



## The Defence of Muslim Lands: The Most Important of Individual Duties (ca. 1985)

‘Abdallāh ‘Azzām

[...]

Whoever can, from among the Arabs, fight jihad in Palestine, then he must start there. And, if he is not capable, then he must set out for Afghanistan. For the rest of the Muslims, I believe they should start their jihad in Afghanistan. It is our opinion that we should begin with Afghanistan before Palestine, not because Afghanistan is more important than Palestine, not at all, Palestine is the foremost Islamic problem. It is the heart of the Islamic world, and it is a blessed land but, there are some reasons which make Afghanistan the starting point.

1 – The battles in Afghanistan are still raging and have reached a level of intensity, the like of which have not been witnessed in the mountain ranges of Hindu Kush, nor in recent Islamic history.

2 – The Islamic flag being raised in Afghanistan is clear and the aim is clear: “to make Allah’s words uppermost”. The second article in the constitution of Itihad Islamy consisting of Afghani Mujahideen is: “The goal of this unification is to bring forth an Islamic state in Afghanistan.” And in the third article it states: “Our goal is taken from the words of the Exalted: “... the command (or the judgment) is for none but Allah ...” The rule is solely for the Lord of the Worlds.”

3 – The Islamists have been the first to take control of the battles in Afghanistan. Those who lead the jihad in Afghanistan are the sons of the Islamic movement, the Ulama and Hafiz of Qur’an. While, in Palestine the leadership has been appropriated by a variety of people, of them sincere Muslims, communists, nationalists and modernist Muslims. Together they have hoisted the banner of a secular state.

---

\* The following excerpt is taken from an English translation of the book *Al-Difā‘ ‘an Araḍī al-Muslīmīn: Abamm Furūḍ al-A’yān*. The translation appears to be the work of unidentified Islamists and is widely available on Islamist websites as a PDF file, for example at <http://www.kalamullah.com/Books/defence.pdf> (accessed 30 August 2013). The excerpt appears on pages 23f. of the PDF document.

4 – The situation in Afghanistan is still in the hands of the mujahideen. They continue to refuse help from any Kaffir country, while Palestine depends completely on the Soviet Union, who withheld their help in Palestine's time of dire need. They were left to face their predicament by themselves in front of the world conspiracy. The situation has become a game in the hands of the great powers. Gambling with the land, the people and the 'Ard of Palestine, pursuing them even into the Arab states, until their military power is exhausted.

5 – There are more than 3000kms of open border in Afghanistan and regions of tribes not under political influence. This forms a protective shield for mujahideen. However, in Palestine the situation is entirely different. The borders are closed, their hands are bound, the eyes of the authorities spy from all sides for anyone who attempts to infiltrate its borders to kill the Jews.