

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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TERRORISM

TWO TERRORIST SUSPECTS KILLED IN SECURITY CHASE

Saudi security forces have killed one of Saudi Arabia's most wanted terror suspects: Khaled Ali Ali-Haj, whose name appears on the Ministry of Interior's list of the 26 most wanted that was published last December. At a checkpoint in Riyadh on March 15, security forces came under fire from Khaled Ali Ali-Haj and one other suspect, Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al-Muzeini, after ordering them to stop their vehicle. Security forces immediately returned fire, killing both suspects. No security officer or citizen was injured.

KINGDOM CONDEMNS TERRORIST BOMBING IN MADRID

Saudi Arabia issued a statement on March 11 condemning the terrorist bombing in Madrid, Spain, and extending condolences to the government and people of Spain, and to the families of the victims of the disaster. The March 15 Cabinet meeting also condemned the bombing, describing it as a "disgraceful, inhuman and criminal act". The Cabinet also denounced the regrettable riots and hooliganism in Syria.

REFORM

KING FAHD ENDORSES NEW HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

King Fahd formally endorsed the establishment of the National Human Rights Association (NHRA) in a cable to its President, Dr. Abdullah bin Salih Al-Obaid. The 41 members of NHRA include several holders of doctorate degrees, and ten women, three of whom are on the elected nine-member Executive Council. Ambassador to the United States Prince Bandar bin Sultan, commenting that a government-run human rights commission will soon be set up, declared that the establishment of NHRA is only one step along the way of continuous reforms in the economic, education and political fields.

The March 15 Cabinet meeting also welcomed NHRA and wished it every success, noting that its activities will derive from the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah (the traditions of the Prophet) and that it will have full autonomy and administrative and financial independence as regards human rights in the Kingdom.

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