



*JULY 14, 2009*

## WAR ON TERROR

### **Sentences handed down in terror-related cases**

On July 5, the Ministry of Justice announced the conviction of that 323 of the 330 terror-suspects put on trial on 179 terror-related charges in special security courts under article 126 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The defendants were charged with a number of crimes, including membership in a terrorist organization and its activities; facilitating and financing terrorism; working with foreign parties to undermine national security; treason; and traveling abroad to fight in places of sedition or initiating such action.

During a July 13 press conference, Ministry of Justice Spokesman Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Saadon announced that of the 330 terror-suspect tried, seven were acquitted, and 323 received jail sentences varying from a few months to 30 years, with thirteen receiving sentences of more than twenty years. Fifteen were sentenced to pay a fine in addition to their prison terms. One person was given the death penalty. Of those convicted, forty-one were foreign nationals.

Dr. Al-Saadon noted that the convictions may be appealed to the Supreme Court and those acquitted may file for compensation against the state. He added that although some opted to defend themselves, each suspect was informed of their right to an attorney during the proceedings.

### **U.S. officials commend Saudi detainee rehabilitation program**

During a Congressional hearing on July 7, officials from the U.S. Departments of Defense and Justice commended Saudi Arabia's Care Rehabilitation Center for detainees. The hearing was convened by the Senate Armed Services Committee to discuss the legal proceedings against prisoners being held at the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay. During the hearing, Sen. Kay Hagan (D-NC) called upon the U.S. government to work with Middle Eastern countries with a record of successful prisoner rehabilitation, noting the effectiveness of the Kingdom's program.

"The Saudis have actually institutionalized a rehabilitation program that is developed by the Minister of Interior to de-radicalize and rehabilitate the former detainees for reintegration into the society in Saudi Arabia," Sen. Hagan said. "According to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Saudi Arabia remains one of the most reliable counterterrorism partners in accepting detainees that have transferred from Guantanamo Bay."

Defense Department General Counsel Jeh Johnson said the U.S. should encourage and promote Saudi-style rehabilitation programs. David Kris, Assistant Attorney General in the National Security Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, described the Saudi rehabilitation program as "excellent."

## SAUDI ARABIA

### **Kingdom adopts tough new penalties for human trafficking**

The Council of Ministers adopted tough new penalties for human trafficking on July 13. The new law bans all forms of human trafficking and establishes a sentence of up to 15 years and/or a fine of up to one million riyals [\$267,000]. The law includes a more severe penalty if the victims are women, minors, or persons with special needs. Penalties were also increased for perpetrators found to be a guardian or to have had authority over the victim; an official of the regulations' enforcement; or to have exploited a close relative of the victim.

The Council also announced they would establish a ministerial-level committee in the Human Rights Commission to combat human trafficking. The committee will be composed of representatives of the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Social Affairs, Labor, Culture and Information, and the Human Rights Commission.

## FOREIGN AID

### **Saudi aid enters Gaza**

Seventeen trucks carrying 320 tons of aid provided by Saudi Arabia for the Palestinian people entered Gaza July 7 through the Karam Abu Salem Port.

### **Saudi airlift delivers aid to Sri Lanka**

In implementation of the directives of King Abdullah, two Saudi relief planes arrived Sri Lanka last week delivering more than 100,000 tons of humanitarian aid. Sri Lanka is currently suffering through a humanitarian crisis that has resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people.

