

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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WAR ON TERRORISM

SECURITY FORCES ARREST TOP MILITANT IN NON-VIOLENT RAID

On August 5, in a non-violent raid, security forces arrested Faris Ahmad Jamaan Al Showeel Alzahrani, who is on the list of 26 most-wanted militants.

HUMAN RIGHTS

SAUDI ARABIA SIGNS ARAB CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On August 2, 2004, Saudi Arabia signed the Arab Charter of Human Rights which was endorsed by the Arab Summit in Tunis, the third Arab country to do so.

KINGDOM SENDS AID TO SUDAN

On August 8, Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud Al-Faisal attended in Cairo the meeting of Arab foreign ministers of the League of Arab States, called for by the Republic of Sudan to discuss the situation in its western region of Darfur, and resulting in unanimous agreement on support for the Sudanese government as well as endorsement of the efforts of the African Union and the United Nations.

Meanwhile, a Saudi Red Crescent relief delegation has visited Darfur to assess the situation there prior to the dispatch of a medical team to extend assistance to the displaced people of the region.

REFORM

UN TEAM BRIEFED ON PREPARATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Saudi Arabia has briefed a United Nations team on the measures it has taken for election of municipal councils. The first phase of elections will take place in November in Riyadh Province; the second in the four southern provinces and the Eastern Province prior to the January 2005 Hajj season; and the third after the annual pilgrimage, for the rest of the country.

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