

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Initiatives and Actions to Combat Terrorism

— *May 2008* —

Saudi Arabia has successfully implemented a strategy to go after the men, the money and the mindset that support terrorism and extremism. As a declared target of Al-Qaeda, the Kingdom has made many enhancements to its overall counterterrorism program. Saudi Arabia has increased the size, training and professionalism of its security forces, which are now seasoned by direct experience in Saudi Arabia, as well as by focused counterterrorism training programs in Europe and the United States. In addition, the Kingdom has employed sophisticated aerial reconnaissance planes to help patrol remote areas and provide real-time data to protect against smuggling and infiltration.

Saudi security forces have also changed their policing style. They are now more active and engaged in communities, talking and working with neighbors and community members, who are an integral part of the Kingdom's success in combating terrorism. The Saudi people are galvanized in their rejection of terrorism and have provided countless tips and leads about suspicious activity. This has led to numerous arrests of most-wanted terrorists and to the discovery of safe houses in unassuming neighborhoods, where terrorists were meeting, plotting and staging their attacks. In total, security forces have foiled more than 180 terrorist acts.

Saudi Arabia has also made it a priority to seek international cooperation to confront this threat. Joint task forces with the United States have been established to integrate intelligence gathering and sharing capabilities. Saudi Arabia and the U.S. have also jointly declared several organizations as financiers of terrorism under United Nations protocol. In addition, the Kingdom has:

- Launched Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in September 2005
- Reduced the reporting threshold for cash transported across borders
- Worked with U.S. partners to train judges to prosecute terror financing cases
- Prohibited all charitable organizations from sending money abroad

Perhaps most importantly, the Saudi government has taken on the terrorists in the fight for ideas. A concerted public awareness program was initiated in schools and universities, in mosques, on radio and television and on billboards to educate the Saudi people about terrorism and extremism.

The following information outlines the efforts taken by Saudi Arabia, individually and with its global partners like the United States, to combat terrorism domestically and globally.

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International Cooperation

International partnerships are instrumental to Saudi Arabia’s efforts to combat terrorism. The Kingdom works closely with the United States government and the United Nations to ensure that inter-country collaborations are effective and useful.

In January 2008, President George W. Bush visited the Kingdom for a three-day official visit, during which he participated in talks with King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to address a range of issues, including international counterterrorism efforts. During the meeting, King Abdullah reiterated his call for the establishment of an international counterterrorism center under the aegis of the UN.

This level of cooperation has been ongoing since September 11, 2001, and it was fortified by the creation of the Saudi-U.S. Strategic Dialogue in April 2005. Under the Strategic Dialogue, a Counterterrorism Working Group continues to help ensure the governments’ efforts and resources are aligned.

“I hereby certify that Saudi Arabia is cooperating with efforts to combat international terrorism and that the proposed assistance will help facilitate that effort.”

—President George W. Bush in an October 19, 2007 memorandum to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

On the broader, global level, the Kingdom has also been making contributions. In August 2007 Richard Barrett, Coordinator of the United Nations Taliban and Al-Qaeda Monitoring Team, consulted with Saudi authorities on the Kingdom’s program to protect citizens from the influence of extremist ideologies. Barrett sought to learn more about the program with the hope that other countries could adopt the program.

As partners on the global level, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. have made many efforts together to combat terrorist threats, even working to address the heart of issues that incite extremists. Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud Al-Faisal led a delegation of seven other Arab foreign ministers to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in July 31, 2007. A number of issues were discussed including the revival of the Middle East peace process, the situation in Iraq, nuclear proliferation, terrorism and security in the Arabian Gulf. All parties reaffirmed their commitment to achieving peace and promoting regional security. They also renewed calls for moderation, tolerance, dialogue, openness and rejected terrorism and extremism.

Below are a series of examples of Saudi Arabia’s international cooperation in counterterrorism:

2008

- May 16, 2008 – The Kingdom signed agreements to become the 71st member nation of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the 86th member of the Proliferation Security Initiative.
- January 31, 2008 – In a final communiqué at their annual meeting, the Council of Arab Interior Ministers reiterated their condemnation of all forms of terrorism. They also stressed the importance of developing a joint Arab security system and establishing an international counterterrorism center. Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz serves as honorary president of the Council.

2005

- February 24, 2008 – Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz and French Interior and Overseas Territories Minister Michele Alliot-Marie signed a civil service agreement to enhance bilateral cooperation in the areas of counterterrorism, anti-narcotics and combat money laundering.
- July 11, 2005 – Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz renewed his call for improved international cooperation in the war on terrorism and the formation of an international counterterrorism center. Crown Prince Abdullah first called for the creation of an international counterterrorism center in February during his address before the Counter-Terrorism International Conference in Riyadh.
- April 7, 2005 – Saudi authorities extradited to Sudan three Sudanese citizens, who had been detained on various security issues, and received from Sudanese authorities' six Saudi citizens wanted by security forces, the Ministry of Interior said.
- March 28, 2005 – Security authorities in the Kingdom extradited eight detained Yemenis to Yemen and received from Yemeni authorities 25 Saudi nationals wanted as suspects in security cases, the Ministry of Interior said.
- February 23, 2005 – Saudi security authorities handed over to U.S. authorities a U.S. citizen, who was previously detained for security issues, at the request of the detainee and his family, the Ministry of Interior announced.
- February 19, 2005 – Saudi Arabia extradited 19 Yemenis who had been detained for various security reasons, the Ministry of Interior announced.
- February 5-8, 2005 – The Counter-Terrorism International Conference was held in Riyadh; 51 countries and 9 international organizations attended. The participant workshops and delegate sessions resulted in a final communiqué, known as the “Riyadh Declaration.”

2004

- July 22, 2004 – The final report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States confirmed the following: that there was no evidence the government of Saudi Arabia funded Al-Qaeda; that the post 9-11 flights repatriating Saudi citizens, including members of the bin Laden family, were investigated by the FBI and “no one with known links to terrorism departed on these flights”; and that the Saudi government had been pursuing Osama bin Laden prior to 9-11.
- July 2, 2004 – The Financial Task Force (FATF) released its 15th annual report, which contained an evaluation of Saudi Arabia’s laws, regulations and systems to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. According to this evaluation: “Saudi authorities have focused heavily on systems and measures to counter terrorism and the financing of terrorism. Specifically, they have taken action to increase the requirements for financial institutions on customer due diligence, established systems for tracing and freezing terrorist assets, and tightened the regulation and transparency of charitable organizations.”

- April 29, 2004 – The Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism of the U.S. Department of State released its 2003 “Patterns of Global Terrorism” report. The report praised Saudi Arabia for its “unprecedented” efforts to fight terrorism both inside its borders and abroad. Ambassador J. Cofer Black, Coordinator for Counterterrorism, stated: “I would cite Saudi Arabia as an excellent example of a nation increasingly focusing its political will to fight terrorism. Saudi Arabia has launched an aggressive, comprehensive, and unprecedented campaign to hunt down terrorists, uncover their plots, and cut off their sources of funding.”
- U.S. Secretary of Treasury John W. Snow said on January 22, 2004: “The United States, Saudi Arabia, and our other partners around the globe have spoken out loud and clear - terrorism has no place in a civilized world. We will continue to work with Saudi Arabia and all our allies in the war against terror to seek out those who bankroll terrorist organizations and shut them down.”

2003

- President George W. Bush said on November 22, 2003: “Crown Prince Abdullah is an honest man...and he has told me that we are joined in fighting off the terrorist organizations which threatened the Kingdom and they threaten the United States, and he’s delivering.”
- FATF completed its mutual evaluation in September 2003 and commended Saudi Arabia for implementing the 40 recommendations on money-laundering and eight recommendations on terror financing. According to the 15th annual report released in 2004: “Saudi authorities have focused heavily on systems and measures to counter terrorism and the financing of terrorism. Specifically, they have taken action to increase the requirements for financial institutions on customer due diligence, established systems for tracing and freezing terrorist assets, and tightened the regulation and transparency of charitable organizations.”
- Attorney General John Ashcroft commended Saudi Arabia’s efforts in the war on terrorism and stated on August 29, 2003: “I believe that progress is being made and I think not only that it (cooperation) is good but it continues to improve.”
- Saudi Arabia and the United States established a second joint task force in August 2003, this one aimed at combating the financing of terror. The task force, which was initiated by then-Crown Prince Abdullah, reflected the Kingdom’s commitment to the war on terrorism and its close cooperation with the United States in eradicating terrorists and their supporters.
- May 2003 – The United States and Saudi Arabia established a task force from across law enforcement and intelligence agencies to work side by side to share “real time” intelligence in the fight against terrorism.

- April 30, 2003 – Ambassador J. Cofer Black, Coordinator for Counterterrorism, released the Annual Patterns of Global Terrorism 2002 report and stated that “The Saudi Government has made significant strides, certainly in the last year. They are a strong partner in the war on terrorism. In the past several months, we have made significant strides in our counter-terrorism cooperation. The Saudi Government continues to work with us in identifying and working to counter al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups.... In recent months, I’ve made two separate trips to Saudi Arabia to work with senior officials. This is, in part, what we believe to be a long-term pattern of close coordination on terrorism issues.”

Combating Terrorist Financing & Money Laundering

As a victim of terrorism and a target of Al-Qaeda, Saudi Arabia has put in place world-class regulations and financial control mechanisms to combat terrorism. The Kingdom has implemented the 40 recommendations on money laundering and eight recommendations on terror financing of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an international body initiated by members of the G-8 countries. The FATF concluded in 2004 that Saudi Arabia has in place financial controls that “probably go further than any country in the world.”

The Kingdom has also been vigilant in prosecuting individuals suspected of financing terrorism, and has frozen bank accounts, filed charges against and convicted individuals. The July 2004 FATF report confirmed that: “...there have been 62 successful prosecutions for ML [money laundering]. Additionally, 5 cases had been initiated for TF [terror financing] with one successful conviction...”

In going after terror financing, Saudi Arabia has been working in cooperation with many of its international partners, including the United States. The Saudi and U.S. governments have conducted joint designations of several organizations suspected of terrorist financing.

In January and June 2004, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. announced that they jointly designated a total of nine branch offices of the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation under UN Security Resolution 1267; and in December 2003, the countries jointly designated the Bosnia-based Vazir and the Liechtenstein-based Hochburg AG organizations as financiers of terrorism under UN Security Council Resolution 1267.

“...we share information on a daily basis with our intelligence counterparts on every continent, from MI5 in Britain to the Mabathith in Saudi Arabia. The Saudis have been particularly strong partners in addressing terrorism and terrorism financing in the Kingdom and around the world.”

—Robert Mueller, Director of the FBI,
September 2007

The cooperation and coordination between Saudi Arabia and the U.S. go well beyond joint designations. The countries’ intelligence experts work side by side. As Robert Mueller, Director of the FBI, stated at a Council on Foreign Relations meeting on September 28, 2007:

“...we share information on a daily basis with our intelligence counterparts on every continent, from MI5 in Britain to the Mabathith in Saudi Arabia. The Saudis have been particularly strong partners in addressing terrorism and terrorism financing in the Kingdom and around the world.”

Saudi Arabia has undertaken many actions to combat terror financing, including:

- In August 2003, the Kingdom approved new legislation that put in place harsh penalties for the crime of money laundering and terror financing. This legislation stipulated jail sentences of up to 15 years and fines up to \$1.8 million for offenders. The law implemented the 40

recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on money laundering and the eight recommendations on terror financing.

- In February 2003, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) began to implement a major technical program to train judges and investigators on legal matters involving terrorism financing and money laundering methods, international requirements for financial secrecy, and methods followed by criminals to exchange information.
- Saudi Arabia was one of the first countries to take action against terrorist financing, freezing the assets of Osama bin Laden in 1994.
- Saudi Arabia, as a member of the G-20, approved an aggressive plan of action directed at the rooting out and freezing of terrorist assets worldwide. Saudi Arabia is proud to have been a leader in the development of this plan and its implementation, and of key objectives for U.S. and international policies for dealing with terrorism now and in the future.
- SAMA instructed Saudi banks to promptly establish a supervisory committee to closely monitor the threat posed by terrorism and to coordinate all efforts to freeze the assets of the identified individuals and entities. The committee is composed of senior bank officers who are in charge of risk control, auditing, money laundering units, legal affairs, and operations. The committee meets regularly in the presence of SAMA officials.
- Saudi banks put in place, at the level of their Chief Executive Officers, as well as at the level of a supervisory committee, mechanisms to respond to all relevant inquiries, both domestic and international. To ensure proper coordination and effective response, all Saudi banks route their responses and relevant information via SAMA.
- A Special Committee was composed of representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Directorate of Intelligence and SAMA to handle requests from international bodies and countries with regard to combating terrorist financing.
- Even before September 11, Saudi Arabia had taken steps to ensure that its financial system was not used for illegal activities. In 1988, the Kingdom signed and joined the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances. In 1995, Saudi Arabia established units countering money laundering at the Ministry of Interior, in SAMA and in the commercial banks.

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Regulating Charitable Organizations

Charitable giving is a key tenet of the Islamic faith and there are thousands of charities throughout the Middle East. To ensure that no one manipulates the system in the name of criminal activity, the Saudi government has put in place one of the most rigorous systems in the world for controlling charities. No Saudi charity can collect contributions in cash or send funds outside the country.

The 15th Annual Report by the FATF, released in 2004, confirmed that Saudi Arabia had adopted rigorous standards:

“Saudi authorities have focused heavily on systems and measures to counter terrorism and the financing of terrorism. Specifically, they have taken action to increase the requirements for financial institutions on customer due diligence, established systems for tracing and freezing terrorist assets, and tightened the regulation and transparency of charitable organizations.”

A prime example of cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the United States occurred in March 2002, when the U.S. Treasury Department and Saudi Arabia blocked the accounts of the Somalia and Bosnia branches of the Saudi Arabia-based Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation. While the Saudi headquarters for this private charity is dedicated to helping those in need, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. determined that these branches supported terrorist activities and organizations such as Al-Qaeda and AIAI (al-Itihaad al-Islamiya). In another example, in May 2003, Saudi Arabia demanded the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation and all Saudi charities suspend activities outside the Kingdom until mechanisms are in place to adequately monitor and control funds.

Below are several other examples of Saudi Arabia’s efforts to regulate and oversee charitable giving:

- In the summer of 2002, in another successful joint anti-terrorism action, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States took steps to freeze the assets of a close bin Laden aide, Wa’el Hamza Julaidan, who is believed to have funneled money to Al-Qaeda. Julaidan served as the director of the Rabita Trust and other organizations.
- On April 30, 2003, Ambassador J. Cofer Black, Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the State Department, stated: “We are pleased with the steps the Saudis are taking to ensure that all charitable donations by Saudis reach their intended good works and that no funds from Saudi Arabia are diverted by those who would use them for evil purposes.”
- In May 2003, SAMA instructed all banks and financial institutions in the Kingdom to stop all financial transfers by Saudi charities to any accounts outside the Kingdom.
- In May 2003, Saudi Arabia asked the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation and all Saudi charities to suspend activities outside Saudi Arabia until mechanisms are in place to adequately monitor and control funds so they cannot be misdirected for illegal purposes.
- In May 2003, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) distributed an update entitled “Rules Governing Anti Money Laundering and Combating Terrorist Financing” to all banks and

financial institutions in Saudi Arabia requiring the full and immediate implementation of nine new policies and procedures. The new regulations included:

- All bank accounts of charitable or welfare societies must be consolidated into a single account for each such society. SAMA may give permission for a subsidiary account if necessary, but such an account can only be used to receive, not to withdraw or transfer, funds.
 - Deposits in these accounts will be accepted only after the depositor provides the bank with identification and all other required information for verification.
 - No ATM cards or credit cards can be issued for these accounts. No cash withdrawals are permitted from the charitable institution's account, and all checks and drafts are to be in favor of legitimate beneficiaries and for deposits in a bank account only.
 - No charitable or welfare society can open or operate these bank accounts without first presenting a valid copy of the required license.
 - No overseas fund transfers are allowed from these bank accounts.
 - SAMA's approval is required to open a bank account.
 - Only two individuals duly authorized by the board of a charitable institution shall be allowed to operate the main account.
- On December 22, 2003, Saudi Arabia and the United States took steps to designate two organizations as financiers of terrorism under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267 (1999). These organizations are the Bosnia-based Vazir and the Liechtenstein-based Hochburg AG. Mr. Safet Durguti, a representative of the Vazir organization, was also designated under the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions as a terrorist financier. This was the third joint action taken against terrorist financing by the United States Treasury Department and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
 - On January 22, 2004, then-Crown Prince Abdullah's Foreign Affairs Advisor Adel Al-Jubeir and Secretary of the Treasury John Snow held a joint press conference in Washington, DC to announce that Saudi Arabia and the United States had asked the UN Sanctions Committee to designate four branch offices of the Al-Haramain Foundation under UN Security Council 1267. The branches were located in Kenya, Tanzania, Pakistan and Indonesia and subject to the laws and regulations of those countries.
 - On February 27, 2004, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdulaziz issued a royal order approving the creation of the Saudi National Commission for Relief and Charity Work Abroad, which is responsible for regulating charitable activities abroad.
 - On June 2, 2004, a press conference was held at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington, DC to announce that Saudi Arabia and the United States had jointly designated five branch offices of the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation under UN Security Council Resolution 1267. It was also announced that Saudi Arabia was folding Al-Haramain and other charities which used to operate abroad into the Saudi National Commission for Relief and Charity Work Abroad.
 - In 2004, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Britain jointly froze the assets of Saad Al-Faqih's London-based Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia (MIRA) for allegedly providing support

to Al-Qaeda. Al-Faqih is named on the UN Security Council Resolution 1267 list of individuals tied to Al-Qaeda.

- On September 10, 2005, a special Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), created by the Saudi government to track charitable giving to ensure that no funds can be used for terrorist-related activities, became operational.

Legal and Regulatory Actions to Combat Terrorism

Saudi Arabia has a strong legislative, regulatory and supervisory framework for banking and financial services. This infrastructure ensures that each bank or other financial service provider remains vigilant and also has strong internal controls, processes and procedures to not only know the identity of its customers but also have awareness of their activities and transactions. Money laundering and other suspicious activities are targeted and all those found violating laws and regulations are subject to severe financial penalties and imprisonment.

The following are examples of the Kingdom's regulatory control efforts:

- SAMA and the Ministry of Commerce issued instructions and guidelines to the Kingdom's financial and commercial sectors for combating money laundering activities. To further strengthen and implement the current regulations, the Ministry of Commerce issued Regulation No. 1312 aimed at preventing and combating money laundering in the non-financial sector. These regulations aimed at the manufacturing and trading sectors also covered professional services such as accounting, legal affairs, and consultancy.
- The Saudi government took concrete steps to create an institutional framework for combating money laundering. This included the establishment of units to counter money laundering, with trained and dedicated specialist staff. These units work with SAMA and law enforcement agencies. The government also encouraged banks to bring money laundering-related experiences to the notice of various bank committees (such as Fraud Committees, and those of Chief Operations Officers and Managing Directors) for exchange of information and joint action.
- Saudi banks and SAMA implemented an online reporting system to identify trends in money laundering activities to assist in policymaking and other initiatives.
- In May 2003, SAMA issued instructions to all Saudi financial institutions to strictly implement 40 recommendations of the FATF regarding money laundering and the eight recommendations regarding terror financing. Furthermore, SAMA issued instructions to all Saudi financial institutions prohibiting the transfer of any funds by charitable organizations outside the Kingdom.
- Another major institutional initiative is the creation of a specialized Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). This unit is specially tasked with handling money laundering and terror finance cases. A communication channel between the Ministry of Interior and SAMA on matters involving terrorist financing activities was also established.
- In May 2002, SAMA issued rules "Governing the Opening of Bank Accounts" and "General Operational Guidelines" in order to protect banks against money laundering activities. For instance, Saudi banks are not permitted to open bank accounts for non-resident individuals without specific approval from SAMA. Banks are required to apply strict "Know your Customer" rules and any non-customer business has to be fully documented.

- Saudi Arabia carries out regular inspections of banks to ensure compliance with laws and regulations. Any violation or non-compliance is cause for serious action and is referred to a bank's senior management and the Board. Furthermore, the government has created a permanent committee of banks' compliance officers to review regulations, guidelines, recommend improvements and to ensure that all implementation issues are resolved.
- Saudi authorities have made significant efforts to train staff in financial institutions and others involved in compliance and law as well as those in the Security and Investigation departments of the Ministry of Interior.
- Special training programs have been developed for bankers, prosecutors, judges, customs officers and other officials from government departments and agencies. Furthermore, training programs are offered by the Nayef Arab University for Security Sciences (formerly the Nayef Arab Academy for Security Sciences), the King Fahd Security Faculty, Public Security Training City, and SAMA.
- The Saudi government has established a permanent committee of representatives of seven ministries and government agencies to manage all legal and other issues related to money laundering activities.
- In 1995, SAMA issued "Guidelines for Prevention and Control of Money-Laundering Activities" to Saudi banks to implement "Know your Customer" rules, maintain records of suspicious transactions, and report them to law enforcement officials and SAMA.
- The first conference for FATF outside the G-7 countries was held in Riyadh at the SAMA Institute of Banking in 1994.

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Suspects Killed, Arrested & Questioned

Saudi Arabia continues to work closely with the international community in identifying and arresting terrorists. Over the past four years, more than 2,200 suspects have been arrested and more than 120 militants have been killed. So far, 18 of the 36 suspects on the most-wanted list issued by the Ministry of Interior on June 28, 2005 have been killed or captured as have 24 of the 26 suspects on the most-wanted list issued on December 6, 2003. In December 2007, Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz announced that Saudi security forces foiled 180 planned terrorist plots within the Kingdom. During the past two years more than 90 security officers were killed and more than 200 wounded while carrying out their duties in terrorist-related incidents.

The following are some of the specific actions taken by Saudi Arabia to go after those who support terrorism and extremism:

2008

- March 3 – Saudi authorities arrested 28 suspected Al-Qaeda militants of different nationalities, the Ministry of Interior announced. Evidence revealed the militants were attempting to rebuild the Al-Qaeda network and launch a terror campaign in Saudi Arabia.

2007

- December 15-23 – Saudi authorities arrested 28 suspected Al-Qaeda militants who planned to carry out attacks on Saudi Arabia and were linked to militants abroad.
- November 28 – Saudi security forces arrested 208 suspected militants planning a series of attacks within the Kingdom, the Ministry of Interior said. Of the 208 captured, eight were plotting an attack on an auxiliary oil installation in the Eastern Province, 22 promoted terrorism and had planned assassinations of Muslim scholars and security forces, 18 plotted to smuggle rockets into Saudi Arabia with the intention of carrying out terrorist operations, 112 were suspected of associating with terrorist cells abroad, 32 provided financial support to terrorists and 16 were arrested in Madinah for promoting and supporting terrorism.
- October 14 – Saudi authorities arrested Abdullah Al-Mohammadi, the fourth and final suspect wanted in the February 26, 2007 killings of four French nationals in southwestern Saudi Arabia. Two other suspects were arrested earlier in the year – Majed al-Harbi on May 27, 2007 and Nasser Al-Balawi in July 2007. The suspected mastermind of the murders, Walid Al-Raddadi, was killed during a gun battle with Saudi security forces on April 6.
- April 27 – The Ministry of Interior announced the arrests of 172 militants who were planning major terrorist attacks both in Saudi Arabia and abroad. The massive security sweep resulted in the seizure of weapons, more than \$5 million in cash, documents and computers.
- April 6 – Walid Mutlaq Al-Raddadi, #12 on the Kingdom's list of 36 most-wanted published June 28, 2005, was killed in a gun battle with security forces near Madinah, resulting in the

deaths of two security officers and injuries to two more. Al-Raddadi was also a suspect in the February 26, 2007 murder of four French citizens.

- February 2 – Security forces arrested 10 people suspected of raising and smuggling funds for militant groups. The suspects were illegally collecting donations, smuggling the money to “suspected parties” and using the funds to recruit youths to go to “unstable regions.”

2006

- December 2 – Saudi security forces arrested 136 suspected militants over a period of several months, the Ministry of Interior said. On December 3, Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz said that these militants belonging to terrorist cells had planned assassinations and terrorist operations inside Saudi Arabia.
- June 23 – Saudi security forces killed six Al-Qaeda militants and arrested one militant in a raid in Riyadh’s Al-Nakheel neighborhood. Information obtained during the raid also resulted in the arrests of two additional suspected militants with direct links to the group. One security member, Abdulrahman bin Hassan Al-Shehri, was killed and several others injured.
- May 12 – A car fired on the U.S. consulate in Jeddah. Security forces apprehended the armed individual later identified as Muhammad bin Abdelraziq Saad Faidi Al-Ghamidi.
- May 9-23 – Saudi security forces arrested 27 suspected Al-Qaeda terrorists in raids throughout the Kingdom.
- April 18 – The Ministry of Interior stated that Saudi security forces arrested five militants in connection with the failed Abqaiq oil facility attack on February 24, 2006.
- February 24-27 – Five suspects on the Kingdom’s list of 36 most wanted were killed. Mohammed bin Saleh bin Mohammed Al-Ghaith, #8, and Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim Al-Tuwaijri, #9, were killed during a failed attack on the Abqaiq oil facility on February 24. A follow-up raid on an Al-Qaeda safe house in Riyadh on February 27 resulted in the deaths of Al-Qaeda’s leader in Saudi Arabia Fahd Farraj Mohammed Aljuwair, #2, Ibrahim Abdullah Ibrahim Almateer, #11 and Abdullah Mohayya Shalash Asilaiti Alshammari, #15. Two additional militants were also killed in the Riyadh raid.
- January 17 – The Ministry of Interior reported that five men suspected of planning terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia were arrested.

2005

- December 27 – Two most-wanted terrorist suspects were killed in related incidents in Qassim Province. Mohammed Abdulrahman Alsuwailmi, #7, and Abdulrahman Salih Abdulrahman Almit’eb, #4, were on the Kingdom’s list of 36 most-wanted. Five security men were also killed.

- December 3 – The Ministry of Interior reported that Saudi security forces arrested 17 suspected Al-Qaeda terrorists in simultaneous raids throughout the Kingdom. Some of the suspects participated in Al-Qaeda terrorist acts, while others were suspected of collaborating with the group.
- November 8 – A Saudi on the Kingdom’s most-wanted list of terrorist suspects was extradited to Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Interior said. Adnan Abdullah Faris Alamri Alshareef was #23 on the list of 36 most-wanted.
- September 4-7 – Four militants on Saudi Arabia’s list of 36 most-wanted were killed in a security operation in Dammam. They were identified as: #3 Zaid Saad Zaid Alsammari, #5 Salih Mansour Mohsin Alfraidi Alharbi, #6 Sultan Salih Hosan Alhasri and #13 Naif Farhan Jalal Aljhaishi Alshammari. Four security officers were killed and others wounded.
- August 18 – Three terrorists were killed in raids in Riyadh and Madinah. One of them, who blew himself up in Riyadh, was identified as Majed Hamid Abdullah Alhasiri; he was #14 on the Kingdom’s list of 36 most-wanted. In Madinah, the two killed were Mohammad Abdullah Mohammad Owaidahi, and Salih Mohammad Awadallah Alalawy Aloafi; the latter was on the most-wanted list issued on December 6, 2003. One security officer, Lance-Corporal Muhammad bin Moawadh Al-Shamani Al-Harbi, was killed and another injured in the raids.
- July 25 – Security forces arrested Mohammed Saeed Mohammed Alsiyam Alamri, #10 on the list of 36 most-wanted. The arrest was a direct result of information provided by citizens.
- July 9 – Saudi security authorities announced that Yemeni national Zaid Hasan Mohammed Hameed, #21 on the Kingdom’s list of 36 most-wanted, was in detention in Yemen under the name Zaid Hasan Omar Al-Ju’aidi’.
- July 3 – Security forces killed Younis Mohammed Ibrahim Alhayari, a Moroccan national who was #1 on Saudi Arabia’s list of 36 most-wanted. Alhayari was considered an expert in explosives and was directly involved in terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia. Following the death of his predecessor, he was nominated by members of the deviant group to head the group.
- July 1 – Fayez Ibrahim Omer Ayyoub, #29 on the Kingdom’s list of 36 most-wanted suspects, surrendered to Saudi authorities upon his return to Saudi Arabia.
- June 28 – The Ministry of Interior issued a new most-wanted list, naming 36 militants wanted by the security forces in connection with terrorist incidents and urging them to surrender to authorities. Most of those named were Saudi nationals; there were seven non-Saudis.
- June 21 – Two militants suspected of the June 18 murder in Makkah of a security officer, Major General Mubarak Al-Sawat, were killed in a shootout with security forces in Jeddah.
- June 15 – The Ministry of Interior reported that security forces had arrested five individuals, all of Chadian nationality, suspected of terrorist activity, including efforts to finance an Al-Qaeda cell by carrying out a series of armed robberies in Jeddah over a two-month period in 2004.

- May 9 – Wanted militant Abdulaziz bin Rasheed bin Hamdan Altowaile'i Ala'nezi was wounded and arrested.
- April 21 – Security forces killed two wanted suspects and arrested two more. Two security officers were killed in the incident and four were slightly injured.
- April 6 – Security forces shot and killed Abdulrahman Mohammad Yazji, # 24 on the list of 26 most-wanted. Found hiding in the Al-Sinayah industrial area in the city of Riyadh, he opened fire on security officers. An associate with him was wounded and arrested.
- April 3-5 – Fifteen suspects were killed in a three-day shootout in Ar-Rass, Qassim Province. Saud Homood Obaid Alqotaini Alotaibi (Saudi) and Kareem Altohami Almojati (Moroccan), were #'s 20 and 12 on the list of the 26 most-wanted announced in December 2003. Five injured suspects were arrested; a sixth surrendered and was also arrested.
- January 9 – Security forces killed four terrorist suspects in a shootout in the Nafud Al-Thoweirat desert, about 50 miles from Al-Zilfi in the north of Riyadh Province.

2004

- December 29, 2004 - January 3, 2005 – Fifteen terrorists killed during December 29 car bomb attacks on the Interior Ministry and the Emergency Special Forces Headquarters in Riyadh, and in shootouts in connection with the incidents. Among those killed were Sultan Bjad So'doon Alotaibi and Bandar Abdulrahman Abdullah Aldakheel, #'s 26 and 7 on the Kingdom's 26 most-wanted list.
- December 28 – A wanted suspect was killed and another wounded and arrested in a clash with a security patrol in Riyadh. One security officer was injured and a bystander was killed in the incident.
- December 6 – Explosives were thrown at the gate of the U.S. Consulate in Jeddah, which was briefly breached. Security forces took immediate action and four of the five assailants were killed while the fifth was arrested.
- November 27 – A suspect killed by security officers in Jeddah in the university district was identified as Isam Saddeeq Qasim Mobaraki.
- November 16 – Security forces arrested a number of terrorist suspects following a firefight in the suburbs of Unayzah in Qassim Province. One security officer was killed and eight injured.
- November 9 – During a raid in the Al-Jammah district of Jeddah, one wanted suspect was killed and three others captured.
- November 4 – One person wanted for terrorist activities was arrested; and on October 31, 2004, three terrorist suspects were arrested in Riyadh.

- October 12 – Security forces killed three terrorist suspects, including Abdulmajeed Mohammad Abdullah Almoneea’, # 1 on the Kingdom’s list of 26 most-wanted. Seven security officers were wounded during the encounter.
- September 23 – Security forces arrested a wanted suspect in Tabuk without resistance. The suspect had confirmed links to a militant who was injured and arrested in Tabuk three days before. Three security officers were wounded in that incident.
- September 5 – Three security officers, Sergeant Mufleh Saad Ruweishid Al-Rasheedi, Sergeant Sayer Farhan Ghanim Al-Nomasi and Murif Shakir Eid Al-Rasheedi, were killed when their car caught fire after being hit by gunfire while pursuing a suspect vehicle. The officers were part of a security force carrying out operations in the southern part of the city of Buraidah. Seven militants were arrested in the operation.
- September 3 – One security officer, Yousef bin Ayed Al-Harbi, was killed and three injured during operations in Buraidah. Surveillance of a suspected residence and vehicle led to an exchange of fire between security forces and another vehicle. After a pursuit through a residential neighborhood, the driver of the second vehicle was killed and another individual involved in the incident was arrested.
- September 2 – The Ministry of Interior announced that Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Ahmed Almughrin had voluntarily surrendered to security authorities. He was wanted for his involvement in setting up an Al-Qaeda cell in the Eastern Province, three of whose members were also arrested. The cell was suspected of preparing the attack in Al-Khobar on May 30, 2004.
- August 30 – Security forces in the Eastern Province were carrying out investigations when a car carrying four persons tried to break through security barriers. In the ensuing exchange of fire, one of them was killed and three others wounded and arrested. The search operation also led to the arrest of another suspect and the seizure of two vehicles that had been under surveillance.
- August 11 – Abdulrahman bin Obaid-Allah Al-Harbi was killed in the vicinity of the Holy Mosque in Makkah after he attacked security officers who were trying to apprehend him. He was wanted for his involvement with an extremist group and the manufacturing of explosives.
- August 5 – Faris Ahmad Jamaan Al Showeel Alzahrani, one of the leaders of the group that had been calling for terrorist attacks, was arrested.
- July 22 – Fayez bin Rasheed bin Mohammad Al-Khashman Al-Dossary surrendered to security authorities in Taif as part of a grace period offered by King Fahd bin Abdulaziz.
- July 20 – In a raid on a suspected hideout in Riyadh, security forces killed two suspects, including, Isa Saad Mohammad bin O’ooshan, #19 on the list of Saudi Arabia’s 26 most-wanted. Recovered during the raid were the partial remains of Mr. Paul Marshall Johnson, Jr., the American who was kidnapped and murdered by Al-Qaeda in June 2004.

- July 17 – Ibrahim Al-Sadiq Al-Bakri Al-Qaidi arrived in the Kingdom from Damascus, where he had surrendered to the Saudi Embassy as part of the grace period offered by King Fahd bin Abdulaziz.
- July 13 – Top Al-Qaeda suspect Khalid bin Odeh bin Mohammed Al-Harbi, also known as Abu Sulaiman Al-Makki, surrendered to Saudi authorities at the Saudi Embassy in Iran and was later transported to Saudi Arabia.
- July 3 – The Ministry of Interior confirmed the deaths of two militants on the list of 26 most-wanted. Rakan Muhsin Mohammed Alsaykhan, #6, and Nasir Rashid Nasir Alrashid, #4, died of wounds received in the April 12 shootout in the Riyadh suburb of Al-Fayha.
- July 1 – Terrorist Awad bin Mohammed bin Ali Al-Awad, wanted for his involvement in the April 12 shootout in Riyadh, was killed. Another suspect Abdulrahman bin Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Abdulwahab, was arrested after being identified as wanted in connection with the murder of a German resident in Riyadh on May 22. A security officer, Private Muslih bin Saad Al-Qarni, was killed in this incident.
- June 30 – A terrorist was killed in a shootout in Riyadh, later identified as Fahd bin Ali Aldakheel Algablan. Security forces seized a laboratory for preparing explosive devices and equipment for forging documents, in addition to weapons such as Kalashnikovs and pistols.
- June 23 – In a televised address read on behalf of King Fahd bin Abdulaziz by Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, the government offered those involved in terrorist activity a last opportunity to repent and voluntarily surrender within one month, or face resolute and determined force: whoever surrendered would be assured due process in accordance with Shariah [Islamic Law]. Hours later, Sa'aban bin Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Lailahi Al-Shihri, wanted for the past two years, became the first militant to accept the offer and surrender to authorities. On June 28, 2004, Osman Hadi Al Maqboul Almardy Alomary became the second to do so; he was #10 on the list of Saudi Arabia's 26 most-wanted.
- June 18 – Abdulaziz Abdulmohsen Almughrin, leader of the Saudi Al-Qaeda group and #3 on the 26 most-wanted list, was killed in a siege in the Maalaz area of Riyadh. Almughrin was also responsible for the brutal murder of U.S. hostage Paul Johnson. Three other suspects were killed in the siege: Faisal bin Abdulrahman Al-Dakheel, #5 on the 26 most-wanted list; Turki bin Fehaid Al-Mutairi; and Ibrahim bin Abdullah Al-Duraimem. One security officer was killed and two others wounded. Found at the scene were three cars, one of which had been used in a recent attack on a BBC journalist and his photographer.
- May 29 – Two suspects were killed in a terrorist attack on an office compound and residential complex in Al-Khobar. The attack resulted in deaths of 22 people, including one American and three Saudis. Security forces rescued 41 hostages in that incident; one of the four terrorists was wounded and apprehended.
- May 20 – Security forces killed four terrorist suspects and injured another in a gunfight in Qassim Province. Two security officers were killed.

- May 1 – Four terrorists were killed after carrying out an attack in Yanbu that left eight people dead and 20 others wounded. The four belonged to one family: Sameer Sulaiman Alansari, Sami Sulaiman Alansari, Ayman Abdulqader Alansari, and Mustafa Abdulqader Abed Alansari.
- April 22 – Five terror suspects were killed following a shootout with security forces in the Al-Safa neighborhood in Jeddah. Four were on the list of 26 most-wanted: Ahmad Abdulrahman Saqr Alfadhli, #23; Khalid Mobarak Habeeb-Allah Alqurashi, #11; Mostafa Ibrahim Mohammad Mobaraki, #25; and Talal A'nbar Ahmad A'nbari, #13.
- April 13 – Four security officers were killed by unknown gunman in two separate confrontations along the Riyadh-Qassim highway. The security officers killed were: Captain Talal bin Abdulrahman Al-Manei, Sergeant Jarullah bin Ali Al-Jarullah, Sergeant Turki bin Mohammed Al-Otaibi and Corporal Salim bin Rasheed Al-Mousa.
- April 12 – One security officer was killed and four slightly wounded during a shootout with a group of suspects in the Al-Fayha suburb of Riyadh. One suspect was killed. As a result of this incident, security forces seized two trucks loaded with 4.5 tons of explosives ready for detonation, a car full of weapons, as well as various other items and weapons at different locations. Eight suspects were arrested in connection with these events.
- March 15 – Security forces killed Khalid Ali Ali-Haj, #9 on the 26 most-wanted list. Ali-Haj was a Yemeni national who trained at Al-Qaeda camps in Afghanistan, where he worked closely with Osama bin Laden. Security forces searched his car and found six hand grenades, two Kalashnikov assault rifles, ten Kalashnikov ammunition magazines, three 9-mm pistols and the equivalent of about \$137,000 in cash.
- February 22 – The Ministry of Interior confirmed the death of A'amir Mohsin Moreef Al Zaidan Alshihri, #15 on the 26 most-wanted list. He died some time after being wounded during a clash with police in Riyadh on November 6, 2003.
- January 30 – Security forces stormed a rest house in the Al-Siliye district in the east of Riyadh, arrested seven suspects and seized weapons, military uniforms and ammunition.
- January 12 – The Ministry of Interior announced that, over the past six months, large quantities of ammunition and weapons had been seized. The total weight of confiscated explosives was 26.3 tons [23,893 kg]. In addition, 301 rocket-propelled grenades and launchers, 431 homemade grenades, 304 explosive belts, 674 detonators, 1,020 small arms and 352,398 rounds of ammunition were confiscated.

2003

- December 30 – Mansoor Mohammad Ahmad Faqeeh, #16 on Saudi Arabia's 26 most-wanted list of terrorist suspects, surrendered to security authorities.

- December 8 – Security forces killed Ibrahim Mohammad Abdullah Alrayis, #17 on Saudi Arabia’s 26 most-wanted list.
- December 6 – The Ministry of Interior published the names and photos of 26 suspects wanted by security forces in connection with the terrorist incidents that had taken place in the Kingdom in the past few months, urging them to surrender to the authorities. Immediate financial rewards of up to \$1.9 million were offered for information leading to the arrest of any wanted suspect, or any other terrorist elements and cells.
- November 26 – A suspected terrorist was arrested. The suspect’s hiding place was linked to the terrorist cell involved in the November 9 car bombing at the Al-Muhaya residential complex in Riyadh. Items discovered by security forces include one SAM-7 surface to air missile, five rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 846 pounds [384 kg] of the explosive RDX, 89 detonators, 20 hand grenades, eight AK-47 assault rifles, 41 AK-47 magazines, and 16,800 rounds of ammunition. Also recovered were four wireless communication devices, three computers, computer disks and CDs, and the equivalent of about \$25,000 in cash, as well as numerous identity cards and leaflets calling for the perpetration of acts of terror.
- November 25 – Two wanted terror suspects were killed in a foiled car bomb plot in Riyadh. Abdulmohsin Abdulaziz Alshabanat was killed in the exchange of fire, and Mosaed Mohammad Dheedan Alsobaiee committed suicide by detonating the hand grenade he was carrying.
- November 20 – Wanted terror suspect Abdullah bin Atiyah bin Hudeid Al-Salami surrendered to security authorities.
- November 6 – Security forces investigating a suspected terrorist cell in the Al-Suwaidi district of Riyadh came under fire from the suspects, who attempted to flee while attacking security forces. In the exchange of fire, one terrorist was killed and eight security officers suffered minor injuries. On the same day, in the Al-Shara’ei district of Makkah, two terrorist suspects, surrounded by security forces, used homemade bombs to blow themselves up.
- November 3 – Saudi police arrested six suspected Al-Qaeda militants after a shootout in Makkah. The raid on an apartment triggered a shootout that left two suspected terrorists dead and one security officer wounded.
- October 20 – Security forces raided several terrorist cells in various parts of the country, including the city of Riyadh, the Al-Majma’a District in Riyadh Province, Makkah Province, the Jeddah District of Makkah Province, and Qassim Province.
- October 8 – Security forces arrested a suspect during a raid on a farm in the northern Muleda area of Qassim Province. Two security officers were injured.
- October 5 – Security forces arrested three suspects during a raid in the desert east of Riyadh.
- September 23 – Security forces surrounded a group of suspected terrorists in an apartment in Jizan. During a gun battle, one security officer was killed and four injured. Two suspects were arrested and one killed.

- July 28 – Security forces killed six terrorist suspects and injured one in a gunfight at a farm in Qassim Province. Two security officers were killed and eight suffered minor injuries. Four people who harbored the suspects were arrested.
- July 25 – Three men were arrested at a checkpoint in Makkah for possessing printed material that included a “religious edict” in support of terrorist acts against Western targets.
- July 21 – The Ministry of Interior announced that Saudi authorities had defused imminent terrorist operations against vital installations and arrested 16 members of a number of terrorist cells in Riyadh, Qassim and the Eastern Provinces. In addition, underground storage facilities were found containing bags, weighing more than 20 tons, filled with chemicals used in the making of explosives.
- July 3 – Top Al-Qaeda operative Turki Nasser Mishaal Aldandany was killed in a gun battle with security forces, along with three other suspects. Aldandany was one of the masterminds of the May 12 bombings in Riyadh.
- June 26 – Top Al-Qaeda operative Ali Abdulrahman Said Alfagsi Al-Ghamdi, a.k.a. Abu Bakr Al-Azdi, surrendered to Saudi authorities. Al-Ghamdi was suspected of being one of the masterminds of the May 12 bombings in Riyadh.
- June 14 – Security forces raided a terrorist cell in the Alattas building in the Khalidiya neighborhood of Makkah. Two Saudi police officers and five suspects were killed in a shootout. Twelve suspects were arrested.
- May 31 – Major Al-Qaeda operational planner and fundraiser Yousif Salih Fahad Al-Ayeeri, a.k.a. Swift Sword, was killed while fleeing from a security patrol.
- May 27-28 – Eleven suspects were taken into custody in Madinah. Weapons, false identity cards and bomb-making materials were confiscated. In addition, Saudi national Abdulmonim Ali Mahfouz Al-Ghamdi was arrested following a car chase.
- May – Three clerics, Ali Fahd Al-Khudair, Ahmed Hamoud Mufreh Al-Khaledi and Nasir Ahmed Al-Fuhaid, were arrested after calling for support of the terrorists who carried out the May 12 attacks on residential compounds in Riyadh. In November 2003, Ali Fahd Al-Khudair recanted his religious opinions on Saudi TV. Shortly after, a second cleric, Nasir Ahmed Al-Fuhaid, recanted and withdrew his religious opinions describing them as a “grave mistake.” On December 16, 2003, Ahmed Hamoud Mufreh Al-Khaledi became the third cleric to recant on national television.



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