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Partial Translation (pages 1 & 2)
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Document Summary: This document consists of (8) pages of which pages (4, 6 & 7) are blank. The following is a translation of pages (1 & 2) which contain a statement explaining the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Brother Abi Tareq issued by the Islamic Jihad movement; and denouncing this horrible incident and at the same time clearing itself from any wrong doing.

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In the name of Allah the Merciful the Compassionate

Praise to God; Peace and blessing of God upon his Prophet.

An explanatory statement concerning circumstances surrounding the assassination of brother “Abi Tarek”

In a brief statement dated 12/21/1996; the Jihad movement previously denounced the assassination of Brother Abi Tareq and Sister Zubaidah, may God have mercy on them. This explanatory statement is motivated by the movements desire to clarify the greedy ambition of the wicked circles which committed these actions.

Without a doubt, the popular front has continued to commit crimes, create problems and incite sedition, to cause division among the Eritrean organizations. This is done through assassination incidents executed on leaders of the Eritrean revolution groups. They seized the opportunity and the right timing to carry out their operations. Especially, when differences crop out among the lines of the Eritrean organizations and the struggle reached its peak. We mention the following as an example and not by count:

- The assassination attempt on ‘Abdulla Idris, president of the Eritrean liberation front in Khartoum.
- The assassination attempt on ‘Abd Al-Qader Jailani, president of the Eritrean Liberation Front - the National Council in Kasala.
- The assassination of Mohamoud Hasab in Kasala
- The assassination of Idris Hanqala in Kasala

- The assassination of Sa'eed Saleh in Kasala
- The assassination of 'Uthman 'Ajeeb in Khartoum.

Accusations were exchange among the conflicting Eritrean groups in most of these incidents, and the real perpetrator was not known until after the assassination attempt on Jailani when the perpetrator revealed to the Sudanese authorities then most of the previous assassination crimes and the commissioned networks by the Popular Front.

After the Popular Front seized power in Eritrea; it began to liquidate its rivals from the inside under the cover of suicide, traffic accidents, disappearance and kidnapping. The Popular Front also mobilized all of its capabilities seeking the help of its Taqrai ally army to militarily quell the Jihad movement as it previously did with the Liberation Front. But it failed in front of the steadfastness and continuous strikes of the Mujahideen. In order to cover its failure; it began leveling accusations to Sudan and other Arab countries, attempting to win the sympathy of the world arrogant countries, to obtain their support on one side and hostility against the movement and the neighboring countries on the other.

An attempt by the Aforqi regime to shake the confidence and to create a conflict between the Eritrean people and the movement; he committed several kidnapping and assassination operations in some areas of Eritrea and attributed them to the Mujahdeen. The latest was the Hibro incident when some of the regime's agents throw grenades at one of the popular celebrations at night. This resulted in a number of casualties among the innocent, which Aforqi tried as usual to attribute it to the Mujahdeen. They were exposed after the people followed the tracks of the criminals which lead them to the camp of the popular front adjacent to the site.

Hence, the crusade regime in Eritrea failed in the attempts of rumors war, distortion and division. The movement came out with God's help strong and firm, after winning the confidence of the people inside and outside, and the confidence of its supporters everywhere.

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It has surmounted many difficulties, obstacles, and hardships until it attracted the attention and interest of countries and people in the region because of its steadfastness in confronting the Jewish crusade regime which pause a threat to the security of the region and its people.

In view of all the victories achieved by the movement in all fields, and in view of the political relaxation experienced by the Eritrean opposition in Sudan; the Popular Front surprises us with the assassination of Brother “Abi Tareq ‘Omar Mohammed Taidarous” and sister “Zubaidah” may God have mercy on them. This incident is considered one of the conspiracy series targeting the Eritrean Jihad in particular and Eritrean opposition in general from several aspects such as:

- 1- To strain the relation between Sudan and the Eritrean opposition since the incident was committed on Sudanese soil and in an atmosphere of security tension prevailing in the region.
- 2- To offend the Jihad movement since the incident was committed while some problems existed prior to the incident. It is meant to give the impression that it is a result of these problems and to be exploited by anyone intending to harm the movement by circulating accusations.
- 3- To damage the movement reputation abroad and create confusion about it during specific occasions, especially with the presence of trouble makers at the beginning of such occasions. The timing coincided with the beginning of the month of Ramadan being an occasion of increased movement activity abroad in order to obtain support and aid.
- 4- Obstructing the movement’s Da’wa (call to Islam) and political mobilization activities which swept the Eritrean population in Eastern Sudan following the political relaxation experienced by the Eritrean opposition during the past weeks.

These were some of the objectives behind the assassinations. The Eritrean Islamic Jihad movement denounces this horrible incident and reiterates that the movement ideology does not approve of physical liquidation if a conflict occurs. Our ideology in this concern is to initiate dialogue, reconciliation, and reform. The best indicator of this stand are the reconciliation initiatives the movement launched in the past year to contain some problems. In addition, the movement welcomed and responded to all reform initiatives presented by the movement supporters locally and abroad. We also affirm that these methods will not undermine the trust of the Jihad movement supporters that is characterized with moderation and clear ideology.

The march of Da’wa and Jihad which disrupted the enemy’s sleep will not stop God willing, despite their will.

We would like to warn all Eritrean opposition organizations to be cautious of what is being planned against it, although the methods of conspiracies do not deceive anyone.

Finally, we would like to express our condolences to both families of the deceased and pray that Allah will forgive and have mercy on them, and provides their families with patience and consolation. “We all belong to Allah and to Him we shall return”.

The Eritrean Islamic Jihad Movement
General Secretariat
Date: Sha’aban 22, 1417H (January 2, 1997)
Movement Stamp
