Osama bin Laden Message Analysis & Threat Assessment (OBL-MATA) v1.1
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Responsibility Lies with American People

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Continued Effort to Explain Actions and Justify Them

Threats

VISUAL PRESENTATION OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

6 OCT 2002 OBL ADDRESS TO AMERICANS – FULL TRANSLATION

18 OCT 2003 OBL ADDRESS TO AMERICANS – TRANSLATION

29 OCT 2004 OBL ADDRESS TO AMERICANS – FULL TRANSLATION

15 APR 2004 OBL ADDRESS TO EUROPEANS – FULL TRANSLATION
NOTE:
THIS IS A DYNAMIC WORKING DOCUMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
Questions or comments can be directed to Ben Venzke at bvenzke@intelcenter.com or bvenzke@leo.gov. The latest release can be found at http://www.intelcenter.com.

ASSESSMENT
There is a significant risk of al-Qaeda attempting to execute a signature attack in the 60-day period following the 29 Oct. 2004 release of OBL’s video statement. This is based in part on the emerging pattern of OBL’s addresses to Americans appearing in Oct. and then being followed by signature al-Qaeda attacks within 60 days, as well as a broader pattern during the past 34 months of attacks being executed within 67 days of the release of an address, regardless of who it is directed to, 80% of the time. While in the past these strikes have for the most part not targeted the US directly, the additional effort made by al-Qaeda to release the Osama bin Laden message in video form with English sub-titles and the release of a 75-minute message to Americans from Azzam al-Amriki in English just the week before raises significant concern that these developments are an indicator of a targeting shift to CONUS or US interests abroad in countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan. However, attacks against US allies in the war efforts in Afghanistan or Iraq cannot be ruled out.

The actual address by OBL to the American people itself is consistent in content and tone to his earlier messages. However, the effort to make the message accessible to Americans is new and significant. There are two key themes in the message. The first is that the reasons, which justified the 9-11 attack, still exist today, thus enabling al-Qaeda to execute another strike on a similar scale. The second is that the American people themselves are to be held accountable for US policies, which becomes part of a framework for the justification of mass casualty attacks on civilians.
PLACING 29 OCT 2004 ADDRESS IN CONTEXT

Popular commentary has characterized the 29 Oct. 2004 video address by Osama bin Laden to the American people as a weaker statement, lacking in threats and an attempt by OBL to look and sound more statesman like. In many corners these opinions have become accepted as fact. An analysis of the full translation of the statement and comparison to previous statements and video imagery do not support any of these opinions.

The themes in his address are consistent with both his previous addresses to Americans and in his statements to others, such as the Europeans, US Allies, Ummah and Muslim Brothers. The message fits with OBL’s continued effort to create a framework for the justification of al-Qaeda’s actions both prior to and following attacks and consistently drive home al-Qaeda’s vision of reciprocity.

Whether addressing the Americans or Europeans, OBL remains focused on directing his message to the people of the targeted country and placing the burden of responsibility for their government’s policies on them as opposed to the government. This holds true in the 29 Oct. 2004 statement and carries back to well before 9-11. In his 28 May 1998 interview (aired on 10 Jun. 1998) with ABC News, Osama bin Laden said, “We tell the American people, we tell the mothers of soldiers, and American mothers in general, if they value their lives and those of their children to find a nationalistic government that would look after their interests and not the interests of the Jews.”

The visual setup of OBL standing at a podium while giving his address is also not new. While he is more frequently seen sitting on the ground. One of his highest profile video addresses was shot with him standing at a raised microphone with a blue sky as the background.

What is significant about the 29 Oct. video address is that it marks the first time al-Qaeda has used English sub-titles in its initial release. While a number of Sahab videos have had English editions released, the Arabic editions always ranked highest in prominence and were more readily available then the English ones.
ADDRESSEES OF OBL’S AUDIO/VIDEO STATEMENTS

The below bullet list covers audio/video statements made by Osama bin Laden between Jan. 2002 and 1 Nov. 2004. It shows what group each address by Osama bin Laden was directed to. Frequently this is clearly stated by Osama bin Laden in the first few lines of each statement. All addresses to Americans were made in Oct. at a rate of one per year. There were other written statements issued during this period that are not reflected here.

• 29 Oct. 2004 – Americans
• 6 May 2004 – Ummah and Muslim Brothers
• 15 Apr. 2004 – Europeans
• 4 Jan. 2004 – Ummah and Muslim Brothers
• 18 Oct. 2003 - Americans
• 18 Oct. 2003 – Iraqi People
• April 2003 – Muslim Brothers
• Feb. 2003 – Palestinians and Muslim Brothers
• 11 Feb. 2003 – Muslim Brothers in Iraq
• 12 Nov. 2002 – US Allies
• 6 Oct. 2002 – Americans
AMERICAN ADDRESS ATTACK CORRELATION

Since Jan. 2002, there have been only three direct addresses in audio or video form by Osama bin Laden to the American people. All three of these addresses occurred in Oct. One in 2002, 2003 and now 2004. In both 2002 and 2003, these addresses were followed by signature al-Qaeda attacks within 1-53 days.
Following 18 Oct. 2003 Address to Americans:
• 8 Nov. 2003 - Vehicular Bombing of the al-Muhaya Housing Compound - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
• 15 Nov. 2003 - Vehicular Bombings of Synagogues - Istanbul, Turkey
• 20 Nov. 2003 - Vehicular Bombings of HSBC Bank HQ & UK Consulate - Istanbul, Turkey

Following 6 Oct. 2002 Address to Americans:
• 6 Oct. 2002 - Vehicular Bombing of Limburg Oil Tanker - off Coast of Yemen
• 8 Oct. 2002 - Shooting Targeting US Marines - Failaka, Kuwait
• 28 Nov. 2002 - SAM Strike & Vehicular Bombing in Mombasa, Kenya
OBL AUDIO/VIDEO ADDRESS ATTACK CORRELATION

If during the past nearly three years (34 months) you said an al-Qaeda attack would occur within 67 days every time an Osama bin Laden audio tape or video was released, you would have been correct 80% of the time or eight out of 10 times.

During the course of Jan. 2002 to 1 Nov. 2004, Osama bin Laden released nine audio tapes (10 if you count the two 18 Oct. addresses as separate) and one video address. All but two of these tapes preceded al-Qaeda attacks by 1-67 days (this drops to 1-43 days if you take out the 11 Madrid Train Bombing) during the 34-month period. The two audio tapes, which did not precede an attack within 67 days, both appeared in Feb. 2003.
Every major al-Qaeda attack during the 34-month period was preceded by the release of an Osama bin Laden audio/video tape with the exception of the attack on the French oil tanker Limburg off the coast of Yemen and the attack on the synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia. In the case of the Limburg attack, the tape was released the same day. It is not clear if this was the intended release date or if the tape’s release was unintentionally delayed. While the attack on the synagogue was an al-Qaeda operation, a number of different factors point to it not being part of the group’s core series of major operations. This is one possible reason as to why there was not an audio tape released prior to the attack.

The release of Osama bin Laden audio and video addresses, excluding statements appearing within produced Sahab videos such as “The Nineteen Martyrs”, appears to be a significant indicator of near-term attacks.

**Tapes**

The tapes factored into this analysis along with dates are listed below.

- 29 Oct. 2004 – Americans
- 6 May 2004 – Ummah and Muslim Brothers
- 15 Apr. 2004 – Europeans
- 4 Jan. 2004 – Ummah and Muslim Brothers
- 18 Oct. 2003 - Americans
- 18 Oct. 2003 – Iraqi People
- April 2003 – Muslim Brothers
- Feb. 2003 – Palestinians and Muslim Brothers
- 11 Feb. 2003 – Muslim Brothers in Iraq
- 12 Nov. 2002 – US Allies
- 6 Oct. 2002 – Americans
Attacks
The attacks factored into this analysis along with dates are listed below. There are other low-level attacks conducted during this period. These were not counted for the purpose of this analysis due to a number of factors, including the prominence the attacks were given by the group in its communiqués and other writings.

- 11 Apr. 2002 – Crashing of Fuel Truck into Synagogue - Djerba, Tunisia
- 6 Oct. 2002 – Bombing of Limburg Oil Tanker - off Coast of Yemen
- 12/13 May 2003 – Vehicular Bombing of Housing Compound - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 16 May 2003 – Suicide Bombing - Casablanca, Morocco
- 8 Nov. 2003 – Vehicular Bombing of al-Muhaya Housing Compound - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 15 Nov. 2003 – Vehicular Bombing of Synagogues - Istanbul, Turkey
- 11 Mar. 2004 – Bombing of Trains - Madrid, Spain
- 1 May 2004 – Hostage Taking, ABB Lummus Global - Yanbu, Saudi Arabia
- 29 May 2004 – Hostage Taking, Oil Industry Offices - al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia
2004 THREAT ASSESSMENT – OBL AMERICAN ADDRESS

There is a significant risk of al-Qaeda attempting to execute a signature attack in the 60-day period following the 29 Oct. 2004 release of OBL’s video statement. This is based in part on the emerging pattern of OBL’s addresses to Americans appearing in Oct. and then being followed by signature al-Qaeda attacks within 60 days. While in the past these strikes have for the most part not targeted the US directly, the additional effort made by al-Qaeda to release the Osama bin Laden message in video form with English sub-titles and the release of a 75-minute message to Americans from Azzam al-Amriki in English just the week before raises significant concern that these developments are an indicator of a targeting shift to CONUS or US interests abroad in countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan. However, attacks against US allies in the war efforts in Afghanistan or Iraq cannot be ruled out.

Osama bin Laden has not appeared in a video address since 27 Dec. 2001. In the intervening period between the 27 Dec. 2001 video address and the 29 Oct. 2004 video address, OBL made nine audio addresses. In addition, while the release of English sub-titles on Sahab videos is not a new development, this is the first time that the major initial release is done with English sub-titles. These developments when combined with the release of the 75-minute video statement by Azzam al-Amriki in English to ABC News on 22 Oct. represent the most significant effort by al-Qaeda to address the American people in the last couple years.
AZZAM AL-AMRIKI VIDEO ADDRESS IN ENGLISH

Background
On 22 Oct. 2004, ABC News obtained a 75-minute video from The Sahab Institute for Media Production. The video was obtained from a source known to have Taliban and al-Qaeda contacts in the tribal region of Pakistan. ABC paid the source US$500 in transportation fees. The video contained an interview with Azzam al-Amriki [Azzam the American]. It was conducted in English with Arabic sub-titles. This is the second but most extensive address by an al-Qaeda member in English.

Two probable voice matches to Azzam al-Amriki have been found on two earlier produced Sahab videos entitled, “The Wills of the New York and Washington Battle Martyrs” and “The Nineteen Martyrs”. The voice appears on the English Editions of both videos as a narrator.

The original 1-hour Arabic edition of “The Nineteen Martyrs” video was released in September 2002 to commemorate the first anniversary of the 9-11 attacks. An English
version was then released by the group, which contained English subtitles and English versions of onscreen graphics in place of the Arabic ones. At one point in the English Edition the video switches from spoken Arabic with English subtitles to spoken English. This portion lasts for 04’14” before switching back to spoken Arabic with English subtitles. The "Nineteen Martyrs" video includes the martyrdom message of 9-11 hijacker Abdul-Aziz al-Omari (a.k.a. Abu al-Abbas al-Janoobi) and footage of the 9-11 hijackers planning for their attack. Osama bin Laden is featured discussing each of the hijackers. The video also features excerpts from other Osama bin Laden speeches, as well as a poem read by his 11-year-old son. The excerpt of bin Laden’s son reading the poem appears to be from the video entitled, “The Destruction of the Destroyer, USS Cole”.

On the 1-hour English Edition of the “Wills of the New York and Washington Battle Martyrs” the narration portion spoken by the voice is much more extensive and spread throughout the course of the video. The Arabic version of the video was released in Apr. 2002 and is the first to commemorate the 9-11 attacks by al-Qaeda. It includes the martyrdom message of 9-11 hijacker Ahmed al-Haznawi al-Ghamdi and speaking appearances by Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri and Sulaiman Abu Ghaith. It is not clear when the English edition was released.

**Azzam al-Amrki Address to People of America**

The largest portion of the 75-minute video is conducted in an interview style with Azzam looking off camera. In the remaining portion Azzam looks directly into the camera and speaks to the "people of America." The below excerpt is from that portion.

Azzam al-Amrki Address to People of America:

People of America, you know very well what goes on in the world and you know very well what your regime is up to, so for you to plead innocence of your government’s crimes against our Islamic faith and our Muslim brothers and sisters is unacceptable. Don’t you pay the taxes that fund the American terror machine? Don’t you provide the manpower for its armed forces for its spy agencies and for its giant globe consuming conglomerates? Don’t you handpick the murders and liars and thieves that sit in power in Washington? No, my former countrymen you are guilty, guilty, guilty, guilty. You are as guilty as Bush and Cheney. You're as guilty as Rumsfeld and Ashcroft and Powell. You
are as guilty as Boykin, Tenet and Mueller. You’re as guilty as Meyers, Franks and Abizaid and all the other killers are.

People of America, that was the verdict and now for the sentencing. As participants and partners in the crimes of your regime, you too shall pay the price for the blood that has been spilled, the wealth that has been plundered and the honor that has been violated. You too shall pay for the 1.5 million Iraqi children killed over 10 years who the deaths your bitch of foreign affairs Albright described as Muslim oil reserves which you and your hirelings have together carried out for decades on end. You too shall pay for your devotion to the Apartheid regime in Palestine and for the billions of dollars worth of aid annually gifted to Sharon and his terrorist goons to enable them to continue their killing spree in the streets of Gaza and the West Bank. You too shall pay for your continued supplying of fresh recruits to the Zionist fascist death squads and for your exporting of the Jewish fanatics and parasites who are infesting and colonizing Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Hebron, Nablus and the rest of the Holy Land. You shall pay for your continued occupation of the Muslim’s lands especially the Arabian Peninsula, the birthplace of Islam. You shall pay for your desecration of the three Holiest sites in Islam, the sanctuaries of Mecca and Medina and the Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. You shall pay for the murder and maiming of innocent Muslims in the bombings carried out by your B-2s, F-16s, Apaches, Predators and other tools of terror in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Palestine, the Yemen, Pakistan and elsewhere. You shall pay for the rape, humiliation and murder of innocent Muslims in the torture cells of Abu Ghraib whether at the hands of your agent Saddam or at the hands of GI Joe. You shall pay for the thousands of innocent Muslim civilians and mujahideen killed, injured and kidnapped by your military and its mercenaries in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Muslim world. For your spreading of the false religions of Christianity, Democracy, Capitalism and Secularism to all corners of the Globe and you shall pay for your government’s backing of the tyrannical idol kings of the Islamic world who shamelessly and eagerly do your government’s bidding in return for a few million dollars and a license to rule until death without fear of being deposed.

People of America, I remind you of the weighty words of our leaders Sheikh Osama bin Laden and Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri that what took place on September 11th was but the opening salvo of the global war on America and that Allah willing the magnitude and
ferocity of what is coming your way will make you forget all about September 11th. After decades of American tyranny and oppression, now it's your turn to die. Allah willing, the streets of America shall run red with blood matching drop for drop the blood of America's victims and Allah willing you shall mourn as the rest of the world mourns in private with no public mourning services and no reading of names because casualties will be too many to count and the next wave of attacks may come at any moment and I ask you to reflect on the repeated admissions of your government that it knows a devastating strike by the mujahideen is imminent yet is powerless to stop it. Despite the countless billions of your tax dollars spent on antiterrorism measures and commissions of inquiry and on Bush's twin Vietnams, Afghanistan and Iraq, and in contradiction to your President’s claims that by fighting Islam abroad he is protecting your homeland from further attack, Do you not see how your officials and politicians are groping around like blind men in the dead of night and I ask you to reflect on the words of Kean, head of the 911 Commission, who after confirming that all authorities questioned agreed that another strike is almost inevitable, said that Allah forbid the murder or capture of Osama bin Laden or other jihadi leaders in no way means the end or even the lessening of the threat to America…

**Azzam al-Amriki Excerpts from Interview Portion**

**Interviewer:**
You are an American who has joined a movement for waging war on America and killing large numbers of Americans. Don't you in any way feel you are betraying your people and country?

**Azzam al-Amriki:**
First of all, the allegiance and loyalty of a Muslim is to Allah, his Messenger, his religion and his fellow believers before anyone and anything else. So, if there is a conflict between his religion and his nation and family, then he must choose the religion every time. In fact, to side with the unbelievers against Islam and Muslims is one of the acts that nullifies one's Islamic faith and there's a verse in the Koran (recites a verse from the Koran in Arabic) you will not find any people who believe in Allah in the last day loving, loving those who resist Allah and his Messenger.
Even if they were their fathers or their sons, or their brothers, or their kindred or their clan. As such he has written faith in their hearts and strengthens them with spirit from himself. So, some of the early Muslims fought and killed their closest relatives during battle, prompting the revelation of this verse. And, even our Prophet Mohammed, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, er, fought, uh, and after a lot of defeat the Quraish tribe, to which he belonged. when it fought to impede Islam's propagation, sought to impede the message of Islam, rejected the message of Islam, and sought to impede its propagation. And some of the staunchest enemies of Islam were from among his closest cousins like Abu Jahl. Thus, Allah's religion takes precedence over all else: Wealth, status, family and nationality.

Interviewer:
Ok, how do you respond to the Muslim clerics and governments around the world who say that you are a small fringe group of extremists, unrepresentative of Islam and the majority of peace-loving Muslims?"

Azzam al-Amriki:
Well, they would say that, wouldn't they? These Crusader pawns are the ones who don't represent Islam and Muslims, despite their claims to the contrary. And they know very well that the mujahideen stature has increased substantially among the Muslims after September 11, and the events that followed, which poses a direct threat to their continuing hold on power. This argument of theirs is especially well liked by their masters in the White House and 10 Downing Street, who apply it not just to us, but to all Muslims who reject Crusader domination. Uh, but the truth in evidence is on our side. Open the Koran, open the books of Sirah, the prophetic biography, and Ahadith, the prophetic teachings. Open the books of Fiqh, jurisprudence, both modern and ancient and you will find our position well supported. Jihad isn't something that al-Qaeda made up. Ruling by Islam law wasn't started by the Taliban. Hamas didn't invent the concept of martyrdom. Uh, where we differ from these defeatists and hypocrites is that we don't believe that these divine orders and principles are open to negotiation and compromise.

I'd like to tell these people, this is our religion. If you don't like it, that's your problem. But don't tell me that you're the true Muslim and I'm the extremist. You know, the same
clerics and people who call us violent extremists and outcasts and endlessly repeat that Islam is a peaceful faith, permit or even encourage their followers to join the American and European militaries and intelligence agencies and the armies of the idle kings in the Muslim world and take part in the killing of thousands of Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. So in effect, they're saying that for the Muslim to kill unbelievers in defense of Islam and Muslims is unacceptable, and if he does so, he's an extremist. While for the same Muslim to kill fellow Muslims in the name of America and so-called freedom and the supposedly civilized world is just fine and dandy and he will be practicing moderation.

Look at this logic. These are evil, uneducated, ignorant, backwards people who should not be speaking on behalf of Muslims, much less talking about what is true Islam and what is not and accusing others. We are defending those who have no defender. We are holding fast to genuine Islam at a time when it's under siege from all sides. And we're standing up to confront an enemy that has intimidated governments and international organizations with fear. It's only natural that the governments and individuals who stand the most to lose from the defeat of the crusaders and Zionists will seek to hide our true nature and goals from the Muslim majority that is desperately looking for a way out of the nightmare that these traitors have imposed upon them for decades.

We have strong support from within all sectors of Muslim society and from within all Islamic groups. This is what terrifies the enemies of truth and causes them to resort to this sort of accusation. It's wishful thinking on their part. It's like they're telling themselves, 'Maybe if we repeat the lie often enough, it will come true.'
COMMONALITIES BETWEEN THREE ADDRESSES TO AMERICANS
The below excerpts are taken from the two audio and one video address Osama bin Laden directed to Americans between Jan. 2002 and 1 Nov. 2004.

The common themes that exist both in these three addresses and in his statements to others are:
- Reciprocity
- Unjust motivations of President George W. Bush for actions in Iraq
- Responsibility lies with American people
- Peace to those who follow his guidance
- Punish the US financially
- Continued effort to explain actions and justify them

Reciprocity
6 Oct. 2002:
So I tell you and Allah is Surety over what I say, if America increases or does not reduce the intensity of their aggression, we will respond in an equal manner by the permission of Allah, the Most Magnificent.

18 Oct. 2003:
You should know that we count our killed ones, may God have mercy on their souls, particularly those killed in Palestine at the hands of your allies, the Jews. So, we will punish you for them, God willing, just as what happened during the New York day punished you. Just remember what I told you at the time about our security and your security.

29 Oct. 2004:
Praise be to Allah who created the creation for his worship and commanded them to be just and permitted the wronged one to retaliate against the oppressor in kind. … And as I looked at those demolished towers in Lebanon, it entered my mind that we should punish the oppressor in kind and that we should destroy towers in America in order that they
taste some of what we tasted and so that they be deterred from killing our women and
children.

**Unjust Motivations of President George W. Bush**

6 Oct. 2002:

It is clear to everyone who observes the movements of the criminal gang in the White
House, these agents of the Jews which are preparing for an attack against Islamic world
in order to divide it, without any real opposition by the American people, that you have
not learned anything from the two battles.

18 Oct. 2003:

The fact that you were driven to the Iraqi war, in which you have no interest whatsoever,
is evidence of this. Bush came with his hard-booted, hard-hearted gang. This gang is a
huge evil to all humanity, its blood, money, environment and morality. They came to deal
strong and consecutive blows to honesty that is the basis of morality, each from the
position he holds, until they professionally rendered it dead before the world. With this
behavior of theirs, they encouraged hypocrisy, corrupted people, and spread political
bribery at the level of heads of state with no shame. This gang and their leader do not find
anything wrong with lying, war, theft and robbery if it serves their personal greed. Their
fangs drip blood from the corpses of the children of Vietnam and Somalia and the
children of Afghanistan and Iraq. They did not care about you, went behind your backs,
invaded Iraq once again, and lied to you and the whole world. It has been said: a nation's
strength is in its morality; if the morality of the people of any nation were to deteriorate
they would cease to exist. Bush has pushed your children into the mouth of the lion so
that they will slaughter others and be slaughtered, claiming that this is in defense of
international peace and America. In so doing, he hides the true motive. On the one hand,
he implements the demands of the Zionist lobby, which helped him enter the White
House, to destroy the military power of Iraq, which neighbors the Jews in occupied
Palestine. In so doing, he shows absolute indifference to the repercussions on your blood
and economy. On the other hand, he conceals his own greed and the ambitions of this
lobby in Iraq and its oil. He is still thinking in the mentality of his ancestors who used to
kill the red Indians to seize their lands and loot their wealth. He thought that the matter
would be easy spoils and a short trip that would not end in failure. … I also tell the US
soldiers in Iraq: After the daylight has emerged and the biggest liar and his true nature has been exposed, your continued presence in Iraq is compound injustice and a great folly. You are selling your life for the sake of others. So, your blood is being shed in order to increase the assets of the White House's gang and their partners of the arms dealers and owners of the conniving big companies. The most stupid person is the one who sells his life for the sake of others.

29 Oct. 2004:
But I am amazed at you. Even though we are in the fourth year after the events of September 11th, Bush is still engaged in distortion, deception and hiding from you the real causes. And thus, the reasons are still there for a repeat of what occurred. … it shows that the Bush administration has also gained, something of which anyone who looks at the size of the contracts acquired by the shady Bush administration-linked mega-corporations, like Halliburton and its kind, will be convinced. And it all shows that the real loser is...you. It is the American people and their economy.

Responsibility Lies with American People
6 Oct. 2002:
It is clear to everyone who observes the movements of the criminal gang in the White House, these agents of the Jews which are preparing for an attack against Islamic world in order to divide it, without any real opposition by the American people, that you have not learned anything from the two battles.

18 Oct. 2003:
I greet those that follow the guidance of God. O American people, some people pictured you as a great people. It turned out that most of you are riffraff who do not have any share in great ethics. You elect the evildoers from among you who tell many lies and are impolite.

29 Oct. 2004:
In conclusion, I tell you in truth, that your security is not in the hands of Kerry, nor Bush, nor al-Qaeda. No. Your security is in your own hands.
Peace to Those Who Follow His Guidance

6 Oct. 2002:
Peace be upon those who follow the guidance, Indeed, I’m a trustworthy adviser to you. I invite you to the happiness of this world and the hereafter and to escape your dry, miserable, materialistic life that is without soul. I invite you to Islam, that calls to follow the path of Allah alone Who has no partners, the path which calls for justice and forbids oppression and crimes.

18 Oct. 2003:
You are selling your life for the sake of others. So, your blood is being shed in order to increase the assets of the White House's gang and their partners of the arms dealers and owners of the conniving big companies. The most stupid person is the one who sells his life for the sake of others. Concluding, I tell the American people: God willing, we will continue to fight you. We will continue the martyrdom operations inside and outside the United States until you end your injustice, abandon your stupidity and curb your insolent fellows. … Just remember what I told you at the time about our security and your security.

29 Oct. 2004:
In conclusion, I tell you in truth, that your security is not in the hands of Kerry, nor Bush, nor al-Qaeda. No. Your security is in your own hands. And every state that doesn't play with our security has automatically guaranteed its own security. And Allah is our Guardian and Helper, while you have no Guardian or Helper. All Peace be Upon he who follows the Guidance.

Financial Targeting

6 Oct. 2002:
I swear by Allah that the youth of Islam are preparing for what will fill your hearts with fear and horror and will target the centers of your economy until you restrain from your aggression and enmity or the fastest towards aggression dies.
18 Oct. 2003:
You are being enslaved by those who have the most money, the most influential ones, and those who have the strongest news media, particularly the Jews, who are dragging you behind them under the ruse of democracy in order to support the Israelis and their schemes and hostility to our religion and at the expense of our blood and land, as well as at the expense of your blood and economy.

29 Oct. 2004:
All that we have to do is to send two mujahideen to the furthest point East to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al-Qaeda, in order to make the generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic, and political losses without their achieving for it anything of note other than some benefits for their private companies. This is in addition to our having experience in using guerrilla warfare and the war of attrition to fight tyrannical superpowers, as we, alongside the mujahideen, bled Russia for 10 years, until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat. … So we are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy. Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah. … And it was to these sorts of notions and their like that the British diplomat and others were referring in their lectures at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. (When they pointed out that) for example, al-Qaeda spent $500,000 on the event, while America, in the incident and its aftermath, lost – according to the lowest estimate – more than 500 billion dollars. Meaning that every dollar of al-Qaeda defeated a million dollars by the permission of Allah, besides the loss of a huge number of jobs. As for the size of the economic deficit, it has reached record astronomical numbers estimated to total more than a trillion dollars. And even more dangerous and bitter for America is that the mujahideen recently forced Bush to resort to emergency funds to continue the fight in Afghanistan and Iraq, which is evidence of the success of the bleed-until-bankruptcy plan – with Allah's permission.
Continued Effort to Explain Actions and Justify Them

6 Oct. 2002:
Furthermore, I call you to understand the message of the two battles of New York and Washington that came in response to some of your former crimes and know that the one who has started it is the real oppressor. It is clear to everyone who observes the movements of the criminal gang in the White House, these agents of the Jews which are preparing for an attack against Islamic world in order to divide it, without any real opposition by the American people, that you have not learned anything from the two battles.

18 Oct. 2003:
You are being enslaved by those who have the most money, the most influential ones, and those who have the strongest news media, particularly the Jews, who are dragging you behind them under the ruse of democracy in order to support the Israelis and their schemes and hostility to our religion and at the expense of our blood and land, as well as at the expense of your blood and economy. Events have proven this.

29 Oct. 2004:
So I shall talk to you about the story behind those events and shall tell you truthfully about the moments in which the decision was taken, for you to consider.

Threats

6 Oct. 2002:
I swear by Allah that the youth of Islam are preparing for what will fill your hearts with fear and horror and will target the centers of your economy until you restrain from your aggression and enmity or the fastest towards aggression dies.

18 Oct. 2003:
Concluding, I tell the American people: God willing, we will continue to fight you. We will continue the martyrdom operations inside and outside the United States until you end your injustice, abandon your stupidity and curb your insolent fellows.
29 Oct. 2004:
People of America this talk of mine is for you and concerns the ideal way to prevent another Manhattan, and deals with the war and its causes and results. … We want to restore freedom to our nation, just as you lay waste to our nation. So shall we lay waste to yours. … So we are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy.

COMMONALITIES BETWEEN 29 OCT AND 15 APR STATEMENTS IN 2004
While much is said about the “diplomatic or subdued tone” of the 29 Oct. 2004 address and its break from past addresses, points we do not concur with, the one address that did represent a new development was the 15 Apr. 2004 statement where Osama bin Laden offers a truce to European countries. The overall message remains consistent with the basic themes OBL typically addresses, but the actual offering of a truce was new and one of the ripple effects of the Spanish pull-out from Iraq following the 11 Mar. Madrid train bombings, something referred to by OBL in the opening line. “This is a message to our neighbors north of the Mediterranean, containing a reconciliation initiative as a response to their positive reactions.”

The general themes, which match up with the American addresses between 2002 and 2004, are:
• Reciprocity
• Unjust motivations of President George W. Bush for actions in Iraq
• Responsibility lies with the people for the government’s actions
• Peace to those who follow his guidance
• Continued effort to explain actions and justify them
• Threats
Reciprocity
Praise be to God; praise be to God; praise be to God who created heaven and earth with justice and who allowed the oppressed to punish the oppressor in the same way. … The greatest rule of safety is justice, and stopping injustice and aggression. It was said: Oppression kills the oppressors and the hotbed of injustice is evil. The situation in occupied Palestine is an example. What happened on 11 September and 11 March is your commodity that was returned to you. … Having said this, we would like to inform you that labeling us and our acts as terrorism is also a description of you and of your acts. Reaction comes at the same level as the original action. Our acts are reaction to your own acts, which are represented by the destruction and killing of our kinfolk in Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine. … Reciprocal treatment is fair and the one who starts injustice bears greater blame.

Unjust Motivations of President George W. Bush
Therefore, it is in both sides' interest to curb the plans of those who shed the blood of peoples for their narrow personal interest and subservience to the White House gang. We must take into consideration that this war brings billions of dollars in profit to the major companies, whether it be those that produce weapons or those that contribute to reconstruction, such as the Halliburton Company, its sisters and daughters. Based on this, it is very clear who is the one benefiting from igniting this war and from the shedding of blood. It is the warlords, the bloodsuckers, who are steering the world policy from behind a curtain. As for President Bush, the leaders who are revolving in his orbit, the leading media companies and the United Nations, which makes laws for relations between the masters of veto and the slaves of the General Assembly, these are only some of the tools used to deceive and exploit peoples. A rational person does not relinquish his security, money and children to please the liar of the White House. Had he been truthful about his claim for peace, he would not describe the person who ripped open pregnant women in Sabra and Shatila and the destroyer of the capitulation process as a man of peace.
Responsibility Lies with American People
It is known that security is a pressing necessity for all mankind. We do not agree that you should monopolize it only for yourselves. Also, vigilant people do not allow their politicians to tamper with their security. … As for your politicians and those who have followed their path, who insist on ignoring the real problem of occupying the entirety of Palestine and exaggerate lies and falsification regarding our right in defense and resistance, they do not respect themselves. … They also disdain the blood and minds of peoples. This is because their falsification increases the shedding of your blood instead of sparing it. … As for those who want peace, we have given them a chance. Stop shedding our blood so as to preserve your blood. It is in your hands to apply this easy, yet difficult, formula. You know that the situation will expand and increase if you delay things. If this happens, do not blame us - blame yourselves.

Peace to Those Who Follow His Guidance
Based on the above, and in order to deny war merchants a chance and in response to the positive interaction shown by recent events and opinion polls, which indicate that most European peoples want peace, I ask honest people, especially ulema, preachers and merchants, to form a permanent committee to enlighten European peoples of the justice of our causes, above all Palestine. They can make use of the huge potential of the media. I also offer a peace initiative to them, whose essence is our commitment to stopping operations against every country that commits itself to not attacking Muslims or interfering in their affairs - including the US conspiracy on the greater Muslim world. This peace can be renewed once the period signed by the first government expires and a second government is formed with the consent of both parties. The peace will start with the departure of its last soldier from our country. The door of peace is open for three months of the date of announcing this statement. … It is said that prevention is better than cure. A happy person is he who learns a lesson from the experience of others. Heeding right is better than persisting in falsehood. Peace be upon those who follow guidance.

Continued Effort to Explain Actions and Justify Them
He [Bush] also would not have lied to people and said that we hate freedom and kill for the sake of killing. Reality proves our truthfulness and his lie. The killing of the Russians
was after their invasion of Afghanistan and Chechnya; the killing of Europeans was after their invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan; and the killing of Americans on the day of New York was after their support of the Jews in Palestine and their invasion of the Arabian Peninsula. Also, killing them in Somalia was after their invasion of it in Operation Restore Hope. We made them leave without hope, praise be to God. It is said that prevention is better than cure. A happy person is he who learns a lesson from the experience of others.

**Threats**

For those who reject peace and want war, we are ready.
VISUAL PRESENTATION OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

Osama bin Laden typically appears in one of two setups. The first is where he sits on the ground, frequently with his Kalashnikov by his side. The second is with him standing at a podium or raised microphone. The brown backdrop used in the 29 Oct. video is similar to other brown backdrops used in both Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri videos. Below are a representative series of stills from his different appearances in video statements. The first still is from the 29 Oct. 2004 video address by OBL to the Americans. The screen graphics surrounding OBL are as Sahab designed them. When al-Jazeera aired the video it covered the lower portion with its own Arabic text.
“O you who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians as allies.
6 OCT 2002 OBL ADDRESS TO AMERICANS – FULL TRANSLATION
In the name of Allah, the Most Magnificent, the Most Merciful,

A Message Addressed To The American People,

Peace be upon those who follow the guidance,

Indeed, I’m a trustworthy adviser to you. I invite you to the happiness of this world and the hereafter and to escape your dry, miserable, materialistic life that is without soul. I invite you to Islam, that calls to follow of the path of Allah alone Who has no partners, the path which calls for justice and forbids oppression and crimes.

Furthermore, I call you to understand the message of the two battles of New York and Washington that came in response to some of your former crimes and know that the one who has started it is the real oppressor. It is clear to everyone who observes the movements of the criminal gang in the White House, these agents of the Jews which are preparing for an attack against Islamic world in order to divide it, without any real opposition by the American people, that you have not learned anything from the two battles.

So I tell you and Allah is Surety over what I say, if America increases or does not reduce the intensity of their aggression, we will respond in an equal manner by the permission of Allah, the Most Magnificent. I swear by Allah that the youth of Islam are preparing for what will fill your hearts with fear and horror and will target the centers of your economy until you restrain from your aggression and enmity or the fastest towards aggression dies.

I ask Allah, the Most Great, to provide us with support from Him – He is Our Protector and the only One capable of that. "O people of the Scripture [Jews and Christians]: Come to a word that is just between us and you, that we worship none but Allah, and that we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords besides Allah. Then, if they turn away, say: "Bear witness that we are Muslims." (3:64) 

Osama bin Mohammed bin Laden
FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

18 OCT 2003 OBL ADDRESS TO AMERICANS – TRANSLATION

• It is unknown if the below translation covers the entire statement. It is based off of what was aired on al-Jazeera, which frequently does not air messages in their entirety.

The American people regarding your aggression on Iraq, I greet those that follow the guidance of God. O American people, some people pictured you as a great people. It turned out that most of you are riffraff who do not have any share in great ethics. You elect the evildoers from among you who tell many lies and are impolite. You are being enslaved by those who have the most money, the most influential ones, and those who have the strongest news media, particularly the Jews, who are dragging you behind them under the ruse of democracy in order to support the Israelis and their schemes and hostility to our religion and at the expense of our blood and land, as well as at the expense of your blood and economy. Events have proven this. The fact that you were driven to the Iraqi war, in which you have no interest whatsoever, is evidence of this. Bush came with his hard-booted, hard-hearted gang. This gang is a huge evil to all humanity, its blood, money, environment and morality. They came to deal strong and consecutive blows to honesty that is the basis of morality, each from the position he holds, until they professionally rendered it dead before the world. With this behavior of theirs, they encouraged hypocrisy, corrupted people, and spread political bribery at the level of heads of state with no shame. This gang and their leader do not find anything wrong with lying, war, theft and robbery if it serves their personal greed. Their fangs drip blood from the corpses of the children of Vietnam and Somalia and the children of Afghanistan and Iraq. They did not care about you, went behind your backs, invaded Iraq once again, and lied to you and the whole world. It has been said: a nation's strength is in its morality; if the morality of the people of any nation were to deteriorate they would cease to exist. Bush has pushed your children into the mouth of the lion so that they will slaughter others and be slaughtered, claiming that this is in defense of international peace and America. In so doing, he hides the true motive. On the one hand, he implements the demands of the Zionist lobby, which helped him enter the White House, to destroy the military power of Iraq, which neighbors the Jews in occupied Palestine. In so doing, he shows absolute indifference to the repercussions on your blood and economy. On the other hand, he conceals his own greed and the ambitions of this lobby in Iraq and its oil. He is still thinking in the mentality of his ancestors who used to kill the red Indians to...
seize their lands and loot their wealth. He thought that the matter would be easy spoils and a short trip that would not end in failure. However, God had those lions waiting for him in Baghdad, the home of the Islamic caliphate, the lions of the desert who believe that the taste of death in their mouths is better than honey. They, praised be God, turned his gains into losses and his joy into sorrow. Bush is now like the one who would be pleased to relinquish the spoils if he were to come back safe. Praised be God who uncovered his lies and exposed his motives and brought more calamities to you under his rule. I tell Bush that appealing for help from the world around you and begging for mercenary soldiers from everywhere, even from the small countries, has shattered your pride, insulted your prestige, and exposed your powerlessness after you used to defend the world in its entirety. You are now like the one who used to defend people with his own sword, but now looks for others to defend him. Let the unjust ones know that we maintain our right to respond, at the appropriate time and place, to all the states that are taking part in this unjust war, particularly Britain, Spain, Australia, Poland, Japan and Italy. The Islamic world's states that are taking part in this war, particularly the Gulf states, mainly Kuwait, the land base for the crusader forces, will not be excluded from this. I also tell the US soldiers in Iraq: After the daylight has emerged and the biggest liar and his true nature has been exposed, your continued presence in Iraq is compound injustice and a great folly. You are selling your life for the sake of others. So, your blood is being shed in order to increase the assets of the White House's gang and their partners of the arms dealers and owners of the conniving big companies. The most stupid person is the one who sells his life for the sake of others. Concluding, I tell the American people: God willing, we will continue to fight you. We will continue the martyrdom operations inside and outside the United States until you end your injustice, abandon your stupidity and curb your insolent fellows. You should know that we count our killed ones, may God have mercy on their souls, particularly those killed in Palestine at the hands of your allies, the Jews. So, we will punish you for them, God willing, just as what happened during the New York day punished you. Just remember what I told you at the time about our security and your security. As for Baghdad, the caliphate house, God willing, you will never take it. We will fight you as long as we have weapons in our hands, and if these weapons fall, our sons will pick them up. Let our mothers be bereaved of us if we leave any friar of you on our land. How can a person sleep when his main concern is to remove injustice? You will never be able to take Baghdad as long as there is a sword in our hand.
We fight those who fight us and chop their heads with our swords. There will be no peace until infidelity is defeated. God suffices us, and He is our supporter, and you do not have any supporter.
Praise be to Allah who created the creation for his worship and commanded them to be just and permitted the wronged one to retaliate against the oppressor in kind. To proceed: Peace be upon he who follows the guidance: People of America this talk of mine is for you and concerns the ideal way to prevent another Manhattan, and deals with the war and its causes and results.

Before I begin, I say to you that security is an indispensable pillar of human life and that free men do not forfeit their security, contrary to Bush's claim that we hate freedom. If so, then let him explain to us why we don't strike for example – Sweden? And we know that freedom-haters don't possess defiant spirits like those of the 19 – may Allah have mercy on them.

No, we fight because we are free men who don't sleep under oppression. We want to restore freedom to our nation, just as you lay waste to our nation. So shall we lay waste to yours.

No one except a dumb thief plays with the security of others and then makes himself believe he will be secure. Whereas thinking people, when disaster strikes, make it their priority to look for its causes, in order to prevent it happening again.

But I am amazed at you. Even though we are in the fourth year after the events of September 11th, Bush is still engaged in distortion, deception and hiding from you the real causes. And thus, the reasons are still there for a repeat of what occurred.

So I shall talk to you about the story behind those events and shall tell you truthfully about the moments in which the decision was taken, for you to consider.

I say to you, Allah knows that it had never occurred to us to strike the towers. But after it became unbearable and we witnessed the oppression and tyranny of the American/Israeli coalition against our people in Palestine and Lebanon, it came to my mind.
The events that affected my soul in a direct way started in 1982 when America permitted the Israelis to invade Lebanon and the American Sixth Fleet helped them in that. This bombardment began and many were killed and injured and others were terrorized and displaced.

I couldn't forget those moving scenes, blood and severed limbs, women and children sprawled everywhere. Houses destroyed along with their occupants and high rises demolished over their residents, rockets raining down on our home without mercy.

The situation was like a crocodile meeting a helpless child, powerless except for his screams. Does the crocodile understand a conversation that doesn't include a weapon? And the whole world saw and heard but it didn't respond.

In those difficult moments many hard-to-describe ideas bubbled in my soul, but in the end they produced an intense feeling of rejection of tyranny, and gave birth to a strong resolve to punish the oppressors.

And as I looked at those demolished towers in Lebanon, it entered my mind that we should punish the oppressor in kind and that we should destroy towers in America in order that they taste some of what we tasted and so that they be deterred from killing our women and children.

And that day, it was confirmed to me that oppression and the intentional killing of innocent women and children is a deliberate American policy. Destruction is freedom and democracy, while resistance is terrorism and intolerance.

This means the oppressing and embargoing to death of millions as Bush Sr. did in Iraq in the greatest mass slaughter of children mankind has ever known, and it means the throwing of millions of pounds of bombs and explosives at millions of children – also in Iraq – as Bush Jr. Did, in order to remove an old agent and replace him with a new puppet to assist in the pilfering of Iraq's oil and other outrages.
So with these images and their like as their background, the events of September 11th came as a reply to those great wrongs, should a man be blamed for defending his sanctuary?

Is defending oneself and punishing the aggressor in kind, objectionable terrorism? If it is such, then it is unavoidable for us.

This is the message which I sought to communicate to you in word and deed, repeatedly, for years before September 11th.

And you can read this, if you wish, in my interview with Scott in Time Magazine in 1996, or with Peter Arnett on CNN in 1997, or my meeting with John Weiner in 1998.

You can observe it practically, if you wish, in Kenya and Tanzania and in Aden. And you can read it in my interview with Abdul Bari Atwan, as well as my interviews with Robert Fisk.

The latter is one of your compatriots and co-religionists and I consider him to be neutral. So are the pretenders of freedom at The White House and the channels controlled by them able to run an interview with him? So that he may relay to the American people what he has understood from us to be the reasons for our fight against you?

If you were to avoid these reasons, you will have taken the correct path that will lead America to the security that it was in before September 11th. This concerned the causes of the war.

As for its results, they have been, by the grace of Allah, positive and enormous, and have, by all standards, exceeded all expectations. This is due to many factors, chief amongst them, that we haven’t found it difficult to deal with the Bush administration in light of the resemblance it bears to the regimes in our countries, half of which are ruled by the military and the other half which are ruled by the sons of kings and presidents.
Our experience with them is lengthy, and both types are replete with those who are characterized by pride, arrogance, greed and misappropriation of wealth. This resemblance began after the visits of Bush Sr. to the region.

At a time when some of our compatriots were dazzled by America and hoping that these visits would have an effect on our countries, all of a sudden he was affected by those monarchies and military regimes, and became envious of their remaining decades in their positions, to embezzle the public wealth of the nation without supervision or accounting.

So he took dictatorship and suppression of freedoms to his son and they named it the Patriot Act, under the pretense of fighting terrorism. In addition, Bush sanctioned the installing of sons as state governors, and didn't forget to import expertise in election fraud from the region's presidents to Florida to be made use of in moments of difficulty.

All that we have mentioned has made it easy for us to provoke and bait this administration. All that we have to do is to send two mujahideen to the furthest point East to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al-Qaeda, in order to make the generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic, and political losses without their achieving for it anything of note other than some benefits for their private companies.

This is in addition to our having experience in using guerrilla warfare and the war of attrition to fight tyrannical superpowers, as we, alongside the mujahideen, bled Russia for 10 years, until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat.

All Praise is due to Allah.

So we are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy. Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah.

That being said, those who say that al-Qaeda has won against the administration in the White House or that the administration has lost in this war have not been precise, because when one scrutinizes the results, one cannot say that al-Qaeda is the sole factor in achieving those spectacular gains.
Rather, the policy of the White House that demands the opening of war fronts to keep busy their various corporations – whether they be working in the field of arms or oil or reconstruction – has helped al-Qaeda to achieve these enormous results.

And so it has appeared to some analysts and diplomats that the White House and us are playing as one team towards the economic goals of the United States, even if the intentions differ.

And it was to these sorts of notions and their like that the British diplomat and others were referring in their lectures at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. (When they pointed out that) for example, al-Qaeda spent $500,000 on the event, while America, in the incident and its aftermath, lost – according to the lowest estimate – more than 500 billion dollars.

Meaning that every dollar of al-Qaeda defeated a million dollars by the permission of Allah, besides the loss of a huge number of jobs.

As for the size of the economic deficit, it has reached record astronomical numbers estimated to total more than a trillion dollars.

And even more dangerous and bitter for America is that the mujahideen recently forced Bush to resort to emergency funds to continue the fight in Afghanistan and Iraq, which is evidence of the success of the bleed-until-bankruptcy plan – with Allah's permission.

It is true that this shows that al-Qaeda has gained, but on the other hand, it shows that the Bush administration has also gained, something of which anyone who looks at the size of the contracts acquired by the shady Bush administration-linked mega-corporations, like Halliburton and its kind, will be convinced. And it all shows that the real loser is...you.

It is the American people and their economy. And for the record, we had agreed with the Commander-General Mohammed Atta, Allah have mercy on him, that all the operations should be carried out within 20 minutes, before Bush and his administration notice.
It never occurred to us that the commander-in-chief of the American armed forces would abandon 50,000 of his citizens in the twin towers to face those great horrors alone, the time when they most needed him.

But because it seemed to him that occupying himself by talking to the little girl about the goat and its butting was more important than occupying himself with the planes and their butting of the skyscrapers. We were given three times the period required to execute the operations – All Praise is Due to Allah.

And it's no secret to you that the thinkers and perceptive ones from among the Americans warned Bush before the war and told him, "All that you want for securing America and removing the weapons of mass destruction – assuming they exist – is available to you, and the nations of the world are with you in the inspections, and it is in the interest of America that it not be thrust into an unjustified war with an unknown outcome."

But the darkness of the black gold blurred his vision and insight, and he gave priority to private interests over the public interests of America.

So the war went ahead, the death toll rose, the American economy bled, and Bush became embroiled in the swamps of Iraq that threaten his future. He fits the saying, "Like the naughty she-goat who used her hoof to dig up a knife from under the earth."

So I say to you, over 15,000 of our people have been killed and tens of thousands injured, while more than a thousand of you have been killed and more than 10,000 injured. And Bush's hands are stained with the blood of all those killed from both sides, all for the sake of oil and keeping their private companies in business.

Be aware that it is the nation who punishes the weak man when he causes the killing of one of its citizens for money, while letting the powerful one get off, when he causes the killing of more than 1,000 of its sons, also for money.
And the same goes for your allies in Palestine. They terrorize the women and children, and kill and capture the men as they lie sleeping with their families on the mattresses, that you may recall that for every action, there is a reaction.

Finally, it behooves you to reflect on the last wills and testaments of the thousands who left you on the 11th as they gestured in despair. They are important testaments, which should be studied and researched.

Among the most important of what I read in them was some prose in their gestures before the collapse, where they say, "How mistaken we were to have allowed the White House to implement its aggressive foreign policies against the weak without supervision." It is as if they were telling you, the people of America, "Hold to account those who have caused us to be killed, and happy is he who learns from others' mistakes," And among that which I read in their gestures is a verse of poetry, "Injustice chases its people, and how unhealthy the bed of tyranny."

As has been said, "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

And know that, "It is better to return to the truth than persist in error." And that the wise man doesn't squander his security, wealth and children for the sake of the liar in the White House.

In conclusion, I tell you in truth, that your security is not in the hands of Kerry, nor Bush, nor al-Qaeda.

No.

Your security is in your own hands. And every state that doesn't play with our security has automatically guaranteed its own security.

And Allah is our Guardian and Helper, while you have no Guardian or Helper. All Peace be Upon he who follows the Guidance.
15 APR 2004 OBL ADDRESS TO EUROPEANS – FULL TRANSLATION

Praise be to Almighty God; Peace and prayers be upon our Prophet Mohammed, his family, and companions.

This is a message to our neighbors north of the Mediterranean, containing a reconciliation initiative as a response to their positive reactions.

Praise be to God; praise be to God; praise be to God who created heaven and earth with justice and who allowed the oppressed to punish the oppressor in the same way.

Peace upon those who followed the right path:

In my hands there is a message to remind you that justice is a duty towards those whom you love and those whom you do not. And people's rights will not be harmed if the opponent speaks out about them.

The greatest rule of safety is justice, and stopping injustice and aggression. It was said: Oppression kills the oppressors and the hotbed of injustice is evil. The situation in occupied Palestine is an example. What happened on 11 September and 11 March is your commodity that was returned to you.

It is known that security is a pressing necessity for all mankind. We do not agree that you should monopolize it only for yourselves. Also, vigilant people do not allow their politicians to tamper with their security.

Having said this, we would like to inform you that labeling us and our acts as terrorism is also a description of you and of your acts. Reaction comes at the same level as the original action. Our acts are reaction to your own acts, which are represented by the destruction and killing of our kinfolk in Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine.

The act that horrified the world; that is, the killing of the old, handicapped Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, may God have mercy on him, is sufficient evidence.
We pledge to God that we will punish America for him, God willing.

Which religion considers your killed ones innocent and our killed ones worthless? And which principle considers your blood real blood and our blood water? Reciprocal treatment is fair and the one who starts injustice bears greater blame.

As for your politicians and those who have followed their path, who insist on ignoring the real problem of occupying the entirety of Palestine and exaggerate lies and falsification regarding our right in defense and resistance, they do not respect themselves.

They also disdain the blood and minds of peoples. This is because their falsification increases the shedding of your blood instead of sparing it.

Moreover, the examining of the developments that have been taking place, in terms of killings in our countries and your countries, will make clear an important fact; namely, that injustice is inflicted on us and on you by your politicians, who send your sons - although you are opposed to this - to our countries to kill and be killed.

Therefore, it is in both sides' interest to curb the plans of those who shed the blood of peoples for their narrow personal interest and subservience to the White House gang.

We must take into consideration that this war brings billions of dollars in profit to the major companies, whether it be those that produce weapons or those that contribute to reconstruction, such as the Halliburton Company, its sisters and daughters.

Based on this, it is very clear who is the one benefiting from igniting this war and from the shedding of blood. It is the warlords, the bloodsuckers, who are steering the world policy from behind a curtain.

As for President Bush, the leaders who are revolving in his orbit, the leading media companies and the United Nations, which makes laws for relations between the masters of veto and the slaves of the General Assembly, these are only some of the tools used to deceive and exploit peoples.
All these pose a fatal threat to the whole world.

The Zionist lobby is one of the most dangerous and most difficult figures of this group. God willing, we are determined to fight them.

Based on the above, and in order to deny war merchants a chance and in response to the positive interaction shown by recent events and opinion polls, which indicate that most European peoples want peace, I ask honest people, especially ulema, preachers and merchants, to form a permanent committee to enlighten European peoples of the justice of our causes, above all Palestine. They can make use of the huge potential of the media.

I also offer a peace initiative to them, whose essence is our commitment to stopping operations against every country that commits itself to not attacking Muslims or interfering in their affairs - including the US conspiracy on the greater Muslim world.

This peace can be renewed once the period signed by the first government expires and a second government is formed with the consent of both parties.

The peace will start with the departure of its last soldier from our country.

The door of peace is open for three months of the date of announcing this statement.

For those who reject peace and want war, we are ready.

As for those who want peace, we have given them a chance. Stop shedding our blood so as to preserve your blood. It is in your hands to apply this easy, yet difficult, formula. You know that the situation will expand and increase if you delay things.

If this happens, do not blame us - blame yourselves.

A rational person does not relinquish his security, money and children to please the liar of the White House.
Had he been truthful about his claim for peace, he would not describe the person who ripped open pregnant women in Sabra and Shatila and the destroyer of the capitulation process as a man of peace.

He also would not have lied to people and said that we hate freedom and kill for the sake of killing. Reality proves our truthfulness and his lie.

The killing of the Russians was after their invasion of Afghanistan and Chechnya; the killing of Europeans was after their invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan; and the killing of Americans on the day of New York was after their support of the Jews in Palestine and their invasion of the Arabian Peninsula.

Also, killing them in Somalia was after their invasion of it in Operation Restore Hope. We made them leave without hope, praise be to God.

It is said that prevention is better than cure. A happy person is he who learns a lesson from the experience of others.

Heeding right is better than persisting in falsehood.

Peace be upon those who follow guidance.