

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE
INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE
ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA
IN WASHINGTON, DC

AUGUST 23, 2004

TERRORISM

SAUDI RADIO ADS SEEK TO HELP SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Asked on CNN on August 18 why the new radio advertisements that have been airing in 19 states are necessary, Embassy spokesman Nail Al-Jubeir said: "We want to put to rest the charges that have been lingering around since 9/11 that the Saudi government or Saudi officials have funded terrorism or extremism. I think the 9/11 report from the Commission vindicated us on this, and we want to make sure that people in this country are aware of it."

On August 13, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington DC launched a nationwide radio advertising campaign, to run through September 6, designed to publicize the recently released findings of the bipartisan and independent National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. The ads aim to echo the findings of the 9-11 Commission and reinforce Saudi Arabia's commitment to the war on terrorism.

EDUCATION

SAUDI UNIVERSITIES TO RESTRUCTURE COURSES

For the 2004-05 academic year Saudi universities are increasing student intake by 15 to 20 percent, mainly for specializations that are needed by the labor market. More relevant specializations will be taught at the women's colleges, and the entire spectrum of university courses is being restructured, with plans to allocate more places to medicine, pharmacology, engineering and languages, and to establish more science departments.

FOREIGN AID

KINGDOM PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO DARFUR

Saudi Arabia is continuing to extend relief aid to those in need in Sudan's western region of Darfur. Planeloads of ambulances, medical equipment and medicine have arrived at Nyala and El Fasher, to serve the five clinics set up in both southern and northern Darfur by the Saudi Red Crescent Society, and which are staffed by Saudi medical teams.

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