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Title: Notes from Abd al-Hadi

Author: Abd Al Hadi

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Synopsis

Abd Al Hadi emphasizes the importance of cooperation with the Taliban, but lays out a plan to support foreign mujahideen in Afghanistan in case the Taliban fall through.

Key Themes

Abd Al Hadi discusses how to navigate the relationship with the Taliban. Too much criticism of the Taliban means they are no longer true partners, and only distrust exists between the two groups. He denounces those who criticize the Taliban, even after the Taliban have provided so much to al-Qaeda. He has faced much criticism from members in recent years about the leadership, and senses a lot of distrust between the two levels. He suggests, in the face of complaints about the group having nowhere to go, that they should open doors to Chechnya, and send people there.

One of the problems for many of the fighters is that their military training is not balanced. Fighting in Afghanistan is useful for rectifying the situation. Currently, al-Qaeda's policy is to stay on defense, rather than going on the offense. This has pros and cons. The author also emphasizes the importance of training and correct leadership.

Abd Al Hadi makes a number of suggestions. He advises that al-Qaeda should take care of mujahidin from the moment they enter Afghanistan, and institute a future-oriented training program. He also suggests introducing a governance system for the Taliban regime that will improve its abilities, but not render it independent of al-Qaeda [presumably]. More specifically, the author suggests setting up a support system for the mujahideen in the rear, especially in case the Taliban abandon them. Abd Al Hadi appears to support assisting the Taliban when possible, and coordinating with them, but maintaining some form of insurance for the mujahideen. There are difficulties in getting weapons and ammunition through the Taliban which need to be resolved. In general, Abd Al Hadi wants to maintain good relations with the Taliban, based on his four years in Afghanistan, but he is prepared to kill any Taliban fighters who run.