he assumed a teaching position in the Jordanian University in Amman. In 1971 he was awarded a scholarship to the Al Azhar University in Cairo at which he obtained a Ph.D. Degree in Ussul al Fiqh in 1973. During his stay in Egypt he came to know the family of Saeed Qutb.

In 1979, when he was expelled from the University, he moved to Pakistan to be close to the Afghan Jihad. There, he became acquainted with the Leaders of the Jihad in Afghanistan. During the early period of his stay in Pakistan, he worked as a teacher in the International Islamic University in Islamabad. Eventually, it was necessary for him

to resign his position in order to devote his full time and energy to the Jihad in Afghanistan.

Abdullah Azzam was greatly influenced by the Jihad in Afghanistan and the Jihad was greatly influenced by him. To it he concentrated his full effort, that he ultimately became the most prominent figure in the Afghan Jihad, aside from the Afghan leaders. He spared no effort to promote the Afghan cause to the whole world, especially throughout the Muslim Ummah... He changed the minds of Muslims about Jihad in Afghanistan and presented the Jihad as it was: an Islamic cause which concerns all Muslims around the world. Due to his efforts, the Afghan Jihad became well known, in which Muslims from every part of the world came to fight.

Jihad in Afghanistan had made Abdullah Azzam the main pillar of the Jihad movement in modern times. His practical efforts in this Jihad and by his personal achievement in its promotion he had managed to alienate the misconceptions which had been planted in the path of Jihad and as such became an example to follow for the next generation that responded to the call of Jihad.

Once he remarked, "I feel that I am nine years old, seven and a half years in the Afghan Jihad, one and a half years in Jihad in Palestine and the rest of the years have no value." On Friday the 24th of November 1989 in Peshawar, Pakistan he was assassinated along with his two sons Mohammed and Ibrahim, by 20kg of TNT activated by remote control while he was driving to Friday (Jumma) prayer. His car was blown apart into fragments in the middle of a busy street. The blast was so intensive that fragments from the bodies of his sons were found upto a hundred meters from the carnage. One of his son's legs was also found suspended from an overhead telephone line. Nevertheless, Allah be glorified, the Sheikh was found perfectly intact, except for an internal haemorrhage, which caused his death. Many a people present will confirm to the smell of musk that emanated from his body.

Sheikh Abdullah Azzam and his sons were buried in Pabi Graveyard of the Shuhada, where he joined thousands of other Shuhada (martyrs).

"...But those who are killed in the Way of Allah, He will never let their deeds be lost."

(Surah Mohammed: Verse 4).

SHEIKH ABDULLAH AZZAM (SHAHEED)

The Last Will of 'Abdullah Yusuf' Azzam

Who is Poor to his Lord

From the house of the brave commander Jalalluddin Haqqani, Monday afternoon, 12th Sha'ban 1406H (20th April 1986).

Indeed all praise is due to Allah, we praise Him, we ask for His help alone, and we seek His forgiveness. And we seek refuge from the evil within ourselves, and the evil consequences of our actions. Whomsoever Allah guides there is none that can lead astray, and whomsoever Allah leads astray there is none that can guide. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone, He has no partners, and I bear witness that Muhammed (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is His slave and Messenger.

O! Allah, Nothing is easy except that which you make easy and you make the difficult easy if you wish.

The love of Jihad continues to dominate my life, my feelings, my senses and myself.

The verses of Surah At Taubah that reveal the final rulings of Jihad until the day of Judgement fill my heart with pain and sorrow, when I see my inability and the unwillingness of all the Muslims to fight for the cause of Allah.

The Verse of the Sword which abrogated around one hundred and forty verses pertaining to Jihad that were revealed before it, is a definite clear-cut answer and decisive reply to anyone who wants to play with the verses of fighting Jihad in the way of Allah, or who try to change its clear meaning, or deviate from its precise definition.

The following are the verses of the sword: -

“And fight against the Mushrikun (polytheists, pagans, idolaters, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allah) collectively as they fight against you collectively. But know that Allah is with those who are Al-Muttaqun, (pious).”

(The Noble Quran, Surah At Taubah: 36)

“Then when the sacred months (the 1st, 7th, 11th, and 12th months of the Islamic calendar) have passed, then kill the Mushrikun wherever you find them, and capture them and besiege them and lie in wait for them in each and every ambush. But if they repent and perform As-Salat and give Zakat, then leave their way free. Verily, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”

(The Noble Quran, Surah At Taubah: 5)

People who are making excuses for not fighting in the way of Allah are mocking and ridiculing the Religion of Allah, we are ordered to avoid them.

“And leave alone those who take their Religion as play and amusement...”

(The Noble Quran, Surah Al An'aam: 70)

Having lofty ambitions without doing the utmost to put them into practice is from the characteristics of those who do not seek to achieve anything. Even maintaining and visiting the sacred mosque (Al Masjid Al Haraam) is not comparable to Jihad, as it is reported in Sahih Muslim about the reason for the revelation for the verses 19-22 of Surah At Taubah.

“Do you consider the providing of drinking water to the pilgrims and the maintenance of Al-Masjid Al-Haram (at Makkah) as equal to the worth of those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and strive hard and fight in the cause of Allah? They are not equal before Allah. And Allah guides not those people who are the Zalimun (polytheists and wrong-doers).”

(The Noble Quran, Surah At Taubah: 19)

“Those who believed (in the Oneness of Allah – Islamic Monotheism) and emigrated and strove hard and fought in Allah’s Cause with their wealth and their lives are far higher in degree with Allah. They are the successful.”

(The Noble Quran, Surah At Taubah: 20)

“Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased (with them), and of Gardens (Paradise) for them wherein are everlasting delights.”

(The Noble Quran, Surah At Taubah: 21)

“They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward”.

(The Noble Quran, Surah At Taubah: 22)

The reason being is that some of the companions of the Prophet disagreed amongst themselves as to which of the deeds, after iman (belief) was the best in the sight of Allah. Some said maintaining the Sacred Mosque, others said giving water to the pilgrims, and others said Jihad. The above verses are a definite and clear-cut answer that Jihad is better than maintaining and visiting the Sacred Mosque, especially when we know that the reason for the revelation of these verses was a dispute amongst the companions over this issue. The reasons for the revelations cannot be misconstrued or altered, because the meaning is precise and leaves no room for misinterpretation.

‘Abdullah ibn Mubarak, the mujahid Scholar (may Allah have mercy on him) sent a letter to Fudhayl ibn ‘Ayadh (who was known as ‘Abid Al Haramain – the worshipper at the Sacred Mosques), which stated:

*“O! ‘Abid Al Haramain, If you saw us in the battlefield then you would know that you are playing with your Religion!
For those who coat their cheeks with tears (from the fear of Allah) then our chests are covered with blood (that flows from the battle wounds)
You are playing with your worship, while you worshippers offer your tears, Mujahideen offer their blood and life.”*

From this one must understand that Ibn Mubarak believes that offering prayers and maintaining the sacred places, whilst the sanctity of these very same places is being violated, blood is being shed, the honour of Muslim women is being violated and Islam itself is being uprooted, is indeed playing with the Religion of the Almighty. Yes! Allowing Muslims to be slaughtered, whilst all we do is offer lip service from a distance and rub our hands together, without even taking one step towards alleviating the suffering of the Muslims is for sure playing with and ridiculing Islam.

How could a Muslim settle and stay quiet while the aggressive enemy captures Muslim women?

I firmly believe, as I wrote in the book **Defense of the Muslim Lands is the most important obligation after Iman**, and as stated by Sheikh Ul Islam Ibn Taymiyah *“As for the aggressive enemy, who destroys Religion and life, nothing is more compulsory after belief than his repulsion”*

I strongly believe (and Allah knows best) that there is no difference between one who does not fight and one who does not pray, fast or pay zakah.

I believe that the entire Muslim nation is facing a great responsibility before Allah, and then before the future generations.

I believe that no Muslim is excused in abandoning Jihad, no matter which of the excuses they use: such as da'wah (inviting to Islam), authoring books or tarbiyyah (education).

I believe that every Muslim on earth bears the responsibility of abandoning Jihad, and the sin of abandoning the gun. Every Muslim who passes away without a gun in his hand faces Allah with the sin of the abandonment of fighting. Right now fighting is compulsory upon each and every Muslim on earth, except those who have a shar'iy (legal) exemption, and by definition a compulsory act either brings with it reward or punishment.

I believe (and Allah knows best) that the people who have a legitimate excuse for not fighting are: The blind; the terminally ill; the lame; and the oppressed men, women and children who cannot find their way and have no means to get to the field of battle.

All Muslims bear the sin of abandoning Jihad in Palestine, Afghanistan or any other part of the Muslim world in which the infidels threaten Muslim lands.

I believe that no permission is required to fight in the path of Allah. Not the permission of parents, husband, teacher or Amir and this is the consensus of all the Scholars ('ulama) of Ahlus Sunnah throughout history. When Jihad becomes compulsory a son must fight even without the permission of his parents; a wife without the permission of her husband; a student without the permission of the teacher. Anyone who tries to deny this clear ruling has exceeded his limits and followed his whims and desires without guidance from Allah. It is a decisive and clarified issue that leaves no room for misunderstanding or distortion.

The Khalifah's (leader of the Muslims) permission is not required in three cases:-

1. If the Khalif himself does not call for Jihad when there is a need for it.
2. If obtaining the permission means missing the opportunity for Jihad.
3. If it is known in advance that permission cannot be granted.

I believe, and Allah knows best, that the Muslim Ummah is responsible for the honour of every Muslim woman that is being violated in Afghanistan, and responsible for every drop of Muslim blood that is being shed unjustly. Therefore they are an accessory to these crimes. The reason being that they can provide them with weapons to protect themselves with, and because they did not provide them with the medical assistance they need, nor the money needed to buy food with or the tools they need with which they can dig trenches in which they can seek shelter. All this they could have accomplished, but they did not!

It was reported in Hashiat Al Dasoqi Vol.2 pages 111-112:-

If someone has an abundance of food and allows someone else to die from starvation, thinking that he would not starve to death, he should pay the deceased's diyah (blood money) from the money of his family. However, if he knew the person would starve to death he should pay the diyah from his own money, or else be killed as Qisas (retribution).

Thus we see the punishment that is awaiting the wealthy people who waste their money in satisfying their personal desires and in acquiring the luxuries of life.

O! you Muslims, Jihad is your life. Your dignity and your honour depend upon it.

O! you Preachers, You have no value under the sun unless you bear arms and uproot the tyrants, infidels and evil doers.

Those who believe that Islam can flourish and be victorious without Jihad (fighting) and blood are deluded and have no understanding of the nature of this Religion. The prestige of preachers and the dignity of Muslims cannot be attained without Jihad.

It is related in the Sunan of Abu Dawood the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: *"The people will soon summon one another to attack you as people when eating invite others to share their dish. Someone asked: Will that be because of our small numbers at that time? He replied: No, you will be numerous at that time; but you will be scum and rubbish like that carried down by a torrent, and Allah will take fear of you from the breasts of your enemy and last enervation into your hearts".* Someone asked: *"What is wahn (enervation). Apostle of Allah"* (peace be upon him): He replied: *"Love of the world and dislike of death".* In another narration he said *"Love of life and hatred of fighting."*

"Then fight (O Muhammed (saw) in the Cause of Allah, you are not tasked (held responsible) except for yourself, and incite the believers (to fight along with you)."
(The Noble Quran, Surah An-Nisaa: 84)

Without Jihad, shirk (joining partners with Allah) will spread and become dominant, for Allah says:

"And fight them until there is no more fitnah (disbelief and worshipping of others along with Allah) and (all and every kind of) worship is for Allah (Alone)."
(The Noble Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah: 193)

Indeed Jihad is the only guarantee for the well being of humanity on earth, for Allah says:

"And if Allah did not check one set of people by means of another, the earth would indeed be full of mischief. But Allah is full of bounty to the Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists)."
(The Noble Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah: 251)

Jihad is the only guarantee for the preservation of the houses of worship, and the performing of worship to Allah for Allah says:

"For had it not been that Allah checks one set of people by means of another, monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques, wherein the Name of Allah is mentioned much would surely, have been pulled down, Verily, Allah will help those who help His (Cause)."
(The Noble Quran, Surah Al-Hajj: 40)

O! You preachers of Islam, Seek death and you will be granted life, never be deceived by Satan, or with false wishes, never deceive yourselves with books you read, or extra

good deeds you do. Never busy yourself with easy tasks rather than confronting the great deeds. Allah has said:

“... You wished that the one not armed (the caravan) should be yours...”
(The Noble Quran, Surah Al-Anfaal : 7)

Never obey anyone in abandoning Jihad, no permission is required when Jihad is compulsory, indeed Jihad is the main foundation and the essence of your Da'wah and the protection of your Religion.

O! You Muslim Scholars. Come forward and lead this generation that is returning to its Lord. Do not turn away, do not rely on this mortal life, and beware of the offerings of the tyrants for they cause darkness and death of the hearts and become an obstacle between you and this generation.

O! you Muslims, You have slept for a long time, long enough for the tyrants to take control over you. You accepted to live as slaves and submitted to tyrants. Now the time has come to revolt and destroy the shackle of slavery.

O! you Muslim women, Be Aware of extravagance for it is the enemy of Jihad and it causes death of the human soul. Beware of complementary commodities and stick to the basic necessities. Bring up your children to be brave and courageous. Let your houses be places for lions not chicken farms in which your sons will be fed then slaughtered by tyrants like sheep. Instil in the hearts of your sons the love for Jihad and the love of battlefields. Share the problems of Muslim Ummah. Live one day a week like refugees and Mujahideen. They live on dry bread and tea.

O! You children of Islam, Get accustomed to the noise of bombs, mortar shells and the sounds of jet fighters and tanks and avoid luxury.

O! You wife of mine, I have too much to say to you. May Allah reward you on my behalf and on the behalf of the Muslims. You were patient with me and stood by me through out the thick and the thin with patience and courage. From you I got the support I needed to carry on this Jihad. I let you assume the responsibility of the house in 1969, when we had three small children living in one small room with no kitchen and no utilities. When the family became larger, the children grow up and our guests increased, you tolerated this and much more for Allah and my sake. I pray that Allah reward you on my behalf. Had it not been for your patience, I would have never been able to bear this burden alone. You are a content wife who doesn't care for material things and you never complained about having too little of it. You have never been extravagant when we had some wealth.

The life of Jihad is the most joyous life, tolerating difficulties is better than living luxuriously. Be content Allah will love you, have no desire for what other people have people will love you. Qur'an is the joy of life, tahajjud (night prayer), extra fasting,

asking forgiveness all make the heart transparent and worship sweet. Sticking to the basic needs, lawful goods, keeping your distance from glamour and extravagance brings peace and serenity to the heart. I pray to Allah that he unites us in paradise as he united us in life.

O! my sons, You have not enjoyed much time with me and I have not had enough of a chance to give you guidance and advice. I was too busy to keep your company. While I saw the disasters and catastrophe that struck the Muslim Ummah, I could not bear to live with you like a chicken living with its chicks. I could not live in peace while the impact of a catastrophe burns the hearts of Muslims, I could not stay among you while the problem of the Muslim Ummah tears the hearts and the minds of those who have them. Manhood would not allow me to live the easy life with you. I hated extravagance and luxury all of my life whether in food, clothing or dwellings. I have tried to elevate you as much as I can from that style of life and to make you content with your simple life.

Believe in what the first generations of Muslims (As salaf) believed in, practice wisdom, recite the Quran and memorise it. Be careful of what you say. Offer prayer at night, observe extra fasts, seek good company and join the Islamic Movement. But know this, the amir (leader) has no power over you to prevent you from Jihad, or to seduce you to abandon Jihad by propagating da'wah.

O! sons, I command you to obey and respect your mother and sisters (Ummi Al Hassan and Ummi Yahyah). I urge you to seek good religious knowledge. I ask you to obey and respect your older brother, Muhammed, and love him. Be kind to your grandfather and grandmother and respect them. Be kind to your aunts (Ummi Faiz and Ummi Muhammed) for they have done me great favours. Reach out for your family members and for the people you know.

O! you Jihadi organisations. In the care of Sayyaf, Hikmatyar, Rabbani and Khalis. We hope that you will continue with the Jihad in the way of Allah and protect it from deviation of the original goal. Do not forget the field commanders inside Afghanistan, especially Jalaluddin, Ahmed Shah Mas'ood, Eng. Basheer, Saifullah Afzalli, Mawlawi Arsalan, Farid and Muhammed Alam, Shir Alam (Baghman) and Said Muhammed Hanif (Logar).

Glory be to You O! Allah, and praise be to You. I bear witness that there is no god but You. I seek forgiveness and repent unto You.

Abdullah Yusuf Azzam
12th Sha'ban 1406H (20th April 1986).