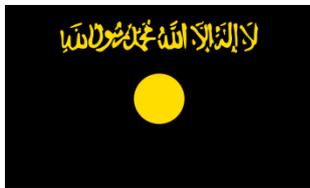


The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif Research Task – Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda

The main goal of al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden is to destroy all Americans and American influence that affects any Muslim nations, especially Saudi-Arabia. It is Bin-Laden's opinion that it is the duty of all Muslims to rage a holy war on America and any Muslim who doesn't adhere to these values are found to be people who have forsaken their faith. The ideology that al-Qaeda has adopted is generally termed as Jihadism, and is marked by a willingness to kill all those who have forsaken their faith or apostate, and those who are non-Islamic. While jihad practice is technically found to be the opposite of all Islamic teachings, it is believed by participants that they should not only protect and defend Islam but to purify it as well.



Although in past years Osama Bin Laden and al-Qaeda have become basically synonymous, it must be acknowledged that al-Qaeda or "the base" in Arabic is a network of extremists organised and previously lead by Osama Bin Laden. Most famously known for their September 11 2001 terrorist attacks, towards the World Trade Centre, in New-York, al-Qaeda has surpassed the IRA, Hellas, and Hezbollah as the world's most infamous terrorist organisation. The basis of al-Qaeda was formed by Bin Laden, after the war between The Soviet forces and Afghanistan, trying to give veterans help. Outraged by the U.S. occupation of his native Saudi-Arabia, and expelled due to anti-government activities. The first actions against U.S. ideology began in 1991 and by 1996 Bin Laden had declared war on the U.S. while allying with many other anti-western terrorist groups.



The issues surrounding Osama Bin Laden and al-Qaeda relate to our context study of Encountering Conflict because the conflict between al-Qaeda and America is due to a clash of ideas or beliefs, which is one of our primary context understandings. There is a conflict between America and al-Qaeda because of the different ideas and beliefs held by the two parties, making the situation conflicted and dangerous. In this conflict, the issue can be dwindled down to a fight, but the responses to the different blows made by both al-Qaeda and America, have made this fight into a sort of cold war, threatening many people's lives. In this problem it is dangerous to suppress people's rights to free speech and actions, but the issue surrounding that is what do we do and who do we support if those people who have free speech and action are hurting others to make their beliefs and ideas known.

Relevant to our text is the founders of al-Qaeda and its beliefs. After Osama Bin Laden was refused re-entry into Saudi Arabia, the Taliban offered Afghanistan as the perfect place for al-Qaeda to base its operations and work together with Taliban against the Americans. This connection was broken after the September 11 attacks in America and it was found in 2009 that there were only 100 remaining al-Qaeda operatives in Afghanistan, with most having moved across the border and into Pakistan with Bin Laden. The Taliban, which Najef faced during his time in Afghanistan operated in a similar way to al-Qaeda and it is by this that we are able to determine the fear and terror that the Taliban must have evoked within people's hearts and what drove Najef to make his journey to Australia.