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Title: Declaration of Jihad against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holiest Sites

Author: Osama bin Laden

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## **Synopsis**

The document is a declaration of jihad against the US and Saudi Arabia in response to the actions of the US and the Saudi governments.

## **Key Themes**

Osama bin Laden declares war against the US and Saudi Arabia. Muslims have been oppressed everywhere, and prevented from defending themselves. The occupation of Saudi Arabia by the Americans is the worst case of this. Al-Qaida has been hunted across the world, and many clerics have been killed on US orders. This has led to a long absence by al-Qa'ida, but now it has found a safe haven. The group is looking for ways to reform Islam, especially in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia is ready to explode. Its economic decline is divine punishment for ignoring shari'a and allowing the US to occupy Saudi Arabia. During the Gulf War, calls for reform in Saudi Arabia were ignored. Instead, the media are a tool of the regime, and corruption and human rights abuses are rampant. The government has presided over the decline of the country's economy, infrastructure, and social services. Scholars asked for consultation, and the application of Islam, but these calls were rejected. Instead, a US-Jewish alliance turned Saudi Arabia into a pawn, and crushed reform in Muslim countries. Bin Laden quotes Ibn Tamimah, who says that driving the US out of Saudi Arabia is the number one priority. Bin Laden warns against civil war. The consequences are terrible: human fatalities, damage to the economy and infrastructure, and destruction of the oil industry. The oil wealth must be protected for the sake of the world economy. There is also a danger that Israel might annex the northern part of Saudi Arabia. A civil war would also allow the US to win the war on behalf of international atheists.

Bin Laden addresses the Saudi security forces. He understands their motives are pure but the Saudi government has inverted them. In an act of betrayal, the government allowed the US (including female soldiers) into the country. Any reasons justifying the US' continued presence are out of date. What the US really wanted was occupation. The Saudi regime has a long history of betrayal. King Aziz' betrayal led to the loss of Al-Aqsa, and the son continues that pattern. He lied about the length of time the US would be in Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi military protected US forces. The imbalance between the two sides requires a guerrilla war. Bin Laden thus asks for support from the Saudi security forces, and calls for a boycott of US goods. The combination of a boycott and mujahidin attacks will help defeat the enemy. He also calls for support from young Muslims.

The US says that it does not give in to terrorists, but it has already shown its weakness and powerlessness by its actions in Beirut in 1983 and in Somalia in 1993. Muslims are fighting their enemies around the world, and they love death as much as Americans love life. The mujahidin will fight as long as they are still alive. Terrorizing the US is legitimate, and the main problem is how to restrain youths in their zeal to fight. The youth hold the US responsible for the deaths of Iraqi children through sanctions. It is honorable to die for Allah; thus, the Riyadh bombers (of Khobar Towers in 1996) were heroic.

Bin Laden closes the declaration by addressing Muslims, and asking for their help in praying to God for the defeat of their enemies.