

## **Al-Qa'ida Organization Addresses a Message to Iraqi, Islamic Peoples**

(Internet) www.alfjr.com WWW in Arabic in Arabic 05 Mar 03

[Posting by "Ayn al-Haqqah," entitled "The al-Qa'ida Organization Writes a Letter to the Iraqi People" in the "Issues of the Islamic Nation" section of the chatroom of www.alfjr.com, on 5 March 2003]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate

A message to our kinfolk in Iraq and the Gulf, in particular, and our Islamic nation, in general

The Islamic resistance against the American invasion of Kandahar and the lessons learned from it

By Sayf al-Adl

Praise be to the Lord of the universe who said in His book, "Here is a plain statement to men, a guidance and instruction to those who fear God. So lose not heart, nor fall into despair for ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith. If a wound hath touched you, be sure a similar wound hath touched the others. Such days (of varying fortunes) we give to men and men by turns that God may know those that believe and that He may take to Himself from your ranks Martyr-witnesses (to truth), and God loveth not those that do wrong." He also said, "They will not fight you (even together, except in fortified townships, or from behind walls. Strong is their fighting (spirit) amongst themselves thou wouldst think they were united, but their hearts are divided that is because they are a people devoid of wisdom. Like those who lately preceded them, they have tasted the evil result of their conduct, and (in the hereafter there is) for them a grievous penalty." [Koran verses] God's prayers and peace be upon the prophet of mercy, his companions, and scion.

First, we must be confident that victory is from God. He bestows mercy and forgiveness. We should pray to Him and be diligent in our work, preparing for the battle as much as possible.

This message, which was prepared quickly, is designed to give to our kinfolk in the Arab region a clear picture from the field about the reality of the American enemy and his combat methods. We will use in it simple language devoid of military terms.

### Section 1: The Program of the Crusader Enemy

The American enemy prefers to operate in the winter nights for several reasons, the most important of which is his dependence on psychological warfare, which is consistent with the cool weather, the darkness of the night, and what it conceals of unknown things. The American enemy prefers to operate in the winter nights because this gives him the chance to hit the largest possible number of targets. The cold winter

weather also helps his troops if they try to advance on land. In his war, the enemy relies on three principal issues:

#### First: Psychological War

The American battle is a psychological battle that relies on information and the magic of the microphone. The management of the war, as you see these days, begins by raising and broadcasting issues pertaining to the war, its methods, the weapons used in it, and the time it will take. The enemy also drops tons of leaflets in which he makes claims and issues orders as if he was in control of everything. He makes constant threats to commanders and calls on them to surrender. The enemy also tries to corrupt the environment around his opponent by offering generous rewards to whoever kills this or that commander or provides information about him. The enemy also discusses the form of the next regime and its members. This is a form of terrorism to the will of the foe to besiege him psychologically. Regrettably, the Arab media are serving as one of the methods of this psychological warfare.

Some aspects of this campaign were successful in Afghanistan because no campaign and no means existed to counter the psychological warfare. The most significant success of the information campaign was manifested in the role played in the war by the BBC broadcasts in the Pashto language. Because the Taliban did not have a radio, which can broadcast to all areas, and because communications were poor between the groups in the various areas, this malicious radio had a free run in Afghanistan. It spread a huge amount of falsehoods and lies about fictitious battles to which it attributed results designed to break the fighting spirit of the fighters in that area and to cause the Taliban to lose its balance. They also caused many unjustified deviations. The Islamic information effort was limited to what the Al-Jazirah Channel and the mojahedin sites on the Internet were disseminating. However, this effort was for foreign consumption, which did not benefit the Afghan people.

However, this campaign failed in its other aspects. It failed miserably in corrupting the Afghan people around the mojahedin. Despite its use of former communist elements and the crooked and the deviants among the people, it did not succeed among the circles around the mojahedin. The best proof of this was the failure of the American enemy to eliminate the leaders of the Taliban and al-Qa'ida. We are still living among them despite the big rewards that reached \$25 million for the head of some of the brothers.

The second important point, which confirms the failure of the psychological campaign, is that it failed to kill the fighting spirit among the mojahedin. It affected it during the first round of fighting only. The sons of this nation and we, who have been following the events, can see the number of dead among the American enemy and his allies, which the world media have been concealing. We can also see the many attempts to assassinate the enemy symbols, led by the Kabul puppet, Karzai, who replaced all his Afghan guards with American guards.

Anyone who was involved in the war knows that it is tantamount to several battles. We can confirm that most battles that began after the reorganization of the mojahedin ranks were, thanks to God, in favor of Islam and the Muslims. We say to those who want a quick victory that this type of war waged by the mojahedin employs a strategy of long-breathe and the attrition and terrorization of the enemy and not holding onto territory.

## Second: The Air War

The American soldier is not good in combat. This fact is known to the Pentagon just as it is known to us and to all those who clashed with them. The Hollywood propaganda cannot succeed in the real combat field. For this reason and other reasons, the American command has used the air and missile attacks to dampen any resistance and prepare for the advance of American troops.

The American attack began with a fierce bombardment of the selected positions, which they thought were Taliban and al-Qa'ida bases and hideouts for some of the leaders. The Americans used jet fighters and Cruise missiles. On the first night, they fired more than 400 different types of missiles at an al-Qa'ida residential complex that was evacuated before 11 September. The missile attack caused various degrees of destruction to a quarter of the houses (20 houses). The same method of attack continued from after the evening prayers to about dawn. This type of attacks continued for three weeks. The outcome was a semi-total destruction of the internal and external residential complex (its area was a little over half a kilometer square). I would like to confirm that during all this period, the Americans did not bomb any of our military positions in the area. Some of these positions were no more than 300 meters from the residential complex. We also did not lose any brothers during this attack. During this period, the enemy was deprived of ground reconnaissance. Our preparations in the field were splendid, thanks be to God. The bombing of our positions stopped, but continued against some of the positions of our Taliban brothers. Through the cooperation of the Pakistani and Russian intelligence, the Americans received maps of some Taliban positions, which were old positions of the Afghan army and the Russian forces. They attacked the ammunition depots and destroyed these positions. They also attacked the house of the prince of the faithful, Mullah Omar, may God protect him.

The enemy's technological capabilities were unable to achieve the desired effect. Therefore, the enemy employed the human element, which pinpointed the position. This was followed by attacks from the air.

The attacks continued on a de-escalated basis, because there were no significant targets in the ancient city of Kandahar. During this period, the enemy began to jam the radio communications of the mojahedin. The enemy also activated several Afghan hypocrites associated with the Pakistani intelligence to provide new information about the Arab targets in the city and pinpoint several government institutions. Toward the end of the month of Sha'ban and the beginning of the month of Ramadan, the bombing resumed in the following two forms:

First: Attacks on civilians by shelling the city and the surrounding villages.

The enemy bombed several buildings of Islamic and military nature. They shelled the Department of Enjoin the Good and Forbid the Evil, the Hajj Affairs Administration building, several food depots, the Kol Urdu, which is the position of the forces defending the city, and the houses of several al-Qa'ida and Taliban leaders. Outside the city, they bombed several surrounding villages and intensified the attacks on roads, setting on fire vehicles, particularly fuel trucks. This attack caused many human losses among the Afghan people (men, women, and children). Several other Arab mojahedin--men, women, and children--were martyred. The number of mojahedin martyrs reached 34, included 26 men, six women, and two children. I recorded all the details of the Kandahar events in my memoirs, which I delivered then to the supervisors of the Internet site of the Islamic Studies and Research Center to be published at the appropriate time. The bombing continued in this way until the beginning of the last week of Ramadan.

Second: Attacks against military positions in preparation for the advance of the ground forces

The American bombing of the defensive positions had no effect on the positions and the weapons in them or even on the men holding them. Of course, the American ground forces did not intend to enter Kandahar following three bitter experiences in which they received lessons in the arts of ground combat. These lessons were the operation of the house of the prince of the faithful in Kandahar, the operation of the Safar Airport south of Kandahar, and the operation against a camp of the Baluchi mojahedin on Malik Mountain, near the southern Afghan border with Pakistan. God willing, we will mention these operations and their results in another episode of this blessed series. Based on the outcome of the previous operations, the American command sent the criminal Gul Agha to assume with his followers the ground operations with the understanding that the American forces will launch an air attack prior the ground operations and will provide air cover during the battles. During this stage, the American forces used all the weapons at their disposal. B-52 bombers appeared in the sky over Kandahar and dropped seven-ton bombs. They bombed the combat area with all the smart and not-so-smart missiles, Cruise missiles, and multi-ton bombs produced by modern technology. Helicopter, jet, C-130, and B-52 aircraft appeared alternatively in the sky over Kandahar during 24 hours in a feverish campaign that did not stop day or night. The results of this campaign were the martyrdom of an estimated 22-brother mojahedin. Several vehicles and two tanks were hit. The enemy ground forces were unable to advance one inch, as we will mention in the following point.

Third: Advance on the Ground

The last issue in the American war is the advance of the American infantry troops. The American command replaced these troops with Afghan fighters from the remnants of the communists and recruited mercenaries following their failure in a very simple

operation. These Afghan fighters included the forces of Gul Agha, a brazen unreligious man.

The enemy ground forces, which operated under the banner of the cross, advanced from one axis only, hoping to spread after they crossed the main bridge and then to move toward the Kandahar Airport to prepare it to receive American aircraft and to make preparations for storming the city, which lies about 25 km from it.

This was not accomplished, thanks to God and to the brothers' love of martyrdom. The ground battle lasted five continuous days in successive waves. As soon as the bombing ended, the ground attack began, and as soon as we repulsed the ground attack, the bombing resumed. This continued for five days without a stop. The sound of over flying aircraft never left the skies, the sound of explosions never ceased, the burst of gunfire was intense, and the jamming of communication equipment increased. The battle was fierce. The enemy used all the capabilities at its disposal. He was encouraged by the fact that the battleground was flat with some agricultural fields, rivers, and streams. The area did not have any rugged topography to hinder the enemy's advance except the fighting spirit and the love of martyrdom in the hearts of the brothers and their heroism in defending the capital of the Islamic State.

The enemy did his best in the battle, but failed to go beyond the main bridge. With every advance he made, he fell in ambushes that were carefully and cleverly prepared. His losses continued to rise until they exceeded his ability to return. His forces remained static in their positions behind the bridge, and did not consider crossing it again.

The enemy lost the ground battle, which was the norm in his war with us in Afghanistan. This situation has not changed and will not change, God willing, in the Iraq battle.

To sum up the previous review, we say that the enemy did the following:

1. The psychological warfare (distorting the facts, fabricating lies, threats, paying money to win loyalties, leaflets, the BBC, showing the American image in an exaggerated picture, inflating the military machine and exaggerating its exceptional capabilities, financial rewards for information about the leaders, and so forth).
2. The air war (air attacks with helicopters and jet, C-130, and B-52 aircraft, the use of Cruise missiles and seven-ton bombs to attack the vital centers and the infrastructure, the use of ground guides, the jamming of the communication equipment, attacking civilians, and supporting the advance of ground forces).
3. The ground advance (in which the enemy depended on the hypocrite forces, backed by air cover or on his forces with ground military equipment supported from the air--forces that did not achieve any success in any battle they waged).

The United States used all its capability to achieve its goals in the war. The results, in

the light of the objectives they outlined, were a big failure, considering the buildup, the resources, the expenses, and the alliances, which they rallied to war, and compared with the resources of the mojahedin and the losses they suffered. How is the situation today, two years after the war? The United States has not achieved the alleged peace and security it sought. It has not arrested the leaders of the Taliban and al-Qa'ida. We have not seen any clear political program by the gang of thieves in Kabul. The Afghan provinces, which were united and enjoyed security under the Taliban, are now in disarray. All the efforts made by the American enemy confirmed his evil intentions to impose an agent leadership, divide the country, and plunder its resources. Therefore, the United States has not succeeded in changing the views of the Afghan people toward it. Actually, the imposed government in Kabul only controls the palace in which it resides. The coalition forces are fabricating excuses to leave Afghanistan. The mojahedin, however, are still in the field, and the fighting is continuing. It will not end, God willing, until Afghanistan returns to the shari'ah and Islam.

## Section 2: The Program We Applied to Confront the Crusader Enemy

In our program, we proceeded from several axes:

First: The psychological axis of the war

We differ very much from the enemy in the question of psychological guidance. The enemy depends on fabricating lies about himself, inflating himself and saying he is undefeatable and the battle will not last more than one week because he possesses overwhelming power that does miracles. His program depends on terrorizing his opponent, because the crusaders had given up about the low combat standard of their troops. We, on the other hand, worked to connect the individual with his Lord and strengthen his relationship with Him, because He is the all-powerful. Our program depended on building the Muslim individual who believes in the unknown and understands that in God's book all actions are attributed to Him alone. The Almighty God grants life and death, honors and degrades. The faithful know that such actions are attributed to God alone. Let the United States and its allies come; what happens will only be God's will.

We arranged an active program sponsored by the Taliban in the shari'ah committee and some of our Arab brothers. They organized a campaign in which they took positions in the areas of the operations. One of them was Shaykh Abu-Yusuf al-Muritani [the Mauritanian], who was martyred. They had a daily program, before breaking the fast in Ramadan, on the radio, to which all the brothers listened. We discovered that many of our Afghan brothers, whether in the city or in the combat areas, were listening to it and awaiting it anxiously.

The truth is that we did not suffer a great deal from the psychological standpoint. The reason is very simple. We did not forcefully recruit the young people. We presented to them the cause of the nation, and they came to us eager to support Islam, defend the Muslims, and out of love for martyrdom. There was a natural inherited love to fight the

Americans, like their ancestors who used to prefer the invasion of the yellow people over others. To make the picture clear, we launched a program to defend the Kandahar Airport two weeks before the September events. We had only 25 brothers and about 50 brother reservists in the city. This number increased in the following two months and reached 800 mojahed in Ramadan, two-thirds of them were arrivals from all parts of the world. In the first week of Ramadan, a brother in one of the border areas contacted us and said that he has 350 brothers. All the mojahedin inside or outside Afghanistan were keen to participate in the battle to defend the Islamic State and attain martyrdom in the cause of God. This was the reason for the splendid stand of the mojahedin and for enduring what mountains cannot endure.

The spark ignited by Muhammad Ata and his heroic brothers in the hearts of the nation's men by their blessed operation cannot be extinguished by all the nations of the world. The blood of every martyr was the biggest inspiration to all those who were with him. The fragrance of the martyrs and their enchanting smiles stirred up competition for martyrdom. I often asked the commanders of the groups to restrain the enthusiasm of the men so they would not go after the enemy beyond what we planned.

#### Second: The military program

God granted us success in preparing a flexible program consistent with the type of threat that could limit the threat and absorb the numerical increase, to which we had become accustomed during the jihad years when fighting flared up on the fronts. The program developed gradually and naturally, based on the conditions in the field, which imposed themselves on all.

Before the blessed 11 September, we prepared our defense plan, based on an assessment of a situation that the enemy's attention would focus first on two centers to occupy them and then move to the city. We estimated that the enemy would launch two quick attacks on the two centers for propaganda purposes. Our decision was to preempt the two possibilities and not allow the enemy forces to land in them. The two centers were the Abu-Ubaydah al-Banshiri Camp near the residential complex and the Kandahar Airport, which is about four kilometers from the first center.

After 11 September, we rearranged the military posture in the sector completely. We developed it more than once to become consistent with the general situation. Finally, the military posture in the area was as follows:

1. The operations sector of the airport and the camp.
2. The operations sector of the city.
3. The emergency force.

The Operations Sector of the Airport and the Camp:

Our forces were deployed in the airport and the camp areas to a distance of six kilometers, occupying the area east and west of the main advance axis. The combat group was divided into three irregular units: one unit deployed east of the road, the second deployed west of the road, and the third deployed along the second line. The units were divided into groups of 10 men, deployed relatively far from each other during the day and closer to each other at night in the form of ambushes, able to operate together during a fight and easy to separate and disperse immediately after it.

We did not establish large military sectors to prevent the enemy aircraft from inflicting heavy losses on us. We adopted the method of small groups of high combat capabilities. We backed every group with several veteran mujahedin who were involved in many battles. In doing so, we formed several ambushes for the enemy. These ambushes were set along the main advance axis and other secondary axes, covering the entire area from which the enemy could advance or infiltrate.

We deployed these men in main and alternative trenches, which we carefully camouflaged, making it difficult for the enemy to detect them. We deployed other men in destroyed buildings, which were spread all over the area. The fighters on the first line were equipped with medium caliber mortars, recoilless guns, and heavy anti-aircraft machineguns mounted on vehicles. The groups were also equipped with a number of SAM-7 missiles and supported by a 107-mm rocket battery mounted on a pickup truck, which inflicted huge losses on the enemy.

Behind the airport and toward the city, we established a second line similar to the first one. This one had the added advantage of several dry riverbeds, which the brothers could use to hide, advance, and retreat. This line had two tasks. The first was to provide heavy support fire to the ambushing groups on the first line. The second was to function as a first line to repulse the enemy's attack if he advanced beyond these ambushes.

Behind this line, there was an observation center along the mountain, which had the Repeater [as transliterated] equipment. This center was located between the airport and the city.

#### The City Operations Sector:

In the city, we divided the force to operate in two ways: as an internal security force and as a military defense force to operate on the approaches to the city. This force constituted a third line behind the airport groups, as if it were surrounding Kandahar from all sides. Some members of this force were deployed on the roads.

First: The eastern and northeastern axis: On the road leading from Pakistan to the airport and the city, we deployed the group of hero Abu-Mustafa al-Iraqi, a SAM-7 missile operator. He is a former survey officer in the Iraqi army. (He fired more than 20 missiles at the beginning of Ramadan). Next to him were the group of brother . . . Al-Suri [the Syrian] and the group of brother Abu-Abd-al-Rahman al-Masri [the Egyptian], a former tank officer in the Egyptian army. They worked alternatively to block the road

from Kabul or lend support to Abu-Mustafa or operate together when necessary.

Second: The southern axis: This axis leads to the city. There are two routes along this axis: one coming from behind the airport and running parallel to the main road and the second coming from the direction of the Gul Agha villages. Mullah Bilal al-Makki and . . . Al-Najdi worked to block this axis.

Third: The western axis: Three groups operated on this axis, which leads from the city of Herat. The first was the group of instructor Firas al-Yamani [the Yemeni]. He came from the Al-Faruq Camp in Laswali Mayund, about 30 km from Kandahar. This area was occupied at the beginning of Ramadan. Two groups were deployed at the entrance to the city: the group of Abu-Mas'ab al-Urduni [the Jordanian], who came from Herat after its fall--he has a heroic story in rescuing the assistant governor when the city fell--and the group of Sharif al-Masri and with him were brothers who had recently arrived from Bosnia to participate in defending the Islamic State.

Fourth: The northwestern axis: It was occupied by Al-Zubayr al-Ha'ili. His group secured the branch road leading from Oruzgan Province.

The security forces in the city were under the command of Abu-Yasir al-Jaza'iri [the Algerian] and his assistant Abu-al-Tayyib. This group worked night and day. It captured several spies and handed them over to the Taliban security. After the first week of Ramadan, this group, together with Taliban patrols, was in control of the city. Its members were deployed in all parts of the city. This group numbered about 70 men. The military forces defending the city numbered about 270 men.

The Emergency Force:

This force was commanded by hero Hamzah al-Zubayr. It was called the Martyrs Group. This was a rapid deployment force with multiple tasks, ready to move to any area to intervene as a support or attack force. This force was equipped with Corolla station wagon (Saracha) vehicles, which had all the weapons they needed: anti-armor, anti-aircraft, mortars, and personal weapons. It included the best veteran and the most enthusiastic and courageous fighters. They were the best physically fit fighters, daring in combat and skillful in the use of military weapons and equipment. This was a splendid group, always ready to be at any point within a specific time.

Important Field Principles:

1. Turning the military force (the army) into small groups with good administrative capabilities will spare us big losses, on the one hand, and help in achieving control over all the axes with the least possible number of men. Turning the people into armed militias would make the enemy's task impossible. Large military units (armies) pose management problems. They occupy large areas that are difficult to conceal from air reconnaissance or air attacks.

2. The idea of the Corolla vehicles was the most splendid. They proved their efficiency, maneuverability, and deceptive qualities. They carried out extraordinary activity during the battle with the Americans. We were saying that if the Japanese saw them in action, they would feature them in advertisements. They were easy and flexible to maneuver on level ground or mountainous terrain. They were fast and light, capable of holding four men with all their military equipment. The enemy did not realize that we are using these vehicles, and most of them did not come under direct attack, except those in which women were killed. (We will relate the story in the appropriate place).

3. We agreed with the Taliban to stop all anti-aircraft fire, because the aircraft were beyond the range of our guns, on the one hand, and because they would allow the aircraft to pinpoint their location and hit them, on the other. The plan was not to give the aircraft such an opportunity and to mount all the anti-aircraft weapons, such as the SAM-7 and Stinger missiles and the machineguns, on vehicles, so they would not be static and would be easier to conceal. The plan was to wait until helicopters try to land troops and then attack them with all weapons. We surprised the enemy and shot down an aircraft when he tried to storm the house of the prince of the faithful. We should note that the SAM-7 missile was not useful at all.

4. Administrative affairs: We enjoyed much flexibility in administrative affairs. We operated in some way between centralization and decentralization throughout the battle. Every small group had a kitchen, and their requests were made through their mother units. When the battles raged, we established a central kitchen, which provided three hot meals on time throughout the fighting period.

Horses and motorcycles: Horses replaced vehicles in moving administrative supplies. The Abu-Ubaydah Camp had three motorcycles, which the brothers used. The motorcycles proved their efficiency. Using these motorcycles was a successful idea. The Americans did not fire a single missile at them, although they traveled on the road, moving the wounded and carrying food, water, information, and others. They operated while all types of aircraft were flying over them. Some of the young people even bought motorcycles and began using them to serve the front. They called them the iron horses.

5. The evacuation of families: Our advice is to evacuate women and children from the big cities and send them to villages to enable the fighters to prepare them for defense and combat for long periods. The Afghans did this, and we did it too. There were 116 families in Kandahar consisting of about 464 members. The mujahedin in Kandahar numbered about 800 men. We can say that from the beginning of the bombardment on 20 Rajab (7 October) until we reached Zarmat on 22 Ramadan, the number of martyrs was 79, including six women and two children. By the grace of God, the crusader forces and those operating under their banner could not find a single Arab mujahid to take him prisoner, and these forces did not see a single Arab family.

6. Evacuation of the wounded: During the battle, we did not leave any wounded people in the city hospital. After giving them first aid, we moved them to Pakistan. We did this also during the worst times. When the Americans entered the city, there were 15

brothers in the hospital. We smuggled out nine of them who were able to move, but left the other six because they could not be moved. The Afghans gave weapons to them, and although they could not move, they resisted the Americans until they assassinated them in the hospital by firing rocket-propelled grenades at them and then setting them on fire. In doing so, the Americans added a new despicable act to their record.

7. Building covered trenches with more than one entrance in the gardens of houses to avoid bombardment, the fall of stones, and the closure of the entrance: This is for residents of cities or areas where bombing is expected. As for the defenders of the cities, the fundamental military principles begin with digging the trenches. The genius, however, is in deciding on the place to build the trench to serve its defensive task in full. Besides trenches, we say that fighting in open spaces without air cover or even good air defense system will be a big gamble. The defender must take cover in rugged areas. The forest of buildings in cities hampers the enemy calculations. Agricultural areas also will help in concealing the position and facilitate the work of ambushes against any attacking ground units. Our second advice is to conduct training on reconnaissance work, ambushes, and raids and operate in small groups. Keep away from working in big groups.

8. It is important to choose the appropriate location and prepare it to allow the defenders to clash with the ground enemy forces when they advance to the ambush area. This will deprive the air force of its ability and keep it outside the conflict until contact with the enemy forces is broken. As we said, the American soldier is qualified to fulfill movie roles only. In such ambushes, the enemy will suffer its biggest human losses.

9. It is impossible to achieve victory over nations irrespective of how much weapons and sophisticated technical and technological capabilities the enemy may possess. Victory over the United States is very possible and easy beyond the imagination of anyone. It is defined in several elements, the most important of which is eliminating the forces of the hypocrites, which fight on behalf of the American troops. This group is militarily weak and psychologically unstable. This is a mercenary group without a cause. Its performance in the war was poor.

Furthermore, any country with good, long-range air defense missile system can defeat the United States unless the latter uses weapons of mass destruction to decide the battle. The United States does not have fighters who capable of advancing and occupying territory. Air operations are useless unless there are troops that can advance to raise the flag over the liberated land.

The other important thing is to win the regional political battle to prevent a state or government from playing the same role played by the malicious Pakistani Government. This was the most serious role, which had a big effect in Afghanistan. The Pakistani Government provided the territory for the American military forces to launch their attack, the intelligence information to them, and the hypocrite elements to replace the Taliban state, and so forth.

10. Good communications: The enemy tries to cut communications and create confusion that could be very damaging. Therefore, it is very important to have alternatives--from the most sophisticated technology to the use of messengers.

A summary of the last five days in my memoirs on the Kandahar events:

The next day, the signs of victory began appearing when the Americans finally decided to send the Gul Agha forces to advance on the ground, saying that they bombed the area in the previous days and there was no sign of forces on the ground. The enemy advanced and reached the broken bridge. The enemy forces then began advancing toward the ambush points. One of the men was baffled by a hesitating vehicle on the bridge coming from the direction of the enemy. He approached it carefully, taking cover as much as possible. He carried with him a radio set to brief Abu-al-Hasan about the situation. When he surprised the people in the vehicle, they fled. He opened fire at them. They exchanged bursts of gunfire as they were escaping. This was the first attempt to test whether the area was vacant.

Hell then broke loose in the area. Aircraft came from every direction. C-130, jet, and helicopter aircraft fired missiles and machine guns. The area turned into a ball of fire for more than one hour. Then, the Gul Agha forces began advancing again, confident that no one was still alive in the area except them. When they entered the battle area, our men opened fire from all directions. They mowed them down with their automatic weapons. Then, the calls of victory and "God is Great" began to rise. The brothers killed many of them, captured two, and the rest fled. The air force could not intervene because of the close quarter fighting between the two sides. God granted us success. The ambush was very well prepared, and the men fulfilled their role skillfully--and why not when they had with them Muwahhid, Abu-al-Hasan, Abu-Bakr al-Suri, Salah-al-Din, and Abd-al-Wahhab, heroes of Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Bosnia.

Quickly, the status quo was restored, and then the aircraft returned. This time, the aircraft carpet-bombed the area. They remained in the area for more than two hours attacking it. Shaykh Abu-al-BM [abbreviation in English] was monitoring the situation and passing the news to the Arab and Afghan residents of the city. The force in the city became enthusiastic and wanted to move. I prevent it, saying the time to act will come. The Americans ended their air attacks in the evening, while the people were fasting, sitting in their trenches. I sent a message to Abu-al-Tayyib and told him to buy food from the market and send it to the brothers on the front. I told him that we would establish a general kitchen for the front at the Shari'ah Institute to provide three meals on regular basis. I told the young men on the front that they must break the fast. Abu-al-Tayyib managed the kitchen well and provided food all through the coming days, once on vehicles and other times on foot or motorcycles. The mojahedin did not miss one meal. The night began falling while the bombardment was continuing. The men saw the lights of vehicles approaching again. Amir al-Fatih, who called his tank "the elephant," asked Abu-al-Hasan to observe the vehicles and when they reached the point they agreed upon, Amir al-Fatih opened fire from his tank. The aircraft were flying overhead and the

vehicles were moving very slowly on the ground. Abu-al-Hasan said: Be patient O Amir, be patient O Amir. And then he shouted: Now, fire. Amir then opened fire from his tank, setting the first vehicle on fire, thanks to God and His support. The other vehicles retreated. The aircraft searched all night for the tank, but the Apache helicopters could not find it. The Gul Agha forces could not launch another attack during that night.

On the second day of the third week, we placed a BM12 [abbreviation in English] rocket launcher on a pickup truck. When Shaykh Abu-al-BM heard about it, he asked me to become in charge of it, and I could not refuse. He formed his own group and asked me for the freedom to act and move in the area. I gave him my approval. Shaykh Abu-al-BM moved to the airport, turning over the command of Jabal Saqr to Brother Abu-Khabab, his assistant.

The battle in most Afghanistan stopped. The battle for Kandahar began from the direction of the airport and the direction of Oruzgan. We had not covered this sector then. I asked Saadov to contact the brothers in Khost and ask them to send a group to close this gap. I went to Mullah Bradar, the man in charge of the fighting on the Oruzgan front and told him we will support him with 100 men to strengthen the northern front.

We had two Taliban vehicles to support the defenses of the men. The next day, when repeated attempts were made by the aircraft and the Gul Agha forces to advance and the men tried to resist the attack, the two vehicles were hit and the people in them were martyred. We had an Afghan group with us. I asked them for weapons and ammunition. They turned over the airport depots to us. The prince of the faithful had instructed his men to economize in firing their Kalashnikov rifles because of the shortage of ammunition. When we lost the two trucks, we deployed the pickup with the rocket battery, which restored the status quo. Shaykh Abu-al-BM was able, with his expertise, to turn the mounted battery with rare military skill and flexibility and turned the concentrations of the Gul Agha forces into hell. The aircraft started looking for the mobile battery. When they failed to find it, they decided to attack the entire village. B-52 bombers arrived and bombed the mountains and the plains. They passed over the village where the battery was and destroyed every house in it. The experienced shaykh asked his men to move away from the rocket battery. The entire place then collapsed and the village became a cloud of dust, smoke, and fire. Contact with the shaykh broke. I was worried about him. After half an hour, I heard his calm voice on the radio asking for some digging tools. I realized that he has something. The battery was hit after three days and nights of fierce fighting and Abu-Usamah al-Sumali [the Somali], a member of his team, was martyred.

The airport groups started to get tired from the continuation of the fighting. They fought throughout the day and stood guard at night. I asked Abu-al-Harith al-Masri to replace the groups so they can get some rest. The airport groups would replace the city groups. I moved Al-Suri's group. He then asked for another group. So, I moved Abu-Abd-al-Rahman al-Masri's group. Ali al-Batal (Abu-Mustafa) said in the Iraqi accent: What is going on O Abd-al-Ahad. Brother, we the Iraqis and the Kurds are meant for war and attack. We have nothing else to do but dig and fight. Why are you leaving us in

the city? We have nothing to do with biscuits. I told him: I will oblige. I contacted Abu-al-Harith al-Masri and told him that Abu-Mustafa's group is under your disposal, but their number is large. Shaykh Abu-al-Harith al-Masri sent his group to occupy the positions of Abu-al-Hasan's group. The battle raged and continued for five days without a stop. The soldiers of God recorded sweeping success in this battle and lost a small number of martyrs. On the third or fourth night, the enemy advanced. Hero Muwahhid was waiting for the enemy. He said, addressing his groups as if they were a group of lions waiting for their prey: Do you see them O Abd-al-Wahhab. He said yes. Muwahhid said, hold your position. Salah is coming from the right and I will enter from the center. Abu-Hashim al-Sayyid got on the line. He was coming from the rear when he heard about the advance. He said: O Muwahhid, do you need me? He told him: Where are you, God bless you? Abu-Hisham said: I am on the way. By God, wait for me. He then left the car and started running on the street with Abu-Hafas al-Muritani, Hamzah al-Qatari, Abu-Yusuf al-Muritani, Abu-Amir, Samir al-Najdi, and several men, who went running with enthusiasm on the road, ignoring the aircraft, the shelling, and the enemies. Abu-Hashim al-Sayyid was ahead of all of them. He was shouting on his radio set: Hold on O Muwahhid, I am your brother. Do not go without me. Muwahhid said: God bless your parents, why are you late. He said: I am close. Abu-Hashim reached a state of ecstasy and began talking on the radio and urging the men to continue the jihad. He then swore that he smelled the fragrance of paradise, and then his voice on the radio went off. Muwahhid became enthusiastic and began asking for men from Abu-al-Harith al-Masri for Al-Imam Ali to kill the enemies of God in the ambush and then move on to eliminate the enemy. I contacted Abu-al-Harith al-Masri and then switched to a special frequency. I told him: Beware, Muwahhid, do not allow the men to move. The group of Abu-Hisham al-Sayyid would be enough. Try to prevent them from going beyond the ambush. Shaykh Abu-al-Harith al-Masri said: I understand, but the situation is hot. I will try to keep the men in place as much as possible. I then switched back to the general frequency. Muwahhid and his brothers were killing the enemy men, shouting God is Great, and walking among the bodies. He began running after the withdrawing enemy troops with his men. They left their positions and began running on the road like Abu-Hashim's group. At this point, the aircraft intervened and began firing at the road. As I said, Abu-Hashim said he smelled the fragrance of paradise, and the hero fell as a martyr and the men fell around him. Shaykh Abu-Yusuf al-Muritani and Hamzah al-Qatari were martyred. I personally smelled his beautiful fragrance. He had a beautiful smile on his face. Samir al-Najdi also appeared handsome despite the blood that covered his body. Abu-Amir lost a leg, and Abu-Hafas al-Muritani did not suffer any harm. The bombing of the area intensified. The tanks of Amir al-Fatih and Khalid al-Habib and the truck-mounted rocket battery, manned by Adham al-Masri and Abu-Hamir al-Filastini [the Palestinian] took part in the battle. Splendid exchanges took place between them and the aircraft. They displayed unusual courage. The aircraft in the sky were firing in every direction, and they were firing back. Neither their shots reached the distant aircraft nor did the aircraft missiles hit them. The exchange continued for a long time. Amir al-Fatih and Khalid al-Habib opened fire from their tanks. However, two aircraft missiles were fired at Khalid's tank--one hit it directly and the other fell next to it. The entire crew of the tank escaped. Shrapnel hit Khalid in the head, paralyzing the left side of his body. He recovered after four months, except for a slight effect in his left

hand. He now resumed training near the Afghan-Pakistani border in one of the secret camps of al-Qa'ida. The Americans very well respected the elephant [tank] of Amir al-Fatih. They continued to search for it, dividing the area into squares. They began combing the area until they hit his elephant. Amir al-Fatih and his crew escaped after waging a fierce battle in which the elephant humiliated the Apache. The elephant emerged from the battle with a medal on its turret.

This is how we lost the heavy support of tanks and the rocket launcher. This was serious, but the enemy had lost a large number of his men. His fighting spirit was also completely broken. The enemy only fired from a distance. The Americans could no longer push the forces forward. With God's help, we triumphed in the ground battle, which lasted five continuous days despite losing our modern antiaircraft weapons and the enemy's possessing of everything, from M-16 rifles to seven or eight ton bombs that were dropped on the area but failed to shake the brothers and move them one inch back. The men felt the ecstasy of victory. Abu-Hafas al-Muritani and Abu-Usamah spoke on the communication radio, reminding the brothers that victory is from God, and thanks to the Almighty, we achieved this victory. The men kneeled in adoration, thanking God for his support. Four martyrs and two wounded men were the outcome of the operation in which the brothers destroyed the fighting spirit of the enemy. The enemy's activities in the area in the following days were just to prove his presence.

Finally, I would like to emphasize a number of points:

1. The Organization of the Jihad Base, known by the name of al-Qa'ida, is the organization of the Islamic nation. It stems from its faith and defends its interests. Members of al-Qa'ida are sons of this nation who believe in Islam as their religion. All the financial and other resources of al-Qa'ida are the nation's resources through which it seeks to get close to the Almighty God.

2. Al-Qa'ida and its Islamic nation have not been sufficiently engaged in jihad against the international triangle of evil, which is called the Jewish-crusader alliance represented by the untied [munhallah] States of America, Britain, and the Jews.

3. The so-called Arab intellectuals who claim to be wise and rational in seeking to debate the West are participating with CIA officers in forming a fifth column, trying to serve the enemies from within our countries and on all levels to justify the coming invasion of the region and the terrorization of its peoples.

4. The rulers of the Islamic nation, without exception, are not contributing to their religion and nation. They are no longer contributing to the party that put them in control of their peoples.

5. The armies of the Islamic countries need to free themselves from their political leaders who lease them out to serve the enemies of religion.

6. The Islamic peoples are the desired hope. Through their jihad and support for the

Islamic change process against the crusader-Jewish alliance, they will inarguably achieve a balance of power. Their sons represent the striking force, the strategic depth, the real financial support, and the ultimate beneficiary in this war.

7. We--and God knows better--have no doubt about the defeat of the American empire, and we herald this good tiding to our nation. What happened in Afghanistan was one battle of the war whose balance is again tipping in favor of the soldiers of God. This crusader-Jewish empire is digging its own grave in the blessed Gulf region.

8. We advise our beloved nation to seek the Almighty God in our joys and sorrows so the promise of God to us will be fulfilled. He promised us saying, "God has promised to those among you who believe and work righteous deeds that He will, of a surety, grant them in the land inheritance (of power) as He granted it to those before them; that He will establish in authority their religion--the one which He has chosen for them; and that He will change (their state) after the fear in which they (lived), to one of security and peace. They will worship Me (alone) and not associate aught with Me. If any do reject faith after this, they are rebellious and wicked." Al-Nur: 55. He also said, "(It is) the promise of God. Never does God depart from His promise; but most men understand not." Al-Rum: 6.

9. We urge all the peoples of our nation to bear arms, store ammunition, begin fighting, and engage in jihadi activities against the crusader-Jewish alliance and all its interests in all the Islamic countries. Our objective should be to confirm the ties of unity in the nation in the light of the statement of the prophet of God--God's prayers and peace be upon him--that the solidarity of the Muslims is compared to a human body; when one part complains, the other parts come to its aid.

10. We again affirm the need to seek the help of the Almighty God against his enemies and ask Him to use us as obedient servants and grant our nation and us success in the jihad in His cause under the banner of "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah." We pray to Him to enable His religion to spread on earth and establish his shari'ah.

Until we meet again in another episode, God willing.

Our final prayer is praise be to God, the Lord of the universe.