



GOVERNMENT

King Salman Names New Crown Prince, Interior Minister

On June 21, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz issued a number of royal orders, including the appointment of Prince Mohammed bin Salman as Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister. The Crown Prince will continue in his role as Minister of Defense and other missions previously assigned to him.

Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud was named Minister of Interior, and Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Salem was appointed Deputy Minister of Interior at the rank of Minister.

President Trump called Prince Mohammed to congratulate him on his new position. During the call, the President and the Crown Prince reiterated the commitment of the U.S. and Saudi Arabia to close cooperation to advance stability and security in the Middle East and across the world.

REGIONAL SECURITY

Foreign Minister: Demands That Qatar Stop Funding Terrorism Are Non-Negotiable

On June 27, Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir met with a group of journalists in Washington to brief them on the ongoing diplomatic situation with Qatar. Saudi Arabia - along with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt - suspended diplomatic ties with Qatar on June 5 as a result of its ongoing financial support for terrorist and extremist organizations.

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Minister Al-Jubeir emphasized that Saudi Arabia's demands are non-negotiable. The decision to take diplomatic action against Qatar was made after consideration of Doha's long history of behavior that includes harboring known terrorists and funding extremist groups throughout the region.

"This idea that you can fund extremist groups, that you can pay ransom to terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS, that you can send \$300 million to the Shi'ite

militias in Iraq with most of it ending up with the Quds Force in Iran, is not acceptable," Minister Al-Jubeir said. "I think most countries in the world would agree with the demand to stop this."

"We have to have policy of zero tolerance," he asserted. "And unless we have that, we're not going to be able to be effective in fighting terrorism or terror financing or extremism."

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Foreign Minister Meets With U.S. Secretary of State

Foreign Minister Al-Jubeir met with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson at the State Department on June 14, where the two parties discussed joint efforts to combat terrorism and extremism, along with other issues pertinent to regional and international cooperation. Before the meeting, Minister Al-Jubeir told reporters that there is no blockade of Qatar.

"Qatar is free to go - the ports are open, the airports are open. What we have done is we have denied them use of our airspace, and this is our sovereign right. The limitation on the use of Saudi airspace is only limited to Qatari airways or Qatari-owned aircraft, not anybody else. The seaports of Qatar are open; there is no

blockade on them. Qatar can move goods in and out whenever they want; they just cannot use our territorial waters," he said.

"We have exercised our sovereign right to prohibit them from using our airspace. We have allowed the movement of families between the two countries to happen so that we don't divide families, and we are prepared to provide Qatar with food and medical supplies, should they need this, through the King Salman Center."

While in Washington, Minister Al-Jubeir also met with members of Congress.

White Paper: Saudi Arabia and the Visit of President Trump

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a white paper titled "Saudi Arabia and the Visit of President Trump," providing an in-depth look at the major events and accomplishments that occurred during the U.S. President's first visit to Saudi Arabia in May 2017.

The historic visit of President Trump to Saudi Arabia bolstered the longstanding Saudi-U.S. relationship and expanded economic cooperation. Fifty-five leaders and representatives from across the Arab and Islamic

world gathered in the Kingdom during the two-day visit, for dialogue and exchange, uniting under one shared vision - together we prevail.

The new report, available on the embassy website, outlines the achievements of the three summits held and the major business opportunities that resulted from the first-ever Saudi-U.S. CEO Summit, held the same weekend.

COUNTERTERRORISM

Saudi-Owned TV Channel Fights Daesh Propaganda With New Drama Series

MBC, a private Saudi-owned television station, has launched a new drama series that aims to fight Daesh (ISIS) propaganda by depicting the violence and brutality faced by those who join the organization.

“Black Crows,” shown across the Arab world, demonstrates the cruelty to which Daesh recruits are subjected. The show is meant to counter the propaganda promoted by Daesh, which uses the media

to radicalize and attract vulnerable people, pushing a grossly false view of life in the terror organization.

“Media is part of their (Daesh) offensive strategy. Thus media organizations have the right, actually the duty, to face such an offensive – which is well-funded and on the internet and social media – with this series,” MBC spokesman Mazen Hayek told Reuters, which featured the new drama this month.

HUMANITARIAN AID

Crown Prince Directs \$66.7M to Fight Cholera in Yemen

Saudi Arabia announced a donation of \$66.7 million to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and their partners to respond to the outbreak of cholera in Yemen.

The King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Center (KSrelief) will work with the organizations to implement the new initiative immediately.

“The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to working closely with our aid partners to effectively address the cholera and general humanitarian situation in Yemen. We have listened to the call from UNICEF and WHO for an immediate donation of \$66.7 million to address cholera specifically, and have acted accordingly,” said Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Rabeeah, Adviser at the Royal Court and Supervisor of KSrelief.

“We will continue to work with our partners across a broad range of humanitarian and relief efforts for the people of Yemen,” he said.

Dr. Mahmoud Fikri, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, commented on the importance of the donation.

“On behalf of the WHO Regional Office I extend deep thanks and appreciation to His Royal Highness, Prince Mohammad bin Salman, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence for his noble initiative in the humanitarian field, to support efforts which aim to alleviate suffering, provide relief through working to contain cholera and prevent its complications in Yemen,” he said.

DEVELOPMENT

Saudi Arabia Achieves Majority of UN Development Goals

Saudi Arabia has surpassed a majority of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by adopting structural reforms in their government.

Abdullah Al-Marwani, assistant undersecretary for Planning and National Policies at the Ministry of Economy

and Planning, announced the achievement in a speech at the Second Forum of Economic and Social Council on Financing for Development, held at UN headquarters.

“The Kingdom has already achieved most of the overall goals of sustainable development of the 17 goals of the UN,” Al-Marwani said. “Sometimes these achievements exceeded the goals of the UN Agenda 2030 with the average annual economic growth of the Kingdom amounting to about 3.6 percent, higher than the global average.”

Al-Marwani pointed out that Vision 2030, and the associated National Transformation Program (NTP), have pushed Saudi Arabia toward achievement of the SDGs by increasing investment initiatives in human capital, infrastructure, education, health and alternative energy. The ultimate goal of Vision 2030 and the NTP

is to diversify and transform the Saudi economy and to improve the lives of Saudi citizens.

Other financial and health goals laid out in the UN SDGs have also been met.

“In addition, the overall financing is progressing at a steady pace where the domestic credit ratio provided by the financial sector increased from 1.8 percent in 2010 to 20.8 percent in 2015. One of the most important goals achieved in the health sector in the Kingdom is life expectancy at birth, which has increased from 72.5 in 2000 to 74.5 in 2015,” he said.

Companies Collaborate to Release Report on Saudi Women in Business

More Saudi women are in the job market than ever before, according to a new report released as a collaborative effort between two companies analyzing the role of women in business and leadership in Saudi Arabia.

Glowork, a company founded by young Saudi entrepreneurs aiming to empower women and increase diversity in the Saudi workplace, partnered with AccountAbility – a leading global research, consulting and standards organization – to assess the landscape of women in management and leadership in the Kingdom.

The 40-page report titled “The Women in Management and Leadership in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2017” analyzed data from a survey of more than 300 companies of varying sizes in the Kingdom.

“What this shows is that there are more women in the job market place than ever before,” Glowork founder and CEO Khalid Al Khudair told Arabia Now.

“There are also more women in senior positions too, so now we can see more benchmarks and it’s shown that they’ve got to where they need to be. Women have always been in the job market in Saudi Arabia, but now they are increasing their presence in other sectors too, so things are really progressing well.”

One of the key findings in the report is that three in four survey participants acknowledged that engaging female employments leads to productivity gains. Additionally, it was found that organizations in Saudi Arabia are increasingly providing professional development structures for their female employees.

The report emphasizes that Saudi Arabia is in a period of transformation in terms of women in the workforce. “The future is looking brighter,” said Al Khudair.



ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

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