



ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

FACT SHEET

Promoting Peace

Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance. As home of the Two Holy Mosques in Makkah and Madinah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia feels a special obligation to promote peace and stability in areas beyond its borders, particularly among its immediate neighbors. This tradition of peacemaking and regional diplomacy extends back to when the Kingdom stood as a pillar of security in the Arabian Gulf following the departure of the British from the region in 1970. This diplomatic tradition continued throughout the Cold War as a partner of the United States, and over the years as it built support for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Today, Saudi Arabia is a key player in many of the important issues facing the global community and continues to find paths toward peace for the various and complex issues of the region.

- ***King Abdullah Peace Initiative:*** In March 2002, at the Arab Summit in Beirut, then-Crown Prince Abdullah (now King Abdullah) introduced a peace initiative that offers comprehensive solutions to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The Abdullah Peace Initiative offers official recognition and the establishment of normal relations between Israel and the 22 nations of the Arab League, while calling for full Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since June 1967, and implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The Abdullah Peace Initiative additionally calls for an independent Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Abdullah Plan has received unanimous support from the 22 nations of the Arab League (most recently again in 2007) and has been embraced by the United States, the European Union and more than 60 countries.
- ***Afghanistan:*** Saudi Arabia believes the people of Afghanistan must continue to be supported in every way as they try to build a stable nation. Afghanistan continues to work to ensure a lasting peace. The Kingdom feels that the emergence of a national government and programs to disarm illegal groups must be encouraged.
- ***Iran:*** Saudi Arabia has repeatedly called for nuclear non-proliferation among all nations of the region, and the Kingdom takes very seriously its obligation to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Saudi Arabia urges Iran to abide by its obligation to the international community in a way that ensures a peaceful and rapid solution to the Iranian nuclear program crisis and saves the region from devastating conflicts, an escalating arms race, and serious environmental hazards.
- ***Iraq:*** The Kingdom stands behind Iraq, and desires to see a stable, peaceful, united and independent Iraq that is representative of all Iraqis. Saudi Arabia's efforts in diplomacy have been coupled with support for humanitarian relief and assistance to the Iraqi people. The Saudi Arabia-Iraq border is one of the most patrolled borders in the world, and the Kingdom has dramatically increased its presence to stop illegal border crossings.

- ***Somalia:*** In September 2007, Saudi Arabia brought together Somali leaders to sign a landmark peace agreement at the conclusion of a national reconciliation conference. Participants included Somali President Abdullah Yosef Ahmed, Speaker of Parliament Adam Mohammed Nour, Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Gedi, Chairman of the National Reconciliation Committee Ali Mahdi Mohammed, tribal sheikhs, and other representatives of the various factions. King Abdullah insisted the Somali factions follow through on the agreement.
- ***Darfur:*** Saudi Arabia has taken an active role in solving the situation in Darfur. In March 28, 2007, King Abdullah held talks with Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir, United Nation Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Mousa, and Chairman of the African Union Alpha Oumar Konaré on the sideline of the Arab Summit in Riyadh. The meeting resulted in an agreement to allow U.N. forces into Darfur.
- ***Yemen:*** The Kingdom supports economic development and stability in Yemen and is one of the country's largest donors.



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