



APRIL 24, 2007

## FOREIGN POLICY

### **King Abdullah holds talks with Italian prime minister**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi in Riyadh April 21 for talks about bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues, with an emphasis on the situations in Palestine and Iraq.

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal also met with Prodi to discuss the Middle East peace process and the situation in Iraq.

At a press conference in Riyadh, Prodi pledged Italian support for the Arab Peace Initiative. "We have agreed with the Saudi leadership to both boost the peace process as well as the Arab Peace Initiative in its capacity as a positive step to bring about comprehensive peace in the region," he said.

### **Cabinet calls for Iraqi unity, condemns ongoing violence**

During the weekly Cabinet meeting chaired by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz on April 23, the Cabinet expressed regret and sorrow over the escalating violence and killing in Iraq. The Cabinet also called on Iraqi leaders to unite. It noted that both the foreign presence in Iraq and regional interference are temporary, and that once they are gone Iraqis will blame their leaders for the events taking place in their country. The future for Iraqis lies in a unified Iraq that is committed to the Arab nation and its Islamic identity, the Cabinet affirmed.

In related news, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal confirmed reports that Saudi Arabia is considering forgiving 80 percent of Iraq's debt.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### **Interior Minister: New list of most wanted militants may be issued**

Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz said April 23 that Saudi Arabia may issue a new list of most wanted militants. The Interior Ministry last issued a most wanted list on June 28, 2005. Prince Nayef made the remark in a press conference to reporters after attending a graduation of security trainees at the Public Security Training City.

## **Eight arrested in connection with the murder of French expatriates**

Eight Saudi citizens have been arrested for aiding the suspects in the February 26 killings of four French nationals in southwestern Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Interior announced April 19.

In its statement, the Ministry provided additional details about the attack. Wanted militant Walid Al-Radaddi – the mastermind of the attack – was traveling with a second man, Majed Al-Harbi, when they spotted the French group in the desert. Al-Raddadi left the scene and returned accompanied by Abdullah Al-Mohammadi. After attacking the French group, the three suspects fled the scene, and were shortly joined by another suspect, Nasser Al-Balawi. Al-Raddadi was subsequently killed in a gunbattle with Saudi security forces April 6.

The eight Saudis arrested are directly related to the suspects. The Ministry had issued previous warnings to the public that anyone who aided or harbored the suspects would be considered accessories to the killings.

The Ministry called on wanted suspects Abdullah Al-Mohammadi, Nasser Al-Balawi and Majed Al-Harbi to surrender to authorities. Those who provide information about the whereabouts of wanted suspects could receive a reward of up to \$1.86 million

