



MAY 1, 2007

## TERRORISM

### **Saudi security forces foil major terrorist plots**

Saudi authorities arrested 172 militants who were planning major terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia and abroad, the Interior Ministry announced April 27.

As part of the Kingdom's ongoing counterterrorism efforts, authorities discovered several terrorist cells, some with links to militants abroad. The cells were arrested in simultaneous security operations throughout the Kingdom.

The detained militants planned to carry out terrorist plots including suicide attacks on public figures, oil installations and refineries, as well as military bases in Saudi Arabia and abroad, the Ministry said. Some of the militants had received flight training in preparation for attacks in the Kingdom.

The massive security sweep resulted in the seizure of weapons, more than \$5 million in cash, documents, communications devices and computers. Authorities are continuing to follow up on individuals with links to the detained militants.

In an interview published in the Arabic-language newspaper *Al-Riyadh* on April 28, Minister of Interior Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz said that more details would be provided about the suspects and their plots at a later date, including where some of the detainees obtained flight training. He added that Saudi Arabia's counterterrorism efforts remain ongoing.

In its weekly meeting April 30, the Cabinet praised the Saudi security forces and their successful efforts to foil terrorist attacks. It also lauded the public support for the Kingdom's counterterrorism efforts, and urged the public to be alert to the threat of terrorism and the falseness of militant ideology. Terrorism must be fought at all levels: family, word, advice fatwa and social work, the Cabinet said.

## FOREIGN POLICY

### **King Abdullah meets with Japanese, Palestinian leaders**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the royal palace in Riyadh April 28. The Saudi-Japanese talks focused on regional and international developments as well as bilateral relations.

Abe also attended the inauguration of the Saudi-Japanese Economic Forum, which was organized by the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and



Industry. In remarks upon the occasion, the prime minister highlighted Japan's interest in diversifying economic relations with Saudi Arabia. He said that his visit aims to increase strategic dialogue between the two countries in all areas.

King Abdullah also met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh April 29. The meeting focused primarily on the situation in Palestine, although bilateral relations were also discussed. Abbas was in the Kingdom for a one-day official visit.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### **Kingdom unveils 2nd UN Development Goals report**

Minister of Economy and Planning Khalid Al-Qusaibi released Saudi Arabia's 2nd United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report in Riyadh April 25.

Al-Qusaibi said that the Kingdom has achieved a number the development goals set out by the UN, well in advance of the 2015 deadline. This feat was accomplished because the goals of the Eighth Development Plan (2005-2009) are similar to those of the UN, he noted. In fact, Saudi Arabia has made such great strides in the eradication of poverty – one of the Millennium Goals – that it expects to eliminate poverty in the country by 2009.

The Millennium Development Goals were agreed upon by the world's countries and leading development institutions at the 2000 UN Millennium Summit. They aim to increase global efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

### **First Saudi-made UAV flight tested at King Abdulaziz University**

The King Abdulaziz University test flew the first Saudi-made Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) over its Jeddah campus on April 25, the *Arab News* reported this week. UAVs are aircraft without an onboard pilot.

The craft, known as the Desert Eagle, is the brainchild of eight students in the university's Aero-Engineering department and their tutor, Wael Harsani. It has been in the works for a year and a half. The remotely-controlled plane is made of wood and aluminum, and measures 2.7 meters long and 2.9 meters wide from wing to wing. It can reach speeds of up to 30 MPH and remain aloft for around 21 minutes.

