



OCTOBER 7, 2008

SAUDI-US RELATIONS

Saudi Embassy holds Eid Al-Fitr prayers

The Saudi Embassy in Washington held prayers September 30 in honor of the Eid Al-Fitr holiday.

After the prayers, Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel A. Al-Jubeir hosted a breakfast for the guests, which included embassy staff, members of the Saudi community, representatives of the Saudi armed forces in Washington, as well as Saudi students.

Eid Al-Fitr marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, and Muslims around the world perform prayers in honor of the celebration. This year, the Eid began on September 30 after the Supreme Judiciary Council confirmed the sighting of the new moon September 29.

TERRORISM

The Kingdom's Grand Mufti warns of the danger of extremism

The Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Senior Ulema (Religious Scholars) Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh warned against the dangers of extremist ideology in an interview with *Asharq Al-Awsat* published October 1.

"The followers of ideological terrorism are maligning the ummah, proclaiming its members as infidels, and sanctioning the murder of its sons and the destruction of their property," the Grand Mufti said. "They are framing the ummah with false charges and then they build on these bad thoughts by advocating evil, destruction, and corruption."

He stressed that it is the duty of every person to fight extremist ideology and expose it as evil and corrupt.

"It is our duty and we all—the media, the universities, mosque imams, and mosque preachers—are responsible for fighting these evil thoughts and those that promote them. Such thoughts should be discussed and their corruption exposed. Even the fathers and mothers should fight these thoughts," Al-Ashaikh said. "We pray to God Almighty that the war on ideological terrorism be fierce

and strong and be based on solid foundations and good curricula so that we can close the doors of evil with God's help."

The Grand Mufti also warned of the dangers of Al-Qaeda and said that the terrorist organization seeks to bring chaos to the Muslim world.

"Al-Qaeda and everything else were brought to fight Islam, divide the unity of the ummah, bring chaos in its ranks, and provide an opportunity for the enemies that covet the land of Islam," he said.

"If a Muslim were to examine closely all these things and terms of the age, he would find them to be bloody, corruptive, and based on killing, sowing corruption in the ummah, and causing chaos in the Muslim world. How can anyone be satisfied with such thinking or support it or justify its position?"

FOREIGN AID

Kingdom provides meningitis vaccines to Burkina Faso

Saudi Arabia has donated meningitis vaccines to the West African nation of Burkina Faso. The \$1 million worth of aid also includes serum to treat the disease.

The Kingdom's donation is in response to an appeal from President Blaise Compaore that Burkina Faso could face a major meningitis outbreak without sufficient vaccines.

Previously, Saudi Arabia provided \$500,000 worth of meningitis vaccines to the West African nation.

