

# Saudi Arabia in Focus



The update from the Saudi Embassy in Kingdom of Belgium and Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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## From the Ambassador

The joint cooperation as well as ways of strengthening it With Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the main highlight during the visit of NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) to Saudi Arabia from 16-19 April 2018 , and the visit of delegation of Saudi-Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Committee to Saudi Arabia from 6 to 8 May 2018.

I was honored to accompany both delegations where they met many Saudi officials and visited different centers, including; the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology ETIDAL- and to the Mohamed Bin Naif Center for Counseling and Care MNCC – and to Prince Nora University PNU, and to King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue KACND.

Ambassador

Abdulrahman S. Alahmed



## King Salman Receives Chairman of NATO's Partnerships Subcommittee and Heads of Parliamentary Delegations



The Chairman of NATO's partnerships subcommittee, Mateen Lutfi, and his accompanying delegation were received by King Salman at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh on Wednesday 18 April 2018.

Mr Lutfi was accompanied by a number of heads of parliamentary delegations in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

During the meeting, NATO parliamentary efforts and bilateral cooperation areas between NATO's subcommittee and the Shoura Council were reviewed.

The meeting was attended by Prince Abdul Aziz bin Saud bin Naif, minister of interior; Shoura Council Speaker Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Asheikh; the Minister of Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir; and a number of officials.

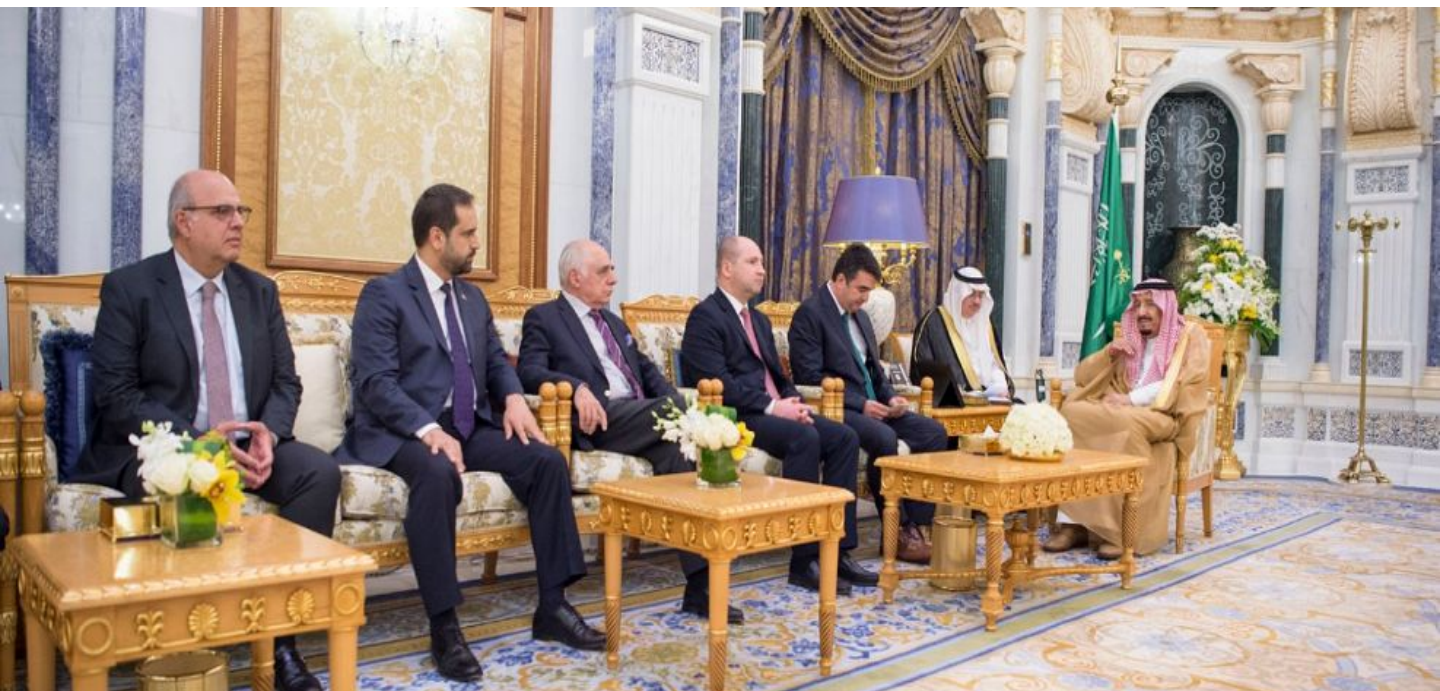
Earlier, the Saudi parliamentary friendship committee at the Shoura Council held a meeting with the delegation of the NATO partnerships subcommittee.

The head of the Shoura committee Prince Dr. Khalid bin Abdullah bin Mishari, reaffirmed distinct relations binding the Kingdom and NATO in all fields, and the relations between the Shoura and NATO member states' parliaments. He praised the visit, which seeks to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two sides, through consultations and dialogue, to face the rapid developments in the region as well as in the world, in order to best serve the interests of peoples and countries.



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King Salman receiving The Chairman and members of NATO's partnerships subcommittee, in Riyadh on 18 April 2018.

## The delegation of Saudi-Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Committee Visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



During their visit from 6 to 8 May 2018, The delegation was headed by Mr. Alain Destexhe, head of Saudi-Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Committee and member of the Belgian Senate, who was accompanied by Mr. Peter De Roover, Vice president of Saudi-Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Committee and the N-VA group leader in the house of representatives, Ms. Sabine Lahaye-Battheu, member of the Flemish liberal party Open VLD, and Mr. Martin Lipman member of the Saudi-Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Committee. The visit schedule included a meeting and exchange of views with the members of the Saudi-Belgian Parliamentary Friendship in the Shura Council, as well as a visit to the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology -GCCEI and to the Mohamed Bin Naif Center for Counseling and Care -MNCC. The visit schedule included a number of other meetings with officials in the Kingdom.





Photo of members of the Friendship Committee in Shura Council with the NATO PA members during their visit.



Etidal The global Center for combating Extremist Ideology (Etidal) welcomed a distinguished delegation from Belgium, led by The president of the Belgian-Saudi Parliamentary Friendship Committee Mr. Alain Destexhe on a visit. In this visit, the center's plan was discussed regarding fighting terror. The Center's experience, technical and media work to refute and counter extremism were also discussed. The delegation was briefed on the most prominent techniques used in monitoring and analyzing the extremist content and ways of confronting it. In addition, the latest projects that the Center is working on at the moment were presented to the delegation. At the end of the visit, Mr. Alain Destexhe praised the innovative technologies owned by the center, stressing its necessity in combating terrorism. "I hope we have such technologies in Europe, and I will make a proposal in this regard," he said.





## The Custodian of Two Holy Mosques and HRH the Crown Prince condole King of Belgium on the victims of terrorist attack in the city of Liege

The Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has sent a cable of condolences and sympathy to King Philippe of Belgium following the terrorist attack that took place in downtown the city of Liege in the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, resulting in a number of fatalities. In his cable, the monarch said "We have been informed of the terrorist attack that took place in downtown the city of Liege, resulting in several deaths. Strongly denouncing this ugly criminal act, we express in our own name and on behalf of the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the warmest condolences and sincere sympathy to Your Majesty, the families of the victims and the people of the Kingdom of Belgium, confirming the importance of international efforts to confront terror and eradicate.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince, Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Defense, sent as well a cable of condolences to King Philippe of the Kingdom of Belgium following the terrorist attack in downtown the city of Liege and the resulting deaths. "I have been informed of the terrorist attack that took place in the center of Liege city and the resulting deaths," His Royal Highness the Crown Prince said. "I express to Your Majesty my condemnation of this terrorist act and I extend my condolences to Your Majesty and your friendly people."

## Annual Iftar in Brussels



His Excellency Abdulrahman Bin Suleiman Al AHMED, Ambassador of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg hosted the annual Iftar ceremony on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan 1439H in honor of Saudi citizens in the Kingdom of Belgium and the Duchy of Luxembourg.

Greetings and congratulations were exchanged on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, and dates were distributed during the ceremony. All have expressed thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, for its efforts to serve Islam and Muslims around the world.

The ceremony was attended by Saudi and Gulf nationals residing in the Kingdom of Belgium and the Duchy of Luxembourg, as well as members of the Embassy.

