

# *SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS*

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## **TERRORISM**

### **TWO MILITANTS KILLED, FIVE ARRESTED IN RIYADH RAID**

On July 21, Saudi security forces raided a number of locations in a suburb of Riyadh. During the raid, five militants were arrested and two killed, and a number of weapons seized. One of those killed, Isa Saad Mohammad bin O'ooshan, was on the December list of 26 most wanted.

### **KINGDOM EXONERATED IN 9-11 COMMISSION REPORT**

The 9-11 Commission report that was published on July 22 clearly stated:

- That there is no evidence of Saudi government funding of Al-Qaeda, nor of financing of 9-11 hijackers by either Omar Al-Bayoumi or Princess Haifa Al-Faisal, wife of Ambassador to the United States Prince Bandar bin Sultan;
- That post-9-11 Saudi flights with members of the bin Laden family aboard were investigated and handled professionally;
- That prior to the attacks on the United States, Saudi Arabia was pursuing bin Laden, and Al-Qaeda was targeting the Kingdom, with bin Laden publicly denouncing the Saudi government in 1996, and diplomatic relations with the Taleban in Afghanistan broken off in 1998.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **LABOR MINISTER CRITICAL OF HRW REPORT ON FOREIGN MANPOWER**

Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Dr Ghazi Al-Quseibi has criticized as unbalanced the recent report issued by Human Rights Watch (HRW) concerning the situation of foreign workers in the Kingdom, and affirmed that Saudi Arabia deals with labor problems for foreigners as well as for nationals; moreover, the seven million foreign workers remit home annually about U.S. \$ 16 billion, thereby assisting their countries' economic development.

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