



# ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA FACT SHEET

## Initiatives and Efforts to Combat Terrorism and Terror Financing

Saudi Arabia is committed to stopping terrorism in all its forms. The Kingdom is pursuing the men, the money, and the mindsets that support this global threat. It has forged partnerships with multilateral organizations and foreign governments to protect national security and reinforce counterterrorism strategies. Under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Sultan, Saudi Arabia remains an unwavering ally in combating terrorism and extremism worldwide.

**Going After the Men: Equipment, Training and Intelligence:** Saudi Arabia has built a special counterterrorism force and has increased the size, training and professionalism of its security forces. These forces are equipped with cutting-edge technology, and have been deployed aggressively against terrorists that threaten targets inside the Kingdom and around the world.

- The Kingdom has implemented the use of aerial reconnaissance planes to help patrol remote areas to protect against smuggling and infiltration. New barriers, motion detectors and thermal imaging systems provide additional coverage, helping to seal the Kingdom's borders.
- Saudi Arabia has shared its counterterrorism expertise with its allies.

**Going After the Money: Combating Terror Financing:** Saudi Arabia has put in place one of the world's strictest financial control systems to prevent funds going to support terrorism.

- All Saudi financial institutions have implemented the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) of the G-8 regarding money laundering and the eight recommendations regarding terror financing.
- Saudi Arabia has brought arrests and charged numerous persons for terror financing.
- Saudi authorities have frozen numerous bank accounts and designated a number of individuals as financiers of terrorism.
- Saudi charities are prohibited from transferring money abroad.
- The collection of cash contributions in mosques and public places is prohibited.
- Special training programs for bankers, prosecutors, judges, customs officers and other officials from government departments and agencies are offered by the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences and the King Fahd Security Faculty.

- The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) offers programs and has to train judges and investigators on legal matters involving terrorism financing and money laundering methods, international requirements for financial secrecy, and methods exercised by criminals to exchange information.
- The Saudi government and the U.S. jointly designated several organizations as financiers of terrorism under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1267, including the Bosnia-based Vazir, the Liechtenstein-based Hochburg AG, and the Al-Haramain Foundation.
- FATF's 2010 report on efforts to combat money laundering and terror financing ranked Saudi Arabia first in the Arab world and among the top ten within the Group of 20.

**Going After the Mindsets: Overcoming Extremism:** Saudi Arabia will not tolerate extremists who have misused religion to advance perverted agendas. Government officials and religious scholars have publicly and unequivocally condemned terrorist acts. As a part of its long-term counterterrorism strategy, the Kingdom is conducting a “war of ideas,” which aims to undermine justifications for extremism and terrorism on an intellectual level.

- Saudi Arabia has launched a nationwide effort through the Kingdom’s Ministry of Islamic Affairs to ensure mosques have not been used as sources of extremism.
- The Senior Council of Ulema (Islamic scholars) has issued a fatwa (religious edict) prohibiting terrorism and terrorist financing, and declaring any support for terrorism is a violation of Islamic law.
- In March 2010, the Islamic University of Madinah, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, organized “The Conference of Terrorism Between Intellectual Extremism and Extremist Ideology.”
- To combat the spread and appeal of extremist ideologies among the population, the Kingdom has initiated a Counter-Radicalization Program for at-risk groups.
- The Kingdom is conducting an ongoing program to update textbooks and curricula, introduce enhanced teaching methods and provide better training for educators to combat extremism and prepare Saudi citizens for life in a global economy.
- In 2007, King Abdullah launched an international effort to institutionalize discussions for interfaith dialogue around the world.



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