



APRIL 10, 2007

SAUDI ARABIA-US

King Abdullah hosts Speaker Pelosi at his Janadriyah ranch

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with visiting Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi at his ranch in Janadriyah April 4. They discussed a number of regional and international issues, in particular situations in Palestine and Iraq. King Abdullah also hosted a dinner in honor of Pelosi and her accompanying delegation.

Pelosi arrived in Saudi Arabia April 4 for a two-day visit. She was greeted at the airport in Riyadh by Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel Al-Jubeir. On April 5, she met with Chairman of the Shura (Consultative) Council Saleh bin Homaid for talks.

TERRORISM

Suspect in murder of French citizens killed by Saudi authorities

A suspect in the February 26 murder of four French citizens was killed by Saudi security forces in a gunbattle near Madinah April 6, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement.

An intensive surveillance operation led Saudi authorities to the suspect's hideout in a residential area north of Madinah, where security forces came under heavy fire from machine guns and hand grenades. They returned fire, killing the suspect, who was identified as wanted militant Waleed Mutlaq Al-Raddadi. One member of the security forces was also killed and two injured in the gunbattle.

The four French nationals were attacked when they stopped in a desert area en route to Madinah. Two died at the scene and two later died of their wounds. Saudi authorities immediately launched an investigation into the attack, arresting several suspects and issuing wanted notices for two others.

Praise for Saudi security forces' counterterrorism efforts

At its weekly meeting April 10, the Cabinet praised Saudi security forces for their efforts to combat terrorism. Furthermore, the Cabinet called on media and cultural organizations to step up their efforts to confront terrorist ideology.

In remarks April 8, Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz also praised Saudi security forces for their efforts to eradicate terrorism in the Kingdom and prevent terrorist attacks before they happen. According to an April 7 report in the *Saudi Gazette*, Saudi security forces have prevented more than 100 “very big” terrorist attacks over the past four years, some as recently as last week.

FOREIGN AID

Work begins on Saudi-financed housing project for women in Hebron

On April 5, the foundation stone was laid for a Saudi-financed housing project in Hebron, West Bank. The King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz City charity project includes the construction of 100 housing units for women with families and widows as well as income-generating projects for the women.

The Hebron project is being financed by the Saudi Popular Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian People as part of the Kingdom’s ongoing support for the Palestinians.

In related news, the chairman of the Committee, Dr. Saed Al-Harhi, said April 9 that Saudi Arabia has provided over \$35 million in medical assistance to the Palestinian people, including much-needed modern equipment and medical supplies for hospitals and health centers.

