



August 18, 2009

FOREIGN POLICY

OIC condemns terrorist acts in Baghdad and Mosul

Secretary General of the Jeddah-based Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu has condemned the lethal bombings in Iraq that targeted civilians in Mosul and Baghdad that killed and wounded about two hundred people. In an August 11 statement, Ihsanoglu expressed shock and dismay over the targeting of people in public places, declaring the bombings criminal acts. He urged the Iraqi people to remain committed to national unity and to avoid being swayed by those attempting to use the blood of innocents to serve criminal objectives. The Secretary General conveyed his deepest sympathies to the Iraqi leadership and people, especially to the victims of the bombings and their families. Furthermore, he wished Iraq greater security and stability.

Cabinet condemns Israeli actions, calls on Palestinians to unite

During its August 10 meeting, the Saudi Cabinet condemned Israel's latest actions against the Palestinian people – specifically, the expulsion of several Palestinian families from their homes in East Jerusalem. The ministers rejected the ongoing evictions, which have elicited broad international criticism, and called upon the international community to work towards immediately stopping the "criminal acts" and compelling Israel to "respect all legitimate international resolutions." The Cabinet stressed King Abdullah's interest in solving Arab and Muslim issues, especially the ongoing inter-Palestinian conflict. It also expressed its hope that the Palestinian factions will respond to calls by the Saudi monarch to work on overcoming their differences for the sake of their people. The Cabinet reminded Palestinian leaders of the pledges and commitments they made at the Grand Mosque in Makkah during a reconciliation summit hosted by the Kingdom.

SAUDI ARABIA-U.S.

Minister of Health meets with experts from WHO and CDC on H1N1

Minister of Health Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah met in Jeddah on August 16 with experts from the World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as trainees from the Ministry of Health. The group was participating in a workshop on how to use mobile devices as part of the Ministry of Health's epidemiological surveillance system. During the meeting,

Dr. Al-Rabeeah was briefed on the workshop, which began August 15, and is part of the Ministry's efforts to provide all citizens and expatriates in the Kingdom with the maximum protection against diseases.

Ambassador Al-Jubeir meets with U.S. envoy and new U.S. ambassador

Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel A. Al-Jubeir held a luncheon meeting at the Embassy in Washington on August 11 with U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. Ambassador Al-Jubeir later met with Ambassador James B. Smith, the new U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

FOREIGN AID

Ramadan relief convoy arrives in Gaza

In implementation of the directives of Deputy Prime Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, the first consignment of the Ramadan Food Convoy for the Relief of the Affected People of the Gaza Strip arrived in Gaza on August 16 through the Rafah border crossing with Egypt. The shipment, which included foodstuffs and medical supplies, was distributed to Palestinian families in need. In a statement, Dr. Saed Al-Harhi, the President of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Campaign for the Relief of the Palestinian People in Gaza, said that more consignments will be delivered soon, in coordination with local authorities. The Campaign has already approved an amount of \$37.34 million for programs and projects aimed at benefiting the people of Gaza.

