



JANUARY 23, 2007

## SAUDI ARABIA-US

### **US officials visit the Kingdom**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with US Defense Secretary Robert Gates at the King's farm at Rawdat Khuraim, near Riyadh, January 17. Talks focused on regional and international developments. King Abdullah also hosted a dinner for Gates and his delegation.

Also in the Kingdom this week was Commander of the 9th Air Force and US Central Command Air Forces Gary North, who met with Assistant Minister of Defense and Aviation for Military Affairs Prince Khalid bin Sultan in January 21.

### **Saudi Ambassador addresses groups in Washington**

Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal made a number of appearances this week. He discussed Saudi-US relations at the New America Foundation on January 18, relations between Islam and the West at American University on January 19, and challenges facing Saudi Arabia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century at George Washington University on January 22.

In his remarks, Prince Turki highlighted the strength of the Saudi-US friendship and the need for both nations to work together in order to deal with common challenges, such as Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The ambassador stressed the Kingdom's commitment to helping all Iraqis achieve the goal of a stable, peaceful, united Iraq.

Prince Turki also attended a farewell reception on Capitol Hill January 18. The event was attended by Members of Congress congressional staff.

## FOREIGN AID

### **King Abdullah meets with IOM director-general on tsunami relief**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with the director-general of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Brunson McKinley, at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh January 20. McKinley is currently on a two-day official visit to the Kingdom, the first-ever by an IOM director-general to the country.

A key part of McKinley's trip to the Kingdom is the signing of an agreement on assistance to victims of the December 2004 tsunami in southeast Asia.

The agreement between IOM and the Saudi Charity Campaign for the Relief of the Earthquake and Tsunami Victims in East Asia will provide for the construction of a \$10 million residential project in Ampara, Sri Lanka. It is the first official IOM project funded by Saudi Arabia.

The project includes 500 housing units, a hospital, a school for boys and a school for girls, a mosque, a recreation/events hall, a bus station, a shopping center and a sports stadium.

### **Saudi relief plane arrives in Indonesia**

A Saudi relief plane carrying 48 tons of tents, food and medical supplies arrived in Indonesia January 17. The aid is part of the Kingdom's ongoing humanitarian assistance to those affected by recent flooding, landslides and earthquakes in Aceh and North Sumatra. A similar Saudi plane arrived in Indonesia January 14.

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **King Faisal International Prize 2007 winners include US professor**

The winners of the prestigious King Faisal International Prizes for 2007 were announced January 17 at a special ceremony in Riyadh. This year's winners included a US professor from Johns Hopkins in the area of medicine.

Professor Patrick Craig Walsh of the United States and Professor Fernand Labrie of Canada were jointly recognized for their contributions to therapeutic and surgical management of prostate cancer. Walsh, of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, was recognized for developing nerve sparing radical surgery for prostate cancer. Labrie, of the Central Hospital of Laval University in Quebec, was selected for his work in developing LHRH agonists and combined androgen blockage in the treatment of prostate cancer.

Prizes were awarded in five categories: Islamic Studies, Arabic Language and Literature, Science, Medicine and Service to Islam.

