

# SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

Monthly update from the Saudi Mission to the EU | Issue #1 | July 2018

## Inside this issue

About the Ambassador Saad Alarify / Saudi FM & HR/VP P<sub>1</sub>

Spokesman for the coalition forces in the EP. P<sub>2</sub>

Yemen Comprehensive Humanitarian Operations P<sub>3</sub>

Vision 2030 P<sub>4</sub>

Saudi Women a new Driving force in Saudi Arabia P<sub>4</sub>



### From the Ambassador

It is with great pleasure that I present the first edition of Saudi Arabia in focus since presenting my credentials and officially commencing my new position as Head of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mission to the European Union.

I am assuming my Ambassadorship during a very important transition in Saudi Arabia, and I am confident that the Saudi Arabia partnership with the European Union will develop further.

These coming months will be very productive for me and my team as we focus on pressing issues such as strengthening our trade partnership and Peace in the region

**Saad bin Mohammad Alarify**

**Head of the Saudi Mission to the European Union**

## About the Ambassador Saad Alarify

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz appointed HE Ambassador Saad Alarify as Head of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mission to the European Union on November 05, 2017. His Excellency presented his credentials to the President of the European Council HE Mr. Donald TUSK and officially assumed his position on January 12, 2018.



Ambassador Saad Alarify graduated from California State University, where he also received his Masters degree. In 1981 The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) assigned him in the technical department as projects engineer until 1983, where Ambassador Alarify became an active member in the general secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in July 2012 His Excellency established the GCC Mission in Sanaa and assumed the position of Head of Republic of Yemen.

Between 2013 & 2016 Ambassador Alarify was closely involved in the National (Yemeni) Dialogue Conference as part of the GCC initiative and the UN Security Council Resolution to reconcile differences in the Republic of Yemen as well as the Kuwait peace talks to end the conflict in Yemen & the United Nations sponsored peace talks in Geneva where he cultivated distinguished relations with all Yemeni factions.



## Saudi Foreign Minister HE Adel Aljubeir met with High Representative/Vice-President

The Saudi Foreign Minister HE Adel Aljubeir met on 12 July 2018 with the EU High Representative & Vice President HE Federica Mogherini on the margins of the NATO Summit in Brussels, They

covered a broad range of regional and bilateral issues, especially the need to address the full array of regional threats.

Both sides referred to the strategic nature of the bilateral relationship and discussed ways to further deepen the EU-Saudi Arabia policy dialogue and sectoral cooperation.

The High Representative/Vice-President welcomed Saudi Arabia's willingness to strengthen its relationship with the European Union, as shown by the establishment of a Saudi Mission solely accredited to the European Union and the setup of a new EU department in the Saudi Foreign Ministry.

# They Said



**King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center**

**is a referential example that countries can follow**

**Virginia Gamba**  
UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

I have met twice with officials of KSRRelief to get updates regarding the Center. The Center has become a referential example that countries can follow.

I am keen on staying well connected with the Center, and I deal with 20 locations that can draw on the activities of KSRRelief



**"MISSILES LAUNCHED BY THE HOUTHIS INTO SAUDI ARABIA SHARE KEY DESIGN FEATURES WITH THE IRANIAN (QIAM-1) BALLISTIC MISSILE"**

**ROSEMARY A. DICARLO**  
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS



**"THE EU CONDEMNS THE LAUNCH OF BALLISTIC MISSILES BY THE HOUTHIS AGAINST THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, INCLUDING AT CIVILIAN TARGETS, AND AGAINST VESSELS TRANSITING THROUGH THE BAB AL MANDAB STRAIT"**

**EU COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON YEMEN**  
LUXEMBOURG, 25 JUNE 2018



**OSE Yemen**  
@OSE\_Yemen

Constructive meetings in Jeddah. I appreciate continued Saudi support of my efforts and the prospects for resuming intra-Yemeni negotiations to reach a political settlement for the conflict in #Yemen

2:44 PM - 8 Jul 2018



## Spokesman for the coalition forces in the European Parliament

The spokesman for the coalition forces in support of legitimacy in Yemen and the accompanying delegation from the Ministries of Defence & Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visited the European Parliament on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2018 aiming to exchange views on the current situation in Yemen with members of the Delegation for Relations with the Arab Peninsula (DARP) in the European Parliament, the meeting was chaired by HE Madame Michelle Alliot-Marie.

On the military side, Colonel Turki Al-Malki stressed that the armed forces involvement was unavoidable due to the intransigence of the Iran backed Houthi militia who have derailed three different rounds of peace negotiations in Geneva, Biel and Kuwait as well as obstructing a political solution based on UN Security Council Resolution 2140, reaffirming that the goal of the coalition is to pressure the Houthi militia to the dialogue table.

While addressing the humanitarian aspect of the coalition's efforts in Yemen, Colonel Al-Malki referred to the continuous and systematic theft of humanitarian aid supplies and the disruption of humanitarian convoys by the Houthis, while the coalition continues to put efforts into supporting the people of Yemen. These efforts included the recent contribution of \$1.5 billion to UN relief efforts in Yemen, the largest in UN history, as well as initiatives to enhance the capacity of ports throughout Yemen, including facilitating the entry of cranes into Al Hodeidah.

He also pointed out that the Iran backed Houthis have launched more than 150 ballistic missiles against densely populated residential areas in the Kingdom including Riyadh, calling on the European Parliament to condemn these missile attacks on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which are in violation of UN resolutions.

# Hodeidah Port Remains Open; Recaptured for Continued Aid Relief Distribution

Ambassador Mohammed Al-Jaber, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Yemen, who is also the executive director of the **Yemen Comprehensive Humanitarian Operations' Center**, stressed that the Hodeidah Port remains open and it will be a life artery for Yemenis in facilitating relief supplies; as opposed to a passage for weapons of death and destruction and means to enrich the Iranian-backed Houthi militias. He also added that the Coalition and the international community continue to seek a political solution based on: the GCC initiatives and its implementation mechanisms; the outputs of the National Yemeni Dialogue; and, UN Security Council Resolution 2216. The Houthis, on the other hand, continue to reject these.

Ambassador Al-Jaber has confirmed that the Kingdom and the Coalition Countries continue to support the legitimate Yemeni government and Yemeni army. He praised the heroism and efforts of the Yemeni army in recapturing Yemeni territory from the Iranian-backed Houthi militias. Ambassador Al-Jaber asserted that the liberation of Hodeidah Port and city represent a liberation of humanitarian and aid operations from the grip of the Houthi militias, which use the port for their own benefit and smuggling arms from Iran; sustaining the war and leading to continued starvation and poverty of the Yemeni people.

Regarding the humanitarian work facilitated by the Coalition countries, Ambassador Al-Jaber reiterated that due to the Yemen Comprehensive Humanitarian Operations, initiated in January 2018, it was possible to expand aid relief efforts for Yemeni people. In



Mohammed Al-Jaber is Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Yemen and the executive director of Yemen Comprehensive Humanitarian Operations (YCHO).



Yemen Comprehensive  
Humanitarian Operations

The Yemen Comprehensive Humanitarian Operations' objectives are to improve the Yemeni humanitarian situation by addressing immediate aid shortfalls while simultaneously building capacity for long-term improvement of humanitarian aid and commercial goods imports to Yemen. The plan is specifically designed to address the needs of Yemenis in all regions.

To meet these objectives, the Saudi-led Coalition will substantially contribute to the 2018 United Nations Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan. These operations will enhance the flow and delivery of humanitarian aid and commercial supplies, including fuel, medical supplies, and food, to all Yemenis. The plan aims to increase imports in Yemen to 1.4 million metric tons per month up from 1.1 million metric tons per month while enhancing capabilities in Yemen to import 500,000 metric tons of fuel derivatives per month up from 250,000 metric tons per month at its peak in 2017.



## Women Driving



The 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 marked a historical day for women. Saudi Arabia's regulations had been adapted and updated to allow women to drive. Women driving is a stride forward that works parallel to Saudi Arabia's Vision for 2030 towards empowering and strengthening families and individuals; such as families who rely on foreign drivers, with numbers approximating eight-hundred thousand drivers.

Saudi Arabia's Assel Al-Hamad, a certified interior designer, celebrated the occasion by driving a Formula-one car, since Saudi Arabian women were allowed to obtain a driving license on the same date of France's Grand Prix. Ms. Al Ahmad expressed her excitement, stating:



*"We Saudi women were able today not just to drive, but to drive an F1 car in the French Grand Prix."*

Saudi Arabian women's astonishing advancement and keen skillset in multiple sectors on an international level, cultivated a larger sense of competition in the national labour market, which had witnessed a 200% growth in women obtaining a license to practice law and chemical engineering, which is poised to rise with these new regulations.

## Vision 2030



The reform strategies and historic vision developed by the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, chaired by the Deputy Crown Prince, **HRH Mohammad Bin Salman** include a number of goals for the Kingdom's long-term economic success. The **Vision2030** plan is the first step towards achieving Saudi Arabia's economic aspirations and transforming the lives of citizens. amongst its commitments the plan included the intention to double the number of Saudi heritage sites registered with UNESCO.

So we are pleased to announce that in fulfilment of vision 2030 plan commitments regarding heritage sites, the Al-Ahsa oasis became the latest archaeological site to be added to the UNESCO world heritage list on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018. Other Saudi sites that have found place on the World Heritage List include the rock-cut monuments of Madain Salih in the Madinah Province; At-Turaif district in ad-Dir'iyah in Riyadh; the history Red-Sea port city of Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah; and the rock art of the Hai'l region.

The Oasis was named after the region in eastern Saudi Arabia and is located about 60 kilometres inland from the coast of the Arabian gulf. Experts say the region is dotted with archaeological sites dating to the Neolithic.

Al-Ahsa is historically the main city in Al-Bahrain province, making up most of its population and providing most of its agricultural output. It had a geographical and strategic importance to ancient trade routes, which explains why it had cultural links with some of the thriving ancient civilizations in the Mesopotamia, Egypt and The Levant.

## Breaking Ground on Qiddiya



The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin AbdulAziz, launched Qiddiya on April the 28th, 2018. Qiddiya is the first of its kind entertainment, sports and cultural destination planned for Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh, spread in an area of 334 square kilometres. It is the project's

first phase of development planned to be completed in 2022. Qiddiya will be located 40 kilometers west of the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

Qiddiya will create a self-sustaining ecosystem, based on five cornerstones: parks and attractions; motion and mobility; nature and environment; sports and wellness; culture, arts and education". The initiative will be helpful in order to achieve direct and indirect economic returns and also to the growth of Saudi tourism, which will led a vast majority of the population have a job in the field, thanks to many sport, cultural and historic activities and the opening of various hotels, cafes and restaurants.