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In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Honored brother, Abu Muhammad ((Salah)) (may God preserve you)– peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

I pray to God that you are well, and that He will increase your success.

I hope that all of the brothers are well, in the north and in the Sahara, and that ((Samir)) and all the others are well.

I hope that our previous letters have reached you, and that you were helped in your affairs. Here are some instructions from the leadership, which we pass along to you:

Regarding the French, we propose to you our idea and our plan, after consulting with Shaykh Usamah and receiving instructions from him. The plan, as you can see, involves some work on our part and some work on your part. We must coordinate well. We ask you for all of the important information about them, and about the situation:

We think it best to be patient with these prisoners, and stand by our demands. We have some opportunities to influence them (with God's help) and gain something from it. We think that now we should show these prisoners some of the Wikileaks documents pertaining to the American crimes that have been filmed in Afghanistan and such—anything that would convince them of the oppression of their government. Then, every now and then (every 2-3 months, for example), make a video of one of them for the media, in which he talks about his perceptions (without any coercion). But be careful that anything they say be safe, or more or less safe.

This goes for the men. For the woman, the matter of negotiating for her is secretly referred to our brothers in the Islamic Maghreb. The brothers there have contact with negotiators between them and the French, and negotiation for her is to be done for ransom, since we'd prefer not to detain women. The program of persuasion previously mentioned is conducted with her, in which she is asked to launch a campaign against the French government after she is released. However, her release is at the saying of the negotiator (the middleman between the brothers and the French): if we are given an amount (say 5 million Euros), we will release one hostage. In other words,

without naming which hostage (he or she), and without giving them any right to name the hostage that is released. The right of selection remains with the brothers. When they are given the money they release the woman only (if the woman is the one selected). We have another option, which—if it were to be implemented—would honor us as well as Shaykh ((Abu Yahya)). It is the same thing that we proposed to you before in the case of the Italians, about a year ago—that you negotiate for the release of the woman in exchange for France facilitating the safe travel of ((Umm Yahya)) to Iran. When she arrives with her husband here with us, the female prisoner would immediately be released.

Briefly, regarding the negotiations for the men, we continue to negotiate for the immediate departure from Afghanistan, or at least a French decision to cease combat operations and announce a schedule for the complete withdrawal from Afghanistan.

God willing, we will try from our end here (the center) to communicate with the French. We will talk with them after a statement is released (a new audio recording from Shaykh Usamah) to the French people (God willing, we'll send it about a month from now). If ((Sarkozy)) continues to refuse to negotiate, about a week before the French elections one of the male hostages will be killed. Choose the lowest ranking employee of the company, because of his value and consideration with the French. This might pressure Sarkozy and his government to make the decision to withdraw from Afghanistan in order to secure the lives of the others, so that they are not killed and he loses the elections.

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Now, please—in negotiating for the woman, as we mentioned—of course, these are our suggestions and our general concept of the matter, and in the end you are the ones in the field determining what's possible and what's not, who are close to the situation (God is with you). In other words, if you need to make any adjustments based on your abilities and conditions, it's okay.

The other issue on which the Shaykh has guidance (may God guide him) is that the negotiations for the kidnapped French, the German, and the Brits are political in nature—for their departure from Afghanistan. As for others with European citizenship, the command there (the Islamic Maghreb) is looking at how to deal with them, according to the interest of the mujahidin in the front lines in the Islamic Maghreb.

The Shaykh says: "I would also like to refer the brothers in the Islamic Maghreb to what must be pointed out to the mujahidin in general, which is to focus our military work on the Americans. We warn against the dissipation of effort and the opening of secondary fronts. Also, in sermons and statements applied to the real world, we must ensure—in order to attract the community to stand with us against the worldwide enemy—that we repeatedly state that our greatest enemy is the Americans. However, for the brothers in the Islamic Maghreb and Somalia, we say that any energy that cannot be easily spent on the Americans should be spent during this stage against France, the current leader of Europe, focusing on targeting its embassies and commercial interests in the non-Islamic countries of Africa in order to avoid harming Muslims, also taking care to avoid collateral damage among the crusaders and pagans in general (the civilian masses). If the brothers are absolutely certain that they can conduct very precise operations, with no possibility of incurring Muslim victims, such as kidnappings or the use of gunfire far from people--it's okay to target French interests in this way in the Islamic countries in Africa. We confirm the importance of proficient work and maintaining secrecy and everything else that contributes to the success of the work. Success is with God."

We ask God to grant us and you success and for assistance and guidance. Amen.

Another very special and top secret matter (eyes only you, my brother Abu Muhammad Salah and Samir): it pertains to the problem of the brothers who are with you in their unfortunate celibacy and lack of availability of wives for them in the conditions that have been imposed on them. We pray to God to release them. I wrote to Shaykh/Doctor ((Ayman)), and I consulted with Shaykh ((Abu Yahya)). Dr. Ayman has written us his opinion, and a summary of what we took from it (although this is only initial, not final, and cannot be ultimately relied upon) is this: God is not ashamed of the truth. As we see it, we have no objection to clarifying to the brothers that they may, in such conditions, masturbate, since this is an extreme case. The ancestors approved this for the community. They advised the young men at the time of the conquest to do so. It has also been prescribed by the legists when needed, and there is no doubt that the brothers are in a state of extreme need. However, for those who are not accustomed to such a thing and are ashamed—and the brothers in the Islamic and jihadi movement are not used to it (especially at first)—it may negatively affect his

understanding. Such a practice may also have unnoticed negative side effects. We wanted to reflect some more and research it, and we want to get back to you on it before you say anything about it. Give us your opinion—is it appropriate? Can it be suggested to the brothers? If so, how? Can we consult with your Shari'ah experts and send them a memo containing our initial findings? We would like to know what positive and negative aspects you anticipate in raising this matter. Do you think it can help solve the problem? Or do you think we should avoid proposing it, and rather stick to the recommendation of total patience and seek help through fasting? Or is it appropriate? (etc.)

I ask God to release us from our burdens and yours, and those of the Muslims everywhere, and improve all of us, and forgive us.

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We advise you to be patient and rely on God (God is our Lord and Master).

At this time we are in a severe situation with this war and the espionage in the tribal areas. However, in exchange, the situation in Afghanistan is very promising, and there is significant progress (praise God). Don't forget to pray for us.

Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

Your brother, ((Abu 'Abd-al-Rahman))

7 Muharram 1432/11 December 2010