



JUNE 19, 2007

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah expresses concern about regional instability

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz expressed concern about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and instability in Iraq, Lebanon and Darfur in an interview with the Spanish newspaper *El Pais*, published on June 18.

The King gave the interview in advance of his first official visit to Spain since ascending the throne. The visit, which began June 18, is part of a five-nation tour that also includes France, Poland, Egypt and Jordan.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict remains the longest-running conflict in the region's contemporary history, the King noted, despite efforts to resolve it. He expressed concern about the impact of the escalating conflict on the region.

"My concerns are like the concerns of all reasonable people that the situation might explode affecting not only the region but also the whole world," the King said.

Additionally, the region is concerned about increasing instability in Iraq and Lebanon, the conflict in Darfur, terrorism and the crisis surrounding Iran's nuclear program, he said.

Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz also warned about instability in Iraq and its potential impact on the region in a June 17 press conference. He said that problems are now spilling over from Iraq to other countries, including Saudi Arabia, and that the Kingdom is taking precautionary measures.

Prince Nayef called on Iran to devote more attention to Iraq and urged all parties to work towards keeping Iraq an Arab and Muslim country.

Saudi Arabia to participate in Lebanon peace delegation

Saudi Arabia will participate in a high-ranking Arab League delegation to address the political crisis in Lebanon. The delegation was established at the Arab League's extraordinary meeting in Cairo June 15.

The delegation will be headed by Secretary-General Amr Moussa and will include representatives from Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Qatar and Egypt. It will make contact

with Lebanese political leaders as well as concerned regional and international parties and press for the resumption of national dialogue.

At the meeting, the Arab League condemned the June 13 bombing that killed Lebanese Member of Parliament Walid Eido, his son, as well as a number of innocent civilians.

FOREIGN AID

King Abdullah donates \$10 million for refugees in Lebanon

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz has donated \$10 million for Palestinian families living in Lebanon's Nahr Al-Bared and Beddawi refugee camps.

The Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon, Abdulaziz Khoja, informed Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora of the King's donation on June 14. Khojah added that the donation could be increased to \$12 million if the number of refugees affected by the fighting in Lebanon continues to grow.

Saudi Arabia to provide \$2 million in humanitarian aid to Niger

Saudi Arabia has extended \$2 million in financial assistance to Niger to fund development projects in the African nation.

Niger's Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Economic and Cultural Affairs Yousef Al-Sadoon made the announcement in remarks at a recent donor's conference for Niger in Doha, Qatar.

The donation is in line with Saudi Arabia's ongoing assistance to Niger, which has totaled \$213 million to date.

