



NOVEMBER 14, 2006

FOREIGN POLICY

Kingdom condemns deadly Israeli shelling of Beit Hanoun

Saudi Arabia has condemned the Israeli shelling of Beit Hanoun yesterday that killed 18 people, mostly women and children.

A Saudi official said November 9 that Saudi Arabia has been following the frequent Israeli attacks on the Palestinians with great concern and anxiety. The Kingdom reiterates its call for the international community to take immediate action to end the Israeli aggressions and to work towards reviving the peace process in line with the Arab peace plan and international law.

Saudi Arabia would also like to warn of the negative consequences if the Israeli aggressions continue and their adverse impact on efforts to bring peace to the entire Middle East region, the official said.

There is an urgent need to convene an international conference attended by all concerned parties to explore ways to put an end to such heinous massacres and to protect the Palestinian people, he added.

SAUDI ARABIA-US

King Abdullah meets with Microsoft's Bill Gates

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with Microsoft founder and chairman Bill Gates in Al-Janadriyah November 8. King Abdullah also hosted a dinner in Gates' honor.

Gates made his first-ever visit to Saudi Arabia to deliver the keynote address at the Global Competitiveness Forum Series in Riyadh, also November 8.

The forum, sponsored by the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) and Microsoft Arabia, brings together global leaders in IT and economy to share their ideas and visions with Saudi businesspeople with the aim of enhancing investment competitiveness in the Kingdom and addressing challenges faced by local and foreign investors.

Riyadh Governor Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz inaugurated the forum today and delivered remarks on behalf of King Abdullah. In his speech, the King underscored Saudi efforts to enhance the climate for local and foreign investment, and outlined the steps taken to accomplish this goal. He also stressed Saudi Arabia's support for private investment.

During Gates' visit, Saudi Arabia signed Memorandums of Understanding with Microsoft to enhance cooperation in information technology training and administrative affairs.

