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Saudi Official Statements on Terrorism After the September 11th Attacks

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The following texts of Saudi statements are taken from the different documents provided on the web page of the Saudi Embassy in Washington as of November 7, 2001.

SAUDI ARABIA CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON UNITED STATES, September 11, 2001

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has condemned the "regrettable and inhuman bombings and attacks" which took place today at the World Trade Center in Manhattan, New York, and the Pentagon building in Washington DC. An official statement issued today said that Saudi Arabia strongly condemns such acts, which contravene all religious values and human civilized concepts; and extends sincere condolences to the families of the victims, to U.S. President George W. Bush and to the U.S. people in general. The statement stressed the Kingdom's steadfast position condemning all forms of terrorism, and its ongoing cooperation with the international community to combat it.

Senior religious and legal scholars of Saudi Arabia also denounced the barbaric events of September 11.

"The recent developments in the United States constitute a form of injustice that is not tolerated by Islam, which views them as gross crimes and sinful acts." - Chairman of the Senior Ulema Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Shaikh, 9/15/01

"As a human community we must be vigilant and careful to oppose these pernicious and shameless evils, which are not justified by any sane logic, nor by the religion of Islam." - Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council Shaikh Salih Al-Luheidan, 9/14/01

PRESS RELEASE: WE STAND WITH YOU, AMERICA, SEPTEMBER 17, 2001

In light of the recent tragic events in the United States, Saudi Arabia has cancelled all of our National Day celebrations scheduled around the world for September 23. We have done this in sympathy for the victims, out of hope for the injured and out of respect for all the people of the United States of America. As we grieve with you, Saudi Arabia would like every American to know that we condemn these terrorist attacks and seek to bring those responsible to justice.

In addition to the support expressed by Crown Prince Abdullah to President Bush last week, the senior religious and legal scholars of Saudi Arabia have also denounced the barbaric events of September 11.

"The recent developments in the United States constitute a form of injustice that is not tolerated by Islam, which views them as gross crimes and sinful acts." - Chairman of the Senior Ulema Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Shaikh, 9/15/01

"As a human community we must be vigilant and careful to oppose these pernicious and shameless evils, which are not justified by any sane logic, nor by the religion of Islam." - Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council Shaikh Salih Al-Luheidan, 9/14/01

DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE, October 31, 2001

Deputy Minister of Interior Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz declared that Osama bin Ladin is a dissenter who has taken the side of evil. His Saudi nationality, he said, was withdrawn from him when efforts to return him to the right path failed. To a question concerning Saudis being held in U.S. jails, Prince Ahmed confirmed that a number of Saudi students had been detained briefly for interrogation, saying the Saudi Embassy in Washington DC is following up these cases.

On U.S. strikes against Afghanistan, Prince Ahmed remarked that the Kingdom's stance against terrorism is very clear. He described the events in the United States as ugly crimes and the worst of sins. True Muslims, he said, condemn such terrorist acts: killing innocent people is immoral, inhuman, and totally against Islam. He went on to say that what is happening in Afghanistan is very painful, since bombs do not distinguish between the accused and the innocent; but he put the responsibility on Mullah Omar and Osama bin Ladin, who are sacrificing the Muslim Afghan people. This, he said, is not a *jihad* (holy war), and what they are doing brings no glory to Islam and should be strongly condemned by all Muslims.

CONCLUSION OF GCC INTERIOR MINISTERS MEETING IN BAHRAIN, October 30, 2001

The interior ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) concluded their twentieth conference in Manama, Bahrain today with a statement by Bahraini Interior Minister Shaikh Muhammad bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa confirming the unanimity of the participants' viewpoints, notably in the condemnation of all forms of terrorism, support of the worldwide endeavor to combat it, and agreement on the steps that need to be taken in the current situation.

At a press conference following the meeting, Minister of Interior Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz commented that an objective and rational confrontation of terrorism must address its motivations, declaring that the GCC states will not harbor terrorists, and that terrorism is totally rejected because it is not the proper means for protecting one's rights. "People of every nation or state," he said, "can demand and protect their rights through legal avenues even if these can entail violent confrontations such as is the case in Palestine." He added that the Palestinian struggle is not an aspect of terrorism, but a legitimate course of action that receives the support of all Arab countries.

Prince Nayef observed that the hostile western media campaign against the Kingdom does not reflect the official positions of western governments, adding that statements

made by certain members of the U.S. congress are far from the truth, and to be rejected. He confirmed, however, that the Kingdom is not providing material support to the attack on Afghanistan.

FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN ISLAMABAD, October 25, 2001

Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud Al-Faisal arrived in Islamabad today on a short visit to Pakistan. He was received by President Pervez Musharraf, with whom he held extensive talks on the current situation in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and the ongoing U.S.-led coalition strikes on Afghanistan. Prince Saud expressed the Kingdom's solidarity with the people and leadership of Pakistan in facing the current challenges. At a press conference yesterday, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Awadh Asseri issued a statement on the Kingdom's position. The catastrophic events in Afghanistan, he said, could have been avoided if the Taleban had heeded Saudi advice; but the Taleban refused to listen to the voice of reason and brought destruction upon the people of Afghanistan, for whose suffering they alone are responsible. He reaffirmed that the Saudi government will not desert the people of Afghanistan, pleading that no harm be inflicted upon them. He went on to report on donations from Saudi Arabia to the Afghan people to assist them over the coming winter; these will be distributed to refugees in coordination with the government of Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Asseri continued, is run strictly in accordance with the principles of Islamic *shariah*, and will not be deterred from adherence to these principles. Moreover, Saudi Arabia condemns terrorism in all its forms, and has itself been a victim of terrorist activities resulting in the death of many of its nationals, including Saudi diplomats overseas. Osama bin Ladin, he went on to say, preached extremist views, and because his heretical thinking contradicted the spirit of Islam, he was no longer welcome in Saudi Arabia. His behavior, which has harmed the name of Islam, is not in agreement with its universal principles.

Ambassador Asseri then observed that because Saudi Arabia is in the forefront of the struggle for the liberation of Palestine and *Al-Quds* [Jerusalem], and in seeking a just and peaceful solution for this crisis within the framework of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, it has suffered slanderous attacks from western media. He declared: "Our trust in God, however, remains firm and unwavering. Moreover, our economic growth is steady. We cannot change our policy that is based on universally accepted principles and enduring values. We care for the welfare of the people and their needs. The western world including the United States of America can gain greater respect from the Muslim world by exerting pressure to bring the cruelty against the innocent people of Palestine to an immediate end." He concluded by urging the western world to invest time in understanding Islam, in order to facilitate the elimination of so many prejudices.

**INTERIOR MINISTER IN YEMEN, AGAIN SPEAKS OUT ON TERRORISM,
October 23, 2001**

In the city of Ta'ez today, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salih received Minister of Interior Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz. On his arrival in Yemen yesterday for Saudi-Yemeni talks, Prince Nayef spoke out on terrorism, commenting on the Arab world's serious and positive efforts in fighting it and citing the Arab Agreement for combating terrorism that was signed in 1998. People gathering in Afghanistan from Arab countries, he said, are doing so in contravention of Islam, since Islam does not allow the killing of those who are innocent.

Expressing satisfaction at the recent statement by U.S. President George W. Bush concerning the setting up of a Palestinian State, he stressed that popular reaction against the United States and against the United Kingdom, is due to their taking sides with Israel, a State that is killing the sons of the Palestinian people and making them homeless. He called on the western world to dispel suspicions about Arab countries, and urged Arab countries to coordinate among themselves, take into consideration the latest developments, and work to eradicate terrorism.

Prince Nayef stressed the fraternal relations that exist between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, adding that the treaty has opened the door for cooperation in many spheres. The two sides, he said, are in complete agreement against terrorism and are working together to eradicate it, while differentiating between terrorism and the struggle for legitimate rights, as is the case in Palestine.

**PRINCE NAYEF COMMENTS ON FATWA PROCLAMATIONS, October 22,
2001**

Minister of Interior Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz commented that nobody has the right to issue a *fatwa* [religious ruling] calling for a *jihad* [holy war] and support for the Afghan regime, except the *ifta* [jurisprudence] council or whoever is assigned by that council to issue a *fatwa*. All religious scholars agree on this, and *jihad* is not obligatory unless ordered by the leader of the country. Prince Nayef [also] said the unfair campaign conducted by two U.S. congressmen against the Kingdom because of the firmness of its stance is wrong-headed, and hoped it would stop, since it is unrealistic and does not address the facts. Concerning Saudis traveling to Peshawar to fight with bin Ladin and the Taleban, he observed that Saudi citizens are free to travel anywhere.

**PRINCE SULTAN ISSUES STATEMENT ON CURRENT SITUATION, October
22, 2001**

Second Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector-General Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, in a press statement to *Al-Siyasah* newspaper published in Kuwait today, stressed the importance of settling the twin problems of Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque, which constitute the major cause of tension in the region. Nevertheless, he criticized those who use the Palestinian issue for other motives ... cond Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector-General Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, in a press statement to *Al-Siyasah* newspaper published in Kuwait today, stressed the importance of settling the twin problems of Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque, which constitute the major cause of tension in the region. Nevertheless, he criticized those who use the Palestinian issue for other motives, as Saddam Hussein did in alleging that his occupation of Kuwait was aimed at liberating the Palestinians. He went on to say that the Mitchell report should be implemented, and that once the issue of *Al-Quds* [Jerusalem] is settled, the phenomenon of terrorism can be contained.

Prince Sultan pointed out that the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington could have serious repercussions, given that the terrorists proved themselves capable of penetrating U.S. security systems. He then posed the question as to whether Osama bin Ladin's organization was the only group involved in these terrorist acts, or whether another force with higher technical experience participated in them. As regards the impact of the attacks on the Kingdom's internal situation, he said there is nothing to be worried about, adding that the Al-Khobar explosion was an isolated incident, not linked with international events.

Concerning further cooperation among the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Prince Sultan noted that Saudi Arabia is presenting military proposals for the Al-Jazeera Shield and is promoting the establishment of a unified force capable of protecting any GCC member state.

Referring to the U.S. administration's "deep understanding of the progress of historical relations between the Kingdom and the United States", Prince Sultan criticized certain American institutions of public opinion. Saudis, he said, turn deaf ears to the American media's spiteful criticism of Saudi Arabia, added that Saudi newspapers are capable of refuting all allegations and biased reports.

The Saudi economy, Prince Sultan reported, is good, and is steadily growing and developing. He praised the role being played by the private sector, and remarked on the Saudi industrial products now appearing in non-Arab as well as Arab markets. He urged all citizens to take advantage of the investment opportunities available in their country, and highlighted the stable conditions in the Kingdom.

PRINCE NAYEF GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE, October 20, 2001

In a press conference today, Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz commented on the positive response to the campaign for donations to the Afghan people, saying over SR

130 million [U.S. \$ 34.7 million] had been collected during last Thursday's telethon, and announcing that a second fundraiser will soon take place. Declaring the Kabul regime responsible for the sufferings of the Afghan people, he prayed that their sufferings will soon come to an end.

Concerning media reports in the United States and certain European countries that are critical of Saudi Arabia, Prince Nayef denied that Saudi Arabia has its own religious approach that is not in conformity with contemporary life, declaring: "We in the Kingdom apply the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the *Sunnah* [example of the Prophet], but this does not mean that we are not open to others." Citing the cohesion that exists between the Kingdom's leadership and its citizens, he pointed out that any citizen can easily meet with the King, the Crown Prince or any other minister, without formalities and restrictions, and asked whether it is possible for citizens of the western democracies to meet with their officials in this way. These biased media campaigns, he reiterated, will have no effect on the Kingdom, since, he declared: "We have strong confidence in God Almighty." He added that, while in no need of help from anyone, Saudi Arabia wishes "to establish friendly relations that serve mutual interests in all spheres." The principles that Saudis adhere to, he declared, never block progress and development.

Prince Nayef commented that charitable societies are allowed to work unfettered as long as they engage in humanitarian activities, adding: "We ask those who raise suspicions or have any information, to provide us facts that the assistance is not reaching those who really deserve it." To a question on directing the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) to search accounts for links to Al-Qaeda, he answered that Saudi authorities have not as yet uncovered any accounts linked to bin Ladin or to any terrorist group.

On the possible involvement of Saudis in the attacks in the United States, Prince Nayef reiterated that investigation in the Kingdom has found no proof of any Saudi being a member of the Al-Qaeda organization. He expressed regret at misinformation being circulated by certain mass media, and affirmed that Saudi citizens are concerned with security and are cooperating and supporting their leadership. Regarding calls by certain people in the Kingdom for *jihād*, and to support bin Ladin, he said these are limited to one or two prayer leaders.

As for suspicious mail in the Kingdom, Prince Nayef said there has been none so far, but that all measures have been taken by the Kingdom concerning bio-terrorism and Al-Qaeda threats to hit western interests in Arab and Islamic countries.

PRINCE NAYEF DEPLORES SYMPATHIZERS OF TERRORISTS, October 18, 2001

Minister of Interior Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, inaugurating in Dammam yesterday the ninth conference of directors of police and traffic, remarked that in effect, all Saudi

citizens are security personnel and unwaveringly dedicate their efforts in the service of their country. Reiterating the Kingdom's condemnation of all forms of terrorism, he commented that Saudi Arabia has suffered greatly from terrorism over the past two decades, adding: "Those who are now hidden in their caves or burrows have in fact been insulting your country; these irresponsible people have nothing to do with Islam." It is unfortunate, he said, that "certain quarters sympathize with these misled people". Declaring that no doubt should be cast on the belief and sincerity of the Kingdom's leadership and of its *ulema* (Muslim scholars), he affirmed that the Saudi people are "people of Islam, and our country is the cradle of Islam, and we are the people who implement *shari'ah* (Islamic Law)."

PRINCE NAYEF AGAIN CONDEMNS TERRORIST ATTACKS IN U.S., October 15, 2001

Minister of Interior Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, at a press conference yesterday following his meeting with visiting Austrian President Dr. Thomas Klestil, reiterated the Kingdom's condemnation of the recent terrorist attacks in the United States, and stressed the importance of taking appropriate measures to eliminate terrorism.

Prince Nayef declared that the Kingdom is against terrorists whatever their nationality, and described Saudi-American relations as excellent. He then refuted allegations that the Kingdom had not taken the required measures to prevent funds going to Osama bin Ladin, saying the opposite is true. As for the U.S. air strikes against Afghanistan, he said: "We wish the United States could have succeeded in forcing the terrorists to leave Afghanistan without resorting to bombing, because so many innocent people will be victims of this bombardment." Commenting on the acts of terrorism that have recently taken place in Saudi Arabia itself, Prince Nayef remarked that in spite of all precautions, it is hard to predict such subversive acts.

Meanwhile, at yesterday's regular meeting of the Consultative Council (*Majlis Al-Shura*) Prince Nayef, together with Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud Al-Faisal addressed a closed-door session on the subject of terrorism, focusing on the indiscriminate loss of lives that were protected by divine teachings and on the efforts being exerted by a number of countries to bring about an end to the phenomenon of terrorism. Prince Nayef recounted past experiences of various states, what may happen in the future, and how international cooperation is now urgent in order to stop random acts of terror that do not differentiate between the innocent and the guilty. The Kingdom, he said, has itself been a target, and has made great efforts to stop terrorism, seeking to sign agreements with Arab countries and others aimed at tracking down terrorists, bringing them to justice, and facilitating the extradition of criminals.

Prince Saud gave a briefing on current international efforts to eliminate the causes of terrorism, and declared that global cooperation had become obligatory. He agreed with Prince Nayef that Saudi Arabia has never accepted, nor would ever accept, to be a haven

for terrorists, or for anyone who deviates from the right path of true religion, and that Saudi Arabia will do everything that is dictated by its religious, social and political duties to provide protection for the citizens and expatriates living on its territory. The Kingdom, they declared, would help the international community to root out the seeds of terrorism wherever they are found.

OIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ISSUES STATEMENT ON TERRORISM, October 11, 2001

The foreign ministers of the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) issued a [statement condemning international terrorism](#) at the conclusion of their 9th extraordinary session in Doha, Qatar yesterday.

At a press conference following the session, Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud Al-Faisal stressed that terrorism is harming the Islamic world and just Islamic causes and pointed out that terrorist acts have, for example, never advanced the Palestinian cause. He declared that the OIC foreign ministers' condemnation of terrorist acts proves the credibility of the Islamic world in combating terrorism. Acts of terror, he said, are wrong, and by carrying them out, the terrorists distract from the main issues of Islam. He commented that the conference's discussion of the need to resolve the causes of terrorism further shows the seriousness of the Islamic countries' willingness to exert every effort to combat it.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department welcomed the OIC statement, notably the repudiation of attempts by Osama bin Ladin to link his terrorism to Islam and Islamic values, and agreed that the threat of international terrorism affects all nations. The State Department also commended the conference's support for the stance that the United States and others had taken.

SJC DECLARES THAT JIHAD SHOULD NOT CAUSE HARM TO THE INNOCENT, October 10, 2001

In an interview published today in the English-language Saudi Gazette, Shaikh Saleh bin Luheidan, Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and member of the senior council of *ulema* (religious scholars), has strongly criticized Osama bin Ladin and his followers for their call to *jihad* [holy war] and for linking the security of Palestine with the security of the American people. "In the way of God", he declared, "*jihad* refers to the struggle to hold high His Word; he who struggles in the way of God is the one who

adheres to religious rites, avoids aggression and injustice, abides by *Shari'ah* [Islamic Law], and never becomes a cause for bloodshed and destruction to his people and country." True *jihad*, he reiterated, is when a person restrains himself from evil and turns in obedience to God.

Commenting on the refusal of the Taleban to hand over Osama bin Ladin, thereby exposing innocent Afghanis to the devastating air strikes that are going on, Shaikh Luheidan declared that this has nothing to do with protection of Islamic interests in Afghanistan, saying: "They could have avoided such errors by various means if they wanted to, and should have listened to the advice of their neighbors." He prayed that God "grant Afghanistan wise leadership that steers the country away from danger". True Muslims, he stated, "oppose any unjust person who is bent on bloodshed; they do not give shelter to any troublemaker."

SAUDI DELEGATE ADDRESSES UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON TERRORISM, October 3, 2001

The Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Fawzi Shobokshi addressed the 56th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York yesterday, and reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's condemnation of all forms of terrorism and its solidarity with the international community to confront it. Mr. President:

The disgraceful terrorist acts against the United States on September 11, 2001 are, by any standard, ugly crimes. They should be condemned by every person with an iota of faith, and by all peace-loving peoples who believe in human rights and adhere to principles and values.

Mr. President:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its King, its government and its people, have condemned those criminal acts, which resulted in great losses in human life and tremendous destruction and damage to property. The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has issued a declaration condemning this criminal act, which is contrary to all religious values and civilized concepts.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques sent a message to the President of the United States of America, in which he underlined his strong denunciation and condemnation of such acts. He also conveyed his sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the friendly American people. He confirmed Saudi Arabia's solidarity with the international community in standing in the face of terrorism and fighting it in all its forms and manifestations. In a telephone conversation, Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, the Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard, conveyed his condolences to the President, and to the American people for the victims of these painful acts of terrorism, which are condemned and rejected by all religious faiths. Crown Prince Abdullah expressed the full cooperation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the

American government in all its efforts to uncover the identities of the perpetrators of these criminal acts and bring them to justice.

Mr. President:

The condemnation of these criminal acts was not limited to the official authorities. It included all segments of Saudi society. The mufti [top religious leader] of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and President of the Council of Senior *ulema* (Islamic scholars) affirmed that the explosions that occurred in the United States, the acts of plane hijacking, frightening peaceful people, and unjustly killing people, are forms of aggression and oppression which the Islamic Law not only does not condone, but also considers a major sin.

The Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council in the Kingdom affirmed that this inhuman act is beyond comprehension. The scenes of this carnage were beyond what any Muslim mind could comprehend. He noted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the land of the Two Holy Mosques, governed by the teachings of Islam, condemns these brutal acts. So, it is no wonder that the Kingdom considers it anathema for Muslims to commit such deeds or protect such criminals. He also noted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has declared, through its religious leaders, and before any Saudi aircraft was ever hijacked, that such acts are criminal, regardless of whether the passengers were Muslims or not. They considered such acts oppression and that aggression against people and terrorizing them are the greatest of sins.

Mr. President:

While my country denounces this terrorist and inhuman act, it emphasizes the need to avoid linking terrorist acts with any particular religion or ethnic group whether such linkage is made by government bodies or the news media. Such linkage will not help in effectively combating terrorism, and is considered an affront to truth.

It feels concerned about the attempts of some news media and politicians to arbitrarily accuse Islam and Muslims. Islam is absolutely innocent of all such criminal acts which are considered violations of Islamic values and moral principles.

It also feels deeply concerned about some widespread phenomena in some societies which discriminate against religious beliefs, especially Islamic ones. There is also the attempt to link Islam and some negative phenomena, such as terrorism and fanaticism: all the while forgetting that Islam rejects terrorism and fanaticism, while promoting tolerance and cooperation.

Mr. President:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has suffered from terrorist acts in the past. Therefore, it sympathizes with what the United States is going through. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has exerted all efforts for a long time to combat this dangerous phenomenon. It has always taken appropriate measures on all levels. On the national level, it has enacted laws that punish perpetrators of terrorist acts. Combating terrorism became a principal item in the curriculum of colleges. On the regional level, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was among the first signatories of the Arab convention for combating terrorism, which was adopted by the League of Arab States in 1998. It also signed the anti-terrorism convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. On the international level, the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia adhered to numerous United Nations conventions about terrorism. They included the convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation. It is about to join the international convention on terrorist bombings, and the convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism.

The government of my country believes that joining anti-terrorism conventions should be accompanied by sincere intentions to combat this dangerous phenomenon and eradicate it. We call upon all member states to categorically condemn all terrorist acts, which constitute a grave violation of the objectives and principles of the United Nations, threaten international peace and security and endanger friendly relations among states, as well as inhibiting cooperation among them.

Mr. President:

Concerned about this dangerous phenomenon and intent on combating it, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports all the efforts of this organization through related resolutions and conventions, particularly Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001) and 1373 (2001), which condemn the horrible terrorist attacks against the United States of America. The delegation of my country, in its efforts to combat this dangerous phenomenon, supports the convening of an international conference on terrorism. We believe that the need is urgent, and that the time has come to convene such a conference. It should have as one of its main objectives, a clear definition of terrorism which differentiates between terrorism as a dangerous phenomenon that threatens the security and stability of the international community, and the right of peoples to struggle against and resist occupation, according to international law and the United Nations charter.

Mr. President:

Although the Arab and Muslim peoples are subjected to terrorist acts, there are pernicious attempts to falsely accuse Arabs and Muslims of terrorism. Some biased media repeat unjust hearsay about Islamic terrorism, Islamic threats and Islamic bombs. It is as if terrorism is committed only by Muslims. We have not heard that bombs have religions, and terrorism has religious sects. Nobody would repeat such hearsay unless he/she is malicious, or ignorant of history. Arabs and Muslims cannot be accused of terrorism because a person or a group from among them committed terrorist acts. Terrorists are found among every sect and religion, and among all human societies. Islam prohibits terrorism because God Almighty cannot be but just, and He prohibits injustice against human beings. Killing the innocent is a major sin: it is considered similar to perversion on earth and destruction of crops and progeny. God Almighty says: "Let not the enmity and hatred of others make you avoid justice. Be just. That is nearer to piety." Inflicting mass punishment is considered by Islam an act of abomination, aggression and wickedness.

Islamic law was cognizant of this danger fourteen centuries ago. It established the first complete law against terrorism. Thus, Islamic jurisprudence considers oppression and rebellion as forms of terrorism. The Supreme Judicial Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia imposed capital punishment on those who commit the crimes of terrorism and sabotage. This was based on God's words in the Holy Qur'an: "There is the type of man whose speech about this world's life may dazzle thee. And he calls Allah to witness about what is in his heart. Yet he is the most contentious of enemies. When he turns his back

his aim everywhere is to spread mischief through the earth and destroy crops and progeny, but Allah loveth no mischief." God Almighty says again: "If anyone slew a person unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land, it would be as if he slew the whole people."

Mr. President:

The Arab governments and the Arab peoples condemn terrorism in all its shapes and forms. This position is based on their faith and culture. Nevertheless, the Arabs call for avoiding any confusion between terrorism on the one hand and, on the other hand, the right of peoples to defend their independence, freedom and human rights when they are subjected to foreign occupation and dominance, itself a violation of international law.

The general condemnation of terrorism extends to state terrorism as practiced by Israel continuously. Paragraph 6 of General Assembly Resolution 40/61, adopted by the 40th session in 1985, referred to official terrorism practiced by some states. This resolution makes a clear distinction between terrorism, which is a criminal act and an unlawful form of warfare, and armed resistance to colonialism, racism, and foreign occupation, which is a legitimate struggle sustained by the principle of self-determination, which is part of the law of nations as embodied in the Charter and other international resolutions. In paragraph 9, the Resolution calls upon all member states to work, individually and in collaboration with each other and with United Nations bodies, towards the gradual elimination of the causes of international terrorism.

Mr. President:

There is no doubt that states where terrorist acts take place have the right to pursue the wrongdoers, to arrest them and to put them on trial. The objective should be to eradicate all forms of terrorism, and not revenge. The history of terrorism shows us that the best way to suppress it is to explore its roots and identify the causes which engender it and find just solutions to the different conflicts. What happened in the United States places the international community in a position of great responsibilities but terrorism was not born on September 11, 2001. It will not be eradicated by military means or by being treated as a mere problem of law and security. Developed armaments and new techniques are not sufficient response either.

The international community is required to deal with terrorism, in a spirit of responsibility and seriousness, from all its aspects. The best context for such action is the United Nations, which embodies the international community. It alone is entitled to define terrorism and take international decisions to fight it. International law should be the basis of dealing with terrorism and of deciding what measures to take against it. The mere use of force could lead to arresting a few suspects while inflicting mass pain and suffering on multitudes of innocents.

International cooperation in facing terrorism requires an agreed definition of the phenomenon in legal terms in order to avoid motivations of different interests and objectives. All faiths and creeds must be respected and cannot be tarnished under the pretext of defending freedom of speech. Issues of human rights should not be politicized. And attempts to impose some values on other nations which might contradict its beliefs

and principles should cease. No double standards should prevail in dealing with international problems. Therefore, international laws and legitimacy should be respected.

Mr. President:

Terrorism has become a universal phenomenon not limited to one ethnic group or one faith. Combating it also needs to be universal in nature and extent.

Only through a coordinated plan in the context of the United Nations could our common efforts bear fruit, eradicate terrorism, protect the lives of the innocent, maintain the sovereignty of the states and the security and stability of the world.

PRINCE BANDAR STRESSES KINGDOM'S STAND AGAINST TERRORISM, October 2, 2001

Ambassador to the United States Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, in a televised CNN interview last night, stressed the Kingdom's stand along side the United States in the fight against terrorism. He praised the success of U.S. President George W. Bush in building an international coalition of 100 countries in support of efforts to eradicate terrorism, which he described as an unconventional threat that must be met with political, economic, and intelligence as well as military options. Prince Bandar reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's unwavering stand, without reservations, against the perpetrators of terrorism and those who shelter them, commenting that the use of stolen Saudi passports and identification cards by some of the terrorists was clearly part of a scheme directed against the Kingdom's interests.

Prince Bandar praised the support given by the United Nations and the Security Council to the on-going efforts to confront terrorism and to freeze all its associated financial resources. Reiterating that true Muslims would never engage in acts of terrorism or the killing of innocent people, he cited the recent statements on terrorism by the Kingdom's *ulema* (Islamic scholars).

KING FAHD ORDERS RELIEF AID FOR AFGHANIS, October 1, 2001

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdulaziz today issued directives that relief aid be sent to the Afghani people. The aid, worth U.S. \$ 10 million, comprises foodstuffs, medicines and clothes, and will go directly to those in need in the civil-war-stricken Asian country. The gesture comes within the framework of the Kingdom's support for the brotherly people in Afghanistan to alleviate their sufferings as a result of the increased number of refugees.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING , October 1, 2001

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdulaziz today chaired in Riyadh the regular weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers, which was briefed on developments since the terrorist attacks targeting economic and government facilities in the United States of America, particularly the biased attempts by certain western media to link terrorism with Arabs and Muslims. The cabinet reiterated the Kingdom's full support for and cooperation with international efforts aimed at combating terrorism, pointing out that Saudi Arabia has been in the forefront in this fight and noting that it has for several years been calling on the entire world to be firm and combat the phenomenon, starting with an agreement on the definition of terrorism and research into its different aspects, including its negative impact on global stability. The cabinet repeated a categorical rejection of all attempts to link terrorist acts with Islam and Muslims, attesting to the fact that Islam is a peace-loving, amicable and tolerant religion that renounces all forms of terrorism.

The cabinet went on to express the hope that the latest developments in the United States, and the focus on the issue of eradicating terrorism, will not lead the world to neglect the sufferings of the Palestinian people resulting from the state terrorism practiced by Israel, which consists of brutal practices, the killing of innocent people, the destruction of homes, the forceful seizure of land, economic siege and damage to fruitful trees. King Fahd reiterated what was declared by Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz during a telephone conversation with U.S. President George W. Bush last week, that the peace process in the Middle East calls for serious rethinking by the U.S. administration and all honest people in the world. The Palestinian cause, which is of interest to all Arabs and Muslims, is one of the factors of instability in the region, and the U.S. role to further boost the Middle East peace process and achieve a fair and comprehensive peace is very important. The cabinet drew the attention of the international community to the importance of efforts to stop Israel's blatant practices, provide international protection for the Palestinian people, and end the occupation, killings, and terror inflicted by the Israeli authorities.

INTERIOR MINISTER REITERATES KINGDOM'S STANCE ON TERRORISM, October 1, 2001

Minister of Interior Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz held a press conference in Riyadh yesterday, and reiterated the Kingdom's stance towards terrorism as consistently against the killing of innocent people and the destruction of property. He observed that the Kingdom has been targeted by terrorists, dating back even before the attack on the Holy Mosque [in 1979], an event he described as among the most horrible of terrorist acts. Saudi Arabia's position on terrorism is therefore not new, nor the outcome of what happened in the United States [on September 11], the Kingdom's reaction to which is in accordance with that position. That the Kingdom is against terrorist acts should be obvious to anyone who understands Islam.

Prince Nayef pointed out that over ten years ago, Saudi Arabia worked with other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to forge a strategy to combat terrorism. In 1998, the Kingdom signed the League of Arab States' agreement on fighting terrorism, which reflected the Arab consensus on the definition of terrorism and ways of combating it. At that time, he said, the Arab ministers of interior and justice jointly issued an appeal to the international community, and to the United Nations, to conclude an international agreement to combat terrorism; regrettably, there was no response to this call. Meanwhile, he said, the Kingdom has been concluding bilateral agreements on fighting terrorism, citing the recent accord with Iran.

Commenting that certain Saudi nationals accused of involvement in terrorist acts are working against their own country, Prince Nayef declared that the Saudi people are faithful Muslims who respect human life, honor, and property. Security in the Kingdom, he said, will always be strong and firm. He expressed regret for the inappropriate and unjust treatment of a number of Saudi citizens abroad following the attacks, but this, he said, is understandable in the situation, and such treatment is being addressed. Saudis overseas are there as students, patients, businessmen or tourists, he said, adding: "Some Saudis might or might not have been involved (we haven't had any confirmation yet) but maltreatment of a whole nation cannot be justified by the acts that individuals have committed."

Prince Nayef went on to remark that if Arabs and Muslims are involved in these terrorist acts, it should not be forgotten that they have been driven to them by the unresolved issues from which the Arab world suffers, chief among them the cause of Palestine, where innocent people are being killed and their houses destroyed by Israel, which uses its strength of planes, tanks and weapons against people who defend their homeland with nothing but stones. As long as Palestine is subject to aggression and injustice, he declared, all nations of the world must clearly commit themselves to justice and what is right: Palestine should not be erased from the map; it should remain the homeland for its people; and there is a need to differentiate between the Palestinian struggle and terrorism.

Answering questions following his statement, Prince Nayef confirmed that the Arab League agreement on combating terrorism could be the basis for a more comprehensive international agreement. He expressed the hope that an international conference would be held to discuss this.

Commenting on Osama bin Laden, Prince Nayef stressed the Kingdom's categorical rejection of him as a Saudi citizen, pointing out that his Saudi nationality was revoked many years ago. Saudi Arabia is totally against the acts that have been committed by bin Laden or his associates. Moreover, he added, bin Laden's opinion of the Kingdom is well known; he is a terrorist, and stands against the country that was once his home.

Concerning the Kingdom's role in the international efforts led by the United States against terrorism, Prince Nayef declared: "We will support and participate in any international efforts in this respect, and we would like to make it clear that we are against all forms of terrorism." Asked if the U.S., as a supporter of Israel, can play a fair role in combating terrorism, he said the position of the U.S. and of many European countries is not fair with regard to the Palestinian cause. These countries, he said, must revise their

position, otherwise the problems will continue, since Israel constitutes a source of instability in the region.

As for Saudi Arabia's humanitarian relief efforts, they, he said, will not change. They will go to Muslims in need wherever they are, but, he said: "We will make sure that the relief assistance goes directly to those who genuinely deserve it."

Meanwhile, Prince Nayef today issued directives to extend all possible facilities for Afghani nationals residing in kingdom, especially regarding issuance of travel documents or *iqama* (residence permit) renewal. This gesture was made in recognition of the sufferings of the Afghani people caused by international circumstances following the recent terrorist attacks in the United States.