



OCTOBER 13, 2009

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

### **King Abdullah and President Al-Assad hold talks**

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and a delegation of senior Saudi officials traveled to Damascus on October 7 for a two-day official visit to Syria. Upon his arrival, the King held two rounds of talks with Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, focusing on regional and international developments, especially the Palestinian issue, and on Saudi-Syrian relations. Prior to the meeting, President Al-Assad awarded King Abdullah the Umayyah National Medal, the country's highest civilian honor. In return, King Abdullah presented President Al-Assad with the King Abdulaziz Medal, the Kingdom's highest award, which is bestowed to heads of state and world leaders.

### **Egyptian President receives Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz**

Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz was received by President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on October 12. During their meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and international issues of common concern. Prince Nayef arrived in Cairo October 11 for a four-day visit that focused on boosting bilateral cooperation in several fields, including commerce, economics and scientific research.

## SAUDI ARABIA-U.S.

### **King Abdullah Congratulates President Obama on Nobel Peace Prize**

King Abdullah congratulated President Obama on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize October 9. On behalf of the King and the people of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Adel Al-Jubeir, extended congratulations to President Obama on his honor. "From his speech to the Muslim World in Cairo to his renewed and active engagement in finding a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Mr. Obama's efforts give hope to people throughout the world," said Ambassador Al-Jubeir.

### **Prince Muhammad bin Nayef meets with top U.S. officials**

Prince Muhammad bin Nayef, Saudi Assistant Minister of Interior for Security Affairs, concluded on October 7 a three-day visit to the United States, during which he met with senior U.S. officials, including President Barack Obama, U.S.

Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns, Commander of U.S. Central Command Gen. David Petraeus, and other officials from specialized agencies. The visit is part of ongoing consultations and exchange of views between the two countries.

### **Ambassador meets with head of Saudi interfaith delegation**

Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel A. Al-Jubeir met October 9 with the head of a Saudi interfaith delegation, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Sayegh, who participated in a seminar at the Dialogue Institute at Temple University in Philadelphia. Ambassador Al-Jubeir and Dr. Al-Sayegh discussed the benefits of the seminar — entitled “Dialogue in America: Principles and Practices”— and the importance of communication between different religions and cultures. “This seminar highlighted the importance of looking to what unites us: our profound faith in God and our adherence to the universal values enshrined in all faiths which call for compassion, mercy, peace, honesty and coexistence,” said Ambassador Al-Jubeir. The Center for Islamic Contemporary Studies and Dialogue of Civilizations at Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh initiated the seminar. Professors and religious scholars from Christianity, Judaism and Islam participated.

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **National Awareness Campaign to Combat Breast Cancer inaugurated**

On behalf of Princess Hessah bint Trad Al-Shaalan, the Honorary President of the Zahra Breast Cancer Association and wife of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, the National Awareness Campaign to Combat Breast Cancer was inaugurated in Riyadh on October 10. The Association began its awareness campaign to combat breast cancer three years ago.

## **FOREIGN AID**

### **Saudi airlifts aid to Indonesia**

In the wake of a devastating earthquake that hit Indonesia on September 30, King Abdullah ordered the establishment of an air bridge of relief supplies to survivors. The first Saudi plane arrived October 6 at Soekarno-Hatta International airport in Jakarta carrying 100 tons of emergency aid, including tents, foodstuffs, blankets and rugs. A second plane arrived on October 7 carrying 100 tons of emergency aid, a third followed on October 8 with 70 tons of aid, and a fourth plane brought 83 tons of foodstuffs on October 12.

