

From Left to Right: Earl Anthony Wayne (Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Dept. of State), Ambassador J. Cofer Black (Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Dept. of State), Secretary John Snow (Dept. of Treasury), Juan Carlos Zarate (Deputy Assistant Secretary, Executive Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crime, Dept. of Treasury) and Adel Al-Jubeir (Foreign Affairs Advisor to Crown Prince Abdullah).



U.S. Dept. of Treasury

SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCE JOINT DESIGNATION

On January 22, 2004, in a joint press conference, U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow and Adel Al-Jubeir, Foreign Affairs Advisor to Crown Prince Abdullah, called upon the United Nations Sanctions Committee to designate four branch offices of the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation as financial supporters of terrorism.

“The United States and Saudi Arabia share a deep commitment to fighting the spread of terrorism in all its forms.”

– John W. Snow, United States Treasury Secretary,
January 22, 2004



AP/Wide World Photos

Secretary Snow and
Foreign Affairs Advisor, Adel Al-Jubeir

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY SNOW



AP/Wide World Photos

John W. Snow,
Secretary of the Treasury

Prepared Remarks of Treasury Secretary John Snow to Announce Joint U.S. and Saudi Action Against Four Branches of Al-Haramain in the Financial War on Terror.

Thank you very much for being here today. I am very pleased to announce that the United States and Saudi Arabia have joined together today to take action against four branches of the Al-Haramain organization. Today's designation is another important victory in our ongoing war against the spread of terrorism and terrorist financiers and another demonstration of our partnership in the war against terror.

The four branches of Al-Haramain that we are singling out today have not only supported the plotting of despicable acts of terror, but they have done so by exploiting countless individuals who believed that by supporting Al-Haramain, they were, in fact spreading good will to many in need of a helping hand. The four branches of Al-Haramain have cloaked themselves in the virtue of charity, only to fund and support terrorist organizations around the world - such as the al-Qaeda network. These four branches located in Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Pakistan have ignored past orders to cease their operations. By designating these organizations under the President's Executive Order Number 13224, and joining with Saudi Arabia to call on the United Nations 1267 Sanctions Committee to designate these groups as well, we bring to bear the full weight of the international community.

We will continue to vigilantly work to ensure that these groups will no longer be able to disguise themselves as legitimate and benevolent organizations in order to undermine peace and freedom. We know generous givers to charities

provide hundreds of millions of dollars to improve the lives of countless people around the world. We will not interfere with the noble work of legitimate charities. But donors need to be assured that their contributions are being used for their intended purposes -- and not to fuel the activity of terrorists.

Make no mistake; this administration will continue to take aggressive actions, both domestically and internationally, to ensure that charities are not being abused by terrorists or other criminals.

Just days ago, during the State of the Union address, President Bush stated that our greatest responsibility is the active defense of the American people.

Twenty-eight months have passed since September 11th, 2001 -- over two years without an attack on American soil. As the President said, it is tempting to believe that the danger is behind us. But the terrorists continue to plot against America and the 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.”

However, we too are on the offensive against the terrorists who started this war. We're tracking al Qaeda around the world, and nearly two-thirds of their known leaders have now been captured or killed.

As part of the Administration's offensive against terror the President mentioned during his national address, the Treasury Department is confronting networks that funnel money to terrorists.

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.

STATEMENT BY ADEL AL-JUBEIR

**Prepared Remarks of Adel Al-Jubeir,
Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Crown Prince.**

Thank you Mr. Secretary.

Today's announcement is an important one, because it represents another victory in the war against terror. It also reflects the extent of the strong cooperation between our two governments. Both of our countries are targets of Al-Qaeda, and as a consequence both the Saudi and the American people live under the threat of terror attacks. Today we stand shoulder-to-shoulder in this war against evil.

The Kingdom is locked in a mortal combat with a vicious and cruel enemy we are determined to defeat. The objective of Al-Qaeda is to destabilize our country, overthrow the established order, and replace it with a Taliban-like regime that can control the cradle of Islam and a quarter of the world's oil.

But they will not succeed. This is a war that we will not lose. We owe it to our people to rid our country and the world of the scourge of terror. And, with the help of God Almighty, we shall succeed.

We have arrested over 600 terror suspects; many of the top Al-Qaeda leaders in the Kingdom have been killed or captured. And scores of cells and training camps have been uncovered and destroyed before they could do any harm to the innocent. But this is not enough. We are not only going after the terrorists, but also the money and the mindset that support them or condone their actions, regardless of where they exist.

In addition to the designations we are making today, we have also taken bold steps to change our laws to ensure that no funds intended to help those less fortunate end up in the hands of evildoers. Charity is noble, and a requirement of our faith. And donors must be assured that the money they give to help others is not diverted for evil purposes.

Saudi Arabia is also taking aggressive action to purge extremist thought from our society. Our faith, Islam, is a religion of peace and tolerance and inclusion. King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah have pledged to uproot the sources of extremism wherever they may exist. And with the help of God Almighty, we shall do so.

Today's designations are a visible result of months of hard work by Saudi and U.S. officials from across many departments. They are the result of the close cooperation that exists

between our two countries, which -- contrary to the pontifications of some observers -- has actually been strengthened since September 11. Today, Saudi authorities and their U.S. counterparts work side by side in teams dedicated to fighting terrorism and unraveling the worldwide financial networks that support it. Where we once shared information across oceans, we now share it across a desk. The effectiveness of our cooperative efforts is unprecedented and has led to today's actions. And we expect more to come.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the Bush Administration and the many vigilant members of the Saudi and American law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as well as officials from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency and the U.S. Treasury Department for their tireless efforts. The sacrifices these brave individuals have made allow us to enjoy the benefits of security and peace.

“WE ARE NOT ONLY GOING AFTER THE TERRORISTS, BUT ALSO THE MONEY AND THE MINDSET THAT SUPPORT THEM OR CONDONE THEIR ACTIONS, REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY EXIST.”



AP/Wide World Photos

Adel Al-Jubeir,
Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Crown Prince



U.S. Dept. of Treasury

Juan Carlos Zarate, Esq.
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Executive Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crime

“I THINK TODAY’S ACTION SIGNALS A CONCRETE REFLECTION OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF WHICH THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT TAKES THIS THREAT, AND I THINK BASED ON OUR TRIPS TO SAUDI ARABIA, AS WELL AS OUR INTERACTIONS, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY TAKE THIS THREAT EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY.”

“THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME—ACTUALLY—WE’VE DONE A JOINT ACTION WITH THE SAUDIS...AND AS AMBASSADOR BLACK MENTIONED, IT IS ONLY ONE STEP AMONG MANY THAT WE HOPE TO TAKE TOGETHER.”



U.S. Dept. of State

Earl Anthony Wayne,
Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State

“THIS IS ALL PART OF BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK AND COALITION THAT CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE...”

AMBASSADOR J. COFER BLACK

January 22, 2004

I think this announcement today clearly demonstrates our vitally important counterterrorism cooperation with Saudi Arabia. This is not new, but a continuation of our increasingly effective cooperation. Today’s announcement shows the United States will not relent in our efforts to stop terrorist financial flows. We will continue to work with the world community to see this doesn’t happen.

Staunching terrorist financing is essential to the war on terrorism, without funding terrorists cannot operate. This continues to be a work in progress, we’re not done - we’re just really getting underway. Attacking terrorist financing requires a constant, long term effort.

I have personally seen great improvements in our cooperation over the course of my six visits to the kingdom since January 2003.

We take this very seriously, as do our Saudi counterparts. I believe and have consistently stated that we must judge the Saudi government on its actions in the field of counterterrorism. We’ve done the designation, six of these groups have now been designated, we continue to have an active dialogue with Saudi Arabia expanding this particular cooperation which is essential to our mutual interests. I would just like to repeat a fact that His Excellency Adel Al-Jubeir stated, and this, I think, has great significance, and we should pay attention to this.

“THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS ARRESTED MORE THAN 600 TERRORISM SUSPECTS SINCE MAY 2003, UNCOVERING TONS OF EXPLOSIVES AND CACHES OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. THIS IS A PART OF THE GLOBAL WAR AND WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS.”

The Saudi government continues to conduct raids and chase down these individuals. Numerous Saudi security personnel have been killed. The Saudi government, in its counterterrorism actions, has lost its own and there has been considerable blood and we are honored by this sacrifice in the defense of innocent men, women and children.

The Saudis have also widely publicized the names of twenty-six terrorists. The last time I was in the kingdom, I took up a newspaper, opened it up, you have the names, you have the pictures, the Saudi citizens asked to provide any information they have and as a result of that one has been killed, one has been captured and that process continues.

“WE ARE WORKING VERY CLOSELY IN SHARING OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION, BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION, AS IT RELATES SPECIFICALLY TO TERRORISM”

The same question keeps coming up, about charities and offices – the key point here, this is the business of protecting innocent men, women and children. This is the business of counterterrorism. We have to be very exacting



U.S. Dept. of State

Ambassador J. Cofer Black
Coordinator for Counterterrorism,
Department of State

and specific, we must make sure that money is intended for good works that help individuals continues, in a way that maximizes the securities of individuals. Particularly in the counterterrorism finance area, we think this process is really up underway and moving along. I think it is very significant, certainly from a counterterrorism standpoint but also in a cultural sense that the charity boxes in many of the mosques, over fifty thousand mosques, have been removed. This has reduced the ability of non-attributable contributions.

Contributing to charity is good, this is to be encouraged. It should go to the deserving and not be sent to or diverted to terrorists.

We formed a joint task force on terrorism, we also have joint intelligence units on financial matters, we’re mutually supporting in terms of training, lessons learned. Tremendous progress has been made. We have a long way to go, a lot of innocent people to protect.

“AND I THINK THE FACT STANDS FOR ITSELF, THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AND ITS SECURITY, INTELLIGENCE AND FINANCIAL PERSONNEL, HAVE COME A LONG WAY, AND THAT’S THE WAY IT IS.”



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