

Saudi Arabia in Focus

The monthly update from the Saudi mission to the European Union



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From the ambassador

As the holy month of Ramadan begins, we have much good news from Riyadh, where Saudi Arabia and our Gulf neighbours secured stronger ties with the United States of America.

Over a series of three historic summits in the Saudi capital, President Trump, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and other GCC leaders re-affirmed their long-standing friendship, and strengthened the existing close political, economic, security and cultural bonds.

King Salman also launched two new counterterrorism centres to fight terrorist financing and the spread of extremist thought. We have received with profound sadness the news of the horrific terroristic attacks in Manchester and London. I wish to bring my sincere condolence and sympathy to the families and friends of the victims and to the British community. We pray for a quick recovery of all those injured. More than ever we need to stay united against terrorism.

I wish you all a peaceful and holy Ramadan.



Abdulrahman S. Alahmed

Ambassador and Head of the Mission to the European Union

Counterterrorism

Riyadh Summits Signal a New Era of US-Gulf Cooperation



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud welcomes US President Donald Trump

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, leaders and heads of Delegations of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for Arab States and President Donald Trump of the United States of America held a series of three summits during the President's visit to the Kingdom this month.

United under a single vision – Together We Prevail – the highly anticipated event, the first of its kind in history, served to renew the countries' mutual commitment to global security and further strengthen already deep business, cultural and political ties.

The Saudi – US summit comprised a series of bilateral meetings between the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and US President Donald

Trump, which focussed on re-affirming the long-standing friendship, and strengthening the close political, economic, security and cultural bonds between the two nations.

During the GCC-US summit, their Majesties and Highnesses the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council states met with the US President to discuss threats to regional security and stability and the building of stronger commercial ties between GCC and the United States.

At the Arab Islamic American Summit, Donald Trump and leaders of the world's Islamic nations addressed how to build more robust and effective security partnerships to counter and prevent the growing threat of global terrorism and violent extremism by promoting tolerance and moderation.



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Gulf Countries and US United to Counter Terror Networks



Leader from the Gulf Cooperation Council and the US President Donald Trump meet in Riyadh for the GCC-US Summit

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States have signed a historic agreement announcing their intent to establish the Terrorist Financing Targeting Center (TFTC), a collaborative approach to confronting new and evolving threats arising from terrorist financing.

The TFTC represents a new and creative response that leverages existing tools and formalizes cooperation between the United States, Saudi Arabia and partners in the Gulf to counter terrorist financing. The TFTC will be co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and the US, and will work collaboratively with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council to counter global terror networks. The TFTC's goals are to:

- Identify, track, and share information regarding terrorist financial networks;
- Coordinate joint disruptive actions;
- Offer support to countries in the region that need assistance building capacity to counter terrorist finance threats.

The United States and the Gulf have worked hard to strengthen cooperation on countering the financing of terrorism. This relationship is exemplified by information sharing, regular high-level and expert-level engagement and joint disruptive actions that the U.S. and members of the Gulf Cooperation Council have taken together over the years.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States,

together with other gulf countries have all signed a new memorandum of understanding on countering the financing of terrorism.

On the same occasion, the Kingdom has launched the establishment of the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology. ETIDAL (the acronym in Arabic) is conceived as a global hub for international efforts against extremism and with the ambition to be the global reference in combating extremist ideology and promoting moderation. The main mission of ETIDAL is to actively and pro-actively combat, expose, and refute extremist ideology, in cooperation with all governments and organizations concerned. The activities of the Center are articulated around four strategic objectives:

- Promoting moderation, tolerance and coexistence;
- Refuting the extremist rhetoric, as well as combating its activities and curbing its impact;
- Counter extremist ideology and prevent affiliation with, sympathy for, or contribution to its activities in any way, shape, or form; and
- Promoting international cooperation in combating extremist ideology.

The Center is managed by a Board of Directors that is appointed every five years, and consists of 12 directors representing member countries, international organizations, and other active entities in the field of counter-extremism.



KSR Combats Malnutrition in Yemen



The King Salman Center's for Relief and Humanitarian Aid (KSRelief) pursues its initiatives to treat children, pregnant and mothers who suffer from malnutrition. A new project has been launched by the Center to address malnutrition in the Governorate of Dali in Yemen.

The project targets 26,903 people through mobile field clinics to combat malnutrition in coordination with the Health Office at the Yemeni Ministry of Public Health and Population and through the Charity Coalition for Humanitarian Relief in Hadhramaut.

Saudi Arabia Supplies Medicines to Battle Cholera in Yemen

25 trucks carrying 550 tons of medicines have been sent to Yemen by the King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Action in a massive campaign aiming to tackle the cholera epidemic in Yemen.

According to the World Health Organization, the number of cholera deaths rose to 315 in three weeks, while another 30,000 are expected to carry the infection.

The King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Action that cooperates with the WHO, UNICEF and the International Medical Corps, is also working with the GCC Aid Coordination Office and the other Arab coalition countries to implement urgent plan to contain the epidemic and to protect the Yemeni people from this risk.



Custodian Of The Two Holy Mosques Urges Stronger Partnership with the US To Fight Terrorism



King Salman was joined by US President Donald Trump and other Arab leaders.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz has urged Arab nations to promote a genuine partnership with the United States of America and fight “the forces of evil and extremism” together. He made the remarks at the historic Arab Islamic American Summit on 20-21 May 2017 in Riyadh, where he and President Donald Trump urged more than 50 leaders from the Arab and Muslim world to cooperate in the fight against terrorism.

King Salman thanked President Trump for visiting Saudi Arabia on his first official trip abroad. He praised the Kingdom’s partnership with the U.S., which he said was aimed at achieving “peace, security and positive development.”

“We are meeting today at this summit to express the seriousness in taking rapid steps to promote a genuine partnership with the friendly United States of America in a way that serves our common interests and contributes to achieving security, peace and development for all mankind, which is confirmed by our

Islamic religion,” said King Salman.

“Due to our responsibility before God and then before our peoples and the world, we have to stand united to fight the forces of evil and extremism whatever their source,” said King Salman.

King Salman criticized Iran for “rejecting good neighborliness” and instead pursuing regional expansion, engaging in criminal behavior, interfering with other countries’ internal affairs and violating international law.

“The Iranian regime has been the spearhead of terrorism since the Khomeini revolution until today,” said King Salman.

Following the Summit, King Salman and President Trump inaugurated the Center for Combating Extremist Ideology. The Center will work to counter and prevent the spread of extremism by promoting moderation, compassion and productive dialogue.

They said...

>>Rex W. Tillerson

US Secretary of State in Riyadh

“Today is a historic moment in U.S.-Saudi relations ...Dedicating ourselves to a new strategic partnership, new for the 21st century, and to charting a renewed path toward a peaceful Middle East where economic development, trade, diplomacy are hallmarks of the regional and global engagement. “

In Brief

Saudi-Turkish

humanitarian cooperation

Dr. Abdullah Al Rabeeah, Supervisor General of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, signed two projects with the Turkish IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation to provide Iftar meals in Syria and Myanmar during the holy month of Ramadan.



Combating Dengue Fever in Yemen

The KSRelief Centre has launched a number of spraying campaigns in the Mukalla region of Yemen as part of the “Combating Dengue Fever Project”. The project is being implemented in 44 Yemeni districts in the governorates of Hadramawt, Shabwah, Lahij, Aden, Taiz, and Al Hudaydah with a view to eliminating mosquitoes that are carriers of Dengue fever.

