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Title: Bin Laden and Farouq Letters

Author: Usama bin Laden, Abderraouf Jdey (Farouq; Abd al-Raouf al-Tunisi)

Synopsis

A collection of three letters written by senior al-Qa'ida leaders taking up 8 pages of a 60 page document. The first letter, written by Usama bin Laden, explains his stance towards the ruling Saudi regime. The second and third letters, written by Abderraouf Jdey (Farouq al-Tunisi), call the reader to participate in jihad and illustrate the un-Islamic nature of the Western world.

Key Themes

Letter 1:

Bin Laden's letter to Sheik Abd al-Raheem al-Tahane addresses the recipient's comments from a previous letter regarding the legitimacy of the ruling regime in Saudi Arabia. Bin Laden acknowledges the Saudi government's appearance of legitimacy. However, he states that the regime has been generally successful in deceiving and misleading the nation with this false image.

Bin Laden then describes efforts made by al-Qa'ida to contact influential religious figures within Saudi Arabia in order to determine what should be done about what he calls the ruling "secular" regime. He also notes that contrary to popular opinion, which holds that al-Qa'ida and bin Laden are seeking revenge for oppression, the aggressive Saudi reaction to al-Qa'ida is retaliation to attempts first made by al-Qa'ida's to legally expose the regime and bring about its downfall.

Letter 2:

Abderraouf Jdey's first letter is a personal testimony intended to illustrate the evil nature and injustice of non-Islamic international political and economic systems as well as to inspire his audience with his personal experience and conviction. After briefly describing his unsuccessful attempts to gain employment and successful educational endeavors while living in Canada he describes the political situation in his native Tunisia. According to Jdey, Western policies implemented by the French during the colonial era left Tunisia underdeveloped and poor. After independence Western educated Arab politicians continued to implement harmful policies at the expense of the Muslim population. He considers these Western educated Arab leaders to be proxies of the Jews and Crusaders used to plunder the riches of the Muslim world. Then he goes on to add that the political models used by the corrupt Arab leaders are the source of the degradation of moral and spiritual values and the cause of economic crises, wars and general human suffering.

Despite the power and influence of the Western educated Arabs Jdey tells his reader that he was able to see the unjust foreign political systems for what they are. Through study of the Quran, he claims, he discovered the true nature of man and the universe and urges the recipients of his letter to do the same.

Letter 3:

Abderraouf Jdey's second letter, written on December 8, 1999, attempts to inspire the audience to maintain their faith and continue the jihad. The letter devotes considerable space blaming a pantheon of scapegoats including American, the United Nations, Jews, Crusaders and secular Arab leaders for the ills of Muslim society.

He concludes his letter with a call to jihad claiming victory is assured if the mujahidin persist in their struggle. According to Jdey the mere mention of the word "jihad" strikes fear in the hearts of the enemies. After a quote intended to foment violence against the enemy Jdey implies that the Muslim world is oppressed because the people have forsaken their duty to jihad but the enemies can be defeated and the ills of the world eradicated if Muslims will devote themselves to the cause of jihad.