



DECEMBER 5, 2006

## TERRORISM

### **Saudi authorities announce arrests of 136 militants**

Saudi security forces have arrested 136 suspected militants over a period of several months, the Ministry of Interior announced December 2. The militants were arrested raids across of the country, including Riyadh, Al-Jouf, Makkah, Madinah, Jizan, Qassim, Hail and the Eastern province.

Most were Saudi nationals. They are suspected of forming terrorist cells, plotting to carry out attacks, spreading extremism, recruiting terrorists, facilitating the financing and training of terrorists and hiding wanted militants.

As part of these security operations, Saudi authorities seized weapons, cash in various currencies, documents, communications equipment, computers and disks. They also obtained information about others linked to the terrorists. Some of the suspects were recruiting youths to travel to unstable regions and financing terrorist operations, the Ministry said.

Investigations also revealed links between militants in Saudi Arabia and foreign militants. They took advantage of the traffic during the umrah pilgrimage to send infiltrators outside of the Kingdom for training and then bring them back into the country to carry out attacks.

In remarks to the press December 3, Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz said that the militants planned assassinations and terrorist operations inside Saudi Arabia.

## SAUDI ARABIA-US

### **Saudi Ambassador visits Pennsylvania and Iowa**

Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal underscored the importance of greater international cooperation to bring peace and stability to the Middle East region in remarks at the University of Scranton November 28. He also called on the international community to press for a resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, with the Road Map for Peace and the Abdullah Peace Plan as a basis.

During his visit to Scranton, Prince Turki was honored by Scranton Mayor Christopher Doherty, who named him a Distinguished Citizen of the city.

On November 29, Prince Turki visited the US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, where he discussed Saudi Arabia's view of the Middle East and US policy.

Prince Turki continued his outreach in Iowa November 30-December 1. On November 30, he opened a Saudi cultural exhibit at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. On December 1, he performed Friday prayers with members of the Muslim community of Cedar Rapids and attended a luncheon. He visited the offices of agricultural equipment giant John Deere and aerospace company Rockwell Collins, and met with local dignitaries for a discussion of Saudi economic growth.

### **Prince Turki discusses Iraq policy with CNN's Blitzer**

In a December 3 appearance on CNN Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer, Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal Prince Turki commented on Nawaf Obaid's commentary in the *Washington Post* last week, which stated that Saudi Arabia planned to revise its policy on Iraq by providing assistance to Sunni military leaders. Prince Turki denied that this is Saudi policy, and said that Obaid's consultancy work for the Saudi government has been terminated.

"It would be contradictory to think in terms of Sunni and Shi'a," he said. "We have received in Saudi Arabia all of the factions in Iraq. Most recently, during the holy month of Ramadan, we hosted a conference between Sunni and Shi'a religious leaders to get them to agree on what to do in Iraq."

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **Saudi officials meet with Human Rights Watch delegation**

Saudi officials have been meeting with a Human Rights Watch delegation that is currently visiting the Kingdom. On November 29, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Ahmed Al-Salim met with Kenneth Roth, the Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, for talks about issues related to human rights.

On December 4, Chairman of the Shura (Consultative) Council Saleh bin Homaid met with Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at Human Rights Watch in the US. The delegation also met separately with members of the Shura Council's committee for Islamic, Judicial and Human Rights affairs. Talks focused on human rights issues and strengthening ties between the two countries.

