

[TC: This letter is scanned in reverse order. *Osama bin Laden* has been referred to as *Abu Abdullah* or *Abu Abdullah Osama bin Mohammed bin Laden*.]

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Dear Brother *Abu Abdullah*,

Let peace, God's mercy, and blessings be upon you.

In this letter that I am writing, I ask God to grant you victory over His enemies and ours, and He knows our work is solely for His sake. He is the Supreme Proprietor and the Master Responder to our prayers.

Honorable Brother,

I wish I were there with you in these circumstances, in which God is testing our sincerity, will, impetus, and endurance in continuing our effort [of *Jihad*] with few supplies and equipment. I wish I were there with you to support you and share in your endeavor. Since God's will prevented me from joining you - for a reason that is beyond my comprehension - I am seeking to participate in a small way by writing this letter. I want to express my appreciation for your attempts in pursuing *Jihad* and directing blows against the enemy of God even under these difficult conditions. I pray to God to bless your efforts and make them a good attempt at repelling and defeating the enemy.

Honorable Brother,

First, God has granted you success in your effort to unite a large number of Muslims and to break the barrier of division and fragmentation. By accomplishing this, you have laid the first block in restoring the unity of all Muslims.

Second, God has also given you success by granting you [the ability] to direct painful strikes [hits, or blows] against the most powerful nation of the infidels and enemies. I pray to God that he gives you the ability to maintain and continue this effort. You have put Muslims on the right path so that they share the same goals and targets, and have also gathered Muslims in such a way that will not allow them to be divided anymore. The Americans and the Jews are infidels - there is no need to prove this infidelity. They are combatants working to uproot Muslims and invade them in their homes.

Third, God has granted you the ability to put an end to the state of confusion that some Islamic movements are suffering from. They suffer from an absence of a unified strategy and thus, their effort becomes a dynamic action on the ground.

Fourth, due to the grace of God, you have succeeded in using the media to support Islam and Muslims. The media has been attacking Muslims and Islam for a long time by quoting and

misconstruing its statements. You showed them that they [Islam and Muslims] have a cause to defend and a reason to spend the most valuable thing they have for it.

Your effort will have a great effect in the future, God willing, in motivating the Muslims who are either over-concerned about their personal well-being, overwhelmed by their problems, unable to fulfill their responsibilities, and left *Jihad* to pursue different points of view or swayed to fragmentation and withdrawal.

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[TC: Text begins in the middle of previous sentence.]

I would like to point out that your effort may have the greatest effect in motivating these Muslims, or some of them at least, to rid themselves of their problems and allow them to resume their march with you and support you to achieve victory for the *Mujahideen* who exert efforts for God's cause.

Honorable Brother,

You have done a great job against him [the oppressor, America]. This great effort required a huge sacrifice. It is necessary to prepare ourselves to endure these sacrifices. There is no place for retreating after you have begun. It is known that in most cases, the danger of retreating is worse than continuing forward, especially if the retreat has not been studied, planned, or it is done under great pressure of unexpected attacks from the enemy when the decision was made to attack the enemy.

But, Honorable Brother, since we are facing an enemy that is greater in number, better equipped, and has the capability for long-range planning and preparation before beginning [any attack], it would have been better for us - in facing such an enemy - to plan our work, focus our strikes, and make the best choice in choosing our targets. This does not necessarily mean choosing an easy target, but inasmuch as it [the chosen target] has the greatest effect and inflicts the utmost harm and agony on the enemy, that is good.

Honorable Brother,

Additionally, I would like to remind you that confronting such an enemy with poor capabilities necessitates that we should choose targets that we will be able to attack successfully in the first stage so that we can raise the morale of Muslims. This will, in effect, play an important role in sharpening their zeal and motivating them to support the *Jihad* effort. This is a more successful model [way] to motivate Muslims. There were many unsuccessful models in the past. Inasmuch as we can succeed in following this model, we will succeed in combining their [the Muslims] energies and boosting their determination. Success, in most cases, attracts supporters. Failure and defeat, however, will most likely disperse supporters - including the sincere people who may have a different point of view or suggestion.

Honorable Brother,

As I stated in the introduction of my letter, this is a modest attempt from me to you to convey my prayers to you for success, truthfulness, sincerity, and victory over the enemy of God.

May God guide you to what He likes and pleases
Peace and God's mercy and blessings to you

Your brother,

Abu Yasser [Variant: *Abu Yasir*]