



JULY 18, 2006

## FOREIGN POLICY

### **Kingdom comments on latest events in Lebanon and Palestine**

An official Saudi source said July 14 that Saudi Arabia views with deep concern the bloody, painful events currently taking place in Palestine and Lebanon, and would like to clearly announce that a difference should be drawn between legitimate resistance and uncalculated adventures carried out by elements inside the state and those behind them without consultation with the legitimate authority in their State and without consultation or coordination with Arab countries, thus creating a gravely dangerous situation exposing all Arab countries and their achievement to destruction with those countries having no say.

The Kingdom views that it is time that these elements alone bear the full responsibility of these irresponsible acts and should alone shoulder the burden of ending the crisis they have created. The Kingdom will continually seek security and stability in the region, exerting every possible effort to protect the Arab Nation from Israeli oppression and transgression.

On July 17, the Cabinet, chaired by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, stressed that Israel's war on Lebanon, its people, economy and infrastructure, and its targeting and punishing of the civilian population without consideration for international pacts, conventions and norms are only extensions of its occupation policies and hegemony in the region.

The Cabinet affirmed that the international reactions to the all-out war launched by Israel demonstrate the extent of the world community's lax approach to and disregard for crimes committed by Israel. The absolute support of some countries for Israeli policies has led to the inability of the UN Security Council to take a decision in this regard.

### **Kingdom reaches out to world leaders to halt attacks in Lebanon**

Saudi Arabia is making intensive efforts with the leaderships of the world's largest countries, calling on them to intervene immediately to stop the Israeli military operations in Lebanon. The Kingdom is calling on these countries to pressure Israel to halt its military escalation which is terrorizing the civilian population and destroying the Lebanese infrastructure and economy. The Kingdom maintains that such escalation will never bring about security nor stability in the region. Saudi Arabia has urged the major world powers to apply

international conventions and to fulfill their commitments toward regional peace and security.

## FOREIGN AID

### **Kingdom to give Lebanon \$50 million in emergency relief assistance**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz granted \$50 million to Lebanon for relief assistance on July 16. The funds will be distributed under the direct supervision of Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. The emergency relief assistance is in response to Siniora's appeal to help ease the suffering of the Lebanese people who are experiencing a critical humanitarian situation.

## SAUDI ARABIA-US

### **Saudi Ambassador tours relief efforts in New Orleans**

Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal visited New Orleans on July 12 to see first-hand the progress of the Saudi relief effort in the city following the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and to assess future needs.

Prince Turki toured the Lower Ninth Ward, one of the hardest-hit areas of New Orleans, and the city's historic French Quarter, accompanied by Brig. Gen. Hunt Downer of the Louisiana National Guard. He also met with Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco, Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu and Mayor Ray Nagin.

While in New Orleans, Prince Turki addressed the World Trade Center of New Orleans. In his remarks, the ambassador stressed Saudi support for the people of New Orleans as they rebuild after Katrina. "We stood by you as you weathered the storm, and we continue to stand by you," he said.

"There is a unity of spirit that comes with a natural disaster. In the face of a hurricane, we are all one and the same," he said. "Our different religions do not matter to the path of a wave. And our politics cease to be important on ground shaken by an earthquake."

Prince Turki also discussed reforms in the Kingdom and the strength of Saudi-US relations at Florida International University in Miami July 13. He remarked that both countries must continue to work together to address global challenges including economic growth, energy security, the war on terrorism, and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Addressing such challenges requires understanding between the two peoples and governments, Prince Turki said.

