

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Gracious.

To our beloved Sheikh Abu-'Abdallah, may God protect him, make him steadfast, and fill his heart with wisdom, making his speech and actions wise, amen

Peace, God's grace and blessings be upon you,

Praise God for your safety. We received your latest letters on Thursday, the third of Sha'ban [July 15, 2010], and we already had prepared what you will see.

These are some of the things I can write about now, based on your last letter. Some things will need to come at another time, and God will grant success:

1. Regarding Yemen, my dear Sheikh, what you say is good and you go into depth about it, I ask God to add to your knowledge, wisdom, and soundness. I am bringing you the news that we are glad about it and we believe it reflects God's blessing of wisdom, precision, objectivity, composure, and strength of right action target focus to us and to you. However, I hope that you focus on the current situation and its particulars. War is now a reality, and war is nothing other than what you know and have experienced. At first war starts small ... and so on. Now, we are faced with the reality of how to act wisely and how to bring in our youth and men. I am not saying that we should weaken in front of our base or indulge them, but we should guide them and bring them to reason by the hand, God permitting. However, this is an extremely difficult undertaking. Let us focus on the means and practical mechanisms for implementing your ideas, may God bless you. Issue: That we should strike the Americans, but not strike the apostates; we have explained our opinion, and you know it. Regarding the matter of completely retreating from the battle: It is dangerous and destructive as well. It seems to me that talking about not escalating reflects a lack of clarity and it will not be practical. The young men want to go to the "front" and they want "operations". They bring up operations, opportunities, monitoring (surveillance and reconnaissance) to the command every day. We must have clear, decisive orders. Regarding the issue of letting southerners, like the al-Hirak [Popular Movement] group, or others, or others take over the government; considering the results as you described, I have some hesitation. Maybe there is another option: strikes and chaos. That would be better than the rule of apostate infidels.

Anyway, in beginning to correspond with Abu-Basir, I will start arranging for this strategy in general, God permitting. I hope that God will guide us to the right decision and salvation. In the letters to you from Abu-Muhammad, you may find he discusses this matter that will give you another opinion.

In sum: Our brothers are now actually at war with the state, and with the Americans, of course. They have even started hitting Security facilities in Abyen, as you must have heard a few days ago. Is it proper to say: stop the escalation, we do not want war in Yemen!? I do not support this choice. None of the brothers here, who gave you their opinions, supports it. We definitely see it as a mistake. Should we push towards a truce? How, and what are the conditions? (We have to go into details about how it would look, and then direct it. Here we explain our strategy and give them the open letter you wrote

down, and so on). We must answer the question: "Will the Americans and the Saudis accept a truce at all"? And where will our brothers be during the truce?!

I am including the latest letters of Abu-Basir for you. There was a letter or two before this one. He has promised - and I wrote to him, urging him to hurry - to send detailed letters about the situation.

2. My dear Sheikh, the brothers in Somalia are waiting for a letter and orders from you. They are waiting for advice and a decision about the issues they brought up. It would be great if you assigned them something that we could send on, they would be happy with that.
3. I bring good news; Sheikh Abu-Muhammad is well and in good health as is his family. One of the Arab brothers is with him. We ask God to protect them, keep them healthy, and bless them. I am attaching his letters; they have been waiting for some time. He put out a statement as a eulogy for Shiekh Sa'id. Prior to that, he sent us a speech about Turkey. We held that one, because the time was not right to publicize it when we received it; it coincided with the story of the Freedom Flotilla and its tragic end; it evoked sympathy in the Turkish people towards the issue and towards their government, and so on. Then, after consulting with Abu-Muhammad, we cancelled it outright. This is an example I wanted to mention to you.
4. Regarding what happened to al-Hafiz, I wrote to you about him, may God have mercy on him. His children are well, they are good kids. Let me assure you that we are taking the best care of them, and we have adopted them along with their families. We have given them financial compensation and aid. I promised his other family, the Sudanese family, and we still have enough for them; we gave them compensation, we are supporting them and standing by them. I have not refused them anything they have asked for, including their father's weapon (it was general issue from the main fund, a Kalashnikov). 'Abd-al-Rahman told me that he wanted for the family to keep the weapon, so I left it with them for four months, and then we'll see. We might let them keep it. In his will, the Sheikh wrote that it should return to the main fund. This is stipulated in his will, and they know that, but they wanted to keep their father's weapon. I renewed the car for 'Abd-al-Rahman, and everyone is doing what their father left for them. I have added to 'Abdullah's responsibility and assignments. 'Abdullah (his name here is Muhammad Khan, he is also known as Muslim) is one of our military commanders, he is very brave and strong. 'Abd-al-Rahman as well (he works in special projects under the Security Committee). Usamah is still young. He will be going to Pakistan now with his sister, Umm-Hafsah, may God heal her. We ask God to heal her and soothe her heart.
5. Sheikh Yunis is still here. As you see, we have written to you. We are waiting for clear final authorization so we can tell him to move on that basis once he is ready, with God's help. I will write down his full story, God willing, and give him the message.
6. Sheikh Ilyas: God permitting, I will tell him what you said to me and explain things to him. He has sent you some letters which I have attached, as you see. I met with him recently, and his news is good. You need to write a letter to him.
7. Regarding the Lahore operation against the Barelvi idolaters: I warned our brothers, and I personally warned Hikmallah Mas'ud that they must appear to have "no connection to it, and the way we deal with this kind of deviant faction is to call them back to wisdom using good sermons and statements." I stressed this statement. Praise God.

8. Regarding the negotiations, dear Sheikh, I will give you an overview, may God support me in this. The Pakistani enemy has been corresponding with us and with Tahreek-i-Taliban (Hakimallah) for a very short time, since the days of Hafiz, may God have mercy on him. We discussed the matter internally, then we talked with Abu-Muhammad later once we were able to resume correspondence with him. Our decision was this: We are prepared to leave you be. Our battle is primarily against the Americans. You became part of the battle when you sided with the Americans. If you were to leave us and our affairs alone, we would leave you alone. If not, we are men, and you will be surprised by what you see; God is with us.

We let slip (through Siraj Haqqani, with the help of the brothers in Mas'ud and others; through their communications) information indicating that al-Qaeda and Tahreek-i-Taliban have big, earth shaking operations in Pakistan, but that their leaders had halted those operations in an attempt to calm things down and relieve the American pressure. But if Pakistan does any harm to the Mujahidin in Waziristan, the operations will go forward, including enormous operations ready in the heart of the country. [That is the meaning of what we leaked out through several outlets; it has reached them piecemeal] In the aftermath, they, the intelligence people, have started reaching out to us through some of the Pakistani "Jihadist" groups, the ones they approve of. They reached out to "the Mujahidin Movement" which is led by Fadl-al-Rahman Khalil. We received a messenger from them bringing us a letter from the Intelligence leaders including Shuja' Shah, and others. They said they wanted to talk to us, to al-Qaeda. We gave them the same message, nothing more. A little later (three weeks ago), they sent the same man again. This time the surprise was that they brought Hamid Ghul into the session, and Fadl al-Rahman Khalil attended with them as an advisor! They said, "Be patient with us for a little bit," (they said a month and a half or two months) "We are trying to convince the Americans, we are putting pressure on them to negotiate with al-Qaeda and we are trying to convince them that negotiating with the Taliban separate from al-Qaeda is pointless. So please wait a little. If we can convince the Americans, then we" (they mean themselves as Pakistanis) have no objection to negotiating with you and sitting with you." The brothers told them, "We will deliver the message to our leaders." The messenger left. That's it.

Regarding Tahreek-i-Taliban: we have informed Hakimallah and his companion Qari Husayn, that the Punjab government (Shah Baz Sharif) sent them a message indicating they wanted to negotiate with them, and that they were ready to reestablish normal relations as long as they do not conduct operations in Punjab (in their governmental jurisdiction, which does not include Islamabad or Bandy). The government said they were ready to pay any price ... and so on. They told us the negotiations were under way. We stressed that they needed to consult us on everything, and they promised they would. In the last meeting I had with Hakimallah I asked about it. He said there was nothing new and that he would report anything new to you. I let him know what has been happening with us, and advised him to be careful of them. Hakim things that we should not appear in the picture and we should not sit with them. I agreed with him on this in principle. I told him, "In any case, we will not agree to anything without consulting with our leadership," except with your consent.

This is an approximate summary of what happened ... As you can see, it is only words!

Are the Pakistanis serious, or are they playing around and dissembling? Caution is mandatory, as is preparedness, awareness, and staying focused on the mission and resolve. Of course, they are feeling the pain, too. They think their supporters and masters, the Americans, are in a crisis as well. It is a government and nation made up of lies, and God provides shelter ... God is sufficient for me, most excellent is he in whom we trust. You asked what we think? O Sheikh, we see it the way you said it: We will make use of any opportunity for a truce with the Pakistanis in order so we can focus on the Americans. That is clear. Yes, there will be some trouble for many of our Pakistani brothers, and do not forget the brothers in Swat, the brothers in Mas'ud, our allies and those very dear to us, and others, even the groups with us. However, we will clarify things and help them understand the issue and how important it is, and that it is the best possible result, with God's support.

9. Our brother 'Azzam the American is well and in good health, God be blessed. The rumor spread by the Pakistanis was a lie. I do not know the truth of things exactly. Was it an error and accusation on their part? On the other hand, was there deceitful intent behind it?
10. Our brothers imprisoned in Iran and the people there are well, God willing. So far, no one has come since Anas al-Sabi'i. As I told you, he was the last of the brothers to come. He came by himself his family went to Libya via Turkey by contacting the Qaddafi organization. God willing, if God makes bringing the family here easy, we will arrange it. However, Sheikh, things may be harder than you think on the road and with the checkpoints between Peshawar and us. Therefore, we intend to keep them somewhere safe far away from us for a while; then arrange things for them slowly and securely, with God's help.
11. Regarding your suggestion for your son Hamzah, I do not know Hamzah. He was young but he is grown now. I should ask brother Nu'man al-Masri; he was close to him for a while in prison, I think. So if you are confident in the steadfastness and his strength of will ... it is a good suggestion. May God facilitate his release, along with the rest of the brothers. How do you think it will be for him to go to Qatar? If they release him, they will push him to come to us using the known smuggling routes. He will make it to us, but what then? Is it appropriate for him to coordinate with the embassy of Qatar in Pakistan for example? But the Americans would surely take him! This issue requires close study, caution, and care unless we are able to tell the Iranians: let him go to Qatar. We will try.
12. Looking for facilities. I was aware of your previous discussions with al-Hafiz. By the way, I have read all your letters to Al-Hafiz, may God have mercy on him. One at a time, in order, we read them together and discuss them. For now, I only show abu-Yahya your letters, and no one else. As for the other brothers, I share with each of them depending on their expertise or the guidance they are looking for. For example, I might clip a few paragraphs for 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Maghrabi to read if they had to do with media policy. If something relates to operations abroad, I may show the relevant paragraphs to others... And I say: regarding facilities, God willing, we will do the research. May God grant us success.
13. We will do what you said regarding the brother on our side of the correspondence. We will ask him and search his gear and clothing ... may God protect you all. I have already written to you regarding my opinion that we should have fewer contacts. I have another suggestion: we should encrypt the messages. Might you have someone there who can

- learn the Secrets of the Mujahidin program? I will attach it for you with its explanation. Maybe your aides can learn it and we can use it to exchange messages.
14. I will try to look for "Book of Shielding" by Sheikh abu-Yahya and attach it for you. If I cannot find it now, then another time. God would help us.
 15. I am informing you about the deaths of brother Hamzah al-Jawfi, may God rest his soul. It came at the hands of spy planes in southern Waziristan (Wana); others were killed with him but we are not sure who yet. Abu-Husayn al-Masri may be among them.
 16. God willing, we will ask for information about Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi and his deputy, Abu-Sulayman al-Nasir Li-Din-Allah, we will try to the brothers from al-Ansar and others. We will get a clearer picture with God's help. God willing, we will continue our efforts for unity. We have done so, in fact. We wrote condolence letters to them about the two martyred leaders. Hopefully this will be an opportunity to renew the unification effort and find new structure to bring everyone together.
 17. The idea of a documentary about you, working with Al Jazeera and As-Sahab; we will work on it. I will discuss it with Munir, send the idea to Zidan, and ask for his questions. However, I think that your answers, at a minimum, should be in audio. Sheikh, I have asked you before for tapes for us, which we could preserve, about past, your life, and all. About how the concept of jihad idea developed for you ... and many other things. Our brother Munir sent you questions and more, but you did not answer, so we set it aside until now. We insist on it. We consider it a duty. Dear Sheikh, some small audio messages just for the brothers here, too. We will play the recordings for them to hear, no one will take a copy. Then we will keep the recordings in our archives or destroy them according to your orders. The people need it: to reassure them about assignments and so on, to advise them to obey, be patient and steadfast, to lifting morale and give good news. May God rest his soul, al-Jawfi used to say, "I am with Osama bin Laden, but not with Al-Hafiz Sultan or Khalid al-Habib or Mahmud." We have others like him; some are nearly ready to speak out, others who will not. We ask God to make the way easy for us and for you to reach the best result.
 18. Regarding media image, may God reward you for your advice. I consulted with the brothers, we decided that during this period, and until further notice, we should not show up in the media. This will reinforce our invisibility and security and help us avoid monitoring by spies. The war of espionage is causing us to suffer, and we are drawing American pressure on Pakistan. We have thought about moving out of Waziristan soon, we might go to Nuristan, some of us, and some may stay. I mean the leaders, and the members of the different organizations like media, the Sharia Committee and the like. We will divide ourselves, one group stays and the other goes. As I have reported before, we have a good battalion over there led by brother Faruq al-Qatari. He is the best of a good crew. He recently sent us a message telling us that he has arranged everything to receive us; he said the locations are good, there are supporters and everything. God knows best, and we ask God for his help.
 19. You asked me "to provide the names of some brothers who are ready, one of whom will become your deputy." First, I ask God to help me in this mission and by God, Sheikh, it is a big responsibility and it is too much for me. I am afraid I would be confused, I would be negligent, or fail, I was secretly asking Sheikh Sa'id, timidly, excuse me from the task because I was asking myself who is right for the brothers, for work, and for the Jihad and I am needed!? I think we are short in staff and leaders. I am afraid it is because people are

deserting and the like. In any case, God will help us. I ask God to make it easier for me, and to find someone better than me to take over this mission. Here is what I say: I do not see anyone fully prepared now except Sheikh Abu-Yahya. By the way, he has been the second deputy since the last days of Al-Hafiz, since you sent the order to create a second deputy position. He is now my deputy and I think he is the most ready among the brothers.

However, I am not satisfied with this. I hope I can find someone else, with your guidance. The reason being: I see that he should be dedicated to Islamic science, jurisprudence, fatwas, and constantly ascending the ladder of knowledge. If we get him busy in management, we might lose his knowledge and abilities. The Prophet's biography mentioned that at one time our master 'Umar was asked, "Why is it that you do not assign the important men among the Prophet's, prayers and peace be upon him, companions to work?" He said, "I hate to contaminate them with work.", or something like that. There are two sources of contamination. One is that they could create conflict among themselves, thus corrupting their religion. The other is that they could lose their positions in peoples' hearts, because the worker (the one in charge) will have hassles, quarrels and conflict with his people, and the workers could become impudent or trivialize him, and so on.

That is why I wanted, as I still do, to keep Abu-Yahya away from this. However, at the moment I do not see anyone more ready and better than him, he is better than me and more deserving.

As to the others: Sheikh Yunis still needs time and more maturity and experience. He is intelligent, with an clever and active mind, may God bless him. One of his biggest problems is that he is relatively new. The people will not be happy with someone like him. Moreover, he has a current job that is keeping him busy, may God grant him success.

A possibility: our brother 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Maghribi. He has a fine intellect, and as far as I can judge, his faith is strong. He has high morals, he can keep a secret, and he is patient. His ideology is prudent, and he has excellent awareness. God permitting, he is good for command, may God watch over him. His problem would only be with the senior members. They would not accept someone who is newer than them (I mean the older Sheikhs, and you know them), but this problem can be solved if you clearly appoint him yourself; not in writing, it must be in audio at least. There is no other way for a situation like 'Abd-al-Rahman, if he must be appointed. Of course, he is in charge of As-Sahab right now, but you can reallocate him from there and promote him. I can check on this approach. I will wait for your guidance.

In the new generation there are good brothers; team members and leaders for the future, may God give them strength. We are working to prepare team members and leaders. I hope this is good news and makes you happy, God willing. However, our situation is now difficult, o Sheikh, and we are doing our best but, frankly, the espionage war has really taken its toll on us.

Remaining from the senior Egyptian brothers, we have Sa'duf, Amir al-Fath, Abu-al-Miqdad, and Abu-Sulayman (the one who lived with al-Jufi in Khost under the Emirate, he was a taxi driver). All of them are with us at work but most of them are not suitable for this, by God. Maybe Abu-al-Miqdad is the closest. He is the best among them in terms of ideology and opinion, but his character is difficult.

Among the brothers from the Peninsula, we have Abu-'Uthman; he is not suitable for this. We have others who are better; a brother named 'Abd-al-Jalil who came during the last days of the Emirate. He was among those who were imprisoned in Kabul by Siyaf's people and then released we have (there were three: him, Sayf bin-'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Masry and 'Azzam al-Zahrani, may God have pity on him). He is a good brother and may be qualified in the future. We might try to make him a deputy now and I will look into that matter. I investigate him and let you know in another letter. If you remember, he is the one Al-Hafiz suggested to you earlier to become the spokesman of al-Qaeda.

I ask God to release our brothers from prison so they can come to help us carry the load. They are qualified. Abu-Muhammad al-Zayyat, Abu-al-Kayr, Sayf al-'Adl, and others. However, if God facilitates their release they will really need to spend at least six months (and maybe a year) re-learning how things work, refreshing their knowledge, their activity and vitality. During this period, they would be relatively nearby and we would gradually seek their advice in the matters, then maybe we could turn things over to them. We ask God to release them and use them for the victory of Islam and Muslims and make them and us one of his righteous servants.

20. To mention some of the issues, by God we do not want busy you with problems; but I would give you a glimpse of them so you can have an idea. I am attaching a paragraph I wrote it in a letter to brother Abu-Basir al-Wahishi (he had asked me for a brief on our situation).
21. God permitting, we will reread the letter slowly and answer you in future correspondence regarding the important paragraphs we did not address now. For example, the idea of releasing a statement where you explain that we are correcting some of the things that overtook us. That statement should be very precise, extremely balanced and fully researched. We might need to precede it with some gradual steps. We assure you, our dear Sheikh, work is going on everywhere to set the curriculum. We are communicating with the righteous and the well-educated, the students of knowledge, and others. We are working on it, working very hard despite all of the difficulties. (We are in contact with a group of students of knowledge. I will pick two or three of them along with an educated person, or two or three, to work on what you indicated: they will criticize, scrutinize, and advise us. We will tell them that we want to be corrected ... and so on, as you mentioned.) With God's permission, we will start all of this and prepare the way for you. We are constantly making corrections, before, during and after, with the help of God in the matters of naming apostates, extravagance, extremism and others issues. In matters of morals, decorum, tastes, and moderation and in matters of general thinking and analysis, review and research, and finally matters of jurisprudence we do the same. God is the master of success.
22. There are other items enclosed. "Advice and Compassion", a good and long article by Abu-Yahya titled "Jihad and the Battle of Misconceptions" [unfortunately I could not find it just now]. My latest article in the series "Follow your Messengers" in the Tala'i Khurasan magazine, media guidance, and a letter from Abu-Yahya to the media.

These are the responses I have now. God Almighty is our merciful and beneficent lord, I ask him to ease our path and yours, and to bring victory to his followers soon. Praise God, Lord of the universe.

Peace and the blessings and grace of God be up upon you.

Mahmud

Saturday 5th of Sha'ban, 1431