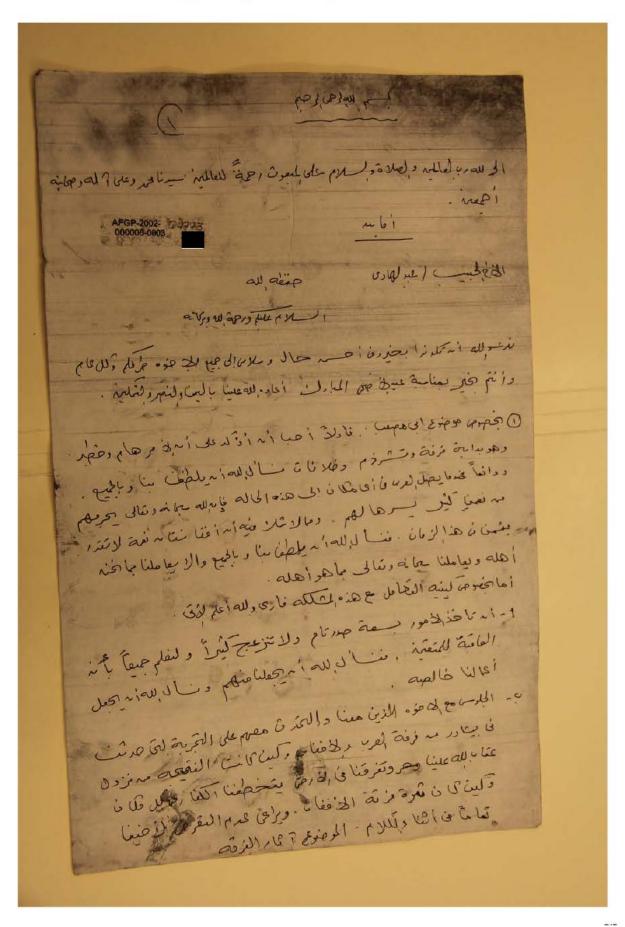
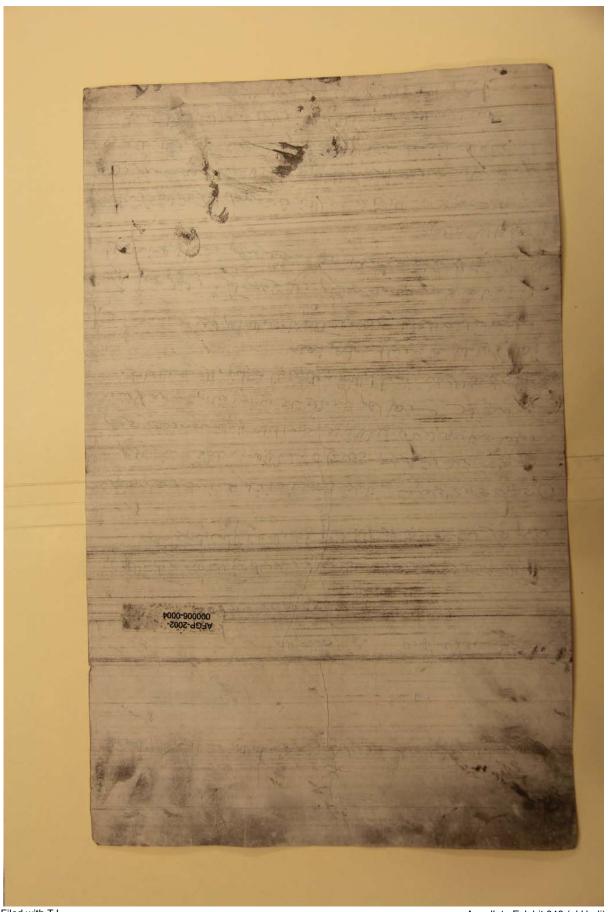
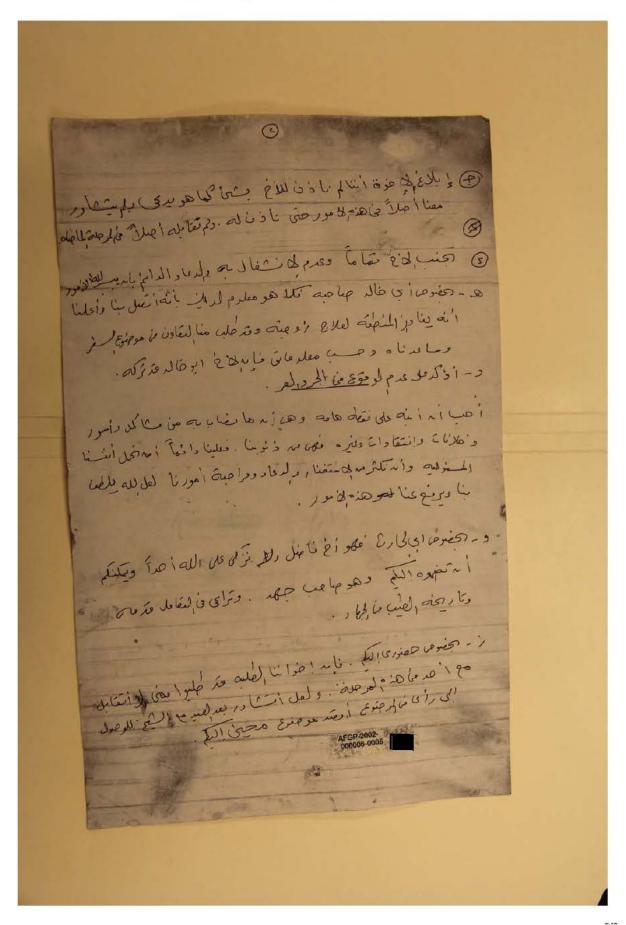


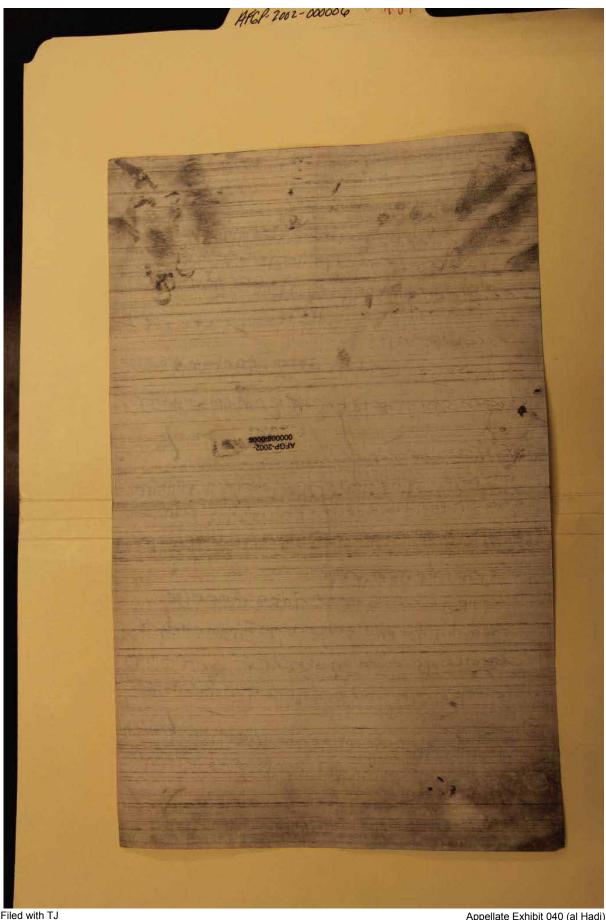
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[TC: Pagination of the English translation reordered to accurately convey Arabic text]

In the name of God, Most Merciful, Most Compassionate (1)

Praise be to Allah, the God of the worlds, and peace and blessings upon the messenger who was sent as mercy to the worlds, our master Muhammad, as well as his family and all of his companions.

Beloved brother 'Abd-al-Hadi, may God protect you.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

We pray to God that you are doing very well and we extend our greetings to all the brothers with you. Happy and blessed al-Adha holiday; may God repeat it upon us with triumph, victory and power.

(1) Regarding the matter of Abu-Mus'ab. First I would like to mention that the issue is important and dangerous. It is the start of division, bickering and disagreement, we ask God to have mercy on us and everyone.

As always, when Arabs, in any place, reach a situation like this, the Almighty God will deprive them of many blessings. There is no doubt that Afghanistan is a great blessing in this day and age. We pray for God's mercy on us and everyone else, and that He deals with us as we deserve to be treated. May He deal with us according to His mercy.

As for how to deal with this issue, I suggest the following (Allah knows best):

- a- To take things in stride, do not get too upset. Let us all remember that the end belongs to the devout. We ask God to make us one of them and make our deeds pure.
- b- Meet with our brothers who supports us, talk to them about what happened in Peshawar regarding the Arab and Afghan groups and how it resulted in the wrath of God descending upon us, and our dispersion in the land that is getting abducted by the infidels everywhere and how severe the division of the Afghan group was. Keep in mind not to interrupt our brother while he is talking. The issue prompted rift.

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(2)

- c- Inform the brethren that we did not authorize the brother for anything despite him claiming so. He did not discuss these issues with us to begin with to give him our permission. Apparently you did not meet with him during the previous stage.
- d- Completely avoid the brother, do not bother with him and continue praying that God will facilitate things.
- e- Regarding his friend Abu-Khalid, as you already know, he called us and mentioned that he will be leaving the area to tend to his wife's treatment. He sought our cooperation regarding his travel. We helped him and, as far as I know brother Abu-Khalid has abandoned him.
- f- I emphasize, avoid back and forth dialogue.

I would like to bring to your attention an important point; what we are plagued with of problems, issues, disagreements, criticism, and the like is of our own fault. We should always take responsibility, seek forgiveness, pray, and evaluate our actions and hope for God's mercy and forgiveness to alleviate these issues.

- g. Regarding he is a good brother and you can enlist him. He is a hard worker. Treat him well and keep in mind his good track record in Jihad.
- h. Regarding my visit to you, our Taliban brethren have asked me not to meet with anyone during this period. I may discuss it with the Sheikh after the Eid holiday and come to a conclusion (I mean the matter of visiting you).

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(3)

- i. Regarding brother Abu-al-Bara', if you recommend him, I would like to meet with him after the Eid holiday.
- j. Regarding Abu-'Abid, I told him to go to you, but he asked me to postpone his visit till after the Eid holiday, so I told him to contact you and to discuss it.

Do not forget to keep us in your prayers during these blessed days.

And ask for much forgiveness.

Give our regards to all of the beloved ones at your end, especially the brother and Sheikh Abu-al-Walid,

Abu-Hafs and everyone else with you.

Your brother Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz



6 Dhu-al-Hijjah1419 [TC: Hijri date corresponding to 24 or 25 March 1999]