



## Bin Laden: "Message to the People of Iraq"

October 22, 2007

### "Shaykh Usama Bin Laden: A Message to the People of Iraq." Released October 22, 2007



*[This document is the translation of an Arabic-language audio recording obtained by NEFA investigators from Al-Qaida's As-Sahab Media Foundation and transcribed into English on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch news service. This translation is provided for educational and informational purposes only. For more on Al-Qaida and the "Islamic State of Iraq", see "State of the Sunni Insurgency in Iraq: August 2007" (<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/iraqreport0807.pdf>.)]*

"...To our persevering steadfast peoples in resolute Iraq... To our defiant Mujahid Clans in promising Iraq... To the blessed knights and lions protecting the creed and religion, our heroes, the heroes of the Fedayee Operations everywhere, but especially in Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan, and in the Arabian Peninsula, the countries of Maghreb and Pakistan, and in Somalia and Chechnya, those who brothers were before them and inflicted slaughter on the enemy, and broke his strength, humiliated his pride, tarnished his dignity, unsettles his steps and failed his plans; I ask Allah to accept them among the martyrs and to make them intercessors for their families and to compensate them in the best way...To the noble high towering chiefs whose faith prevented them from sitting behind with the womenfolk, and no they emigrated to jihad and defied every opponent and left their loves ones behind them to follow Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his companions...To the supporters of the Jihad and Mujahideen everywhere: Peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and his blessings."



"Bush and his allies, along with those of the hypocrites and apostates who obeyed him ignited the unjust war in Iraq, bringing fear and destruction, meddling in your security, ruining your homelands and killing the best of you. I ask Allah to accept them along martyrs and hasten the healing of the sick and wounded. The residents have emigrated, unity has been destroyed, and unbelief has become more prominent and hypocrisy more arrogant. The foxes have become as lions, and the wolves have been made shepherds, and he who makes the wolf a shepherd has done wrong. And the only thing left for the free ones is the sharpened sword: If they are victorious, they are happy, and if they are killed, they are martyrs."

"So O people of Iraq, you guided yourselves and plunged into the fray of this violent war, fearing no scowling weapon, and you persevered in the battles and withstood the blows of the swords just like your free and righteous forefather who preferred death over unbelief, humiliation, and shame. The falling of the sword on your faces is trifling, but you would rather die than have them be slapped. We expose to the swords when we meet Faces which are not exposed to slapping And we refuse to be humiliated while there is in us a vein We fight those who come to us with the sword. You were steadfast in the war against Bush and his riffraff, and were well-suited for

that steadfastness and have much to your credit, for you are the children of war, and how many a oft-striking knight is there among you. And you are the people of armor and arms and stabbing and spears which you inherited from your great forefathers, so stab every apostate and infidel.”

“The world has stood stunned, amazed, delighted and wonder-struck watching America the tyrannical: watching its legions breaking apart under your strikes its brigades being wiped out in front of your raids and its battalions being obliterated by the pounding of your squadrons. And the people have been most amazed as they see the champions of the Fedayee operations belittling their life for glory, striking with it in all manner of ways and defying death with it as the armies meet, and rushing with their car bombs into the midst of the armored vehicles. And if the cause is known, amazement ceases; and the cause of the people’s amazement is that they don’t see what the Mujahideen see in their sleep, and don’t find what they find in their waking hours. The Mujahid might see what he wishes for: that he is a martyr entering Paradise, and so his reckoning differs from our reckoning and his hour differs from our hour, so he sees the hour as if it is long days or nights, and he is unable to stand in existence in this world in anticipation of the meeting. Thus, he advances with massive strength to aid the religion, and were the army of infidelity were to gather all its men and material, it would not be able to prevent him from his objective, for his zeal has been elevated over the mud and mire of the earth and his soul has risen and yearns to reach Illiyeen (Heaven). Young men who used to live a comfortable life, but abandoned it, and a world of luxury, but divorced it, and came to Paradise and passionately adore it. Young men in the prime of life who hadn’t completed the years of their second decade, but their swords were sharp, their spears were strong and their minds were sober. Perhaps one of them found the wind of Paradise, as it was found before Uhud, and so he no longer cared about any of the enemies, and he plunged into their midst without armor and didn’t return, and split the polytheist’s skull for him and removed from him his illusions.”

“So may Allah reward the Mujahideen in the best way, be generous to them, for they have raised the Ummah’s head high—may Allah raise their standing and have made it happy—may Allah make them happy... O’ Mujahideen: Your continuing in this blessed jihad is fateful, and more awaits you around the corner. The entire world is following in your magnificent victories, and it knows that its history has turned a new page with major changes, and the map of the region will be redrawn at the hands of the Mujahideen, with Allah’s permission, and the artificial borders placed by the Crusaders will be erased, for the state of truth and justice to be established: the greater state of Islam from the ocean to the ocean, Allah permitting. This quest to extremely dear, and infidelity on all its levels—international, regional and local—is combining its efforts to prevent the establishment of the state of Islam. Your brothers have passed through a number of experiences which are not hidden from you, and we have witnessed them with our own eyes. The enemy prevented the setting up of the state of the Muslims after the defeat of the Russians in Afghanistan. Then, when the Taliban movement set up its state, the enemy blockaded it, then fell upon it and toppled it. And when the Sudan declared that it would begin to apply Islamic Shari’ah, the efforts of the international infidelity were combined with those of the region’s traitor states to put pressure on it until it went back on its promise. And this last role isn’t far from you, for the governor of Riyadh again sought to convince the Sudanese president, this time to implement the demands of the United Atheist Nations to allow the entrance of Crusader forces to Darfur. This is a brazen occupation, and only an infidel apostate seeks it or agrees to it. So it is the duty of the people of Islam in the Sudan and its environs especially the Arabian Peninsula, to perform Jihad against the Crusader invaders and wage armed rebellion to remove those who let them in.”

“I mention these events to remind you of the full size and weight of the responsibility placed on your shoulders and the full magnitude of the conspiracies being hatched against you. My brothers the Mujahideen in Iraq, just as you are deserving of praise and commendation, your open hearts and good humbleness makes you deserving of admonition and advice, You have done well by carrying out one of the greatest duties which few carry out: repelling the attacking enemy. But some of you have been tardy in performing another duty which is also among the greatest of duties: combining your names to make as loved by Allah (the Glorious and Great), who said, ‘Truly Allah loves those who fight in His cause in ranks, as if they were a solid cemented

structure.’ (61:4), and said, ‘And hold fast, all together, to the rope of Allah, and be not divided among yourselves, and remember the favor of Allah which He bestowed upon you. When you were enemies, the He united your hearts, so that by His grace you became as brothers.’ (3:103) And the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said, ‘observe the group and avoid factionalism, for Satan is with the loner and farther away from the pair. Whoever wants the comfort of the Garden must stay with the group, and he whose good deed makes him happy and bad deed displeases him is the believer.’”

“...Sticks refuse to break when banded together. But if they come apart, they break one by one. My brothers, the amirs of the Mujahid groups: the Muslims are waiting for you to gather under one banner to enforce the truth. And when you carry out this act of obedience, the Ummah will enjoy the birth year of the group. And how it longs for this year, and perhaps it will come soon at your hands. So seek –may Allah have mercy on you–to carry out this great lost obligation. And it is incumbent on the sincere proper of knowledge and virtue to make every effort to unify the ranks of the Mujahideen, and to not tire of walking the path which leads to that. I ask Allah to grant them resolve and success.”

“And then I have a subject on which I would like to share some advice with my brothers: i.e. the mistakes that take place between the brothers Allah, the Most High, says, ‘Verify, the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is he who is the most righteous of you.’ (49:13) And the messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, ‘The most honorable of the people is the most fearing of them of Allah’ (Agreed upon). And Umar bin al-Khattab said to his son Abdullah (with both of whom Allah was pleased), when the letter inquired about the reason for his favoring of Usama bin Zaid over him in gifts ‘Usama was more beloved to the Messenger of Allah (peace and prayers of Allah be upon him) that you were, and his father was more beloved to the Messenger of Allah (peace and prayers of Allah be upon him) that your father was.’ So this is our balance, and our trusting in people to shoulder the trust of invitation and Jihad increases in proportion to piety not in proportion to kinship, lineage or who is affiliated with the organization. Returning to our subject, the nature of man is to err, and the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, ‘Every one of Adam’s children makes mistakes, and the best of those who make mistakes are the repenters.’ (Ahmad) It is impossible for the people not to make mistakes, and when they happen, differences break out between them. Major sins were committed in the best of eras...”

“As for those in whose hearts there is a disease, they look for the faults and lapses of the Mujahideen and exaggerate them, and perhaps allege that they are a consequence of the devotion of Jihad, which they label violence and terror. Allah suffices me against them. And the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, ‘O community of those who have believed with their tongues but faith has not entered their heart, don’t backbite the Muslims and don’t search for their faults for Allah searches for the fault of these who search for their faults, and whoever has his faults searched for by Allah, Allah unmasks him in his house.’ The Mujahideen are the sons of this Ummah, just like the Hajj pilgrims and those who pray. And just like them, they are both correct and mistaken, and whoever is accused of violating one of Allah’s Hudood is referred to the judiciary. And there is no room for conflict between the Muslims who truly surrender to the order of Allah (the Most High) and the order of His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Every matter and every dispute is referred to Allah and his Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)... Referring every dispute to Allah and the Messenger is the hallmark of faith, and refusing to do so is the hallmark of unbelief. It is obligatory to judge according to the law of Allah, and it is then that claims are sorted out and proof is presented... It is incumbent on the men of knowledge, Ameer of the Mujahideen, and Shayks of the clans to make every effort to engender reconciliation between every two parties in dispute, and they must judge between them according to the law of Allah. And the two disputing parties must respond to those sincere men of knowledge calling for reform, but beware of suing one another before the evil judges and men of knowledge in general and those in the land of Two Sanctuaries in particular, who forbid the Mujahideen from fighting the army and police of the traitors – like al-Alawi, al-Jafari and al-Maliki – although they know that they are tools

of the American occupation helping it to kill the people of Islam, which is obvious apostasy on the part of the soldiers. And worst of all is that these men of knowledge consider the idol-king of Riyadh to be guardian of the Muslims' affair, and call upon the Muslims to rally around him, although they know that he is the biggest promoter of the American-Zionist project in the region, and is one of those who called on it to invade Iraq..."

"And before concluding, I advise myself and the Muslims in general, and the brothers in al-Qaida organization everywhere in particular, to beware of fanatical partiality to men, groups and homelands. The truth is what Allah (the Most High) said and what the Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, and everyone's statement is to be accepted or rejected except the Messenger's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): his order is to be accepted with pleasure. So beware, beware lest your share about this issue be only a theoretical understanding which so contradict in your practical reality. You must judge everyone's statement by the Book of Allah the Most High and the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and take what conforms to the truth and abandon what opposes it... So the brotherhood of faith is what ties Muslims together, not belonging to the tribe, homeland or organization. And the interests of the group take priority over the interests of the individual, and the interests of the Muslim state take priority over the interests of the group, and the interests of the Ummah take priority over the interests of the state. These concepts must be practically implemented in our lives. And I say: it behooves each and every one of the men of knowledge among the Muslims, the commanders of the Mujahideen and the leaders of the sincere groups to repeat to their brothers what Abu Bakr al-Siddeeq (with whom Allah was pleased) said: 'Obey me as long as I obey Allah and His Messenger. If I were to disobey Allah and His Messenger then there is no obedience to me due from you.'"

"...We repeat these statements to them to remove the exaggeration which has grown among some of them, through their exalting the orders of the group and the orders of its commanders. One of them will imagine that they of necessity are nothing but the truth, and so he deals with it in his practical reality as though they are infallible texts, even if he theoretically believes that infallibility is only for the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). So he shows fanatical partiality to the order of his group and its leaders, and he doesn't comply with a verse of Allah's Book or a Hadeeth of Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and this is clear misguidance... Those who contradict the Shar'iah of the Messenger openly or secretly should fear and beware 'lest a trial afflict them' i.e., in their hearts, whether it is unbelief, hypocrisy or innovation 'or a grievous punishment overtakes them' i.e. in this world, whether it be killing, lashing or detention the like. And even worse than that is when his group and its commanders embark on the greatest of cardinal sins, and order him to embark on them, like entering the polytheistic parliaments and legislatures and electing its members, as both the voter and the candidate have committed polytheistic deeds, and there is neither strength nor power except with Allah."

"I advise myself and my brothers to be pious and patient, for that is the provision and weapon of he who hopes for victory. And I tell my brothers: beware of your enemies, especially the hypocrites who infiltrate your ranks to stir up strife among Mujahid groups, and refer such people to the judiciary... You must protect your secrets and excel in your actions, for among the things that sadden the Muslims and delight the unbelievers is the hindering of some combat operations against the enemy because of negligence in any of the stages of preparation for the operation, whether it be reconnaissance of the target, training, integrity and suitability of weapons and ammunition, quality of the explosive device or other such arrangements. And when you lay a mine, do it right, and don't leave so much as one wounded American soldier or spy... And beware, beware of treachery, for it is sin, shame and dishonor, and the free man doesn't commit treachery..."

"In closing, I tell our people of Iraq, the patient ones garrisoned on the first line of defense of the religion and sanctities of the Muslims: the malice has increased, and the darkness has become pitch-black, and with the likes of you, nations reinforce themselves and climb summits. The

Ummah had reserved you for the darkest of nights, because you are their lions who don't care. And you are suited for them and the most deserving of the people for them, and you have driven away their darkness with the glitter of your swords, and have removed their gloom with your fine stances, for your souls are defiant like the souls of Khalid and 'Ali, with pride and haughtiness of the first degree. O our free and defiant clans, O my people and family, your morals and manners remind us of the first generation: honesty and generosity; courage and resolve; compliance with covenants and fulfillment of promises; you fight the oppressor and defend the oppressed, even if that means certain death. When the crier cries: 'Come to Jihad,' you welcome death with war materiel, and you bid each other a final farewell, and you are a people who avoid dishonor... Your faith refused to let you allow the Roman infidels drag their feet over the land of Iraq and you refused to abandon the homeland to the unbelievers, or allow their ranks to roar between the Tigris and Euphrates, and so you resolved to fight them until death, and whoever is eager to die is blessed in life. You massacred the enemy and applied yourself to fighting them, until they became prisoners of their bases and the Green Zone, fearing danger. So continue to make the soldiers of unbelief drink from the bitter cup of death, and leave not one of them on the soil of Iraq."

"O our free and defiant clans: you attack and fight to preserve the creed of the Ummah, so preserve the trust, and for he who has stored up strength for a severe day, now is the time, and the free man will not give up his trust. O lions of war; O hawks high in the sky: the backs of horses were your cradles, and on them you inherited defiance... So O' our beloved and majestic clans, and I mention specifically our people in Diyala who these days are confronting the campaign of unbelief and treason: standing in the shade of swords, despite the deaths that it entails, is a magnificent reserve today, which will benefit you tomorrow on the Day of Reckoning. And it is the requirement of piety and devoutness, and worldly glory is its consequence, so work toward that Day, and the one who is patient wins, and caution doesn't ward off destiny, and facing death is better than turning one's back on it, and being stabbed in the throat is more honorable than being stabbed in the back..."

"So where are those who prefer the religion to the lives of themselves and their children? Where are the people of Tawheed and those who topple the banner of unbelief and polytheism? Where are those who find torture to be pleasant and don't fear the blows? Where are those who find difficulty to be easy and bitterness to be sweet, because they are certain that the fire of Hell is much hotter? Where are those who got out to fight the Romans, as on the day of Tabuk? Where are those who pledge to fight to the death, as on the day of Yarmuk? Where are the soldiers of the Levant and the reinforcements of Yemen? Where are the knights of the Quiver (Egypt) and the lions of the Hijaz and al-Yamamah? Come and aid your brothers in Mesopotamia and relieve them by coordinating with them by way of dependable guides."

"O people of Iraq, O riders of the unfettered steeds and bearers of the white swords, O guardians of Islam, O eminent ones of the Turks, Kurds and Arabs: the affair of unbelief has been shaken and confused, and the time of his fleeing is nigh, so increase his confusion and disarray, and strike some more at his neck and hit it with the bone-cutting sword. The bearer of the banner the Cross, has increased its soldiers, and claimed that he will defeat the soldiers of faith, so be resolute – may Allah be merciful to you – and remember Him much, for He is watching you. So be beautiful in battle, and let Him see from you that which pleases Him and angers the enemies. Don't compromise or disgrace the Muslims today – may Allah conceal your faults and remove your fear. O my people: be severe and serious, for death is a must – may I and my father and grandfather be your ransom... O Allah, protect us with Islam when we stand, protect us with Islam when we sit, and protect us with Islam when we sleep, and don't allow the enemies and envious ones to gloat at our misfortune... O Allah, this a day among Your days, so turn the hearts and heads of the youth of Islam towards jihad in Your path. O Allah, strengthen their hearts, steady their feet, guide their fire and bring them together. O Allah, send down Your aid on Your slave the Mujahideen, and bring relief to the captives and distressed everywhere, in Palestine, Iraq, the Land of the Two Sanctuaries, Afghanistan, Kashmir, the Philippines, Somalia, Chechnya, the Islamic Maghreb, America, India and Pakistan..."