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In the name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Praise the Lord Who united the hearts of His faithful servants and peace and prayers to whom He sent to teach good manners as well as to the brave advocates [of religion].

To my honorable dear brothers and sheikhs, peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

I was very happy to receive your two noble letters

This is how communication should be among brothers in Islam and especially in our current situation whereas infidels are united against the believers in God who are divided, fragmented, and involved in conspiracies. They came to us despite their faith differences, methodologies, thoughts and goals, and we confronted them with united faith, thoughts, methodologies, and means. However, they became united, while we became divided, they achieved coalescence and embraced one another, while we fought one another, they were united against every one else, and while we became united against ourselves. Our honorable shaykhs, this is the real present situation,.

Dear honorable and beloved brothers in Islam,

God be my witness that we hoped to receive a piece of paper from you. I was very anxious to stay in touch and to sit with you. At least you are from the same school [TC: school of thought] that I belong to. I used to hear a lot about your viewpoints and thoughts especially when we were in Afghanistan. I remember that one day, early in the morning, Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri received a letter from Kurdistan area announcing the formation of a new group by the name of Ansar al-Islam and asking for financial and moral assistance. He [TC: Ayman] was very happy to hear the news, may God protect him, and he said, "Thank God, notwithstanding our tight situation, we cannot but support our brothers and be with them against those apostates". This was during his capacity as an emir, may God protect him, in the Egyptian jihad group. We received afterwards that

you do not only adopt but also talk proudly that your doctrine is the doctrine of the Egyptian Jihad doctrine. We can at least prove that you were teaching chieftainship and considering it a doctrine for your group. I learned that (Sayyid Qutb's father) translated it [TC: chieftainship] to Kurdish. You must know who this person is. This and others made me love this formation [TC: group].

Then, I came to Baghdad before its downfall and I was in-touch with you through a middleman and we did what we could. Our brother and comrade, 'Abd al-Hadi, was the emir of our brothers at your end and before that the emir used to be Abu-'Abd al-Rahman who is also a long-time comrade and a friend among those who established your group at that time. Then and after Baghdad's downfall and your return, I was the first to come and greet you.

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Not [TC: word not clear] but from the Shurah council group such as 'Abd al-Hamid and Quds.

The humble servant is the one who rented a house for them to live in and I was the one who used to drive them around in my private car.

I was later surprised to know that after all what I have done, that there will be someone who would even think that I hold hatred and disgust in my heart. I do not know what happened and my heart is full of love and still is.

After the death of the lion of al-Islam, Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, may God have mercy on his soul, his responsibilities were assigned to me. I expected at that time to receive from you a letter of condolence and to assist me in going through this hardship. I was hoping that you can use the many means of communications, which you know, to contact me, but unfortunately, this did not happen. Therefore, I started with all available means and methods to try to contact you. I even sent a letter to your emir, may God protect him, and explained to him my anguish in this matter.

Most importantly, I was surprised since you are men of knowledge and judicial authority, to receive from you this type of unjustified accusations. I deeply regret your threat letter stating that you will booby trap and do other things if we do not reply within a week.

I will not respond to such words. I think that someone filled your heart with so much hatred against your brother that led you to send a letter like this.

This was the first letter I received from you in which you have accused us [TC: me] with poor faith and values as you made a reference to the promise [by God] for harsh punishment for killing [TC: innocent persons]. You added, "The problem is not in memorizing the text rather in understanding the evidence."

Then the surprising introduction of your letter came since your letter was addressed to the Emir of al-Qa'ida Organization – the Islamic State of Iraq.

My dear friends,

Originally, you were under the banner of Ansar al-Islam and have changed to Ansar al-Sunnah. Do you like us to address you by your first name having in mind that you

moved from one group to another without any known additional formations affiliated with you?

Our situation is different since as you very well know that the state is a collection of groups, assemblies, and individuals although you insist on what the enemies insist on and concur [TC: with them] on the same point, why?

If you say that you are indeed al-Qa'ida and not a state, I say: I swear to God, we have never lied to you, we do not lie to people, and above all, we do not lie to God. O servants of God, we are not liars and we were never known to be as such, thank God. I swear I never remember since I grew hair on my face other than being a son of Islam and the owner [TC: organizer] of a jihad movement. I have been on this road for about twenty years, and [TC: is it possible] to lie after all of that knowing that death is closer to any of us than his shoelaces. Thus, won't you, our honorable shaykhs, pray for God's protection [TC: when you write] to us?

Then you mentioned, and it was the justifying evidence at the time, then why did not you join the Shura council, while before the council the Shari'a group in Iraq [TC: the only organization in Iraq] was al-Qa'ida Organization and a prerequisite for joining the organization is pledging allegiance to the Muhajirin in Jama'at al-Tawhid wa al-Jihad [TC: Monotheism and Jihad Group]. Of course, we do not deny you this claim, but then how many immune [TC: innocent] people we have killed when we were under the banner al-Qa'ida, may it live long and powerful. You or many of you at least, many of your individuals – I can bring, if you want to, many who can testify on the truth of what I am saying regarding your claim that you are al-Qa'ida, and many of you, even your emirs 'nowadays we are killing for the sake of entering [TC: joining the organization].

You mentioned Shari'a evidences that it is all right to have two imams for the people in two different countries even if this is in conflict with the consensus opinion [TC: of Muslim scholars] of having one caliph. We are not disputing your vision, and so if you are right, and I believe that you want to find out. Or if you like, we can stand together on a common Shari'a ground and make the Shar' [TC: the Islamic law] the final judge, then you are most welcome. Come in and sit with your brothers in the ministry of Shari'a staffs, and I hereby say it in advance, may God be my witness, that I will go along with the Sharia's judgment whatever turn it makes. I can speak only for myself. I have pledged allegiance to an emir and put my soldiers under his jurisdiction although I am a minister of war in this blessed state.

You said in your noble letter (we used to see falsifying facts, for example, if we sit to solve a problem, you publish the news that the mujahidin are meeting to discuss the unity of the two groups while some psychological and personal disputes are facing us.!?)

To my knowledge such rumors were issued from your side, and also witnesses [can confirm this]. However, at least it does not bother me who was spreading these rumors.

Does it upset you if someone says we want to unite, but will upset you to hear that we are fighting each other.

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Is it not spreading consensus among the soldiers the basic principle, and is not your Shaykh and mine, the chief and scholar of the mujahidin in this era, the one who issued a fatwa making it illegal to have more than one jihad group in one country? He also issued another fatwa that calls for joining the most senior group.

Beloved brothers in Islam,

I repeat it today once more and many more times, come over and let us be united against the others, and you may put any condition that you like and we will never refute any condition unless it violates the Shari'a and the Qur'an.

Let God be our witness that we faithfully believe by heart and soul that you, soldiers and emirs, are the closest people to us. We do not hide this at all neither from our soldiers or from any one else. Then why do we stay apart and divided.

Beloved brothers in Islam, we say it from the bottom of our hearts since we do not need nowadays to coax you and use flowery speech. However, this is religion and what upsets us, let God be my witness, is that we felt from your letter to us that you mistrust us. As for the problems that you have mentioned in your first and second letters, with respect to the first letter we examined the situation and found out that the matter is not exactly as you mentioned. I swear if the matter was as you mentioned, I swear to God I will revenge for you, and if I failed to do so, I will tie myself to a pole and surrender my blood to you until God issues his decree on me and enter hellfire for any drop of blood that was shed illegally [TC: that I illegally killed].

Relax and have peace of mind because you have chosen but a person who loves you and wishes you well.

Note:

This letter is handwritten, not typed, for honoring our brothers and highly appreciating them. They are highly regarded to be addressed by a typed letter.

We apologize for any mistakes in this letter because it was spontaneous and fast for its importance.

Thou art exalted and praised!  
And Peace be upon you

Your brother,  
Abu Hamzah al-Muhajir