

# **Bin Ladin Urges Expulsion of 'Invaders'**

**London Al-Quds al-'Arabi in Arabic 23 Mar 98 p 4**

[Unattributed report: "Bin Ladin Urges Jihad and Expulsion of US Forces from Gulf,

THIS REPORT MAY CONTAIN COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL. COPYING AND  
DISSEMINATION IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNERS.

Praises Prince Talal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz's Recent Statement" -- quotation marks as published throughout]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Al-Sharq al-Awsat -- The prominent Saudi oppositionist Usama Bin Ladin has called for the expulsion of US forces from the region because they are "occupation forces" and "crusaders."

In a statement sent to Al-Quds al-'Arabi Bin Ladin focused on the necessity for "young men, ulema, notables, traders, and tribal chiefs to move out of Muslim countries to work for God's cause and run the jihad-for-God's-cause battalions in order to expel the occupying invaders."

Bin Ladin emphasized that US soldiers showed their cowardice and feebleness during the Somali experiment, as the Somalis were able to drive them out of their land.

His statement, entitled "One of Them Bears Witness," cited [Saudi] Prince Talal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz's recent statement to the BBC radio as evidence that the Americans are an occupation force in the Arabian Peninsula, since Prince Talal said that "if the Americans and the British were asked today to leave the Peninsula, they would not leave."

The statement cited the appeal to the Americans by Prince Talal, brother of Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to change their view of the region so that their occupation becomes acceptable to its people.

Bin Ladin praised Prince Talal's "courage," saying that this admission of the occupation of the Peninsula is better than the desperate attempts by others to conceal "the shameful aspects of the occupation." He also condemned the actions of some of the [Royal] Court's ulema "who have gained status through the rulers' money, power, and tyranny, selling their [reward in the] hereafter for others' lives."

In his statement Bin Ladin analyzed the reasons for what he terms the US occupation of the Gulf, saying:

We ask once again: Why are US forces still on our territory? We get no answer except some mangled words designed to confuse, and we hear nothing except the Americans' claims concerning the protection of their ambitions in the region. These claims -- despite the defective logic they reflect -- represent a witness from among them [the Americans] to this occupation, exposing the liars' deception and dealing a strong blow to those claiming to be independent. Franklin Roosevelt admitted over 60 years ago the link between the region and US ambitions, especially in the Saudi Kingdom, for three reasons: It sits on two-thirds of the world's oil reserve, it controls the keys to world communication problems, and [there is] its role in Israel's stability and security.

The views of the Americans -- leaders, politicians, experts, and journalists -- sum up all this as follows:

The region is the elixir of the West's industrial life, as it is sitting on 70 percent of the

world's oil reserves, with an expected life of more than 100 years based on the production rates of 1410 Hegira [1990], while the seven [G-7] industrial states, including Western Europe, possess no more than 5.5 percent of this reserve, with an expected life of no more than two decades. The Gulf provides the lifeline for the West's industry, since oil is the lifeblood of the industrial states. This region represents a huge consumer market, especially the Gulf states, which import most of their necessities and nearly all their luxuries from the West and its allies. There is also the Zionist entity, which has grown and now controls -- to a large extent -- most of the West's politicians and leaders, especially in the United States. There is also their new enemy: the Islamic resurrection. It must be besieged, and the battle against it should be conducted on its own territory. The spark that ignited the Americans' spite and inflamed their designs in the region was Ramadan 1393 Hegira [October 1973] and the threat it posed to their ambitions in the region and the security of their allies, the Jews. It was decided then to occupy the Gulf states by seizing them directly. The occupation was speeded up because of their fear that the Islamists might seize power, and that appeared at the time to be imminent throughout the region.

With regard to US defense policy in 1407 Hegira [1987], Reagan recommended the following: "To guarantee the ability to use vital world communication routes by taking control of them -- if necessary, seizing them -- especially with regard to transport and maritime routes.

To guarantee US access to strategic minerals and other vital raw materials, whether with regard to where they are produced or the routes by which they are transported.

Bin Ladin's statement went on to say:

Lest anyone think that these ambitions disappeared years ago, Schwarzkopf, commander of the Crusade coalition forces during the Gulf war, said the same thing during the second Gulf war in 1411 (1991) and repeated it after the al-Khubar incident in 1416 (1996). He said: It is important for US forces to stay in Saudi Arabia because it is a friendly state and the most important state in the region; it has the will, the infrastructure, and the financial resources to support our forces and equipment, which we need to protect our interests. Concerning his soldiers in the Gulf, he said that these soldiers are defending U.S. interests and we have to defend our interests as long as these interests are in existence. So the region is occupied in the air, at sea, and on land. The question that we put to those who dispute this axiom, which is known to everyone, is: Why did these armies come to our land, seas, and airspace? Is the aim -- as claimed by some naive agents -- to protect the weak regimes in the region from Iraq? This pretext has now collapsed, since the leaders of the region themselves have stated that Iraq no longer poses any threat. And all the Gulf states have worked to eliminate the effects of the war and the causes of the dispute with it [Iraq]. In fact they strongly objected to the recent US threats to wage a war against Iraq, using their territory as a staging post. And they demanded that the starvation and suffocation of the Iraqi people be halted. But the United States treated with contempt the views of all the Gulf leaders and took no notice of the slogans that it had raised earlier, in order to eat up its Gulf prey. And it continued to increase its forces and

movements according to its ambitions, without regard for any pledge or respect for any sanctity. So does anyone have any doubt about the occupation of the Peninsula? What kind of occupation is uglier than the governments' inability to extend their sovereignty over their territories? Is there anything uglier than the US occupier's persistence in usurping the blessed land of the Peninsula and plundering its riches despite rejection and denunciation by its rulers -- who helped the occupier at the start but cannot now find a way out of the scandal? The magic of the concealment trick is no longer working, the deception has been exposed, and the countries are now seen by everyone as prisoners in the Americans' hands. May God give us strength!!

Bin Ladin concluded his statement by saluting some oppositionists who are held there [not further specified]: May God help our ulema and shaykhs who are behind bars: Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, Shaykh Salman Bin-Fahd al-'Awdah, Shaykh Safar Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hawali, Shaykh Yahya al-Yahya, Shaykh Ibrahim al-Dubyan, Shaykh Sa'id Bin-Zu'ayr, Shaykh Bishr al-Bishr, and their brothers...