

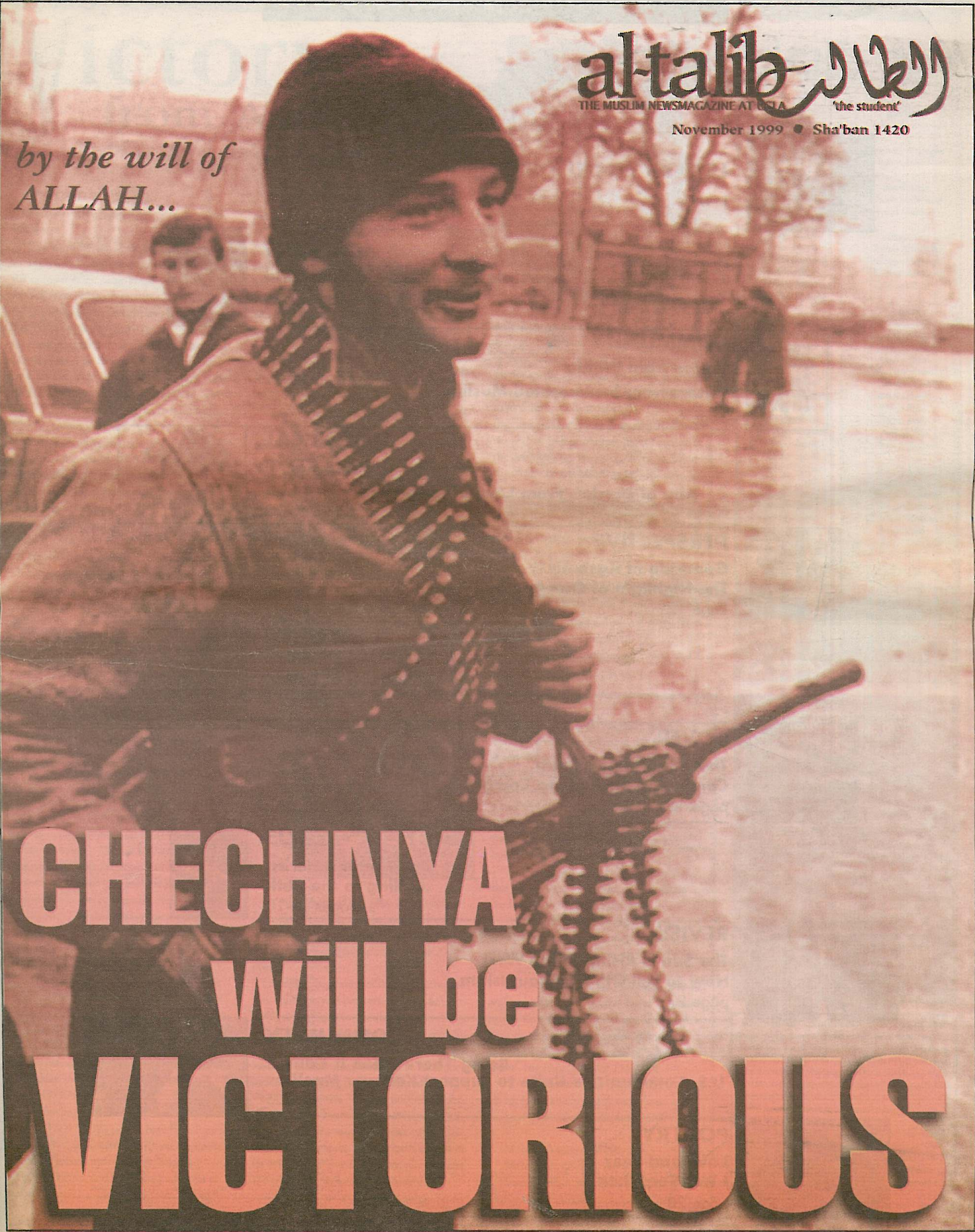
الطالب  
al-talib

THE MUSLIM NEWSMAGAZINE AT UCLA

'the student'

November 1999 • Sha'ban 1420

*by the will of  
ALLAH...*



**CHECHNYA  
will be  
VICTORIOUS**

# Victory from Allāh *in this life and the next*



*When there comes the help of Allah and the Victory...*

Success must not be doubted. Whether victory for the Chechen *mujahidin* (fighters in the cause of Allah Most High) comes in the form of martyrdom or territorial gain, its coming is inevitable. In comparison to the Russian army that oppresses them, the Chechen Muslims may be outnumbered and they may lack fundamental military equipment, but their resolve is strong and their purpose clear – they are fighting solely to defend Islam and please Allah the Exalted. Our *Ummah* (global Muslim community) has been victorious in the past with fewer material resources.

Remember Badr. With only a little over 300 *mujahidin* in their army, the Believers faced over 1000 *kuffar* (unbelievers) and were victorious. Allah Most High strengthened the Muslims' ranks with an army of divine messengers – angels sent by Allah Most High to aid His beloved servants.

Similar stories of mysterious white soldiers are found in accounts of recent Chechen struggles. These stories (whether or not they are accurate), are significant as reminders that Allah's (may He be glorified) Mercy is not a phenomenon of the past. It is something very real, something in which we must put our

trust.

Yes, our brothers and sisters in Chechnya are being slaughtered and pushed out of their homes, but this is not cause for despair. It is rather a time to revive the *Ummah* and relive Badr – only this time, it is not our numbers which are faltering, but our absolute trust in Allah Most High.

*And you see people entering the religion of Allah in crowds...*

*Alhamdulillah* (praise be to Allah), people are entering Islam in masses. Islam is unarguably the fastest growing religion in the world, but our job to spread the *Din* (Islamic way of life) is not being fully realized. Our aim is not to convert people or simply add numbers to our ranks; the power to change hearts is only by Allah's (may He be Glorified) mercy. Our duty lies in sharing with others the knowledge we have been blessed with.

This does not mean we should rush to organize massive missionary expeditions. Yes, our beloved Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah Most High be upon him) encouraged active forms of *da'wah* (invitation to Islam) and sent out emissaries to different parts of the world. But we must first build what we're

calling people to, creating an *Ummah* that not only bears the name of the Messenger (pbuh), but also lives by his teachings. We cannot spread a message we do not practice. The foundation of *da'wah* is practicing Islam to its fullest, submitting to the Truth one hundred percent. Islam cannot merely be our slogan, religion or philosophy; it needs to be the definition we model our lives by. We need to actually be the Muslims we profess to be – and that is the greatest *da'wah*.

*Then celebrate the praises of your Lord and seek forgiveness. Verily He is the Oft-returning* (the Holy Qur'an, 110).

Our struggle, whether it be fighting oppression or spreading the message of Islam, begins and ends with prayer and repentance. And everything is by the will of Allah Most High. •

Jazakum Allahu khayran,  
–the *Al-Talib* staff

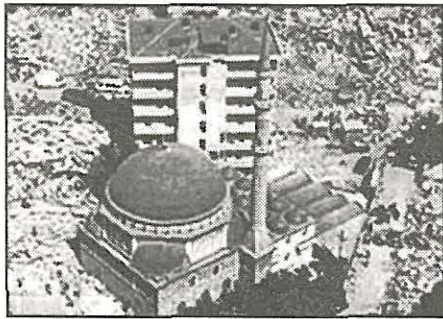
–letter to the editor–

## Aftermath of the Turkey Earthquake

*"When the earth is shaken to her (utmost) convulsion, And the earth throws up her burdens (from within), And man cries (distressed): 'What is the matter with her?'. On that Day will she declare her tidings: For that thy Lord will have given her inspiration. On that Day will men proceed in companies sorted out, to be shown the deeds that they (had done). Then shall anyone who has done an atom's weight of good, see it! And anyone who has done an atom's weight of evil, shall see it." (the Holy Qur'an 99: 1-8).*

*"Did the people of the towns feel secure against the coming of Our wrath by night while they were asleep? Or else did they feel secure against its coming in broad daylight while they played about (care-free)? Did they then feel secure against the plan of God? – but no one can feel secure from the Plan of God, except those (doomed) to ruin!" (the Holy Qur'an 7: 97-99).*

According to the latest news 12,134 people died and 33,384 people have been injured. The earthquake measuring 7.4 on the Richter scale has rocked mainly Izmit, Sakarya, Gölçuk, Yalova, and mainly suburb areas of



Istanbul. It is feared that over 50,000 people have died in the earthquake in Turkey this week and millions are made homeless. People in Istanbul, Bursa, Eskisehir, etc. spent days out.

Since the beginning of the first earthquake, me, my sisters and brothers, all prayed to Allah to save us from the disaster and to forgive all our sins before we die. We all remember (*dhikr*) to Allah, thank (*hamd*) to Him, and ask from Allah to forgive (*tauba* to Allah for our sins and faults) our sins. *Alhamdulillah*, we all are well now. We have understood once again at that moment of the earthquake that there is not really any importance to worldly matters like richness, fame, greed and passion for being more "anything" from someone else. We will all die in a very soon time that we

cannot plan or know beforehand. We all should live our lives knowing this fact, which is very definite. As mentioned in the Qur'an, every one will taste death, and this can be sometime very soon. The only way to feel secure and confident at the time of death is to know that one has spent his life consciously, for the life in the Hereafter. This world ends, but an endless world expects us.

We are asking all brothers and sisters to make *dua* for us. May Allah accept all our deeds in His way, forgive our sins.

*Alhamdu lillahi rabbil 'alamin.*

This was a test from our *Rabb* (Lord) to show which of us will act in the best manner with patience.

*"Be sure we shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil), but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere, Who say, when afflicted with calamity: To God We belong, and to Him is our return" (the Holy Qur'an 2: 155-156).*

*"Every soul shall have a taste of death: and We test you by evil and by good by way of trial. to Us must ye return" (the Holy Qur'an 21:35). •*

May Allah protect Muslims.  
Ma'a al-salam,  
Yeshim Alkan, your sister in Islam

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**This magazine contains  
the name of Allah.  
Please treat it with respect.  
Jazakum Allahu khayran.**

**Al-Talib welcomes and  
encourages letters from our  
readers.**

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*Al-Talib* is devoted to expressing the views, concerns and ideas of the American Muslim. It seeks to promote and achieve community empowerment and the worldwide success of Muslims by instilling the *Ummah* with the spirit of Jihad, the love of the Qur'an and the example of Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. It also serves to correct the mainstream media's misinformation about Islam and Muslims, and seeks to provide non-Muslims with accurate information about Islam. Furthermore, *Al-Talib* is committed to remaining an independent forum for a diverse spectrum of views and concerns.

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