In his Speech to the Human Rights Council in Geneva

Dr. Al-Aiban: Initiatives of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Serve Humanity

Cabinet Appreciates the Positive Reactions
World Praises for KSA’s Efforts in the Protection of Human Rights
Justice is the Basis of Human Rights

From Abdul-Aziz Bin Abdul Rahman Bin Saud to the people of the Arabian Peninsula

“Any of our parish who feels to be oppressed or suffers an injustice should wire or mail the complaint free of charge to us on our own expense, on the other hand competent employees shall accept such wired and or mailed complaints that delivered by our people even if they are posted against any of the royal family members (my sons and grandsons). However, any of the officers who gives a try to discourage our parish from submitting their complains, regardless of their significance, or even those who give a try to influence their vehemence, must know very well that we will impose severe punishment on them. I don’t wish to hear about any oppressed or wronged. I don’t wish to bear any guilt that has been caused by the oppression or not being able to rescue wronged people or even to give a support to those wronged till getting their rights”.

“O God, I have delivered (the message), may you be my witness”. 
The “Rights” magazine in this edition introduces special content for its valued readers including variety of subjects that addressed the human rights situation in the Kingdom and summarized it in a report and submitted it to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz - may God protect him – and also communicated the Commission’s praise for the Council of Ministers’ approval of the “Protection from Abuse” system, as well as the adoption of the system of Domestic Workers Regulation. We also tackled the humanitarian initiatives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques which relieved the families of prisoners who will be released before Eid. Furthermore, convoys and trucks of food and emergency aid have been sent to many of the peoples of the Muslim Ummah in Syria, Palestine, Burma, Pakistan and other countries.

“Rights” magazine approached all these contents in a series of reports, investigations and interviews that are not limited to regional affairs, but extended to follow the world, and the situation of Muslims in non-Muslim countries.

The child also received share of our interest in the this number, as we published a new story of “Yazeid Knows his Rights” series which dealt with the right of the child in participation and mixed it with interesting drama plot that attracts children captures their hearts.
Islam Prohibits Abuse

There is no doubt that protecting human beings from humiliation and physical and moral violence is guaranteed in this country which derives its regulations from the teachings of the Holy Quran and the guidance of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), who came mercy to the worlds. The Holy Koran stressed this in more than a verse including the verse {We have Certainly honored the children of Adam} and human dignity means not to harm and hurt him. And the Sunnah of the Prophet confirmed that through the actions of the Prophet, peace be upon him, and his statements, including The Prophetic tradition (Hadith) “The Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand the people are safe, and the believer is the one with whom the people’s lives and wealth are trusted”. Also the Quranic Verses and Prophetic Tradition called for compassion and confirmed it in the importance of the right of the orphan and the young and the women and the poor. However, people may overlook this Islamic guidance and hence commit violations against the right of the weakest group in the community by exploiting their mandate, their custody or their kinship, thinking they are immune from accountability. For that reason, the Kingdom took the initiative and issued a system that protects not only this weak group, but also protects each person in the society, from being abused, and criminalizes the abusers as the Kingdom recognizes the negative impact of violence on the hearts of the victims which disrupts their energy and destroys their abilities and leaves bad experiences in them which in turn affect them and those who around them, and this negative effect is reflected adversely on community. On account of that, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, may Allah protect him, approved the system of protection from abuse to be another building block in the construction of an integrated system of legislation that is in favor of human beings rights in this gracious homeland, so that each of its members live in safe from harm, violence and injustice. Because the protection of society is a shared responsibility between the stakeholders in the state, including the Commission as well as the individuals who make up the community itself, it is supposed that all should unite their efforts to combat violence and standing up to the abusers whoever they are. No doubt that raising awareness of this system and uniting efforts in applying it will have positive results and good effects, especially the Council of Ministers adoption of the system of protection from abuse reflects the level of civilization and humanitarian in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as its commitment to make everyone (citizens and residents) and his relatives and families live in peace, and everyone in the Arab countries and the world important in light of major security incidents taking place now, in this troubled world.

*This is Issue No. 3.*
Human Rights Efforts ... And World Testimonials

The praises of more than 90 countries around the world for the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the field of publishing, supporting and protecting human rights came as a strong practical reply to skeptics and promoters of the rumors that contradict entirely with the reality experienced by the Kingdom and approved by the system of government that is derived from Islamic law (Sharia) and its teachings of tolerance. It became clear that what is promoted falsely is just tendentious propaganda aimed mostly to undermine the security and stability of a country where justice and goodness prevail thanks to the application of the Islamic law which stressed on the necessity of protecting human dignity and the fundamental rights and freedoms. The world positive reactions to discussing the Kingdom's report during the universal periodic review before the Human Rights Council in Geneva were just a reflection of what the world saw of achievements, that became clear for every impartial person, in the field of human rights and humanitarian issues and which were embodied in the form of reforms, enacting legislations and adopting strategies that are concerned with protecting human rights within the Kingdom and which came to complement the efforts initiated by the Kingdom since the adoption of its first report. Also the world saw what Saudi women obtained in the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz - may God protect him – from contributing to the national decision-making by taking leadership positions in public and private sectors and their membership of the Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia (Shura Council) with a percentage not less than 20% in addition to their right to vote and stand as a candidate for membership of the municipal councils. Moreover, the issuance of “Protection from Abuse” system - which aims to protect all members of society from all forms of exploitation and abuse - came to enhance the actions taken by the State in the field of protection from all forms of abuse and violence. Also the kingdom's continued interest in protecting human rights in the framework of the United Nations and its commitment to international conventions by it had an impact upon the positive response of the international community, where the Kingdom acceded to a number of major international instruments of human rights in addition to a number of regional instruments and conventions, as well as its support for the least developed countries, where it has dropped more than $ 6 billion of debts of these countries. There is no doubt that these strategies, steps, and developments that increase in frequency day after day in the context of promoting human rights in the Kingdom had been realized only by the success granted by God then the ongoing support and interest to protect the human rights from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and HH the Crown Prince and HH the Second Deputy Premier – may God protect them.
This is the Second Issue of “Hoqoq” magazine in English. It contains a translation of the most important topics and contents tackled by the Arabic version of the magazine.

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Our Vision: To be the pioneers of integrated solutions in specialized media in the Arab world.

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Initiatives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz achieved great humanitarian shifts, that delighted families of prisoners and their relatives by releasing them, as well as the deposit of about two billion SR in the account of beneficiaries of social security pensions and assistance, and the Syrian and the Palestinian brothers had a good share of these initiatives.

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Respecting the rights of Muslims in non-Muslim countries vary from one country to another, and may vary from one company to another, according to the understanding of these institutions and companies of the nature of the religious rituals as a right of rights guaranteed by international conventions and international laws issued by the United Nations and international institutions.
The prevalence of violence within the one family is one of the important human rights issues that need to be examined and analyzed and defining its causes so as to reduce or even root this phenomenon out.

In this issue’s seminar we are present a number of views of a group of specialists in various fields of life by which we know the causes of increasing spread of this phenomenon in the recent years, and the results of domestic violence on the individual and society.

His Excellency the Minister of Culture and Information, Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Mohiuddin Khoja praised the distinct and unique Saudi media experience in highlighting human rights issues and displaying them, where television or radio programmes, as well as what is published in Saudi daily press, always display TV or radio or press programs or coverages aiming at defining and discussing everything related to human rights issues.

Ann Doyle - American expert specializing in female leadership activities, and a local political activist in Auburn Hills, Missouri – said she was dazzled by the progress and development of Saudi women, after talking to a large number of them and noted their development and their interest in local and global issues as well as science and technology.
Cabinet Briefed on the Report of Human Rights Violations in Syria

The Council of Ministers briefed on a report on the repercussions of the events taking place in the region and the international contacts, consultations and discussions on them, especially the widespread violations of human rights in Syria and the continuing massacres and the use of the military machine against the Syrian people, reiterating the unvarying positions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia towards those events.

The Council called upon the Islamic Ummah (Muslim Community) to stand in the face of supplying this illegitimate regime with weapons, ammunition ordnance and personnel in order not to continue its aggression against the noble Syrian people.

The Council also expressed the Kingdom’s appreciation for the efforts made by the Human Rights Council to strengthen international cooperation in the field of human rights, noting the decisions adopted at the end of the twenty-third session in Geneva.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may God protect, also warned against the consequences of adventures committed by some countries and its interference into the internal affairs of others which increases tension and lack of stability, during the meeting held by the Council of Ministers in Jeddah and presided over by HM.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques – may Allah support him – encouraged to redouble efforts to harness all capabilities to accomplish these projects as soon as possible so as to facilitate performing rituals for pilgrims of the Two Holy Mosques.

Projects of the Two Holy Mosques
Abdulaziz Khoja, Minister of Information and Culture, indicated that the Council briefed on the report on the progress of projects in the Two Holy Mosques, including Mataf expansion and the holy sites in the framework of the legitimate and jurisprudential limits due to the increasing numbers pilgrims, which requires to provide maximum comfort to the pilgrims and their safety.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques – may Allah support him – encouraged to redouble efforts to harness all capabilities to accomplish these projects as soon as possible so as to facilitate performing rituals for pilgrims of the Two Holy Mosques.
He stressed that the war against terrorism will be long and fierce

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Donates $100 Million to Counter-Terrorism Fund

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud - may God protect him – donated an amount of one hundred million dollars for the support of the UN Center for Counter Terrorism and activated it under the umbrella of the United Nations, appealing to all other nations to participate in backing this center to eliminate the forces of hatred, extremism and criminality. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques said it is an imperative duty of all who believe that terrorism is a demolition mattock that threatens our security and our global peace to face and prevent it and if any fails in countering terrorism he may be suspected and accused, and there should be neither sagging in resolving this serious matter, nor half-solutions. HM added that we will not defeat this evil without concerted efforts and fulfilling conventions and covenants to achieve its historical role and assume full responsibility towards all what threatens the peace and security of the whole world, and we should learn from the facts of history, and Almighty Creator says (And fear a trial which will not strike those who have wronged among you exclusively, and know that Allah is severe in penalty).

The King stressed that intellectual terrorism with its partisan theories and political greed legalized killing innocent people, terrorizing innocent people and violating sanctity in various fraudulent pretexts, and that the reformation of nation starts from self-reform and to agree on a word based on Holy Quran and Sunnah.

This came in a speech of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, in which HM addressed the people of the Kingdom and the Islamic nation, expressing his intense regret and grief over the painful reality and the unknown fate experienced by our Islamic and Arabic nation, as it involves conflicts and slogans for which Allah has sent down no authority, and which the enemies and waiters exploited it in their historical context of chances, to allow the killing of innocent people, terrorizing the secured people and violating sanctity, and backed by intellectual terrorism which legalized this through its partisan theories and political greed in various fraudulent pretexts and they did so through directing texts of Islamic law (Sharia) according to what they prefer. This intellectual intruder hides itself behind the religion and attachment to God, and the religion of Allah renounces him, but it is ambitions and passions that target every ignorant and naive, and our sole solace is that “Allah is predominant over His affair, but most of the people do not know”. These oppressors were a tool of terrorism and corruption, as they try to demolish the sublime values of Islam and its great meanings, and they have – God willing- an appointment with what Almighty Creator says in Holy Quran (And never think that Allah is unaware of what the wrongdoers do. He only delays them for a Day when eyes will stare [in horror]). They pretended reform but mislead others and kidnapped minds of naïve people and went astray, and their job is obvious in the meaning of the words of Allah Almighty (And they strive throughout the land [causing] corruption, and Allah does not like corrupters), and they are righteous in their astray slogans, and not caring about the consequences of their words and actions.

Governor of Riyadh receives Al-Aiban and briefed on the achievements of the Commission

HE Dr. Bandar Al-Aiban, President of the Human Rights Commission, briefed His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh region on the most important achievements of the Commission. Dr. Al-Aiban presented to HH explanation for the Commission’s work and its role in protecting and promoting human rights in all fields and its efforts to disseminate awareness and contribute to ensure the application of these in accordance with the provisions of Islamic law (Sharia) and international human rights standards. Also, they discussed in the meeting some issues of mutual concern.

This came during a meeting in which Governor of Riyadh region, His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, received HE Chairman of Human Rights Commission, at his office in the government palace. Dr. Al-Aiban was accompanied by members of the Secretariat of the Board of the Commission. HH the Governor of Riyadh region, praised the role of the Commission in the protection of human rights in the Kingdom, and extended thanks to His Excellency the President of the Commission and members of the Secretariat of the Commission’s Board and all its employees.
Al-Aiban Thanks King Abdullah for Ratification of “Protection from Abuse” System

Dr. Al-Aiban confirmed that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques is keen on protecting the rights and maintaining the dignity of the members of the community and their humanitarian safety and security and protecting them from assault or abuse in any form, especially the groups that are most vulnerable to these violations, i.e. the elderly, women and children, and helping anyone who lives on this beloved country to enjoy with full rights and maintain his dignity.

Dr. Al-Aiban predicted that this system would achieve a major leap in the field of protection from abuse, reflecting the level of civilization reached by the Kingdom with an emphasis on the Kingdom’s protection of the components of its society that are exposed to abuse and violence, which is rejected and prohibited by the Islamic law, ethics and sound norms. He also reiterated that anyone assaults on any other person regardless of his relationship or kinship to him should know that he will be on the lookout of the system that
is emanating from the teachings of Islamic Sharia. In this regard, as number of stakeholders, including the Human Rights Commission registered an increasing number of complaints about violence against women and children in the community, so it was necessary to find a system that provides protection from all various forms of abuse and provides assistance, treatment and accommodation services and social, psychological and health care, and facing the abusers, and this was included in the articles of this regulation. Dr. Al-Alban pointed out that the issue of protection from abuse is of paramount importance for the Commission and is considered one of its most important priorities since the start of its work. The Commission’s report that received support of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques submitted a number of recommendations, which called for the enactment of regulations that contribute to the reduction of violence and stresses the importance of having a special system for protecting from abuse, stressing the importance of the cooperation of all segments of society and state institutions involved in this system to work on its implementation.

He also affirmed that Commission is looking forward to concerted efforts between community members and stakeholders entrusted with the implementation of the system, and working to raise awareness among segments of society, especially in schools, universities and mosques, while the Commission will follow the mechanism of its application and implementation with stakeholders rapidly. And HE the President of the Commission concluded his statement praying to Allah Almighty to preserve the security of this country under the wise leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz and the second deputy prime minister His Royal Highness Prince Muqrin bin Abdul Aziz, may Allah protect them.

It is worth mentioning the Cabinet has approved in its meeting chaired by Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Muqrin bin Abdul Aziz the endorsement of new system that would ensure protection from abuse in all its forms, and provide assistance, treatment and shelter as well as social, mental and health care and assistance necessary for each exposed to this. The Cabinet agreed on the “Protection from Abuse” system in its wording as attached to the decision, and prepared a royal decree regarding it. The new system targets many things, inter alia, to ensure providing protection from abuse of all kinds, to provide assistance and treatment and to provide shelter and social, psychological and health care and assistance necessary achieve these targets, and to take legal procedures against the abusers and punishing them.

HRH Princess Adela Bint Abdullah Praises the Adoption of “Protection from Abuse” System

HRH Princess Adela Bint Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, President of the National Family Safety Program, confirmed that the adoption of the “Protection from Abuse” system by the Council of Ministers represents a great leap in the field of social protection and boosts all governmental and non-governmental agencies engaged in human rights and dealing with groups that are exposed to abuse, such as children, women and the elderly.

The president of the National Family Safety Program praised the efforts of the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz - may God protect him - to adopt “Protection from Abuse” system, and considered it a confirmation of the leadership’s keenness to spread the values of justice in the community and to provide protection and security for its members and achieve the welfare of citizens and ensure them a decent life.

HRH said: “Through the contents of the system which would enhance prevention of violence efforts in society and deter violators and sponsor the abused people by providing care and support to them, the system has become a legal reference that would - God willing - facilitate the procedures and provide protection from domestic violence in particular, and violence in general in Saudi society”.

HRH referred to the preventive aspect in the “Protection from Abuse” system, stressing the importance of the principle of prevention from violence through the dissemination of awareness among society members about the concept of abuse and its implications, which, according to HRH, represents one of the main themes of the National Family Safety Program.

Since its inception in 1426 H that resulted in a remarkable partnership between the Saudi Arabia and the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect as well as membership in the Child Helpline International. She added “Since we are, in the National Family Safety Program, interested in the family issues and security, we welcome the issuance of this new system and we consider it to be strong support for us and for all the organizations and agencies that work in this field and perceive it as a very important step towards unifying and standardizing its and enhancing the integration of their roles in the unified framework of the law that would provide protection for a wide range of members of the society and helps to achieve stability, pointing to the program’s emphasis in its new strategy on the importance of the presence of representatives of all involved ministries and institutions of civil society that are concerned with family affairs as they are members of the Board of the Program to apply the principle of a holistic view in addressing the issue, stressing that this would contribute to activate the required rules of the new system and assist the authorities in preparing its implementation regulation and provide all segments of society with the needed protection and service.
Al Hussein Reviews the Achievements of the HRC in Evening Meeting

Dr. Zaid Bin Abdul Mohsen Al-Hussein, vice president of the Human Rights Commission and member of the Board of Directors, reviewed the Commission’s experiences with a number of government agencies and their interaction with it, and the achievements and the recommendations submitted by the Commission since its inception.

This came during the evening meeting organized by the Commission’s branch in Eastern Province, and attended by vice president of the Human Rights Commission, Dr. Zaid Bin Abdul Mohsen Al-Hussein, and the supervisor of the Commission’s branch in the Eastern Province Abdullah bin Saleh Al-Suhail, in the presence of members of the Commission and a number of those who are interested in human rights in the region in the Commission’s branch in Dammam.

During the evening meeting, the vice president of the HRC presented a brief summary about the Commission and its objectives and tasks entrusted to it by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud – may God protect him. Afterwards, the vice president answered questions raised by the participants that dealt with issues related to human rights and the HRC.

Eastern Province Prisons Free of any Saudi finished Prison Term

Ibrahim Asry, acting manager of the Human Rights Commission’s branch in Eastern Province, said that Eastern Province prisons are free of any Saudi who finished his prison term, stressing that the presence of foreigners in these prisons is due to the actions carried out by the Department of Deportation and the measures of applying deportation fingerprint, which is under completion phase, especially in light of the positive response of these foreigners’ sponsors are responding to these agencies to finish procedures of their final exit.

Asry explained that the branch, since its opening in the Eastern Province, has paid 140 field visits including visits to the general prison, security prison and detention centers, such as: the Police, Traffic, Anti-Drug Center, Social Observation House in Dammam, Women’s Prison in Dammam and Girls Welfare Foundation in Al-Hasa.

He indicated that the Commission spotted a number of observations some of which were addressed directly in coordination with those entities, and others required to talk to other entities, noting that the field visits and trips, carried out by the Human Rights Commission branch in the Eastern Province come on basis of Article V «VI Clause», as well as Article XI «Clause D» of the Human Rights Commission regulations issued by the Council of Ministers decision no. 207 on 8-8-1426 H, where it provides for visiting prisons and detention centers without the permission of the competent authority and reporting about these prisons, pointing to the existence of constant coordination with the Department of prisons and House of Correction Division in Dammam and the rest of Eastern Province prisons.
Human Rights and the Steps to Success

Praise be to Allah, Lord of Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists), and peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad the noblest of all messengers, his relatives, all his friends and whoever calls for his message to the Day of Recompense, and after.

God honored mankind and appointed him as a successor on Earth to construct it according to the guidance of Allah, and Allah sent Prophets and Messengers to the people to free them from slavery of polytheism and its disgrace to paradise and light of monotheism. Allah says in the Holy Quran (And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference).

The Islam law (Sharia) with which Prophet Muhammad peace and blessings be upon comprehensive in its teachings, great in its principles and provisions, containing all walks of life, and the Islamic system is accurately elaborate system that preserves rights, takes care of values and promotes principles, and the true Islam religion preserves and orders every good value and fine trait.

And the world today is sinking under numerous events and accelerated volatilities where many of modern theses and new terminology emerged which became to formulate its public opinion and occupy the minds of politicians, and among these new terminology “human rights”, which has become a headline that tops most of the meetings, conferences and international organizations and recently it is being tackled by all media. Further, this term is often taken as an excuse by some organizations and countries to achieve aims far from what those principles invite and what that term implants.

Here we do not object to this term and to what it calls for, but that goes without saying that Islamic Sharia is the trendsetter in the adoption of human rights before all principles and international declarations calling for these rights, rather human rights in the Islamic Sharia characterized as divine legislation with neither defect nor injustice and its principles include rights of the young and old, men and women, the patient and the healthy, the rich and poor, the friend and foe, and the Muslim and non-Muslim. And when Islam adopted these rights, it ensured its protection through the imposition of penalties on any one tries to violate them, these rights are fixed and can not be excluded or altered.

Because the Holy Quran and the Sunnah are the immortal constitution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia upon which it grew up and was founded, the Kingdom attention paid to the human rights is of the attention of the Sharia, and it has paid great attention to this aspect, so it preserved the right of people to live, to earn a living, to own property, to education, to work and to worship and other public rights and principles.

But the doubts raised about the kingdom in this regard it is a result of an inability to perceive the truth of these meanings and connotations or a result of false information in order to undermine this country and its religious law.

In line with the requirements of the current age and its stunning developments the Kingdom - may Allah protect it - has established the Human Rights Commission in order to protect and promote human rights and disseminate its culture and call for its development and consolidation in the society in the light of the provisions of the Islamic Sharia. The Human Rights Commission represents the government, on the subject of human rights and enjoys full independence in the exercise of its functions, while the National Society for Human Rights is a non-governmental organization that represents civil society and it is an independent civil institution aimed at defending human rights and contribute to building a society of justice and equality.

The state’s interest in the subject of human rights not only in this aspect, but also extends to the regulatory and supervisory framework, which is concerned with the enactment of laws and regulations and control over the performance, and the consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia (Shura Council) is playing important role in this regard. The Shura Council has paid great attention to on basis of its perception of its importance in helping society be informed and educated and knows his rights and adheres to is its duties and enjoys the dignity, equality and justice. The Shura Council’s interest in human rights began through the Islamic, Judicial Affairs and Human Rights Committee, and when the Council saw that the subject needs to greater attention and specialized committee, it appointed a special committee under the name of “Human Rights and Petitions Committee” which specializes in studying topics related to human rights and receive suggestions and complaints from citizens in this regard. This committee has been able, thanks to God, to contribute effectively to address many of the issues by communicating with citizens and meeting them directly and discussing their concerns to achieve all their ambitions in this aspect.

In conclusion, allow me to thank organizers of the Human Rights Commission for this good initiative to issue a monthly magazine concerned with spreading a culture of human rights and to encourage studies and scientific research in this field and that emphasizes the important role played by the Commission and its continued strive to achieve its humanitarian mission, praying to God Almighty to help us all to realize the truth.

May The Peace And Blessings Of God Be Upon you.
In his Speech to the Human Rights Council in Geneva

Dr. Al-Aiban: Initiatives of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Serve Humanity

HE Dr. Bandar M. Al-Aiban, President of the Human Rights Commission, confirmed in his speech to the Human Rights Council in Geneva that the initiatives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud serve humanity and support human rights issues, pointing to the importance of the role played by the Kingdom under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - may God protect him - through its membership in the international Group of Twenty as an advocate for the rights of developing countries and a custodian of their interests, or at the level of the initiatives that would reduce the negative effects of the global financial and economic crises in order to improve humanitarian and development programs especially with regard to the debt burden on the developing countries.

Council of Ministers Praise

The Council of Ministers, in its meeting chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense - may God protect him - praised the positive feedback received by the Kingdom from the countries of the world and their expressions of admiration of the efforts of the Kingdom in the field of publishing, promotion and protection of human rights, during the adoption of the final results of the universal periodic review of human rights in the Kingdom by the Human Rights Council in Geneva, stressing that the Kingdom under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques works to protect and promote human rights so as to maintain its identity, culture and gains and take care of its citizens, on the basis of adherence to the Book of Allah and the prophetic traditions (Sunnah) of His Messenger, peace be upon him. The Council also stressed on the Kingdom’s rejection of the politicization of human rights or selectivity and double standard.
HE Dr. Al-Alban, head of the Saudi delegation participating in the discussion of the second report of the UPR, stressed in the introductory statement speech before the Human Rights Council in Geneva on the Kingdom’s firm commitment to the respect and promotion of human rights and support of international mechanisms, particularly the universal periodic review mechanism.

It is worth mentioning that “Human Rights Council” approved in plenary session the final results of the universal periodic review of human rights in the KSA amid praise and welcome most of the participating countries regarding the remarkable development in the Kingdom, manifested in the reforms and legislations and the adoption of strategies that deal with safeguarding human rights within the Kingdom in completion of the efforts it initiated since the adoption of its first report.

**Dropping Debts**

HE said that KSA has waived more than $6 billion of debts owed by least developed countries and donated $500 million dollars to the World Food Programme to help these countries on facing rising prices of basic food commodities, and KSA granted non-refundable aid and loans over the past three decades estimated at nearly $103 billion from which 95 developing countries benefited, and this amount represents 4% of the gross domestic product of the Kingdom, in addition to its vital role in supporting the economy and global prosperity by guaranteeing the stability of the global oil markets as its id a reliable source of energy.

Dr. Al-Alban thanked God Almighty for honoring KSA to serve the Two Holy Mosques and their pilgrims and provide the appropriate conditions for performing their religious rituals, as KSA gave the utmost importance to caring the pilgrims and set up large projects and giant achievements, at the top of them the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz’s project for expanding the Holy Mosque, which is considered the biggest expansion in the history of the Two Holy Mosques, in order that Muslims from all over the world perform their religious rituals smoothly and in a safe, secure and comfort way.

He also shed light on the Kingdom’s respect for the protection of human rights continuously in the framework of the UN, based on its deep belief in the sublime principles and values of the Islamic Sharia that safeguard and protect these rights and criminalize violating them, and fulfilling its international obligations in this regard.

**Sharia and System of Government**

He said that the basic system of government derived from Islamic Sharia confirms the principles and noble values that protect human dignity and protect the fundamental rights and freedoms, pointing out to the regime in the KSA is based on the principles of justice, consultation and equality and the regime also requires the state to protect human rights in accordance with Islamic Sharia, in addition to the state’s duty to safeguard the rights in case of emergency, sickness, disability and aging, and support the social security system and to encourage institutions and individuals to contribute to benevolence activities, in addition to the provision of health care and ensuring the right to work and enacting regulations that protect both employee and employer, and providing public education and a commitment to fight illiteracy by the state.

**Independence of the Judiciary**

Dr. Al-Alban asserted cooperation of all national legislations in the Kingdom to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly the regulations relating to the judiciary, criminal justice, health, education, employment, culture and other systems of direct relevance to ensuring the provision of rights for every one lives on the territory of the Kingdom and making sure that all people to live decently.

He stressed that ensuring the independence of the judiciary is a firmly established principle and a vital anchor for the protection and promotion of human rights, where justice protects the lives and property of citizens and their freedoms and rights.

His Excellency added that Saudi Arabia is the land of the Two Holy Mosques and the Kiblah of more than one and a half billion Muslims, and it always emphasizes the importance and respect of the charters of human rights and promoting a culture of dialogue, tolerance and rejection of violence and hatred and dissemination of moderation.

**Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Speech**

Dr. Al-Alban pointed to the speech of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in the conference which was held in Makkah on the sidelines of the Hajj (pilgrimage) season this year entitled “Human Rights Between Islamic Sharia and International Conventions”, in which King Abdullah - may God protect him - renewed the Kingdom’s commitment to international conventions and its emphasis that human rights are complete and safeguarded in the Islamic Sharia, and that the Kingdom was not a tyro in the field of human rights, but it is applying - since its establishment - in the context of the application of Islamic Sharia, and it take into account in applying the principles of human rights what is required by contemporary obligations, and it did not lag behind participating in international forums which discussed acts of establishing human rights, issuing its instruments and giving pledges to apply them, and by this the Kingdom gave leading applied model in the field of conciliation between the commitment to Islam and benefiting from positive human experiences.

**According to the International Instruments**

Dr. Alibon explained in his speech the Kingdom’s accession to a number of major international instruments of human rights, in addition to a number of regional instruments and conventions, and briefly reviewed a number of important issues, particularly the KSA report. In the field of the judiciary, he said: “The draft of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah to develop the judiciary is one of the most important reform projects, which was accompanied by the adoption of the Judiciary and the Office of the Ombudsman systems, so as to strengthen the role of the judiciary in the protection of rights and freedoms”.

**World Praises for KSA’ Efforts in the Protection of Human Rights**

HE Dr. Bandar Al-Alban expressed his happiness over the positive reactions that received by KSA from the countries which discussed the report, pointing out that 102 countries made presentations on the report of KSA, of which more than 90 countries praised the Kingdom’s efforts in the field of publishing, promotion and protection of human rights.

And HE the President of Human Rights Commission extended thanks and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Highness the Crown Prince and the Second Deputy Premier, may Allah protect them for their interest in promotion and protection of human rights through ongoing support for human rights in the Kingdom.

He also expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the support and attention it is given to the Human Rights Commission, and for the efforts of the permanent delegation of the Kingdom to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva in supporting and facilitating the mission of the delegation.

Dr. Al-Alban also praised the role of the local media for shedding light on the positive and continuing developments in the Kingdom in the field of human rights, as well as global fair media that seek the accuracy of publishing and analysis in an objective and impartial manner.
Women’s Rights
In the area of women’s rights, HE explained that Islamic Sharia ensures fair equality between the man and woman, and regulations not differentiate between men and women, and in the forefront of these regulations comes the system of government which stipulates in its eighth article that the regime in the Kingdom is based on justice and equality in accordance with Islamic Sharia, and women have independent financial entity and full legal capacity that ensure discretion and exercising of her affairs independently and without any restrictions.
He also clarified that much of what is being said about some of the practices related to the status of women in the Kingdom are due to misconceptions or information that lack accuracy and objectivity or wrong practices contrary to the provisions and values of Islamic Sharia and national laws, and in order to address such behaviors, the State dedicated its efforts in the areas of education and ensuring development of human rights issues as one of the important and effective tools to raise community awareness of human rights, including women’s rights, and addressing the roots of these malpractices. Spreading the Culture of Human Rights program carried out by the Human Rights Commission, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental bodies is one of these tools. HE the President of the Human Rights Commission pointed to the contribution of Saudi women in national decision-making by taking leadership positions in public and private sectors and their membership of the Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia (Shura Council) with a percentage not less than 20% in addition to their right to vote and stand as a candidate for membership of the municipal councils, and the number of female workers in the public sector has increased over the past year only by about 8%, explaining that as a result of national efforts, Saudi women made in the last years tangible achievements in many areas supported by the political will to empower women, while maintaining her Arab and Islamic identity.
Emphasizing on the role of women Dr. Al-Aiban said: Allow me, Mr. President, to quote here the words of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques on the role of Saudi women, where he said “When speaking about the overall development taking place in the country, one can not overlook or ignore the role and participation of women in the development process, and women have proved their ability to assume responsibilities with great success.
And we look forward to giving women a vital and essential role, in a way that serves the interests of this nation”.
Rights of the Child
In regard to the rights of the child Dr. Al-Aiban asserted the Kingdom’s commitment to care and protection of these rights, not only as a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols, but also on the basis of its commitment to its obligations derived from the provisions of the Islamic Shariah, which keeps all the best interests of the child, and the National Commission for Childhood has completed recently developing a national strategy for childhood that ensures the rights of the child in all areas.
Protection from Abuse
Dr. Al-Aiban explained in his speech that the state has strengthened its procedures in the field of protection from all forms of abuse and violence by taking several measures, including the issuance of the Protection from Abuse system, which aims to protect society members from all forms of exploitation and abuse and monitor and document cases of violence, and committees in various regions of the Kingdom of assume responsibility for the implementation of the system and follow-up procedures in a manner that ensures the protection of victims and punish the aggressor.
Foreign Workers
In regard to the situation of foreign workers in the Kingdom, HE explained that the Kingdom hosts on its territory about 9 million non-Saudis, where the Kingdom is working in a variety of fields, and the Kingdom is working to take all measures and procedures necessary to protect their rights and preparing the appropriate humanitarian conditions to enable them to perform their work.
KSA issued several ministerial decisions and control mechanisms have been adopted that contributed to improving the situation of those workers and promoting their rights, including: issuing the regulation of domestic workers and the like, the establishment of electronic mechanism to protect workers’ wages and requiring employers to provide health insurance for workers in the private sector, the pursuit to conclude bilateral agreements between the Kingdom and the countries from which the workers come and application and monitoring compliance with the prohibition of working under the sunlight from noon until three o’clock in the evening during the period from the beginning of June till the end of August of each year.
Dr. Al-Aiban explained that the laws of the Kingdom prohibit in particular religious discrimination in the workplace, where Article 61 of the Labor Law stipulates that employer shall avoid to say or do what affects the dignity of workers or their religion, and to give workers enough time to perform their rights under the Labor Law without deducting from their wages, and the Labor Law also obliged in Article 104 the employer to enable the worker to carry out his religious duties.
The President of Human Rights Commission stressed in his speech to the Human Rights Council that ensuring the economic, social and cultural rights is an important pillar in the promotion and protection of human rights. And since the Kingdom provides free public education and higher education, and in order to ensure the quality of education, an independent body to evaluate public education in order to improve its quality has been established, and all curriculum are subject to review continuously to develop and include the basic principles of human rights in them.
Housing
In the field of providing appropriate housing HE said: “The Kingdom issued several decisions and actions, including supporting housing projects with SR 15 billion, the adoption of the construction of 500 thousand units with SR 250 billion and supporting the Real Estate Development Fund with SR 40 billion.
The Health Sector
In the health sector, the amounts allocated to the health sector were increased in the state budget, more primary health care centers were opened, many medical cities and specialized hospitals were opened and supporting the private sector in the health field.
Interfaith Dialogue
HE pointed out to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques initiative for dialogue among followers of religions and cultures, as the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue were opened in Vienna in November 2012, which aims to achieve mutual understanding and peaceful co-existence and promote dialogue and tolerance between peoples and the promotion of joint denominators among followers of religions and making the differences between the followers of religions and cultures as a basis for understanding.
Counter-Terrorism
Dr. Al-Aiban referred to the several initiatives launched by KSA in the field of counter-terrorism and renouncing every behavior leads to terror, and respecting human rights, where it presented a donation of $ 10 million to establish a counterterrorism center, and announced in this year (2013) a donation of an additional $ 100 million to support and activate the center’s activities and achieve the goal and objectives for which it was established.
KSA Supports UN
President of the Human Rights Commission reviewed in his speech KSA support for the United Nations bodies, particularly the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in order to take advantage of the available experiences and possibilities and thus contributing to building and strengthening national capacities, where the contribution of the Kingdom in support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights increased from $ 150 thousand to one million dollars a year since 2012 for a period of 5 years. KSA also offered one million dollars to support the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in addition to providing financial contributions to some of the trust funds supervised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, namely: the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Torture, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, the UPR Fund and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.
KSA Highlights Israel Insolence towards International Law

Rights/SPA
KSA confirmed in its statement to the Human Rights Council which was held recently in Geneva that the continuation of the Israeli occupation authorities in the exercise of all types of barbaric acts disrespecting the international resolutions, including resolutions of the United Nations and its bodies and organizations provokes in lovers of freedom, dignity and peace in this world a feeling of sadness, pain and sorrow, pointing to its deliberate violation of international law and the international law of human rights and international humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. The Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Head of Mission of the KSA to the European Union Faisal Trad said that in the light of these obnoxious atrocities by Israel against Palestinian people Israel consider itself a state above the law, stressing that “if the Israelis believe that going deeply into the abuse of Palestinians will bring them security, this would be stupidity as security could only be established by peace”. His Excellency Ambassador Trad explained that human history did not witness injustice like the one experienced by the Palestinian people who dream to live on their land in freedom and dignity like other peoples of the world and did not beg these rights from anyone and did not Compromise on these rights during this long and bitter conflict, where these rights were acknowledged by divine laws and human regulations.

He stressed the keenness of the KSA to halt violations against the Palestinian people, noting that it contributed - and still – to all regional and international efforts in order to promote human rights and alleviate the continuing suffering of the Palestinian people and it considers this a duty that can not be abandoned unless this conflict is settled and security and peace are achieved for all.

“It is injustice that the Palestinian people remain deprived of gaining their legitimate rights to independence, freedom and dignity on the land of their independent and sovereign state with Jerusalem as its capital on the basis of the 1967 borders”, the Ambassador said.

HE Ambassador Trad demanded the international community to assume its full responsibilities and obligations and maintain the inalienable rights stipulated in international resolutions, treaties and laws, pointing out that Israel, the occupying power, has been and continues to behave as an occupier with the nature of abhorrent racism, as settlement expansion continues to devour Palestinian land unabatedly and the hateful apartheid wall stretched like a snake in the Palestinian lands and destroyed their property and the unjust blockade imposed by Israel as if it is a large prison and collective punishment. Further, there are deliberate killings and arrests and captures and imposing punitive measures taken by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. And Pillay cited in a report submitted to the Council previous fears on the human rights situation in the West Bank, including settler violence, forced displacements, house demolitions, the excessive use of force by Israeli security forces and the situation of Palestinian prisoners, including children who are detained by Israel.

Also the Ambassador of Palestine to the United Nations Ibrahim Khrash confirmed, in a speech he delivered to the Human Rights Council on behalf of the Group of Arab States that Israel, the occupying power, is still going on in its approach to disregard all United Nations resolutions and violating international law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention, which full unconditional applicability on the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem was confirmed. He stressed that Arab countries adhere to Article 104 of the Charter of the United Nations, which clearly indicate that each state should have the legal capacity to carry out its tasks and functions.

Mr. Ibrahim Khrash said it is time for the international community to move from mouthing about the justice of the Palestinian cause to the actual work and to assume its legal responsibilities and obligations in order to realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, as mentioned in Article 1 of the two International Covenants.

Lifting the Siege on Gaza
In the same context United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay demanded to lift the siege imposed on Gaza Strip and stopping the collective punitive measures taken by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. And Pillay cited in a report submitted to the Council previous fears on the human rights situation in the West Bank, including settler violence, forced displacements, house demolitions, the excessive use of force by Israeli security forces and the situation of Palestinian prisoners, including children who are detained by Israel.

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Minister of Finance Confirms that this Achievement is a Source of Pride for All

"Saudi Customs" Ranked First Globally in the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

"Saudi Customs" was ranked first in the fight against commercial fraud, counterfeiting and intellectual property rights protection by catching counterfeit goods among member states of World Customs Organization (179 states) in 2012. Saudi Customs managed to catch (36.5%) of the total seizures of Customs Authorities of member states of World Customs Organization, a significant increase from what was achieved in 2011, while the U.S. Customs came in the second place with (14.9%) and Chile Customs came in third place with (10%) and Italian Customs came in fourth place with 7.7%.

This ranking announced as part of the report issued by the WCO's Customs Cooperation Council meeting, which was held recently in Brussels, pointing out that the Kingdom also won first place in the seizures of fake and counterfeit materials and infringement of intellectual property rights in 2011 with 12.5% of the total.

Minister of Finance Dr. Ibrahim Al-Assaf thanked the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and his Crown Prince – may God protect them - for their unlimited support of Customs, valuing efforts of employees of Customs efforts that resulted in these good outcomes.

Minister of Finance praises this Achievement

He stressed that the declaration of this achievement through this international forum is a source of pride for all Saudis, and reflected on the status of the Kingdom in international gatherings and strengthen its position in the trade negotiations.

Al-Seif: Suspension of the “Royal Decree” to make facilities accessible for people with disabilities is violation of their rights

Dr Ahmed Al-Seif, a member of the Human Rights Commission council and the supervisor of People with Disabilities Unit, considered suspension of the Royal Decree which stipulates preparation of the proper environment in the public and private facilities to be accessible by people with disabilities, adopted 32 years ago, a violation of the rights of the disabled. The Royal Decision provides for facilitating access and removing all physical obstacles that prevent disabled from active participation in public life.

Al-Seif asserted that the system of “Caring for Disabled Affairs” stipulates in article III that the Supreme Council, in coordination with the competent authorities, determines the engineering and architectural specifications and conditions for the needs of people with disabilities in places of rehabilitation, training, education, care and treatment, as well as in public places, while each competent authority shall issue c the executive decisions necessary to do so, adding: “Unfortunately, the system has not been activated and its executive regulation has not been issued and the Supreme Council has not been formed till now, and this has a profound effect on preventing people with disabilities from the benefits of this system.

He referred, in his interview with Al-Sharq newspaper, to the duty of the state and society in creating preparation of the proper environment for people with disabilities, and taking into account the means of safety, stating that ignoring the regulations is due to the absence of stringent operational mechanism and the absence of follow-up and monitoring and consolidated coordinating body which monitors the implementation of the local system and International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

It is worth mentioning that the Kingdom had ratified in 2008 the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which stipulates in its Article IX to enable the disabled people to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, and the inevitability of states parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that the Persons with Disabilities feel equal with others. He also stressed the importance of spreading awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities at the level of public and cultural elites and executive government bodies.
State Bears her Residence Fees and Counted within the Saudization Quota

Cabinet Approves Granting ‘Foreign Mother’ Permanent Residence and Be Treated as a Citizen

The Council of Ministers, during the meeting chaired by Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz at the Peace Palace in Jeddah, approved a number of new procedures for the benefit of foreign mother and her Saudis children, on top of them ‘granting Saudis children mother- non-Saudi – a permanent residence in the Kingdom without a sponsor (Kafeel), and that the State bears her residence fees and allows her to work with others in the private sector and to be counted within the Saudization quotas’.

The Council requested that ‘mother of Saudi children be treated as a Saudi woman in the study, in public education, universities and state hospitals’.

Rights/ Exclusive

Female Consultants and Legal Advisers to Raise Awareness among Women of their Rights

A group of Saudi female legal advisors who are working at Diwan of Legal Consultancies, presented a training course in Rabwah Forum in Riyadh. These courses discussed women’s rights in matters of personal status, to educate Saudi women on how to get their rights and make her aware of the exceptions placed by the Saudi system for women.

Consultant Iman Almaatsh, Consultant Sarah Khathlan, Consultant Hla Baksh, Consultant Hanein Bint Abdulwahab Al Fayez and Consultant Nov Shuweir presented the courses as they showed the information in a practical and streamlined way.

These training courses received considerable reaction from audience, as they were introduced without any material profit. Afterwards two training courses related to women and their rights and duties, presented by a group of Saudi counselors at Diwan of Legal Consultancies.

Consultant Iman Iman Almaatsh presented statement on women’s right to litigation, types of power of attorney, jurisdictions. Then Consultant Sarah Khathlan presented provisions of divorce, khul’a and disengagement of women. Afterwards, Consultant Hala Baksh talked about custody of children before and after divorce and the provisions relating thereto, while consultant Hanein Bint Abdulwahab Al-Fayez talked about women’s right to alimony and when it is payable and when it is prohibited, then consultant Nov Shuweir concluded with talking about death and inheritance provisions and dividing inheritances and its judicial procedures.

Another course titled “Independence of Women’s Financial Responsibility in Islamic Saria’a and Law”, followed by a public lecture titled (The Muslim Women’s Rights and their Regulatory Applications), delivered by a group of female Saudi counselors from Diwan of Legal Consultancies.

Public Reaction

“I am happy to see my daughters presenting the information in a practical way about how to the Muslim women get their rights”, said one of the attendees to Al-Madinah newspaper. And one of the ladies said she known valuable information about all my rights she had never known it before. A third lady added “I intend to file a lawsuit, because my husband deserted for five years, but I did not know how to file the lawsuit, but after I attended the course I became aware, and I’m happy I knew the exceptions set by the Saudi regulations for women and I hope the consultants hold these courses again, as the placed overcrowded by audience and we could not access to training tent because of the large numbers of attendees”.

Rights/ Exclusive
Diagnosed the State of Prisons through them
HRC Paid 800 Visits to Prisons During 8 Years

The Human Rights Commission (HRC), paid more than 800 visits to prisons and correctional and detention centers of the security bodies, which means two years and 20 days of work in this file, which is considered one of the most interactive files during the recently, in which the Commission diagnosed the state of prisons in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Commission field tours also included traffic departments and police stations, where delegations of the Commission visited police stations in the governorates of “Badr, Ola, Aqiq and Al-Mahd in Medina, and governorate Sbia and Al-Sahqiq in Jazan”.

The visits of human rights delegations included “detention centers in the departments of expats in the ‘Directorate General of Passports’ in both Riyadh, Dammam, Jizan, Tabuk, and Hafr Al Batin”, in addition to the detention centers in departments and divisions of General Directorate of Narcotics Control in the Governorates of “Badr, Ola and Al-Mahd” in Madina.

And recorded a significant presence in the body carried out visits to penitentiaries. Also, the Commission visited correctional centers including prisons of Breman in Jeddah, Dammam, Abha, Najran, Baha, Al-Jouf, Jazan, Hafr Al-Batin, Bisha, Duba in Tabuk, as well as the governorates of Badr and prisons of Al-Mahd in Medina.

The visits also included prisons of the General Directorate of Investigation, as the Commission delegations visited “prisons pf General Directorate of Investigation in Malz in, Ha’, Tariffa in Qassim, Tabuk, Dammam, and Asir.

Also the Commission’s delegations visited social observation and care houses and care institutions for girls affiliated to “Ministry of Social Affairs”, and the visits covered those institutions in the cities of Riyadh, Medina, Dammam, Baha, Najran, Al-Ahsa, Jizan, Tabuk and Jouf.

“Samantha Power” Named US Ambassador to UN

Samantha Power, the human rights defender, was selected the new United States of America ambassador to the United Nations, after being nominated by President Barack Obama and approval of the U.S. Senate, where she received 87 votes to 10 votes in the Council.

President Obama welcomed that step, saying that “Samantha as an activist in the field of human rights and dignity long ago, will be an advocate for universal rights and fundamental freedoms and the national interests of the States United.”

“As one of the senior advocates of human rights and dignity, Power will be a tenacious defender of these rights and freedoms and American interests”, Obama said in his statement. Power who is 42-year-old now will take office instead of Susan Rice, appointed as Obama’s national security adviser.

Power - a graduate of Harvard University and has previously worked as special assistant for the President – received significant support during the process of the ratification of her appointment due to her capabilities that could make her become an effective and eloquent advocate for American interests.

With regard to the situation in Syria, Power told interrogators from Senate “We clearly see the failure of the Security Council in response to the ongoing massacres in Syria, which is a shameful position and will be held accountable throughout history”.

It is noteworthy that Samantha Power is one of Obama’s assistants long ago and well-known with strong views on human rights and the prevention of genocide.
International Human Rights Law.. and its Implementation Mechanisms

The indications of concern with human rights domestically and internationally increased in recent years, and the international human rights law has become an important and essential part of general international law, which regulates international relations in various fields between the countries of the world, as well as other members of the international community such as international and regional organizations. Despite the early beginnings of human rights laws in human history, this term with its current expressions crystallized only in recent decades. The Charter of the United Nations which was approved by the organization in 1945 is considered the foundation of the contemporary international documents of international law of human rights. The Charter of the United Nations has made a clear reference in its third paragraph of Article 1 to the organization's responsibility in promoting respect for human rights without any discrimination. The attention to this responsibility crystallized very clearly through the early formation of a special commission of human rights in the organization in 1946. The Commission at the beginning of its establishment prepared the Universal Declaration of Human Rights endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948.

This Declaration and the following two International Covenants that were issued in 1960, the first on civil and political rights and the other on economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the protocols attached to the Covenants, became what is known by "International Legitimacy for Human Rights". The United Nations subsequently issued a series of international conventions concerned with topics or categories related to human rights. Among international conventions related to human rights topics Convention on the Prevention of Racial Discrimination adopted by the United Nations in 1973, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment adopted in 1984, and among international conventions related to specific categories Convention on the Prevention of Discrimination against Women adopted by the United Nations in 1979 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted in 1989. These documents issued by the United Nations in the areas of human rights form what is known as international human rights law, because these international documents define the legal framework for the international community's commitments to human rights, and they provide universal legal guarantees to protect individuals and groups and enhance ensuring human dignity and non-discrimination and protecting the human freedoms.

To avoid confusion between the international human rights law and international humanitarian law may be its useful to note the important difference between them. The first ensures and protects human rights in time of peace and the international human rights law is regulated by international documents and conventions issued by the United Nations after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while the international humanitarian law ensures and protects human rights in time of war, and the international humanitarian law is regulated by the four Geneva Conventions which were issued in 1949 and the two Optional Protocols in 1977, and these conventions are concerned with the protection of wounded and sick members of the armed forces on the battlefield and the treatment of prisoners of war and the protection of Civilian Persons in time of war.

**Mechanisms for the Implementation of International Human Rights Law:**

Many of those who are interested in human rights complain about a lack of or poor compliance with international law of human rights. And despite the merits of the complaint and the existence of what justifies it in light of many of the human rights violations that are observed in some regions of the world, it should not be generalized, as there are international declarations on human rights such as the Universal Declaration of Human rights and these documents do not have mechanisms for implementation since it is not necessary to be ratified by the states but it is enough to sign only. However, the human rights conventions issued by the United Nations afterwards are binding on states that ratify them, and to ensure compliance the United Nations inserted clauses in these agreements that stipulate procedures and steps to reinforce the obligation of States to implement them.

Each convention stipulates that each member state submits periodic reports that point to the actions taken and the progress made with regard to different human rights included in each agreement and any factors that could affect the implementation of international conventions. These periodic reports submitted by member states in the United Nations are considered one of the most important monitoring and follow-up mechanisms, because the UN does not put neglect these reports, but each convention provides for electing independent experts specialized in the subject matter of the Convention, and these experts shall study the reports of states and review their information with what they have available of other sources.

To ensure the states' compliance with provisions of human rights conventions these conventions provided for the presence of a delegation from the state in a dialogue session for a full day with United Nations experts concerned with the Convention to discuss the state report on the implementation of the Convention, and at the end of the dialogue the United Nations experts issue a report containing the achievements of the state and what they see from the excesses or weakness in the areas of human rights in this country and their recommendations thereon to help the country to overcome these failures in the implementation of the terms of the agreement.

The concluding observations issued by the international committees are an important tool in promoting making use of international agreements, as eager states work on implementing the observations proposed by the Committee for the state, because these proposals issued from the relevant experts after in-depth study of the state report and after discussing the delegation and the review of other reports, and the committee has no goal but to assist member states in any agreement on the implementation of their commitments in this agreement.

Beside these mechanisms which are called contractual mechanisms because they are contained within the terms of the agreement ratified by the state, there are non-contractual mechanisms, including:

- System of special rapporteurs who are assigned by the United Nations for specific topics in the areas of human rights, and there are two types of special rapporteurs:
  - Special Rapporteur on the state.
  - Special Rapporteur on particular subject area.
Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Confirms: The Kingdom Has Never Been a Tyro in the Field of “Human Rights”

“Saudi Arabia has never been a tyro in the field of human rights, but it applies these rights since its establishment in the context of its application of the Islamic law, taking into account the obligations of contemporary life, as the Kingdom did not absent itself from participating in international fora, which discussed acts of establishing human rights, issuing its instruments and giving pledges to apply them”, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz stressed.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - may God protect him – emphasized that the Kingdom "presented pioneering applied model in conciliation between the commitment to Islam and taking advantage of positive human experiences", explaining, in a speech delivered on his behalf by His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal Governor of Makkah Province during the opening of the 14th Makkah Conference held by the Muslim World League entitled "Human Rights Between Sharia and International Conventions", that "Saudi Arabia which is based on Islamic law (Sharia) adheres at the same time to these international conventions which emphasizes that human rights are fully safeguarded by Sharia in which the legislator is God Almighty and any one who outbids to God's workmanship will be aberrant".

Dr. Abdul Malik bin Abdulrahman al-Saadi, President of the Sunni Muslims Fatwa Commission in Iraq, expressed in a speech he delivered on behalf of the participants great thanks and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and his good government for their distinguished hospitality and honor.

Dr. Saadi pointed out that the meeting came in blessed days and held on land of the Holy Mosque and close to the Kaaba and in a very hard time for the Islamic world because of what it suffers from enemies’ hostility and challenges to their religion and faith, the waste of their Islamic and human rights and tyranny of enemies of this nation which is embodied in persecution, mouths muzzling, bloodshed, indecent assault, looting of property and money, displacement and loss of freedom of opinion and democracy advocated by its proponents from West and the East.

Dr. Saadi also reviewed the conditions of Muslims and their sufferings in various countries and Muslims duties towards their fellow brothers.

Dr. Abdullah bin Abdul Mohsen Al-Turki, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, delivered a speech in which he praised the efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Crown Prince and Second Deputy in the service of the Two Holy Mosques and their visitors and thanked them for what the League receives of continuous encouragement for its various activities and events.

Dr. Al-Turki explained that choosing “Human Rights” to be the theme of the 14th Makkah Conference came from the Muslim World League interest in contributing to elucidate more guidance of Islam in the field of rights given to individuals and groups and the compatibility between Islam and what international covenants have reached to, hoping that the conference researches highlight
the highness and precedence of Sharia in the field of safeguarding human freedom and dignity adequately and comprehensively and emphasize the principles from which it will release the report of human rights and its protection of in a way that urges Islamic countries to be interested in applying Sharia (Islamic law) which is considered the largest duty of rulers to the nation following the example of Saudi Arabia in which its application of the Islamic Sharia resulted in achieving security, stability, prosperity and safeguarding human rights fairly and honestly, and balancing between the findings of the efforts in the field of human rights and what came in Islam reveals a lot of compatibility.

Dr. Turki added “Every true human aim included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has a source with Muslims with an important difference that is each of the rights of other people in the Islamic Sharia includes a right of the rights of God which gives them immunity, stability and solidity and sanctions due to being legitimate orders for which people will be rewarded when doing them and will be punished if left them, and that the rights in Islam are coupled with responsibilities, that is every right is associated with a duty, and by this difference Islamic Sharia transcends with its reality, balance and universality in establishment of the rights and legislation of the provisions leading to protecting these rights, and these provisions were legislated to establish the cultural and moral values and enhance all that is noble and virtuous in the humanitarian community. Also, when contemplating what is stated in the Holy Quran for the Apostles about Messengers and divine messages we observe clearly the focus on honoring human beings and linking their rights with reforming individuals and communities through the establishment of justice and benevolence and fighting injustice and aggression: ‘Islam safeguarded human rights in money and self and that these rights stem from the true faith and that these rights include all genders and in all fields, whether political or scientific, and the source of these rights is Lord of the Worlds and they are not established by human beings, further these rights are firmly established not variable because it is Allah Almighty who legislated them‘, his Eminence Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh, Grand Mufti of the Kingdom and Chairman of the Council of Senior Scholars and Department of Scientific Research and Ifta, asserted in a speech he delivered in which he welcomed His Highness the Governor of Mecca and thanked him for the opening of this conference and the support given to the Muslim World League.

The Grand Mufti added that “the human rights include spreading justice among people, but unfortunately a lot of human rights rights in Islam are neglected and human rights in Islam are numerous and Islam respected, honored and clarified these rights in a very clear way’, wishing that this conference will result in good recommendations that show and show Islam’s position on these great rights. At the conclusion of his speech, he thanked the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Crown Prince for their continued support and assistance for the activities of the League.

About The Muslim World League

The Muslim World League is an international non-governmental Islamic organization based in the Holy City of Makkah. It is engaged in propagating the religion of Islam, elucidating its principles and tenets, refuting suspicious and false allegations made against the religion. The League also strives to persuade people to abide by the commandments of their Lord, and to keep away from prohibited deeds. The League is also ready to help Muslims solve problems facing them anywhere in the world, and carry out their projects in the sphere of Da’wa, education and culture. The League, which employs all means that are not at variance with the Sharia (Islamic law) to further its aims, is well known for rejecting all acts of violence and promoting dialogue with the people of other cultures.

Foundation

The Muslim World League was founded in accordance with a resolution adopted during the meeting of the General Islamic Conference, which was held in Holy Makkah on the 14th of Dhul Hijjah 1381 Hijra corresponding to the 18th May 1962.

Affiliations:
- The United Nations Organization: Observer in consultative status with the ECOSOC.
- Organization of the Islamic Conference: Observe status in attendance at all meetings and conferences.
- ISESCO: Member
- UNICEF: Member

The General Islamic Conference

The General Islamic Conference is the highest policy making body that expresses the feelings and aspirations of Muslim peoples around the world. The GIC consists of leading Islamic preachers and activists who meet annually to review major issues facing Islam and Muslims and to find appropriate solutions for the realization of Muslim interests and aspirations. The GIC has met on several occasions so far as follows:
- The General Islamic Conference, held its first meeting in the year 1381 Hijra (1962)
- The General Islamic Conference held its second meeting in the year 1381 Hijra (1965)
- The General Islamic Conference held its third meeting in the year 1408 Hijra (1987)
- The General Islamic Conference held its fourth meeting in the year 1423 Hijra (2002). It also issued the Makkah charter for Islamic action, a statement on Palestine and a decision to for a higher body for coordination and an international forum for Muslim scholars and intellectuals.

The Constituent Council

The Constituent Council is the highest authority in the Muslim World League. The Council consists of about sixty (60) prominent Muslim scholars representing Muslim peoples and minorities.

World Supreme Council for Mosques

The WSCM has an independent legal personality. It aims at reactivating the mission of the Mosque as a vital focal point of the religious as well as the temporal life of the Muslim. Ultimately, the WSCM aims at restoring the Mosque’s role to what it was during the early days of Islam. The WSCM consists of forty (40) members representing Muslim peoples and communities around the world. Members function voluntarily, without salary or remuneration.
Reviewed the Functions and Achievements of the Commission

Vice President of the Human Rights Commission Receives British Deputy Ambassador

His Excellency Dr. Zaid Bin Abdul Mohsen Al-Hussein, vice president of the Human Rights Commission, met at the headquarters of the Commission with Mr. Julian Riley, Deputy Chief of British Mission to the Kingdom, and His Excellency welcomed the British Deputy Ambassador and reviewed the functions and achievements of the Human Rights Commission. HE Dr. Al-Hussein confirmed that KSA has achieved many significant moves in the field of human rights, because there is a remarkable development in the case of interact positively and quickly to deal with those issues in the Kingdom and that any case referred to judiciary receives legitimacy justice, and the Human Rights Commission does not interfere in the judiciary as it is performing its work independently, noting that social work in KSA pours in human rights and that there are more than 1000 associations that perform its humanitarian roles for all segments of society, in addition to the roles of the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Association.

One of the priorities of the KSA Government is to respect and protect human rights, in implementation of what is stated in the basic system of government that is derived from Islamic sharia, the vice president of Human Rights commission said stressing the Kingdom’s keenness to develop systems that preserve and protect these rights, and that human rights are derived from the Islamic Sharia. HE affirmed that human rights for KSA is a mission and this appeared evidently through initiatives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques aiming at peaceful coexistence between peoples, citing the word of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in the United Nations when His Majesty stressed (that dialogue will achieve brilliant victory of the best of man over the worst in him).

HE the Deputy President explained KSA keen interest in the protection and promotion of human rights, and it also believes in the importance of constructive cooperation and positive interaction with friendly states, due to the fact that human rights issues are based on consultation and cooperation among all States hence countries benefit from each other’s experiences.

Deputy Ambassador praised the report of the human rights situation and its transparency and realistic reading, and also commended the Kingdom’s experience in combating terrorism, especially Prince Mohammed bin Nayef Counseling and Care Center as one of the good models that reflect the care and attention provided by the Ministry of the Interior for detainees.

…….And Meets with Irish Deputy Ambassador

His Excellency Dr. Zaid bin Abdul Mohsen Al Hussein, vice president of the Human Rights Commission, confirmed that the lack of understanding of Islamic Sharia and values of Saudi society and the lack of getting information from their sources and generalizing of individual cases with the presence of some non-objective positions made the reports of some international parties interested in human rights appear far from reality, as well as what is promoted by some media of inaccurate and non-objective information in many cases. The vice president of the Human Rights Commission made statement during a meeting with the Deputy Ambassador of Ireland to the KSA Justin Ryan at the Commission headquarters, where HE Dr. Al-Hussein reviewed the functions of the Human Rights Commission, and said that the statute of the commission granted it broad powers to protect and promote human rights in accordance with international standards and in the light of Islamic Sharia which called for the protection of human rights and banned violating it.

HE also reviewed the most prominent efforts made by the Commission in order to protect the human rights and promote awareness, pointing out that the Kingdom is witnessing steady developments in the field of development and human rights, and that what KSA has reached to is considered a record compared with the time taken to reach this level in many developed societies.
Field Visits Observe Decline in Some Services in Health and Education

Human Rights Commission has been able to monitor 266 complaints in the field of health care and 182 complaints related to violations in the education sector during the last year 2012, which revealed the various difficulties and shortcomings facing education and health sectors in the Kingdom. The Commission spotted several cases of pupils overcrowding due to inadequate classrooms to accommodate the large numbers of students, as well as the existence of many leased schools that do not meet the criteria and conditions for the exercise of the educational process, during field visits undertaken by the Commission to schools in several regions of the Kingdom.

It also noticed the lack of attention to the child’s health in terms of providing the appropriate food in the initial stages in addition to that some school buildings are unfit to be an ideal environment to attract youngsters and help them learn science and the necessary knowledge and skills while there are no clear rules to provide the necessary protection for teachers and preserve their rights.

The Human Rights Commission report for the year 2012 revealed that there is a decline in the level of public education outputs and poor rehabilitation of some of the teachers, as the Commission received during the past year 182 cases concerning the right to education which is representing 2.2% of the total complaints received by the Commission.

In the same context the Commission spotted through its tours and visits to the hospitals and various health centers affiliated to the Ministry of Health in the Kingdom a number of observations regarding service, including the small number of government hospitals in the regions of the Kingdom and its incompatibility with the increase in population, and the existence of medical errors and deficiencies in the mechanisms of punishment and compensation standards. The Commission noted that there is a general weakness in the level of the provided health services, especially in remote areas and also the weakness of the medical staff, as well as the shortage in the ambulance and emergency services.

The tours also showed that there is a time divergence in periods of appointments for treatment in hospitals and the inadequacy of some of the buildings and its poor maintenance and the level of cleanliness and the obsolescence of medical devices, in addition to shortages in some specialties which are confined to certain regions and centers.

The report pointed out that there is a severe shortage of primary health care centers and its failure to do its mandated role and the lack of some medicines and medical supplies needed in a number of hospitals, plus there is a limited number of hospitals and mental health centers, while there is need to upgrade existing ones now.
During Arafa Speech

Saudi Mufti Warns of Conspiracies being Hatched to the Nation

Rights/Follow-ups

His Eminence Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh, Grand Mufti of the Kingdom and Chairman of the Council of Senior Scholars and Department of Scientific Research and Ifta, warned in Arafa speech Muslims from the afflictions, tribulations, calamities and conspiracies hatched by the enemies of Islam to damage Muslims and Islamic countries, and demanded the nation’s leaders to work to achieve its interests and unity, calling on pilgrims to abide by the regulations and not to violate them and to maintain security and stability, during Arafa speech delivered by His Eminence at Namira Mosque at Mount Arafat.

His Eminence stressed the need to respect the prevention of bloodshed “because the protected blood are sacred, and whoever kills a believer intentionally, his punishment is Hell, wherein he will abide eternally”, calling for earning money through legitimate means and to avoid fraud and deception and dirty money, and advised the arbitration law of God in all the affairs of life so Sharia be the only source of judgment and rule, saying “the religious honesty requires the implementation of Allah and His Messenger orders and behaving in a moral way away from lying, gossiping and hypocrisy.”

The Grand Mufti stressed the need to adhere to the doctrine of monotheism and following behaviour of the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, saying “Muslims should adhere to the doctrine of monotheism and applying Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah, and sincerity in Prayer and supplication to God and asking help from Allah Almighty alone”, pointing out that Islam is the last religion of God and nullified previous religions, and worships in Islam are honest and must be performed according to the teachings of the Prophet.

His Eminence called on Muslim nations to preserve their countries, saying, “Ye Islamic peoples, be informed that your countries are trust offered to you so maintain them and their gains, and know that you are being targeted by enemies of the nation who want to spread chaos and intrigue and implement malicious plots”, adding “the greatest betrayal of trust of the betrayal of the nation, including the dissemination of drugs or that Muslim be a tool in the hands of others and provokes against nations”. The Grand Mufti of the Kingdom pointed out that every Muslim is responsible for his wealth, his youth and his soul and will be asked form that every Muslim is responsible for his wealth, hands of others and provokes against nations”.

He added “misconducts and immoralities and serious diseases have spread in some Muslim countries due to lack of adherence to the laws of God, and there is a group of the nation imitating the enemies of the nation and imported their educational curriculum from others, and another group followed communism and Marxism and Western theories so they went astray and misled others”, saying “it is time that the nation go back to religion and flee to the Lord, as we have no escape but to uphold our religion.”

His Eminence addressed the Islamic nation, saying “O Nation of Islam is not it time for us to wake up from inattention and go back to the unity and leave division? Is not it time for us to build our nation with our own hands? Is not it time for us to establish a strong Islamic union economically, politically and militarily? O Muslim leaders you have a great responsibility in achieving the nation’s interests, security and stability and to defend their interests in international forums, and beware of waste of the dignity of the Muslim peoples. O scholars of the nation, you play a big role in raising awareness and beware of the fatwa that are not based on legitimate grounds.”

Grand Mufti demanded parents to immunize their children and protect them and that teachers be advocates for right guidance and reform and warned the businessmen to be of help to the enemies of Islam and that their money are tools for the dissemination of sins and corruption.

His Eminence urged the pilgrims to preserve the country of the Two Holy Mosques, its security and stability, and to thank God for the blessings and respect regulations and abide by them, saying “Everyone should cooperate with the state during the coming period to complete the Holy Mosque expansion and projects that serve the pilgrims and visitors.”

His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Governor of Makkah Region and Chairman of the Central Haj Committee, lead the prayers where Grand Mufti of the Kingdom and Chairman of the Council of Senior Scholars and Department of Scientific Research and Ifta Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh delivered Arafa speech - before the prayer – and started it with thanking and praising God for blessings, including the great meeting at the highland of sacred Arafat.

His Eminence said in his speech, “O Muslims, God honored you with Islam and granted you the success to bear trust of this religion, and what a great honor and a great gift to be a nation that is forgiven by Allah Almighty (Indeed, we offered the Trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, and they declined to bear it and feared it; but man [undertook to] bear it. Indeed, He was unjust and ignorant. [It was] so that Allah may punish the hypocrite men and hypocrite women and the men and women who associate others with Him and that Allah may accept repentance from the believing men and believing women. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful).”

He added “O Muslim brother, this religion with its teachings and principles are a trust with you so do it the best possible way and behave in its virtuous morals and true faith, and be sincere and definite in believe in God, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers and the Last Day, and describe God with His Names sublime qualities according to what Holy Quran and Sunnah pointed to Him away from distortion and misrepresentation and disruption, with believing in perfection of God and His attributes, (There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the Hearing, the Seeing).”

His Eminence also called Muslims to worship God as the Almighty so saying (And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me) and to be sincere in prayer and supplication to God in asking Him for help and relief in adversity and prosperity, secrecy and publicity, citing the Almighty, saying (And if Allah should touch you with adversity, there is no remover of it except Him; and if He intends for you good, then there is no repeller of His bounty. He causes it to reach whom He wills of His servants. And He is the Forgiving, the Merciful).”

Grand Mufti urged Muslims to be sincere in faith in Muhammad, peace be upon him, that He is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets and messengers as Allah said in the Holy Qur’an (Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [He is] the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing).”

He said “let your faith in Prophet Muhammad – peace be upon him – be sincere faith that lead to follow the his traditions (Sunnah) and referring to his Sharia and feeling satisfied with it, and to be your role model and pacemaker in all your affairs, and know that Prophet Muhammad – peace be upon him – is a messenger for all creation”. 
Al-Saif to the General Assembly of the United Nations:

KSA Made the Rights of the Disabled a Constitutional Basis

Dr. Ahmed bin Saleh Al-Saif, a member of the Human Rights Council, confirmed during a speech before the General Assembly of the United Nations that the KSA derive its system of government from Islamic Sharia, which in turn calls on to honor the sons of Adam and achieve justice and equality between them and non-discrimination through protecting their basic rights, including persons with disabilities, so KSA made ensuring their rights a constitutional basis.

Al-Saif said that pursuant to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, KSA has sought to create a legal framework for the promotion of those rights, where it has issued a system to take care of their own affairs and a package of legislations that regulate the process of obtaining health and social care and education services, in addition to the privileges and exemptions from fees given by the State to persons with disabilities, pointing out that in the same context, the Kingdom has issued other systems such as the protection from abuse, as well as the child protection system, and the system of combating trafficking in persons.

He added that the Kingdom is among the first countries to ratify of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, as well as the relevant international conventions of human rights, in addition to its contribution to the support of regional and international cooperation in the field of disability, emphasizing the Kingdom’s pursuit in its forthcoming plans to promote disability issues through the development of comprehensive statistics of disability-related areas and dissemination of more human rights awareness on disability and executive capacity-building and the establishment of executive mechanisms with creating governmental focal point for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

It is noteworthy that the Human Rights Commission represented by the council member Dr. Ahmed bin Saleh Al-Saif participated in the 68 session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York which concluded its works in the 8 October 2013, with the participation of 193 countries. The participants discussed through a number of events and conferences throughout this period all international, humanitarian and economic issues.

The General Assembly also held a high-level meeting on persons with disabilities under the slogan “Way for Proceeding towards a Comprehensive Development Plan for Disability Issues until 2015 onwards” and focused on achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed on goals.

The Saudi delegation in the high-level meeting on Disability and Development included Dr. Ahmed bin Saleh Al-saif, member of the Council of Human Rights Commission, as head of the delegation and the membership of Dr. Mazen Fouad Kayat, former member of the Shura Council, in addition to Hend Abdulaziz Shuweir, coordinator of the deaf sign language in the Prince Salman Center for Disability Research, and in the presence and participation of Dr. Yousef bin trad Al-Sadoun, Undersecretary of Foreign Ministry for Economic and Cultural Affairs.

Seminar on Women with Disabilities

KSA also organized, on the sidelines of the session, a seminar on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women with disabilities, where the permanent representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations in New York Ambassador Abdullah bin Yahya AL-Mualemy hosted this seminar.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Saif presented a working paper on the legal framework for the rights of women with disabilities and some aspects of their care in the KSA in which he explained that women with disabilities have the same legal capacity and eligibility for rights as other men and other women without discrimination, and they also have rights and special duties as per their nature.

He showed that KSA realizes what faced by women with disabilities from double discrimination as women on one side and women with disabilities on the other, which requires to double the effort to counter the likely discrimination, marginalization and violence against them, so the State is working to take that into account in development plans and legislation.

He added that pursuant to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, KSA has sought to create a legal framework for the promotion of those rights, in which it does not differentiate between men and women in respect and privileges, and has issued a system to care for the affairs of persons with disabilities and a package of legislations, such as the regulations that govern the implementation of the system and the access to health and social care, in addition to the privileges and exemptions from fees granted by the State for people with disabilities.
In Front of the International Parliament in Geneva

‘Shura’ Reviews the Human Rights and Political Achievements

Rights/Follow-ups

The Shura Council delegation reviewed, in front of the Committee on Partnership Between the two Genders, many of the recent developments and political and human rights reforms in the KSA and the roles played by women under the policy of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdul- lah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud - may God protect him – that supports reform, including women membership of the Shura Council. This came during a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva, in the presence of Chairman Abdul Wahed Radi. The members of the delegation had participated in discussions about “the role of parliaments in the protection of children” that was discussed by the Committee of Democracy and Human Rights. They also participated in the committee of international peace and security discussions on “the implications of the use of nuclear weapons and the role of parliaments in reducing spread of use of nuclear weapons”, and participated in the Committee of Sustainable Development discussions on “risk-free development”. In addition, the delegation also participated in the discussions of the United Nations Commission which included topics relevant to “arms trade agreement, meeting of the United Nations for the least developed countries and the rights of minorities”. The Inter-Parliamentary Union adopted, at the end of its 129 meetings which were held recently with the participation of the Shura Council delegation headed by Vice Chairman of the Council Dr. Mohammed bin Amin Jafri, the proposed amendments to the system of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and also decided to hold the next meeting of the 130 session in Geneva during the period of 17 to 20 March 2014. The Council delegation also participated in the coordination meetings with the delegations of the Gulf, Arab and Islamic countries to coordinate efforts through the works of the Union. The Council delegation included His Excellency the Secretary General of the Council, Dr. Mohammed Al Amr and a number of its members.

Ministry of Health Instructs to Treat “Bedoons” Free

Rights/SPA

Further to the letter of the Human Rights Commission which submitted to His Royal Highness, His Excellency the Minister of Health Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabiah instructed all hospitals in the Kingdom to receive emergency cases of stateless persons (Bedoons) without charges until the stability of their health status, and called for the continuation of the treatment of this category in the health centers and public hospitals, and warning at the same time that anyone who does not comply with this decision will be subject to the harshest penalties according to the Royal Order. The circular issued by His Excellency the Minister of Health contained the content of Royal order No. 28729 dated 27/07/1434, referring to the letter of the Commission, which included a request to allow “stateless” persons for free treatment in hospitals, health centers and education in public schools, in addition to the Royal Decree to emphasis that all hospitals accept emergency cases, and that anyone who does not adhere to this will be subject to the harshest sanctions, pointing out that the Ministry of Health recommend the continuation of the treatment of the “stateless” category in health centers and public hospitals. The circular also pointed to the Ministry of Interior telegram No. 110193 dated 10/7/1433 that ensures the treatment of every human being in the ambulance and emergency cases, whether he has an identification or not, on condition that they inform the competent authorities to take the necessary measures towards them, while stipulated having official identification in non-urgent cases or cases that do not require fast treatment according to Al-Watan newspaper, stressing the need to inform the security authorities regarding persons who have identification to take the necessary actions toward them and inform the security authorities and coordinate with them regarding these cases, in addition to providing health care for every needy.
Ministry of Labor Launches Television Circuits to Examine the Issues of Workers in Remote Areas

Will Be Applied after Eid Al-Adha and will Last 3 Months

The General Administration of Labor Disputes Settlement Commissions affiliated to the Ministry of Labor is making preparations to launch a new experimental step after the Eid Al-Adha that lasts 3 months, enabling workers who live in remote areas to follow up their cases via television circuits that link the judge with the case parties, and the verdict is issued directly; in an attempt to make it easier for the relevant parties and to accelerate the completion of the transactions, and attending the proceedings will be via the network and an interface camera combines the judge with the parties to the case and the verdict is issued via the network, to avoid the road trouble for the inhabitants of those areas.

The new mechanism of labor issues passes through 3 stages, starting from the reconciliation offices in which the case does not exceed a period of two weeks, before being forwarded in the event of failure to reach any solutions to the primary panel for consideration within no later than 4 weeks, while referred after that to the 'supreme panel' which is the last station of the case for issuing the verdict in a maximum period of 4 weeks.

This developmental move came after years of accumulation of labor issues and delays in its settlement, and its is expected that the Ministry of Labor will launch its new mechanism to accelerate the resolving the issues of workers in the Kingdom after the Eid al-Adha, to reduce the period needed to decide on labor issues, which were taking period of time sometimes exceeds two years, indicating that the deciding will reduce to 10 weeks only.

It is noteworthy that the total of the cases submitted to the primary bodies last year reached to 12067 cases, and the total amount of settled dispute cases exceeded the 270 million riyals, and in the last year 1417 cases were resolved with conciliation, and cases of Saudi citizens formed about 5 thousand cases, while the cases of non-Saudi workers approached 7 thousand cases, and the percentage of achievement in resolving the labor issues for the year 2012 reached 61%, and the number of appealed cases reached 3123 cases.

“GCC” Discusses Mechanism for Dealing with International Human Rights Organizations

Presidents of government agencies concerned with human rights in the countries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) discussed draft of the mechanism for dealing with international human rights organizations which was studied by the competent Committee of Experts in preparation for submitting it to the Council of Ministers for adoption during their meeting in Riyadh recently.

The Secretariat General of the Council explained in a statement that “the meeting reviewed the proposals submitted by the Human Rights Office of the Secretariat General, including dealing with civil (national) organizations and institutions and the reviewing the agreements on human rights issues”.

The proposals discussed by the meeting included preparing a list of names and details of the advisers and legal experts in the field of human rights who are citizens of the GCC countries, in addition to the development of an award in the name of GCC for research in topics related to human rights.
International Conference at the Naif University to Promote the Culture of the Rights of Arab Child

In the context of its scientific program for the year 2013, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences organizes an international conference on the “Rights of Arab Child” during the period from 6 to 9/2/1435 H corresponding to 9 to 12/12/2013 in an effort to spread the culture of the rights of child and emphasizing safety and security of children in the Arab societies.

This conference comes within the framework of the implementation of the precious guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Nayef bin Abdul Aziz, Minister Interior, Honorary President of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers and President of the Supreme Council of the University, and Their Highnesses and Excellencies the Arab Ministers of Interior to shed light on the Rights of the Arab Child and his security and safety, and this topic received the university attention and interest where it has carried out many scientific activities in this area in the light of the suffering of large numbers of children from neglect or physical and psychological abuse, which calls for concerted efforts of the community in order to succeed in achieving the desired objectives to address the issue of children’s rights and domestic violence which has become a world phenomenon from which various global communities are suffering, necessitating the need to raise and study and processed it with sound scientific methods, the Head of the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Dr. Jamaan Rashid bin Ragosh, said.

Dr. bin Ragosh pointed out that the university has organized scientific seminars about (anti-trafficking in children) in collaboration with UNICEF as well as scientific programs about (juvenile issues and domestic violence) in collaboration with the Saudi National Family Safety Program, and organized in the same frame a training program in collaboration with the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution, in addition to a number of specialized programs in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna and Johns Hopkins University at USA. The Studies and Research Center at the University also issued 24 scientific studies and publications in the field of security and the rights of children which enriched the Arab specialized library, in addition to the discussion of more than 19 Master and PhD in the field of domestic security and the fight against child abuse.

Dr. bin Ragosh showed that during the conference to be held a comprehensive Arab vision will be crystallized on the Rights of the Arab Child through the submitted scientific researches and contributions of the participants in the conference who are experts, academics and security professionals from different countries of the world, as well as those who are interested in children’s issues in the Arab countries and civil society organizations and human rights commissions and workers in the fields of justice.

The University has established a special page for the conference on its web site that enables researchers and interested people to participate in presenting their research through it.

The conference discusses criminalization of smuggling children and forced labor

The University organized various programs for the rights of child in collaboration with relevant organizations
Dr. Al-Yami emphasizes Human Rights Commission respect for provisions of the judiciary

Dr. Al-Yami, general supervisor of the Human Rights Commission branch in Asir region, confirmed that the “Commission” pays great importance to the case famously known in the media as “Sharorah Crime” and it follows-up investigations into the causes of the incident that claimed the lives of whole family at the hands of the head of the family.

Al-Yami considered the incident one of the aspects of violence cases which represents a phenomenon alien to Saudi society, pointing out that the ‘Commission’ pays great attention to this incident, particularly it reached the phase of murder.

Dr. Al-Yami explained that the attention of ‘Human Rights Commission’ focuses in the subject on knowing the causes and dimensions of the issue and why reached to the phase of murder, adding “Our goal is to search for the causes of the issue from human rights perspective as it is a violence issue, where the Commission will monitor all information about it, either through meeting the prisoner or his family or other parties.

Captain Abdullah Al-Ashawy, Najran Region Police spokesman, asserted in a press statement that the killer suffers from psychological disease and has a file in a mental health clinic at Sharorah General Hospital, and that the report of his physician has revealed that he was suffering from numerous psychiatric disorders of which the most important are persecutory ideas which may be the biggest motivation to commit such a crime, but his mental illness is not a sufficient justification for committing such an offense against his family and innocent children.

Al-Ashawy considered that what has been circulated about the crime are just personal opinions of some people who try to justify the crime without scientific or logical evidence. Some media have indicated that the ‘killer’ is suffering from mental illness and he is divorced with a son of his ex-wife and has three children from his current wife.

It is noteworthy that the crime occurred at the home of the killer at Suuan district at Sharorah governorate, where the offender took his eldest son Abdullah (11 years) from his divorced wife house and then slaughterers his new wife and her three sons, and increased the suffering of his son Abdullah after forcing him to carry the bodies of his brothers to one of the inner rooms of the house then the father kills him.

In the same context and in the frame of the Human Rights Commission’s follow-up of all human rights and humanitarian issues, the Commission is following-up the issue of ‘Zubaida’, who tried to commit suicide after being separated from her fiance and deprived from marriage.

Dr. Al-Yami stressed that the legitimate judicial verdict is appreciated and respected by the Human Rights Commission, and if it’s a final judgment it is enforceable. The issue of battered ‘Zubaida’ has attracted the attention of the media and social circles after saving her from suicide attempt in social protection house at Abha because of the verdict separating between her and her fiance on basis of the lack of equal affinity between them, and “Zubaydah” announced that she is determined to repeat the attempt to commit suicide and end her life in case of rejection of her marriage to her fiance or if the social protection house attempted to deliver her to her family.

He explained that the Commission was informed about the course of Zubaydah case, which began in Mahayel and was transferred to social protection house in Abha, and also kept following it after she was transferred to Asir Central Hospital for trying to commit suicide after ingesting a large quantity of drugs until went into a coma then her condition improved gradually.

Dr. Al-Yami emphasized that the women’s section in the Commission is following-up the course of the case, and the Commission’s role in protecting Zubaydah from any violence, and that the competent security and social authorities are playing the required role in this case or in other cases.

He added that the Commission is taking on its role until the issue is resolved by virtue of a legitimate final judgment, as litigation procedures are guaranteed for all, and that the Commission will not hesitate to assume its role in monitoring to ensure the rights are protected for all in accordance with the legitimate controls, and that the Commission is committed to its role in providing support and protection to those who are in need.
After the Commission’s Observation of Increasing Cases of Violence in the Region

Experts and Government Agencies Discuss Domestic Violence in Asir

Rights/Exclusive

Specialists and experts in the field of domestic violence and a number of officials government departments is currently discussing the phenomenon of increasing cases of domestic violence in Asir region, after branch of the Human Rights Commission in Asir observed increase in those cases significantly in the last period.

Specialists also search to find a solid ground for cooperation and coordination among government agencies involved in the case, after it became clear that there is a poor coordination during the last period, particularly with regard to “addressing the issues of domestic violence”.

Dr. Hadi Al-Yami, general supervisor of the Human Rights Commission branch in Asir region, confirmed that many efforts will be exerted during the coming period in Asir region, through a workshop entitled “Problem of Domestic Violence … Reality and Hope” with the participation of all government agencies concerned with “domestic violence” issue, and this comes in implementation of the guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Khaled, Governor of Asir region.

Dr. Al-Yami said that the first coordination meeting of government agencies participating in the workshop was held recently at the headquarters branch of the Human Rights Commission in Asir region, in the presence of Director General of Public Rights in the Emirate of Asir region Saeed Abdullah Mohammed Daghash and representatives of government agencies in the region, including branch of the Ministry of Justice, Police, Health Affairs, Social Affairs, the Department of Education, Anti-Drugs Administration and the General Presidency for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice.

During the meeting, plan of the course of the workshop was developed and the mechanism of the participation of experts and specialists was discussed and working papers of each party about its responsibilities and its views towards the issues of domestic violence were prepared. Dr. Al-Yami explained that the conferees have proposed a plan to educate families and protect them from violence, and the participation of some other government departments at the workshop due to their relation to the case, as well as attracting and participation of experts and specialists in the field of domestic violence, and focusing on increasing the efforts and the coordination of government agencies involved to reduce violence cases.

It is noteworthy that the His Highness the Governor of Asir region, Prince Faisal bin Khalid, has instructed two months ago all relevant government departments in the region to participate in the workshop so that each governmental entity shall present working papers about their responsibilities and its views towards the issue of domestic violence and how to address and reduce them.

Al-Yami: Human Rights Commission Follows-up the Case of Asir Battered Woman

Asir Region Police managed under the guidance of the Emirate of the Province to rescue the life of Saudi citizen Samira (35 years), who was confined by her brothers for 11 years above the roof of the house to prevent her from marrying as she said. Dr. Hadi Al-Yami, general supervisor of the Human Rights Commission branch in Asir region confirmed that the issue of Samira is now with the Protection Committee at Social Affairs, and the report on her status will be considered and proper care will be provided for her.

Samira narrated her suffering, saying: “The suffering began when a young man attended to their house asking for her hand in marriage, but her brothers suspected that there is possibly a relationship between them, and they locked her in a room at the attic, noting that her mother tried to help her but she was beaten by her children. She noted that she remained in confinement for 11 years, and her brothers were giving her the food through the window, indicating that she was able to communicate with one of her neighbors through the window of her room, and asked her to inform the Emirate about her suffering, adding that the Emirate referred her issue to the Police, which released her. She added that she communicated several times with the Social Protection House at Abha, but they did not help her, noting that a team from the Ministry of Social Affairs attended to their house and saw her status and they transferred her to the Social Protection House, fearing the revenge of her brothers, indicating that she is now in the Social Protection House, and the judge is going to take her mandate away from her brothers.
In the Framework of Joint Cooperation to Promote the culture of Human Rights

“Facilities Security Forces” Delegation Visits HRC Branch in Eastern Province

Rights/Exclusive
A delegation from the Facilities Security Forces in the Eastern Province visited branch of the Human Rights Commission (HRC), and were received by Mr. Abdullah bin Saleh Al-Suhail, general supervisor of the Human Rights Commission branch at Eastern Province and member of the Board of the Commission and a number of employees of the branch.

Al-Suhail, general supervisor of the branch, welcomed the guests and presented an explanation about the HRC and its committees and working mechanism, and also highlighted the most important achievements of the Commission, particularly the report it issued on the human rights situation in the Kingdom and its recommendations, which attracted much attention of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz - may God protect him.

HRC branch employees also gave a brief explanation about the functions of the units and sections of the HRC, followed by raising some topics related to human rights and the mechanism of action and the role of the Commission. The visit comes in the framework of mutual cooperation between the Commission and security sectors aimed to spread the culture of human rights in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Suhail Visit Ras Tanura to Introduce HRC to Government Agencies

Rights/Exclusive
Under the policy of the Human Rights Commission to promote the culture of human rights in governmental institutions, Mr. Abdullah bin Saleh Al-Suhail, a member of the Board of the Human Rights Commission and the general supervisor of the Eastern Province branch of the Commission recently visited the headquarters of the Ras Tanura Governorate.

Mr. Al-Suhail was received by Governor of Ras Tanura Mr. Mohammed Bin Abdulwahab Budy, and met in the Governor’s office both Colonel Mohammed Al Ghm, Police Chief at Ras Tanura, and Mr. Solyman Thunayyan, Head of the Department of Investigation and Public Prosecution at Ras Tanura, where Al-Suhail made a presentation during the visit about the Human Rights Commission and its committees and its mechanism of action and its mandated tasks under the regulations.

Al-Suhail also touched on the report issued by the Human Rights Commission recently on the status of human rights in the Kingdom and submitted to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. At the end of the visit, they discussed ways of activating the partnership between the Commission’s branch and Ras Tanura Governorate and confirmation of permanent and continuous cooperation.

These days we receive fragrant anniversary (anniversary of the National Day), in which the Falcon of Island King Abdulaziz – may God rest his soul in peace him – united this entity and united the land after the diaspora and established security after fear, and founded the pillars of a strong modern state with its constants of faith and humanity and its civilization aspirations under the flag of monotheism, and opened for its citizens the doors of bright future. The tongue is unable to translate the excited emotions that touch the souls and words crowd together and race to try to express, but how to do so. There is no alternative but to translate these feelings into action. Yes, let us translate love and loyalty to this noble country to diligent work, but how can this be? First, it is no secret that maintaining the security and the prosperity and progress of noble country and this big home is the responsibility of all. At the forefront of this comes security and maintaining it and strengthen the cohesion between sons of the nation. Then we stand on the evidence of progress and prosperity experienced by our country and interact with them starting with ourselves and proving to our children practically how to love and be loyal to this great country, and implanting in their minds that they are the real wealth and expected hope after the success granted by God Almighty in advancing progress and prosperity and to continuing the march started by of parents and grandparents, and that they have a big and great role. Homeland is in need of each and every drop of sweat and watchful eye and each creative and thinking mind and each honest and working hand. We ask God Almighty to bring back this precious occasion while our country is blessed with safety, security, glory and stamina.
This campaign targets more than 150 thousand of students and administrators at the region’s schools, to implant the concept of human rights among educators because of the pivotal role they are playing by preparing young people to become the pillars of the nation and its support in the future. His Excellency the Vice-President of the Human Rights Commission accompanied by Director General of Education Administration in the region, Mr. Abdulaziz Al Missned, opened the seminar on human rights in Islam and international and educational relations in the Hall of Prince Faisal bin Abdullah in General Administration of Education, which was attended by Dr. Nasser Shahrani, Shura Council member, and Dr. Khalid Al Harbi, faculty member at the University of Hail. The seminar aimed at educational leaders in the region’s schools and education supervisors and students counselors. Dr. Al-Hussein met with specialists and some of the dignitaries and notables in an open meeting during which he talked about human rights and its relationship with the regulations, procedures system, the justice system, the legal system, the system of legal proceedings, the system of press and publication and the anti-trafficking in human beings system, and the dialogue with the audience extended about some of the positions of the Kingdom towards many of the issues which the decisive factors in them are the fundamentals of the nation (Quran and Sunnah).

At the same time a seminar for women in the Center of Extracurricular Activity was launched targeting female education leaders such as female school administrators and supervisors, in which Dr. Zahab Al-Shammari, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Hail, and Ms. Siham Bint Abdulrahman Almaar, former general supervisor of women’s branch of Human Rights Commission in Riyadh and Ms. Ghanndorh Shams Al- Ghanndor, director of Public Relations and Media at Women’ Section of Human Rights Commission.

(His Excellency Vice President of HRC in meeting with education leaders at Hail)

The Human Rights Commission in the region will continue to follow up the implementation of the programs of the media campaign to promote the culture of human rights in society at Hail through a variety of media channels and this campaign will be launched through the various stations and programs such as workshops, forums, seminars, publications, courses, television and radio programs, press publishing, cultural and sports clubs, the literary club, the Association of Culture and Arts, local committees, commissions of social develop-
The campaign targets more than 150 thousand of students and administrators at the region’s schools

Dr. Al-Hussein met with specialists and some of the dignitaries and notables in an open meeting.

Participants in the Seminar
HE Dr. Zaid bin Abdul Mohsen Al-Hussein - Vice-President of the Human Rights Commission.
Shaykh Muhammad Al-Gaza - President of Hail Courts.
Dr. Nasser Al-Shahrani - Member of the Shura Council.
Dr. Ali Rwaished - Member of the Board of the Human Rights Commission.
Dr. Issa Al-Shamekh - Member of the Board of the Human Rights Commission.
Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Hadlaq - Member of the Board Human Rights Commission.
HE Dr. Mohammed Al-Saif - Member of the Board Human Rights Commission.
Dr. Hashal Akherisa - President of the Investigation and Public Prosecution Commission at Hail.
Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Missned - General Director of Education Administration in Hail.
Mr. Muhanna Zaidan - President of the Control and Investigation Board Commission at Hail.
Engineer Mubarak Al-Salamah - President of the Tourism Commission at Hail.
General Sanad Althbyti - Director General of Prisons Administration at Hail.
Mr. Ali Arif - Vice General Supervisor of the Branch at Hail, and his colleagues: Mr. Abdullah Al Majed.
Mr. Nayef Al Mualla.

From the Commission:
Mr. Zaidi Ruwaili - Legitimate Researcher, Al-Jawf branch.
Dr. Zahab Shammari – Vice Dean of the Faculty of Education.
Ms. Siham Almaar – President of Women’s section at Riyadh.
Ms. Ghanndorh Shams Al-Ghanndor - Director of Public Relations and Media at Riyadh.
Ms. Khayriyah Zabin - Head of the Women Department at Hail, and her colleagues.
Ms. Fatima Al-Yahya - Director of Public Relations at Education Administration.

From the people and notables:
Sheikh Naif Al-Ali.
Mr. Fahad Al-Fayez.

From the media:
Mr. Anwar Muhasiln - Nylat channel.
Mr. Nayef Asalhob – Emirate of Hail Province.
Mr. Fahad Al-Afnan – KingdomTV.
Mr. Marzouk Aerdan - Saudi Radio.
Mr. Khalid Al-Amim - Al-Riyadh newspaper.
Mr. Khudair Al-Sharihi – Al -Sharq newspaper.
Course on “Education Skills on Human Rights” at Al-Jawf Branch

Rights/Exclusive
The branch of the Human Rights Commission at Al-Jawf held a training course under the title “Education Skills on Human Rights”, and the course which was presented by Dr. Abdullah Al-Sahli, advisor of the Human Rights Commission at and Nozol Hotel in Sakaka, targeted 150 trainees from men and women. The course was attended by a number of the relevant authorities that are related to human rights, such as the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution, the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, the courts, the Criminal Investigation officers, the officers and members of the Administration of Prisons, Anti-Drug Administration, a number of officers and security personnel, the Department of Education, the Administrative Court and the staff and employees of the Human Rights branch at Al-Jawf. The course lasted for four hours, at its end Dr. Ali bin Mdallah Rwaished, board member and general supervisor of the branch of the Commission at Al-Jawf, presented the certificates to attendees.

HRC Branch at Al-Jawf Spots Government Buildings Not Respecting the Needs of Persons with Disabilities

Rights/Exclusive
Specialists at Human Rights Commission Branch at Al-Jawf spotted a number of government buildings that do not have special entrances and corridors for people with special needs, and the Commission raised a letter to His Royal Highness Prince Fahd bin Badr bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Al-Jawf, on what has been observed by the Branch specialists regarding the existence of some government buildings that do not have any special corridors and entrances for individuals with special needs. The letter included an appeal to the Governor of Al-Jawf to form a committee to count those buildings accurately and coordination with the Prince Salman Center for Disability Research to benefit from their project “Complete Access”, as the absence of such corridors and entrances hinders access of people with special needs to those government agencies to follow their transactions and their own affairs.
HRC Spots Complaints of Juveniles at Social Observation House

Rights/Exclusive

Within a series of visits by Human Rights Commission branch at Al-Jawf to the prisons and detention centers in the region, Dr. Ali bin Mdallah Rwaished, board member of Human Rights Commission and the general supervisor of the its branch at Al-Jawf, accompanied by a team from the Commission paid a surprise visit to social observation house in Sakaka to know the reality of the situation and listen to the complaints and observations of Juveniles committed to the social observation house. The HRC team was accompanied by the Director of the social observation house in their tour during which they visited the kitchen of the house and made sure the quality of meals served, and then visited a number of other facilities of the house such as the dormitories, the school and the activities hall. The HRC team met with the juveniles committed to the observation house in isolation from all employees, and they listened to their comments and complaints, and the team spotted a number of complaints and observations during the visit and some of which were discussed with the director and specialists of the house. At the end of the tour the HRC branch addressed General Director of Social Affairs at Al Jawf, presenting an overview of all observations spotted during the visit.

HRC in Makkah Establishes a Committee to Monitor Service and Humanitarian Violations

Rights/Exclusive

Human Rights Commission, represented by its branch in Makkah, established a specialized committee to monitor the suffering of the people in the area of health and education services and social and humanitarian violations to which they may be exposed and receive complaints and answer their questions. Dr. Jawaher bint Abdulaziz Al Nahari, president of the Women Department at HRC branch in Makkah said that the Committee’s role is to monitor the people’s questions and their sufferings to raise them through reporting to the supervisor of the HRC branch in the region, indicating that there are a number of claims submitted to the Commission from the Taif Governorate and the necessary actions will be taken regarding them, arguing that the cooperation of citizens and the reporting of neglect in complete transparency contribute and help the HRC to play its primary role and help eliminate a lot of irregularities taking place in some neighborhoods. Dr. Jawaher confirmed that the committee approved by the supervisor of HRC branch in Makkah Mazen Batterjee aims to monitor all violations of service, health, education and humanitarian and social activities in residential in the provinces of Makkah region. Human Rights Commission branch in Makkah had spotted in the last Shaaban a number of violations in some hospitals of Taif Governorate such as the lack of cadres and worn out of buildings and lack of equipment.
HRC Appreciates the Support of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for Humanitarian Efforts

The report dealt with the process of reform and development pursued by the Custodian Two Holy Mosques in order to strengthen and deepen the principles of justice and equality between members of the community and ensure the human rights guaranteed by honorable Islamic Sharia. The report highlighted what has been achieved of developmental reformatory leaps in the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and the issuance of several Royal Orders and guidance which aim to ensure the security and stability of this nation, its development and prosperity and to provide the best ways to a decent life for its citizens and those who live on its land and provide them with the opportunity to participate in the construction and development efforts. The Royal Orders included most sectors, notably: supporting the Judiciary and developing its procedures, supporting health care sectors through the establishment of integrated medical cities in various regions of the Kingdom and the expansion in the number of hospitals and health centers, and the establishment of research centers and raising the upper limit in private hospitals financing program and supporting education sector and development of its curricula and expansion in the construction of schools and universities. The report also highlighted the importance of the application of regulations emanating from the governing regime, such as code of criminal procedures and the system of pleadings and legal system and solicitors system and labor law and combating crimes of trafficking in persons and other systems and regulations relating to human rights, and working to achieve harmony in regulations, actions and executive behavior of workers in the serving the public with the principles, concepts and values of human rights.

The report provided an overview of the efforts of the Human Rights Commission submitted a report to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud - may God protect him – in which the Commission presented the reality of human rights in the Kingdom in an adequate and detailed manner, stressing in it the support given to the human rights by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - may God protect him - and his wise government and various sectors of the state.

The report included the most salient observations registered by the Commission concerning human rights in the governmental bodies and other agencies and the complaints it received and what it has watched in its inspection visits to various regions of the Kingdom and what it noticed in the light of monitoring the implementation of rules and regulations in effect in respect of human rights by the government bodies and some of what media tackled, in addition to the results of workshops and meetings organized by the Commission and those workshops in which it participated. Furthermore, the report provided an overview of the efforts of
government agencies in the arrangements and measures necessary to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights in the Kingdom, with the inclusion of some positive indicators. The Commission revealed in its report the nature of the complaints and grievances which it received and classified them to 20 types, notably: the complaints with regard to prisoners and detainees, the right to access to justice and equality in front of the judiciary, the right of protection from abuse and torture, ensuring the physical safety, the right of reputation and dignity, the right of freedom of movement, the issues of nationality and residence, and other fundamental rights, in addition to the right to work, social welfare, health care and protection from domestic violence and other economic social and cultural rights, and the rights of special groups, including women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, pointing out that many of the issues are addressed through the regulatory procedures by the Commission, according to its regulations, including referring these issues to reconciliation committees of the Commission or by writing to the competent authorities. The report also submitted statistics attachment about the complaints dealt with by the Commission and the most important conclusions. The report observed deficiencies in a number of government agencies, that led to some of the abuses in human rights or resulted in lack of activating some of the regulations and decisions by some government agencies, and the Commission called in its report for addressing those violations and implementing the related regulations and instructions.

In addition, the report touched on the program of promoting human rights culture and education, and what the Commission is doing for this purpose by applying a national plan to spread the culture of human rights in cooperation with other government agencies and other stakeholders, that aims to develop and promote awareness of human rights among the members of society and strive to enable them to exercise these rights, and warning of the seriousness of its violation, stressing the importance of activating systems, the rules and regulations that protect and promote human rights.

Based on the remarks observed by the Commission and the challenges it realized that require the cooperation of governmental and non-governmental organizations to achieve the ambitions and aspirations of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - may God protect him - to ensure actual practice of values and principles of human rights, the report included seventy-five recommendations for the protection and promotion of human rights in the Kingdom, and among the most important areas on which the Commission submitted recommendations are the following:

### The Judiciary

In the field of judiciary, the Commission recommended to prepare a penal system to codify the provisions of the prescribed penalties, legal retribution and blood money, and to codify crimes and punitive sanctions, with the introduction of the principle of alternative sanctions whenever possible in addition to codifying the provisions of Islamic jurisprudence concerning personal status, and to accelerate the establishment of specialized courts, and the transfer of terms of reference to it in accordance to the provisions of the two new judiciary and office of the ombudsman systems and operational mechanism of action for them, calling for increasing the number of judges in line with the increase in lawsuits filed in the courts so as to ensure prompt settlement of these issues and to ensure the rights of litigants. The Commission also recommended to develop curriculum and applied research in the faculties of Sharia and Law and the development of specialized programs for the rehabilitation of judges in accordance with specialty courts and including materials and topics related to the fields of human rights, and activating the role of the execution judge in order to ensure the speed of execution of judicial decisions, requesting the speedy implementation of all enforceable judicial decisions, whether issued by the judiciary or administrative judiciary, and enacting criminal penalties for any one causes disabling its implementation, and emphasizing on the right to public trial of the cases except for some exceptional cases determined by the system, and to accelerate the introduction of women’s sections in the courts to provide counseling and legal assistance.

### Criminal Justice

The Commission also called on to include in the Criminal Procedure Law or its execution regulations a provision that stipulates work to enlighten the defendant of his rights and the guarantees available to him upon arrest and facilitating procedures to access to a lawyer or agent during the phase of collecting evidence and the investigation and trial, and to ensure his presence in all the procedures as stipulated by Code of Criminal Procedure, stressing the importance of activating the role of agencies involved in the application of the Law of Criminal Procedure at all procedural stages, as well as the support of the Bureau of Investigation and Prosecution in order to ensure its direct competence, and compliance with the provisions of the Law of Criminal Procedure relating to full independence procedures of the investigation authority (the Bureau of Investigation and Prosecution) as well as undertaking investigation procedures related to inspection and messages control and monitoring conversations and other procedures, in accordance with the guarantees and provisions stipulated by the law, and the development and strengthening of preventive measures and mechanisms to prevent the occurrence of torture, through the training of security men in the areas of human rights and criminal justice, and developing programs for periodic visits to inspect and monitor prisons.
and police stations and detention centers, and the announce-
ment of procedures for receiving and processing complaints,
and putting these announcements in visible places in the these
entities so that stakeholders could become aware of them.

Prisoners and Detainees
The Commission stressed in its recommendations on the im-
portance of the rapid settlement of the cases of prisoners and
arrested and considering them urgent cases, and holding ac-
countable any one causes to exceed the period of custody set
forth by the law, and activating provisions stipulated by the pris-
on and detention system regarding the release of imprisoned or
detained before afternoon the following day of expiration of the
sentence or period of detention, and working not to keep him in
prison on the basis of other charges unless a warrant of arrest or
a judgment of conviction has been issued against, calling for to
implement what is stated in Code of Criminal Procedure on the
immediate release of the accused in the case if the judgment is
not a conviction or without prison sentence or if the accused has
served his sentence during his detention, and activation of the
provisions of the
prison and detention on the rules of health release and parole
and clarifying its provisions for prisoners and detainees, and
developing and improving services provided in prisons such as
subsistence and health care and seeking to avoid overcrowding
in order to ensure the performance of reform functions, taking
into account classification of prisoners according to the type
of cases and age groups, and educating the prisoners and de-
tainees about prisons’ internal regulations to ensure they know
their rights and duties and clarifying the sanctions and penalties
prescribed in the imprisonment and detention system, and the
organization of rules for the procedures of receiving, studying
and resolving complaints and informing all prisoners and detain-
ees of the actions, and improving conditions and procedures of
visiting prisoners and detainees, taking into account the circum-
stances of the patients, the elderly, women and persons coming
from distant places and increasing the number of visits and its
duration and time of lawful privacy.

Participation in Decision-Making
The Human Rights Commission recommended to continue in
developing programs and mechanisms that aim at enhancing
the participation of the citizens in the process of decision mak-
ing and continuing in developing further plans to grant wider
powers to entities which hold legislative or regulatory role and
encouraging civil society organizations to participate in deci-
ision-making mechanisms.

Freedom of Movement
The Commission also recommended to limit the travel ban to
cases for which court ruling issued or which are established un-
der the regular provision.

Naturalization and Residency Issues
The Commission stressed the need to speed deciding on natu-
ralization issues, and to address issues of irregular residents.

Combating Corruption and Promoting Transparency
The Human Rights Commission demanded in its recommen-
dations to expedite the issuance of a system to combat crimes
against public funds and abuse of power, with provisions con-
cerning the submission of financial disclosure, and study of im-
peded implementation of government projects and finding ap-
propriate solutions and forcing the governmental entities and
public institutions to establish units for internal audit as stipu-
lated by the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (235).

Education
Also, the Human Rights Commission recommended the devel-
opment of teacher preparation programs and qualifying them
and development of curricula and teaching aids,
in order to ensure capacity building of competent citizens able to
participate in national development efforts and including clear
concepts that promote dialogue, tolerance and non-violence
and accept the other in the curriculum of public education, and
educating young people on the values and principles of human
Health Care
The Commission also confirmed in its recommendations regarding the field of the health care on the importance of activating the document of patients’ rights and be binding on all health care providers in the public and private sectors, and recommended an increase of capacity of public hospitals and specialized hospitals and medical and psychological rehabilitation and addiction treatment hospitals, and providing a sufficient number of doctors commensurate with global rates compared to the number of the population, and ensuring access to basic treatment and medication services provided by health care providers, and developing a mechanism to ensure rapid referral and transfer of patients to specialized hospitals, including the provision of ambulatory and medical evacuation services necessary to do so. The Commission also demanded to develop a mechanism to reduce medical mistakes and holding accountable and prosecuting the negligent, and reviewing procedures for deciding on cases of medical mistakes and compensation standards, and studying of the application of an insurance system for medical mistakes in line with international standards, calling to expedite the application of health insurance and obliging the private sector to apply the health insurance for all its employees and their families, and providing special clinics for the elderly and persons with disabilities and people with chronic diseases, mental illness, neurological diseases and autism and children with Down syndrome and the expansion of the comprehensive rehabilitation centers and supporting them with specialized competencies and highly qualified personnel to ensure the improving of the level of services, and encouraging the private sector to invest in the provision of those services and supporting NGOs that provide services for people with disabilities and the elderly.

Employment
To determine the unemployment rate periodically and accurately, Human Rights Commission recommended providing “national accurate statistics index” that shows unemployment rates periodically, giving top priority to employment and qualifying and job creation for young men and women, and expanding the areas of women’s work in jobs that suit their nature according to legal controls, and addressing the situation of intermediate college female graduates who are not employed, and correct the situation of female teachers who are appointed outside scope of their residence through providing secure housing and means of transmission to them under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, and the settlement of financial and career conditions for teachers and persons working in the field health care, in line with the relevant regulations, and studying situation of non-government Health Institutes graduates and finding appropriate solutions for them, stressing the need to regulate the affairs of expats and regularize their status in the areas of employment, health, education and residence, and preserving their right to retain their documents including their passports, and accelerating the issuance of domestic workers regulation, and considering the delay in labor issues and accelerating its settlement after the appeal, and the organization of labor departments in the courts to include all regions of the Kingdom, in accordance with the new labor law and international conventions to which the Kingdom is a party.

Persons with Disabilities
The Human Rights Commission recommended the need to promote interest in the affairs of persons with disabilities and issue interpretative and executive regulations of caring for the persons with disabilities system, so as to achieve development and protecting their rights to health care, education, work, mobility and retirement etc.

Protection from Violence and Abuse
In order to apply the system of “Protection from Abuse” the Human Rights Commission recommended in this regard to expedite the issuance of the protection from abuse system, and including provisions to address cases of domestic violence, preventing from marriage, and sexual harassment issues and specific penalties for such offenses, and the preparations police stations to receive and cases and reports of domestic violence, including the appointment of experts and specialists to deal with the victims in order to provide the necessary protection and care for them, and support these centers with female cadres under Sharia controls, and monitoring of cases of domestic violence through the activation of the role of the social worker at the school, particularly in the initial stages of education, and taking the necessary steps to provide protection to the victim, and enacting regulations to protect minors from abuse including determining the suitable age for marriage, and activating the system of the General Commission for Custody of Minors Property and the like.

Women and Children
The Commission allocated a number recommendations for women and children in which it called for facilitating their access to their rights in government agencies, including providing female employees to deal directly with women, and enacting the rules and procedures that provide for organizing and documenting civil records (birth, marriage, divorce and death) automatically, and the immediate issuance of documents of proof according to electronic linking mechanism between the Civil Affairs Departments and Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health and its affiliates and enabling each one of the couple to get a genuine copy of these documents upon request, noting the importance of emphasis on ensuring women’s right in movement and mobility to be able to meet their needs and achieving their living and work interests through the means and mechanisms that suit them and ensure their security and safety. The Human Rights Commission also recommended studying the situation of Saudi children of non-Saudi mothers
who are residing outside the kingdom, especially those who do not hold official Saudi documents, and correcting situations of children of Saudi mothers and non-Saudi fathers, so as to guarantee them a safe and dignified and stable life.

**Combating Trafficking in Persons**

In the field of facing crimes of trafficking in persons the Human Rights Commission recommended the importance of coordination of all national efforts and enhancing cooperation and active participation among the various sectors of the state and the private sector and individuals, in order to combat trafficking in persons crimes, and working on executing the system of anti-trafficking in persons crimes and cooperation of governmental and non-governmental organizations in this regard, and making sure to follow its implementation so as to raise awareness of the seriousness of this crime and to warn against it and to punish traffickers in persons and to ensure protection and care of the victim, including the right to compensation and the provision of appropriate shelters for them.

**Finance and Economy**

The Human Rights Commission recommended that all measures should be taken to combat all forms of commercial cheating, and developing specifications and standards that prevent the entry of poor quality goods and products and trading in them in the market. The Commission also recommended speeding up enacting a system that handles shares and capital investment issues, and studying and evaluating the current results of foreign investment, for ensuring the achievement of the desired benefits for the national economy with regard to strengthening national employment opportunities for citizens.

**Social Welfare**

To achieve protection and a decent life for all members of society the Human rights Commission recommended increasing the number of sheltering, social protection and hospitality houses in the Kingdom's cities and provinces and providing it with qualified human resources and developing its performance to be a suitable environment that provides protection and decent life for its guests, and developing girls care houses and social observation houses in accordance with high quality standards in order to achieve the rehabilitation of guests psychologically and socially and providing protection and a decent life for them, and classifying them according to age group and the nature of the case and increasing its number in cities and provinces, in order to avoid transferring as a result of overcrowding, noting the importance of supporting charities financially and morally to open social protection units in the cities and provinces in which there are no governmental units of social protection, and the development of a code of conduct for workers in sheltering, social protection and hospitality houses and comprehensive rehabilitation centers, including instructions and guidelines necessary to provide better social, health and humanitarian services with the development of precise criteria for the selection of the human resources working in these house and centers in accordance with international standards.

**Development**

In the case of combating poverty the Commission recommended activating the anti-poverty strategy and its development programs and raising social security benefits, calling to activate the real estate funding systems to enable the citizen to purchase the proper house in a timely manner by guarantee of his income and mortgaged real estate assets, and developing mechanisms of Real Estate Development Fund to include a mechanism to enable the citizens to borrow from local banks to buy proper houses for them if they so wish, and to facilitate granting lands to citizens in places qualified for housing, and to accelerate the granting of soft real state loans, and the preparation of social studies and field surveys to study the social situation of young people of both sexes and to identify the their needs, and to develop plans and strategies that address their issues and to promote small and medium projects and activities for young men and women and productive family programs, and the establishment of scientific units and societies for students that would look after their areas of interest and direct their abilities and their energies and develop their talents, with the activation of the role of neigh-
HRC allocated a number recommendations for women and children in which it called for facilitating their access to their rights in government agencies.

HRC recommended the coordination of all national and private efforts in order to combat trafficking in persons.

Neighborhood centers to meet the social, cultural, educational needs and recreational and sports services for the population, in a way that cover the two genders and different age groups according to Shariah controls, pointing to the importance of accelerating the transition to electronic transactions and automated link between government agencies to ensure the smooth access of citizens and residents to services and the completion of their business in their places of residence, thus contributing to increase remote employment opportunities for women commensurate with their needs.

Public Transport
To create the proper infrastructure for people with disabilities the Human Rights Commission recommended the development of modern modes of public transport, to suit all segments of society, especially children and women and persons with disabilities and the elderly, according to an integrated transport system circulated to the main axes in cities with high population density.

Environment
In the field of environmental protection Human Rights Commission recommended in its report the need to activate the general system of environment and its regulations calling for the protection of the environment, and spreading a culture of conservation and protection of the environment through the media, schools, mosques and other means.

Treaties, Instruments and International Cooperation
The Commission recommended the completion of the study of the Kingdom's joining international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and directing relevant government agencies to participate actively in regional and international human rights events to raise awareness and to highlight the Kingdom's efforts in this field, and working on executing the provisions of international conventions that the Kingdom has joined thereto in accordance with the Kingdom's reservations, pointing out the necessity of activating the agreements concluded between the Kingdom and other countries on the extraditing of the convicts and exchange of prisoners, and concluding more agreements and coordinating national efforts of all the relevant authorities to prepare national periodic reports related to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and conventions and treaties to which the Kingdom is a party, and studying the possibility of directing inviting UN rapporteurs with special thematic mandate of Human Rights Council to visit the kingdom according to a specific frame of reference and a schedule takes into account the priorities and concerns of the Kingdom in this field.

The "Commission" pointed out that it prepared this report, according to its terms of reference which granted it a mandate to monitor the human rights situation in the Kingdom, and to make sure the relevant government agencies execute rules and regulations in respect of human rights, and disclosure of abuses in violation of regulations applicable in the Kingdom, which constitute a violation of human rights and take the statutory procedures required in this regard.

The Human Rights Commission will follow up the recommendations contained in the report with the concerned authorities, through continuous communication and holding meetings and workshops with each authority according to what belongs to it of these recommendations.

The Commission concluded the report with raising deep gratitude and great appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud – may God protect him - for his great efforts and contributions and meritorious humanitarian initiatives for the protection and promotion of human rights and values at different national, regional and international levels.

The Commission is praying to Allah Almighty to preserve and perpetuate the pride, prosperity, security and safety of our precious country under the wise leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz and the second deputy prime minister His Royal Highness Prince Muqrin bin Abdul Aziz, may Allah protect them.
Domestic Violence Seminar:

**Domestic Torturers ... Who Deter Them?**

The prevalence of violence within the one family is one of the important human rights issues that need to be examined and analyzed and defining its causes so as to reduce or even root this phenomenon out.

In this issue’s seminar we are present a number of views of a group of specialists in various fields of life by which we know the causes of increasing spread of this phenomenon in the recent years, and the results of domestic violence on the individual and society.
The Most Prevalent Forms of Violence

**Rights: What are the most prevalent forms of domestic violence in Saudi society?**

Salwa: The forms of violence may vary based on age and gender, for the children, for example, the child is vulnerable to violence either by the parents or one of his brothers at home or relatives under the pretext of discipline and education but in fact the cause is either retaliation or lack of awareness and thinking, but finding it easy to punish the child by the family in any form and at any time leads to serious consequences. Also, the distinction between brothers in one house and comparing between them and preference males to females in some families also distinction in treatment between classmates in the school is considered among the most prevalent reasons that generate hatred and jealousy in the hearts of children, in addition to psychological taunting which is much more severe on the child than scolding. Among the most prevalent forms of violence aimed at children is forcing them to work or to beg before they reach the legal age to help increase the family income, especially if the family was living in poverty. For women, they often suffer from the same kind of social violence either by the husband or father. According to a study conducted by the Ruya Social Center, nearly 44% of the women in the study sample are battered in addition to the emotional violence that many wives suffer from their husbands.

**Reem:** By studying the complaints we receive, we find that women are the most affected by the domestic violence, followed by children, especially girls, and sometimes a whole family complains father, but unfortunately these cases rarely meet the requirements. The husband is ranked second among those affected by the issue of violence and the most prominent kinds of violence encountered by man is the disobedience of his sons or psychological violence such as ignoring him on the part of the wife.

**Dr. Muhsen:** practicing violence from a family member towards another individual, such as violence from father to one of his sons or all of them, or from one brother against one of his brothers as well as the preference between brothers and each other within the family may lead to arousing hatred and generate violence in the opposite direction, and I lived story with one of my brothers from which I suffered for five years and it is fate only that kept me away from become a criminal. That brother, suffered from smallpox and that disease affected his health and shape and therefore the his relationship with others, and did not find an outlet for this deficiency but beating me on a daily basis without any reason. The idea of revenge prevailed and I resolved to kill him and get revenge for myself, and when gathered my powers in one day and I decided to take revenge, I discovered that I am in front of a weak person who can not even defend himself when he fell on the ground asking mercy and forgiveness. But you must not forget that the husband also sometimes become a victim of violence within the family, including the wife’s attempt to degrade him and belittle his prestige at home in front of their children and not performing the household duties and choking him with requirements that exceed its capacity.

**Dr. Mervat:** From my viewpoint based on food specialty, I think that forcing a child to eat a meal which does not desire is a kind of violence practiced in many of our homes. Also exposing young children to beating and taunting to eat a meal at a specific time without his desire sometimes results in creating a relationship that is not a friendly between the child and eating and thus enshrines in his mind that the time for eating is the time of punishment for him, as well as child neglecting the child generates inside him a sense of inferiority and lack of indifference.

**The Drivers and Housemaids**

**What about the behavior of housemaids and drivers with children?**

Reem: In addition to the violence of parents towards their children, there is also violence from housemaids and drivers towards children when they are left with them unsupervised and the most prevalent forms of this kind of violence that leads to serious future problems is the sexual harassment by the housemaids and drivers towards children.

**Affected Women**

**The Legal Position**

* **Rights: What is the legal position of women affected by domestic violence?**

Reem: When woman is jailed in one of the cases of self-defense within the family she does not find any one defends her, and many of these cases are not seen with attention and rejected by the community.

**Dr. Muhsen:** Women are known for their strength in all cases, but weak when it comes to their children so that she can not resist the assault by her husband. Many of the official authorities do not want to listen to the complaints of women if it is against her father, husband, or even her son, and she can not file a complaint or a case by herself without a guardian, and the community refuses to help her in that issue as well as the lack of belief in most cases.

* **Rights: So why woman is judged in such cases, although she is in the case of self-defense?**

**Dr. Muhsen:** Firstly Because she takes silence as a way to protect her children and herself and did not report on violence against her, and in both cases does not have access to what provides her with security, as law and society do not do remedy women subjected to violence.

**Participants:**

**Reem Al-Ajmi:** Legal Advisor at Saudi judiciary.

**Salwa Al-Khalifa:** Director of a day care center in Security Forces Hospital.

**Dr. Mervat Alsayed:** King Saud University.

**Dr. Mohsen Al-Hassan:** a consultant and writer.
The most important issues

* Rights: What are the most important issues and most crimes resulting from the violence?

**Reem:** Divorce cases are among the most results of domestic violence against women, followed by the issues of deprive of marriage which are caused because the father refuses to marry his daughter to get her salary, and rarely, the court judges in favor of the girl. According to a study conducted in this area, only 20% of the cases are in favor of women, in addition to murder cases, by wives against their husbands and daughters against their fathers and brothers, because of the violence in its various forms, which they suffer from.

**Dr. Mohsen:** One of the most important issues that experienced through my follow up of the newspapers is the issue of deprive of marriage which received the attention of the Human Rights Commission. The case is that there were five daughters whom theirs fathers refused to marry to benefit from their salaries. The Human Rights Commission managed to marry them but they shall pay part of their salaries to theirs fathers. One of the issues arising from violence within the framework of one family id disobedience issues that are mostly directed against the father by his sons, for example, the father is prevented from entering the house.

The reasons for the prevalence of violence

* Rights: What are the main reasons for the prevalence of domestic violence?

**Reem:** The reasons are concentrated in the man's overpower and woman's ignorance of her rights with the pressure of the surrounding community which often leads her to silence and surrender, and in many cases turns the violence towards her children because of her weakness in front of her husband and the absence of consciousness. For example a wife endured torture of her husband for 20 years and when she dared to file a complaint against him she were attacked and criticized by the people closest to her by not to standing to her side and as a result of various types of threats and intimidation she retreated and withdrew her complaint and returned to that miserable life.

**Salwa:** The woman’s silence to claim her rights or primarily lack of awareness of those rights with the variation of these rights from one place to another and from one state to another. Also, states do not have certain obligations toward violence, and the weak mechanisms for punishment against domestic violence, and the problem of unemployment that disturb a lot of the young people, and children-oriented films and its contents such as different images of violence and crime, and preferring male to female in some.

**Dr. Mohsen:** Lack of proper awareness of the rights of marriage, as wife transfers into the marital home shackled with a huge amount of Do's and Don'ts towards her husband without educating her the correct way to live with him and in a way that make everyone in the family happy. The wife is a co-partner in all aspects of life and based on this she should determine the method of her treatment at home by the husband first then by the children and her husband's family thirdly. In many cases the wife's personality is ignored in the house completely, in addition to other factors, notably poverty. Sometimes the father resorts to violence towards his children and his wife because of his inability to meet the requirements of the family. Also, the
The role of religion

* Rights: What is the role of religion in reducing the problems of domestic violence?

Dr. Mohsen: Religious culture is not as required and does not focus on marital relations in the sense that the wife has duties and has no rights, also most of religious awareness focuses on the rights of men only. And I think most of the social issues are due to the women’s ignorance of their rights.

Media

* Rights: The media’s role in the issue of domestic violence.

Salwa: Media plays two roles: one negative and one positive. The negative role increases crimes in community and inspiring ideas about violence, such as showing murders as if they are propaganda and action films, and even children’s films are not devoid of violence which form integrated images of violence in different shapes and affect the child’s personality. For this information media programs should be designed that clarify the rights of women and children and the elderly and which supports programs that address gender equality, while working to improve the image of women in the media, and the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material cause harm to him as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989.

Dr. Mohsen: Media is double-edged sword. While media provides ways of dealing with domestic violence and spread awareness, it also displays integrated and indirect media material about infidelity and illegal relationships and men’s assault on their wives and a lot about the means and images of violence through films and advertisements. Thus the media material must submitted to the supervision of education specialists who know that the marital relationship is not only for men, and valuate the reaction of the citizen, i.e., the psychological reaction, in addition to treating the harsh programs and the allocation of awareness programs suitable for all age groups.

Recommendations

* Rights: What is the most important thing you recommend to confront domestic violence and reduce it?

Reem: Women’s rights awareness through promotional programs for women’s rights and child with the participation of female human rights advocates, and holding training courses for women to learn how to dealing with husband and children with preserving their dignity, and the inclusion of a social file for each pupil that describes his behavior during the study phases, and the introduction of family education curriculum, giving opportunity to female human rights advocates in the pleadings in women’s cases.

Salwa: Communication between educational centers and the media, and paying attention to children’s books that further expand the perceptions of the child and hiss culture, and encouraging the media to disseminate social information.

Dr. Mervat: Issuance of government media material to educate the community in all channels.

Dr. Mohsen: The dissemination of marital culture, i.e., the rights and duties, and family awareness and the use of methods of reward and punishment in the family that are motivating for achieving success, not exciting the jealousy and hatred between brothers and family is responsible for providing a family atmosphere free of violence and problems.
Doubled its Capacity from 48 to 105 thousand Pilgrims

Holy Mosque Expansion Preserved Pilgrims right to perform the Rituals Smoothly

Out of concern of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud – may Allah protect him - to create the appropriate atmosphere for pilgrims and worshipers in Al Haram al-Makki (Holy Mosque), His Majesty issued an order to open the ground floor and the first floor and mezzanine of the expansion and north, south and west external plazas in the project of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz for the Expansion of the Holy Mosque which accommodates about (400000) four hundred thousand worshipers and developing new toilets and ablution spaces within the new expansion project that serves the Holy Mosque and the surrounding plazas so that its total number reaches (8050).
In addition to providing drinking cold water fountains inside the expansion building and in the external plazas and operation of lifts to facilitate the movement between the ground floor and the first floor and the first mezzanine of the expansion building, as well as lifts that serve bathrooms at the lower floor of the plazas (vault) and operation of the air conditioning system on the ground floor of the expansion building, and providing areas to be opened this year in the expansion building and the external plazas with necessary lighting elements, sound system, CCTV system and fire-fighting systems, the Minister of Finance Dr. Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz Al-Assaf said, the Ministry of Finance supervises the implementation of these two projects.

Dr. Assaf said that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - may God protect him – issued directives to operate the Mataf yard and the ground floor and first floor of the first phase of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques’ project to raise the capacity of the Mataf with flat areas that exceeds the capacity of the Mataf before the start of the project, and operation of the temporary Mataf to use elderly and people with special needs wheelchairs, praying to God to make it in the balance of good deeds of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

Umrah Performers and Residents raise thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

A number of Umrah performers and residents raised their thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques on occasion of issuance of the directives to open the ground floor and the first floor and mezzanine floor of the expansion building and north, south and west external plazas in the project of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz for the Expansion of the Holy Mosque.

From 48 thousand to 105 thousand Pilgrims per Hour

The new expansion of Mataf of the Holy Mosque in Mecca will double the capacity of 48 thousand pilgrims to about 105 thousand pilgrims per hour. And the Saudi state-owned television broadcasted a documentary film via its first channel about project illustrates the expansion works planned to align with the distribution of columns of the ground floor and basement which supposed to be reduced by 30% and the columns the first floor by 75% so the total reduction of the number of columns will by 44%, in order to give pilgrims a comfortable feeling and amplitude.

The project includes the expansion of the Mataf’s yard to become 50 meters in width instead of 20 meters, and thus solving the problem of bottlenecks previously suffered by pilgrims and create linking bridges with the levels of the first floor, taking into account the current design of the ground levels, while the levels of the Holy Mosque will be reduced to become in parallel with the level of Mataf yard and achieving the direct link to the basement of the second expansion in addition the Ma’asra to become along full width of the new building, which achieves the link and optical communication fully and taking into account maintaining the historical legacy of Holy Mosque architecture and documentation of its forms with the smallest details.

The Mataf expansion project is considered one of the important projects that provide more spacious area for performing Islamic rituals smoothly and easily, where the project will be implemented through three phases in three years.

Work has begun in the month of Muharram of the year 1434 AH with removing some buildings and doing some works that naturally led to the low capacity of Mataf from 48000 to 22000 pilgrims per hour. In an effort to reduce this gap in the number of pilgrims, they started implementing the temporary Mataf which raises capacity to 35000 pilgrims per hour with a width of 12 meters and the Upper Mataf will be installed and linked with first expansion for pilgrims and people with special needs during the holy month of Ramadan this year 1434 AH, along with working on completing the project directly after the month of Ramadan until the pilgrimage season (Hajj) this year.

And this is implemented by reinstalling temporary fences and completing the construction of the roof floor and the installation of the basement for temporary Mataf with width of 10 meters and linking it to the ground floor.

The works will be resumed after Hajj this year to remove the second part of the buildings and transmission Tawaf movement to the available part, where then the construction work of the second phase starts after the installation of the insulating fences of the work area while maintaining the partial fences in the first phase for the purpose of final finishing. After the 1435 Hajj the third phase works begin with installing the temporary insulation fences on work area, and initiating the removal works with the maintaining of parts of the fences of the first and second phase until the end of the month of August of the year 1436 AH.

By the end of 1436 AH all temporary fences should have been removed with the temporary Mataf, where then the work of the project of increasing the capacity of Mataf is completed so that the number of pilgrims in the building without the temporary Tawaf becomes about 105 thousand pilgrims per hour, which means doubling the capacity.

The capacity increase is a part of the long-term strategy to reduce the bottlenecks and overcrowding in the Mataf that suffered by pilgrims in Hajj and Umrah seasons in addition to providing full flexibility of movement in Mataf in line with the successive expansions of the Holy Mosque in Mecca.

Many scholars and sheikhs of the Islamic nation expressed their satisfaction to the expansion project, and praised the efforts of the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in facilitating performing Islamic rituals for pilgrims.

Sudais reviews the works of expansion

The President General for the Affairs of the Holy Grand Mosque and the Prophet’s Holy Mosque Sheikh Dr. Abdul Rahman As-Sudais confirmed, regarding the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques project To raise the capacity of the Mataf, that the construction works of the basement and most of the ground floor had been completed, pointing out that work is underway for the completion of the first floor slab. He stated that the first phase will be linked to raise the capacity of Mataf with the first Saudi expansion through constructional structure to enable the integration of the Mataf with the first floor, pointing out that the capacity of the Mataf reduced by half now.

HE President General for the Affairs of the Holy Grand Mosque and the Prophet’s Holy Mosque declared that the new expansion of the north plazas of the Grand Holy Mosque, which is expected to be completed by the end of the current calendar year, will accommodate about 540 thousand worshipers.

He noted in a statement to Al-Watan newspaper that the ground floor and mezzanine floor will be prepared in this expansion, noting that the proportion of the preparation will reach 70% in addition to a small part of the second floor and its mezzanine, with an estimated proportion of about 20%.

As-Sudais pointed out that the work is still underway in the expansion building and the construction works of contemporary and permanent bridges, in addition to the terraces where all aesthetic and functional design considerations that fit the distinctive architectural style of the Grand Holy Mosque have been taken into account.

He added that all globally recognized safety standards, as a means of fire safety and the monitoring devices for measuring the strength and durability of the facilities have been taken into consideration.

The President General also pointed out that the expansion will include a full-service station that is being implemented on an area of 75 thousand square meters, including eco-friendly advanced air conditioning systems, water tanks in addition to waste disposal systems and central vacuuming systems.

Sheikh As-Sudais said that the expansion will include the implemen-
Achievement of the legitimate interests and objectives

The Secretary-General and official spokesman for the Supreme Judicial Council, Sheikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Nashwan stressed that the decision to reduce the number of pilgrims coming from abroad local pilgrims in the light of the expansion works of the Grand Holy Mosque Mataf to accommodate after expansion 105 thousand pilgrims per hour came to pursue interests and takes into account the legitimate purposes that necessitated protecting self and keeping it away from damage.

He said that “The Kingdom has taken into account in its decision to maintain the Muslims and ward off the dangers that may occur if numbers increased and pilgrims became much, sensing the responsibility towards the Grand Holy Mosque, and exerting every effort in order to execute developmental projects in the Two Holy Mosques that will all touch its effects and reap its fruit and enjoy its results God Willing. He called on Muslims to realize this and cooperate with the Government of the Kingdom for the sake of Allah by relieving Muslims who are visiting the Grand Holy Mosque and provide more opportunities for those who have never performed Haj or Umrah, especially local pilgrims whether citizens or residents, and God Almighty does not waste the reward of those who intended by not going for Haj or Umrah this year to reduce congestion and relieve his fellow Muslims.

Architecture of the Grand Holy Mosque throughout Islamic History

There is no city throughout human history has received - and still receives - sanctification and honor like Mecca where the Kaaba (the first House [of worship] established for mankind for worshipping God, whose foundations had been established - by order of God – by Abraham, the Father of Prophets, and his son Ishmael, peace be upon them, to be prestigious standing place visited by the believers and pilgrims.

And God Almighty responded to the prayer of Abraham, peace be upon him - as we have said – and sent of his descendants messenger after more than two thousand and six hundred years the Seal of the Prophets and our beloved prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, whom God sent with him the Holy Quran guide all the people. Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, performed Haj (pilgrimage) in the tenth year of Hijrah (immigration), and delivered a speech for the people, and his words and deeds have been witnessed by attending pilgrims from prophets companions – may God bless them, and the narrators narrated this. Since that time, the number of pilgrims is increasing year after year, until it reached in the present era about two million pilgrims.

Over the Islamic eras Holy Places retained its sanctity and holiness, and was the focus of attention and care of its Servants. Therefore various rulers conducted expansions throughout the ages, and the first expansion began in the era of the second caliph Omar bin Khattab God bless him. And the most recently expansion was executed by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

**Blessed Saudi Extension**

A long period has passed since the latest expansion of the Grand Holy Mosque which was done in the year 306 AH (918 AD), and with the growing numbers of Muslims, as the area of the Islamic world increased during this period to include new countries and peoples in Africa and Asia, as well as the tremendous development achieved in the modern era in transportation, which shortened distances and approximated countries with each other, all these factors led to double the number of pilgrims, which showed the need for the expansion of the Grand Holy Mosque to accommodate worshipers, and Saudi Expansion has been executed in several phases:

**The First Phase**

The works of this phase started by an order of King Saud - may God have mercy on him - in the year 1375 AH corresponding to 1955 AD, and during this phase a two-story Maas’a has been constructed to accommodate the largest possible number of worshipers, and the inside length of Maas’a is 394.5 meters and its width is 25 meters, and the height of the ground floor of the Maas’a is 12 meters, and the height of the upper floor is 9 meters.

And in the center of Maas’a a barrier has been established to divide it into two long haves, one of them allocated for the Say’ee from Safa to Marwa, and the other for Say’ee from Safa to Marwa, to fa-
The Holy Mosque in Mecca.

Pilgrimage season each year and in Umrah seasons and the visits to pilgrims and visitors and citizens to obtain all what they need in the services that the region need were developed to make it easier for the Holy Mosque as well as shops and other facilities and various and wide squares were established to organize the traffic around was built, and the roads surrounding the Holy Mosque were paved, ed in this expansion, at the same time the sound amplifier system was built, the horizontal projection of the Holy Mosque has been completed, thus the late architect Taher Jouini developed a new proposal to achieve the integration.

Thus, the late architect Taher Jouini developed a new proposal to achieve the integration. The Second Phase Architecture at this phase began in 1379 AH - corresponding to 1959 AD, and the outer part of the new building completed, and when executing the excavation works, it was found that the fit land for natural loading located at a depth of four meters from current ground level and was filled with old building waste, and in this space the current basement, which did not exist in the original architectural design. And during this phase Mataf area has been expanded, becoming in its current form, also the current stairs to the well of Zamzam have been established.

The Second Phase

Architecture at this phase began in 1379 AH - corresponding to 1959 AD, and the outer part of the new building completed, and when executing the excavation works, it was found that the fit land for natural loading located at a depth of four meters from current ground level and was filled with old building waste, and in this space the current basement, which did not exist in the original architectural design. And during this phase Mataf area has been expanded, becoming in its current form, also the current stairs to the well of Zamzam have been established.

The Third Phase

This phase began with the wise historic decision issued by the King Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz - may God have mercy on him – to modify the original design of the expansion, so as to keep the Ottoman Mosque Buildings. This decision was made after a major conference of Muslims architects in Mecca in 1387 AH, to take a look at possible alternatives for the development of design. And the conference has recommended removing a large part of the Ottoman building, but King Faisal – may God have mercy on him - saw that the integration of the old with new building will bring a deep sense of continuity. Thus, the late architect Taher Jouini developed a new proposal to achieve the integration.

The horizontal projection of the Holy Mosque has been completed in this expansion, at the same time the sound amplifier system was built, and the roads surrounding the Holy Mosque were paved, and wide squares were established to organize the traffic around the Holy Mosque as well as shops and other facilities and various services that the region need were developed to make it easier for pilgrims and visitors and citizens to obtain all what they need in the pilgrimage season each year and in Umrah seasons and the visits to the Holy Mosque in Mecca.

The project involves preparing the external plazas, including the remaining plaza from the side of Sooq Saghira, and the plaza located east of the Maas’a with total area of 85800 m2 to accommodate 195000 worshipers, and thus the area of the Grand Holy Mosque including the Mosque building after the expansion and the roof and all plazas 356000 m2 able to accommodate approximately 773000 worshipers in normal days, but in times of Hajj and Umrah and Ramadan, the Holy Mosque accommodates up to more than a million worshipers.

The expansion building also involves new main entrance and 18 normal entrances in addition to the current entrances to the Grand Holy Mosque, totaled 3 main entrances and 27 normal entrances and it has been taken into account in the design to create two new entrances to the basement in addition to the current four entrances. The expansion building also includes two new minarets 89 meters high, similar in architectural design to the other seven minarets.

To facilitate access of worshipers to expansion building roof in high seasons two buildings for lifts were added:

- One in the north of the expansion building
- The other one in south of the expansion building.
- The total area of each building is 375 m²

And contains two sets of lifts, the capacity of each set is 15000 persons per hour.

In addition to two sets of lifts within the boundaries of the building on both sides of the main entrance of the expansion, and lifts were designed so that, in addition to the eight units of the stairs, to serve the movement of pilgrims and worshipers at peak times, especially the elderly without trouble. Thus the total number of lifts buildings is 7 buildings, distributed all over the perimeter of the Holy Mosque and expansion to serve the worshipers in the first floor and the roof.

The number of columns per floor at expansion 492 columns all covered with Marble.

The costs of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques project for Expansion of the Grand Holy Mosque in Mecca (including expropriation compensations) 30178181775 SAR.
Initiatives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Achieved Great Humanitarian Shifts

Initiatives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz achieved great humanitarian shifts, that delighted families of prisoners and their relatives by releasing them, as well as the deposit of about two billion SR in the account of beneficiaries of social security pensions and assistance, and the Syrian and the Palestinian brothers had a good share of these initiatives.
For his part, acting Director General of Prisons Service Department of the Riyadh region released 4 prisoners. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques pardoned 11 thousand prisoners including 20 women on the occasion of Ramadan.

More than one billion riyals beneficiaries warranty
Social Security Agency of the Ministry of Social Affairs deposited 1.173.400.616 SAR in the accounts of beneficiaries of social security pensions and assistance for the month of Ramadan this year, and included 805616 states. The spokesman of the Ministry of Social Affairs Khalid Al-Thebity said this amount was deposited in the accounts of the beneficiaries of Social Security pensions at the last month of Ramadan. He explained that the Social Security Agency studies monthly and continuously the data of beneficiaries and recipients of Social Security and analyzes it by automated search and electronic transactions because most of the disbursed money comes from Zakat funds, pointing out that 6825 registered cases are not included among the beneficiaries, either because of the death of beneficiary, marriage, increase income, increase the number of workers under sponsorship of the beneficiary or there is no proof of divorce, while the conditions did not apply on 1852 cases. The spokesman declared that the monthly announcement of deposit of these funds comes in recognition of the need many of the families benefiting from them and notice for them to commence to take advantage of them, especially that there are those who are in remote areas and it is difficult for them to travel to get their allowances if not deposited. He informed that 24991 new security beneficiaries of various categories, covered by social security service represented in (orphans, total disability, widows, temporary disability and families that lost their breadwinners) in all regions of the Kingdom through Social Security offices throughout the Kingdom which are 97 offices and 9 security services units. HE Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Yusuf Al-Uthaymeen said that this urgent aid comes in addition to the monthly pension received by Social Security beneficiary families monthly. Uthaymeen expressed deep thanks and deep appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for the human touch of the king of humanity, whose deeds always precedes words. He pointed out that this paternal gesture is not surprising; as social affairs sector and social security, in particular, attains special auspices and follow-up from His Majesty - may God protect him - on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has embraced this category of prisoners and others who are stranded.

Release 11 thousand prisoners including 20 women
Conditions of royal pardon applied on 10980 prisoners of citizens and residents, including 20 women, after the committees consisting of five government agencies in each region (The Principality, The Police, Fight against Drugs Department, Prison Service Department and the General Department of Passports) examined files of 18 thousand prisoners. The source told Okaz newspaper that a large number of the first batch was released while the rest will be released in the next few days.

42 Prisoners released from Mecca Prisons
42 Saudi prisoners left the Reformatory Prison in Makkah in enforcement of a royal pardon issued by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud - may God protect him - on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The permanent committee, consisting of members from the Department of Prisons, Principality of Mecca, the Police, Fight against Drugs Department and the General Department of Passports of Makkah region, has examined the files of a number of prisoners and 42 prisoners who meet the conditions of the royal pardon have been released and they representing the first batch of released prisoners. And tears of joy mixed with pure supplication to the Custodian Two Holy Mosques were shed which introduced a smile on the families of prisoners with the first night of the holy month of Ramadan. On his part, Major General Mohammed Bin Mousa bin Hishlol, the Director of the Prisons Service Department in Makkah, said to Al-Madinah newspaper that 42 prisoners were released as a first batch, pointing out that the Committee will examine files of prisoners, including expatriates prisoners, for the release of prisoners who meet the conditions of the royal pardon, explaining that the Royal Decree will continue throughout the nights and days the holy month of Ramadan. The Major General Bin Hishlol added saying: “The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has embraced this category of prisoners with sympathetic paternity with the entry of the month of Ramadan”, pointing out that this amnesty will be a gateway to the prisoners’ return to the path of righteousness. A number of prisoners expressed deep thanks and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - may God protect him - pointing out that this caring parental gesture from the side of His majesty – may God protect him – is not strange, stressing that this amnesty will be a reason for keeping their distance from the uneven behavior.

147 Released from the Prisons of Jeddah and Riyadh
For his part, acting Director General of Prisons Service Department in Jeddah Brigadier General Ahmed Shahrani, said that the prisons of Jeddah, Jizan and Taif released 143 prisoners as a first batch for the holy month of Ramadan, while the Prisons Service Department of the Riyadh region released 4 prisoners.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques pardon 11 thousand prisoners including 20 women on occasion of Ramadan.
300 Thousand Meals for Syrian Refugees Provided by “Help Syria” Campaign

Saudi National Campaign for the Support of Syrian Brothers distributed food baskets to the Syrian refugees in neighboring countries; to provide necessary requirements that help them withstand extreme conditions with them. It is also preparing for the distribution of large quantities of food baskets for Ramadan in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan, on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The campaign will work during the holy month of Ramadan on preparing more than 300 thousand meals and distributing it to Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, in addition to providing 300 tons of dates and providing many water coolers to secure cold drinking water for fasters.

Also the campaign continues to provide its programs for health care in the Zaatari camp, and for the affected Syrian people in areas adjacent to the Lebanese border, as it seeks to provide medicines and medical supplies and cover the costs of surgical procedures performed for patients and wounded displaced to neighboring countries.

It is worth mentioning that the Saudi National Campaign for the Support of Syrian Brothers has since its inception - and under the supervision and follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Nayef bin Abdul Aziz, general supervisor of the campaign - adopted and implemented more than thirty-five relief programs and humanitarian projects in gatherings sites of Syrian in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, at a cost of more than 350,000,000 (three hundred and fifty million SAR). These programs included food and relief and sheltering programs in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon with an amount exceeded 125 millions SAR (one hundred and twenty-five million SAR) and medical programs and projects in camps in Jordan and Turkey with amount exceeded 87 millions SAR (eighty seven million SAR) and sheltering programs and projects in camps in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon with amount exceeded 109 millions SAR (one hundred and nine millions SAR) and medical and sheltering and food programs and projects for displaced people inside Syria with amount exceeded 29 millions SAR (twenty nine millions SAR). The Saudi National Campaign for the Support of Brothers in Syria continued distributing Ramadan baskets on the displaced Syrian people who came to Lebanon and located in the district of Batroun in northern Lebanon.

100 Trucks of Various Food Commodities to the People of Syria

Saudi National Campaign for the Support of Syrian Brothers launched the Distribution of Ramadan Food Baskets project by sending 100 trucks carrying 50 thousand food baskets composed of 18 kinds of food items that meet the needs of Syrian families in the holy month of Ramadan, and it began the distribution of food items to the Syrians brothers in Jordan in collaboration with the World food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations and a number of humanitarian organizations in the presence of Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Jordan Fahd Al-Zaid, president of World food Programme in Jordan Jonathan Campbell, Executive Director of the Saudi National Campaign for the Support of Syrian Brothers Mubarak Al-Bakr and regional Director of the campaign Dr. Badr Samhan.

600 Food Baskets for the Displaced Syrians in Lebanon

The campaign manager Walid Jalal said in a statement to the Saudi Press Agency that the campaign distributed 600 Ramadan baskets, in addition to the 600 kilograms of dates and 650 copies of the Holy Quran to the families of displaced Syrians in the Batroun region. He pointed out that that the distribution process comes as part of its third phase in the context of Ramadan campaign.
dedicated to the distribution of more than 30 thousand food baskets in the holy month of Ramadan for displaced Syrians in Lebanon.

**King Donates USD 2.5 Millions to the People of Gaza**
The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Campaign for the Relief of the Palestinian People provided generous donation of $2.5 millions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and this donation will be allocated for the purposes of food distribution in the Gaza Strip, which will begin in the month of Ramadan.

This donation would allow UNRWA to provide families, including those living in extreme poverty, with basic foodstuffs such as flour and rice, oil, sugar and powdered milk. With the help of the campaign, UNRWA expects to access to a total of 346592 people in 65621 families during the month of Ramadan in the second round of distribution operations organized by the social safety net program in UNRWA.

Peter Ford, representative of the UNRWA Commissioner-General, expressed UNRWA’s gratitude for the Campaign by saying “This donation shows once again the continued support for refugees provided by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Campaign for the Relief of the Palestinian People in Gaza which will help UNRWA to alleviate the burdens of poverty that afflicting thousands of refugees in the Gaza Strip throughout the year. More specifically, it would allow the refugees to participate in the celebrations of Ramadan”.

Since its inception in 2009, the campaign provided donations valued about $30 million in the form of food, medicines and fuel for the benefit of the Palestine refugees in Gaza and the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. In addition to that the Saudi Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian People and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Campaign is one of the most important Arab partners to UNRWA.

The Saudi Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian People and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Campaign donated more than SR 1.2 billion in order to finance humanitarian, food, health, developmental, social and educational projects in Gaza and the West Bank and other places. The Saudi Committee and the Campaign continue in the implementation of its humanitarian tasks towards people most in need among Palestine refugees, and the support of the efforts of UNRWA for their benefit.

**The Campaign Distributes Food Baskets to the People of Pakistan**
Upon the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud - may God protect him - and under the direct supervision of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nayef bin Abdul Aziz, the Minister of Interior and General Supervisor of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Campaign for the Relief of the Pakistani People, the campaign began implementing a project of distributing food baskets during the month of Ramadan to the poor and the needy.

The project was launched in the presence of Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Abdulaziz bin Al-Ghadeer during a ceremony held at the headquarters of the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad attended by a number of Pakistani government officials.

The Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the Republic of Pakistan Islamic Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim Al-Ghadeer explained in a speech on this occasion that the project of the distribution of food baskets is one of the various programs of the campaign which began in 2005 to stand with the people of Pakistan, and this program consists of distributing food baskets to the needy all over Pakistan, including all kinds of food for the month Ramadan whether at breakfast or Suhoor meal.

For his part, the head of media department at the Regional Office of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Campaign for the Relief of the Pakistani People Abdullah Barak indicated that food baskets project consists of twenty-seven thousand food baskets, pointing out that this project comes within the Campaign projects in Pakistan with the follow-up of HE Advisor to His Highness the Minister of Interior and President of the Campaign Dr. Saad Al-Orabi Al-Harthi.
National Day of the Kingdom

Constant Providing of Care to Ensure a Decent Life ... In a Secure Homeland

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right of every human being to life, liberty, security and dignity, and these are the same principles on which the regime of KSA is based since the country’s unification by King Abdul Aziz in 1932, and which were derived before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) from the words of the Prophet, peace and blessing be upon him,: (Whoever among you wakes up secure in his property, healthy in his body, and he has his food for the day, it is as if he were given the entire world).

The history of the Kingdom since the reign of founding King until the reign of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz confirms that concern for human rights was the engine for all procedures and laws that were established by the founding King, and in the forefront of it comes the achievement of security and safety.
The first and most effective vision of King Abdulaziz on the future of the kingdom was adopting the Islamic doctrine to be the approach and the method upon which the life with its various aspects are based, since it affords protection to the rights of everyone, and in view of the fact that Islam is an indivisible whole and a religion and state, which means that it is applicable to all different communities every time and everywhere. The opening session of the Shura Council in (7 Rabi’ al-awwal 1349 H / August 1930 AD) witnesses the saying of King Abdulaziz “You know that the basis for our judgments and our regime is Islamic Sharia, and you are in that field free to enact each regulation and approve the system of the work that you see as consistent with the benefit of the country on the condition not to be contrary to Islamic law, because the work that is not consistent with Islam will not be useful for any one, and deviation from the way specified by our Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, will lead only to perdition”.

Security
The Arabian Peninsula, before unification, was living in a state of chaos and laxity of security, which negatively impacted on every aspect of life. Because security is one of the first constituents of any community or country, and has the greatest impact on the various elements of its life, it was King Abdulaziz’s priority, and made it the most important feature of his development policy, due to the fact that insecurity leads to waste resources and not taking advantage of them, as it eliminates some of the human resources through murder and counter murder (revenge), especially in the tribal society. Lack of security also dismisses some of those who can be used in the production process, because of looting, theft or smuggling or the alike makes those persons prefer this business to the productive work, because of its easiness versus productive work such as agriculture.

In addition to the negative effects of work such as smuggling on the economy, which contribute to the failure of economic policy of the state, and deprive it from financial resources that could be obtained by customs or any other fees, as well as that what is spent on laxity of security - a lot sum of money- can be directed to any other activity. Thus, benefiting from the resources and not wasting them lead to higher productivity and increase production, thereby increasing the gross domestic product and national income.

The facts of history witness that King Abdulaziz’s firmness in the implementation of regulations, particularly regarding anyone who violates security, has had a significant impact on the restoration of security, and he began to establish security institutions such as the Directorate of Security founded in 1344 AH / 1925 AD in Makkah and some other cities.
Right to Know
As founding King cared for security he also cared for the media and the press, so that the people of the Kingdom fully briefed on the news and the decisions of the state and exercise their natural right to knowledge. There is no doubt that establishing capable newspapers are in a modern state would have been an effective tool in spreading knowledge and reading and writing and social guidance and national counseling, and assisting the state in the deployment of systems and communications and instructions and documenting and communicating them to the implementers and beneficiaries in all parts of the country.

So the first decision made by the King Abdulaziz - in relation to the press and printing is the establishment of the first Saudi state media, which is official gazette Umm Al-Qura which replaced Al-Qeblah Al-Hashimiyah newspaper, with the development of the then government press to become Umm Al-Qura Press. Also two systems for printing presses and publications in the years 1347 and 1358 AH were issued, and more than five printing presses were established, namely Salafiyah in Mecca (1347 AH), and in Jeddah Al-Arabiyyah printing press (1355 AH), Al-Fattah printing press (1356 AH) and Printing Establishment (1372 AH) and in Medina Al-Hafez printing press (1355 AH).

His reign – may God rest his soul in peace – also saw the issuance of the first printed English newspapers which is the Sun and Flare issued by Aramco in Dhahran in 1365 AH/1945 AD, and the release of the first private newspaper in the capital of his kingdom when Hamad Al-Jasser issued Al-Yamamah Journal in 1372 AH/1953 AD. His reign also saw the emergence of the first Arabic-language newspaper in the Eastern Province, namely a Al-Qafilah, issued by Aramco in Safar 1373 AH. King Abdulaziz also cared for Radio as he agreed to the proposal of the Crown Prince, Prince Saud, to launch it and the Minister of Finance Abdullah Sulaiman signed, on 13 Rajab 1368 AH/ 05.11.1949 AD the Memorandum of Association in Cairo with an American company for the supply of transmitters with capacity of 2.5 kW.

He - may God rest his soul in peace – issued also a founding decree for the Radio in 23/9/1368 AH / 19/07/1949 AD, under which he mandated his deputy in the Hijaz, Prince Faisal, to supervise it.

The Right to Education
Organized education and disseminating it was also in the forefront of the priorities of the establishment of the Kingdom, and it was started after the creation of “General Directorate of Education” where a decree was issued at the first of Ramadan 1344 AH / corresponding to 03/16/1926 AD to establish “Directorate of Education” to be the foundation stone of the modern education system, and mandating the Directorate to oversee all schools in the country.
And with its modest budget that did not exceed (5665) pounds when established, the Directorate started opening a number of schools, and that number has doubled until it reached in the year 1373 AH / 1953 AD (226) schools.

The Directorate has issued a number of regulations for managing the educational process in accordance with the methods and assets that keep pace with an ambitious young state, taking into account the different segments of society, and besides the school system and its scientific curriculum there was another system for national and third one for private schools.

The General Directorate of Education did not neglect adult education, as it opened night schools and teaching Quran schools and some occupational schools, and proceeded to lay the first brick of higher education, and established the Faculty of Sharia in Makkah in the year 1369 AH/1949 AD, then established Teachers College in the late 1372 AH/1951 AD, which is considered a great achievement if it is taken into account economic conditions of the country at that time and the scarcity of teachers who carry this message and the difficulty of communication and lack of communication and the weakness of the urban level and the scarcity of transportation.

AS for the girls’ education, it’s another story of struggle lasted since the reign of King Abdulaziz and stabilized in the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdulaziz – may God rest his soul in peace - and the year 1380 AH/1960 AD is considered a landmark in the history of education in the Kingdom in general and girls’ education in particular, where the girls’ education advanced and made a conscious breakthrough after the state took the guarantees that stress the educated girl adherence to her religion, morals and pure traditions consistent with religion, after the issuance of the Royal Order in 20/04/1379 AH.

The era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz is witnessing great attention to human rights as a regulated and institutional work, so the Human Rights Commission was established on 8-8-1426 AH, and Resolution No. (207) stipulated regulating its work, where it stated in the preamble that the work of the Commission is originally based on protecting and promoting human rights in accordance with international human rights standards in all areas, as well as the dissemination of awareness and contributing to ensuring the application of his in light of the provisions of the Islamic Sharia.

The Resolution also made the Human Rights Commission the competent government agency to give opinion and advise in relation to human rights issues in the Kingdom. Then, in the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the decisions supporting the work of the Human Right Commission followed, including the approval of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in 1430 AD on a program of spreading the culture of human rights, which works to promote the culture of human rights in an atmosphere of brotherhood, tolerance and compassion, and institutional capacity building in the public and private sectors to move up their performance enhanced to protect human rights and inspired by the tolerant message of Islam and consistent international covenants and conventions.

The dissemination of culture of human rights is a clear example to confirm the policy of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques seeking to care for and protect human rights and maintain them in order to enable citizens and residents to enjoy a decent life in which human values guaranteed by the Sharia is thriving.

Also, the Protection from Abuse system was released this year 1434 AH, which form a quantum leap in the field of protection from abuse, and contributing to preserve human dignity, in addition to the issuance of a regulation of domestic workers which included 23 articles explaining the rights and duties of household employment and the like, to complement the many systems that contribute to preserve the and human rights and dignity.
The right to Travel, Health and the Necessities of Life

King Abdul Aziz – may God rest his soul in peace - was interested in securing the necessary requirements for his people, but he was aspiring to achieve more than that, i.e., to have a strong economy from which he can provide what people need, and establishes a sound economic development, as well as a strong army to protect the kingdom internally and externally.

Although the King Abdulaziz was in a state of continuous Jihad but he managed to achieve a balance and coordination between his military and his economic projects, and recruited some U.S. experts with specialized knowledge of water resources for the preparation of a report on the water in Najd, Al-Ahsa and Hijaz regions and they found large quantities of water, and until that time there were in Riyadh a little number of wells and they had dug well at a depth of one hundred and twenty meters and at width of thirty meters.

King Abdul Aziz laid the foundation stone for his agricultural project because the establishment of agricultural projects was related to the availability of water where drought was a stumbling block in the way of the development of agriculture in the desert country. He – may God rest his soul in peace – developed a flexible system for the settlement of the desert people that was applied in stages so that some of them work in the field of grazing, and established a large number of camps for others, and work on settling them and turning them from nomads to stable groups working in agriculture.

Then King Abdulaziz recruited agronomists to provide a comprehensive report about the potential of agriculture in the country, the report, which was developed by agronomists, was very optimistic about the presence of water, and stressed that “there are no limits in reality of the agricultural potential of the Arabian Peninsula.”

This was a strong motivation for the King Abdul Aziz to proceed in his agricultural project and settlement of the desert. Bedouin began working in agriculture, trade and industry. This project, which was adopted by King Abdulaziz as an initial phase, has led to the development of the weak economy and scarce resources, where he founded the Directorate of Agriculture in 1344 AH, and after King Saud bin Abdul Aziz – may God rest his soul in peace – came to power in 1373 AH the Directorate of Agriculture was transformed to Ministry of Agriculture and Water, and His Highness Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz - may God rest his soul in peace - was its first minister.

Also the roads received interest of King Abdulaziz, who has worked to link the regions of the Kingdom with each other benefiting from oil revenues, though limited initially, and transferred his country from the ship of the desert (camel) era, where camel was the basic transport means in the country, even the company that produces oil was using camels as means of transportation or even after the export of oil in commercial quantities until 1939. Once the II World War was over the oil production improved and with it the economic conditions of the country improved and King Abdulaziz worked to confirm his cultural ambitions by which he was obsessed so he increased of support for his economic giant project and travel and transportation by camel turned to faster means and he decided to let import cars to ensure the comfort of pilgrims in their mobility between holy places. Thus using cars spread across the car dramatically in all parts of the Kingdom.

King Abdullah Completes the March

After the death of the founding King – may God rest his soul in peace- his sons of kings and princes continued journey of development and preservation of what has been achieved in terms of gains and providing and securing all rights to the Saudi society. During the reign of King Abdullah a lot of things were achieved for the promotion of those gains, and education came in the forefront, given the great importance it has in the constructing the infrastructure for development in the country and in any country outside, so it was not surprising that in the twenty-fourth of Muharram 1428 we see the issuance of the royal approval to the King Abdullah project for the development of public education, which includes curriculum development and rehabilitation of teachers and improving the learning environment and programs of the out-of-classroom activities for students exceeding five million male and female students, and steps to implement the project included adopting 11 billion riyals for the preparation...
digital curriculum and e-books and educational elements of the curriculum and other elements. Also the Kingdom has achieved unprecedented progress in the growth of the number of new and enrolled students in institutions of higher education, and an increase in the absorption of male and female students, in addition to an increase in the faculty members. And according to statistics issued by the Ministry of Planning, the Kingdom in the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah has seen many scientific and educational achievements marked by the opening of the of sixteen universities including: four emerging universities in Dammam, Shaqraa, Al-Kharj and Al-Majmaah that contribute with other universities to the deployment of higher education in about seventy five governorate, in addition to the establishment of a number of student accommodation cities and the establishment of research centers in the field of nanotechnology and the opening of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology and the expansion of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Scholarship Program, which is the largest national program for human resource development, and encouraging scientists and inventors with granting medals and awards, as well as the allocation of a large proportion of the state budget of the last years for education in general and higher education in particular. All that pushed universities to compete and raise the level of education in the Kingdom, which enabled them to expand their programs, activities and projects and made them occupy advanced positions in the world rankings and graduation of qualified cadres contribute to the construction and development and progress of the nation. USA Time magazine: Women’s Rights in the Era of King Abdullah ... A turning Point In its issue dated April 2013, Time magazine spotted the gains made by women in Saudi Arabia in the era of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. The magazine said in a report that women’s access to their rights became clear earlier when the Saudi Monarch announced last January the appointment of 30 women in the Shura Council to represent women, which accounted for 20% of the members of the Council. The magazine said that the Saudi Monarch decided in a turning point of social life in Saudi Arabia that women enter the political scene by giving them the right to membership of the Shura Council, along with the right to candidature for municipal elections, which is considered a symbolic point in a major project adopted by King Abdullah for the empowerment of Saudi women in all areas. Also the latest cabinet reshuffle in February 2009 was another turning point for women, where Nora Al-Fayez was appointed as the first deputy of the Ministry of Education, in confirmation from King Abdullah that female Saudi citizen have the right to participate in the development of her country in all fields. Health Care With regard to health, the international reports, particularly those issued by the World Health Organization, put KSA among the advanced countries in terms of the advanced level of the medical
care systems and health service delivery methods applicable in the country on the level of the Arab world.

Statistics show the evolution of the health sector, where the number of hospitals affiliated to the Ministry of Health reached 218 hospitals and the number of health centers reached 1905 centers. Perhaps most important achievement in the field of health services in the reign of King Abdullah – may God protect him – is the application of cooperative health insurance system, as its application contributes effectively to ease the pressure on government installations, also it provides an opportunity for healthcare facilities in the private sector to provide medical services to help with the public sector in the provision of medical services under the umbrella of the cooperative health insurance.

Industry
In the industrial field, the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy King Abdullah saw significant growth in the number of factories as the producing factories were about 1500 factories and now its number has doubled and became 3 thousand factories with investments of more than 250 billion riyals. Also in the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah - may God protect him - the Eighth Development Plan was approved in the nineteenth ff November in 1426 AH, which included raising the standard of living and improve the quality of life and providing employment opportunities for the citizens and the development of human resources through the continued development of education, training and skills and expansion of applied science and technology and increase the contribution of the private sector in economic and social development, and increase the participation of Saudi women and remove barriers in front of expanding their participation in economic activities and development.

In addition, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah – may God protect him – has taken steps with a very positive impact on the industry, including: the adoption of the national strategy for the industry, which aims to raise the proportion of industry in the gross national product from 11% in 2009 to 20% in 2020 and thus KSA is steadily moving towards a diversified resources economy and sustainable development. Also, the Kingdom’s accession to the World Trade Organization made it enact more than 70 different legislations in order to become an active member of the World Trade Organization. This led in turn to a change in the economic field in the Kingdom in many ways. And the KSA’s role in international economic scene became very important because the Kingdom is the only country in the Middle East that has membership in G-20. And this gave the Kingdom a formidable force, and also raised capital of industrial development fund to 30 billion riyals.

Furthermore, the Kingdom witnessed a great boom in development. At the level of the industrial cities, there was an unprecedented shift. For 30 years before His Majesty came to power, the number of industrial cities in the Kingdom 14 industrial cities affiliated to the Industrial Cities Commission and two industrial cities belonging to the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu. And under the guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

From the Words of the Founding King
(may God rest his soul in peace):

- “Any one of our citizens feels injustice shall come to us with a complaint, or send it by post at our expense, even if the complaints submitted against my children and grandchildren.”

- “I do not want to hear in my life that there is someone oppressed, and I do not want to carry the sin of oppression or failure to rescue the oppressed or to restore the lost right… Have I not so counseled you? O God, I bear witness.”

From the Words of the Founding King
(may God rest his soul in peace):
and his vision to make the industry a strategic choice to diversify sources of income the number of industrial cities has doubled in terms of the developed area and in terms of number, as the industrial cities witnessed expansion projects such as that of the Second Industrial City in Riyadh, the Second Industrial City in Dammam, the Industrial City of Medina, the Industrial City of Hail and Industrial City in Asir, and the Commission did not stop the expansion and rehabilitation of existing cities, but it also sought to establish new cities in the various regions of the Kingdom, where it founded in 2009 four new cities, namely: Jeddah 2, Alkhajar, Arar and Jizan. And in 2010 it established industrial cities in Sudair, Taif, Zulfi, Al-Baha, Riyadh 3 at Al-Hair and Pharmaceutical Industries City in Al-Ain, Qassim and Haf Al-Batin.

**Women … Increasingly Rights**

Women in the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques achieved a great leap of excellence with regard to privileges they got - and still get - where in his era the first female class specializing in law was graduated, from the College of Law and Political Science at King Saud University, and their number was 49 students. The Ministry of Labour also adopted the establishment of a special unit of joint training for girls, like boys, supervised by qualified female staff, and it was decided that the first of its programs is to train 35 girls in the travel and tourism sector in a move considered to be the first of its kind.

Also the instructions of HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the branches and offices of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to simplify procedures for the establishment of companies, institutions and the activities of Saudi businesswomen to increase employment opportunities for Saudi women, in accordance with Islamic Sharia, and HE has issued a circular to the branches and offices of the ministry for allowing women to practice all activities without exception such as Contracting, maintenance, cleanliness, operation and real estate, and the directives also included allowing women to manage their own businesses in their female branches and offices of the Ministry for allowing women to practice all activities in the branches and offices of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

A female advisory commission was formed to address the situation of women prisoners and institutions caring for girls and families of prisoners; the commission consists of five female academies of five female volunteers. Moreover, the role of the legitimate agent for women was reduced in order not to disrupt her life and interests, and to eliminate a lot of social problems that were occurring because of this. Women also were allowed to obtain commercial register directly and without a legitimate agent or sponsor to begin the practice of their own businesses in their female headquarters and allow them to open new branches like the businessmen and practicing the works of following the transactions at government departments.

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**Protecting the Right of Litigation**

A budget of SR 7 billion was allocated to the “Project of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to develop the judiciary facility”, and this project is the flagship project in the royal efforts aimed to protect this vital facility, which ensures realizing justice and protects the society’s right to raise grievances and litigation.

The new system establishes a Supreme Court to which the terms of reference of the Supreme Judicial Council are transferred such as monitoring the sound application of the provisions of the Islamic Sharia and the regulations issued by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and reviewing the judgments and decisions issued by the courts of appeal regarding murder and other important issues.

The decision of the King Abdullah to develop the judiciary facility aimed to restore the prestige of the Islamic judiciary and make the Islamic Sharia the main axis in solving any problem faced by Muslims.
In an interview with “Rights”

Khoja: Saudi Media Adopts Human Rights Issues

Interview By Editor-in-Chief: Ahmed Alhout

His Excellency the Minister of Culture and Information, Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Mohiuddin Khoja praised the distinct and unique Saudi media experience in highlighting human rights issues and displaying them, where television or radio programmes, as well as what is published in Saudi daily press, always display TV or radio or press programs or coverages aiming at defining and discussing everything related to human rights issues, explaining that responsible freedom was and is still the characteristic of the Saudi media and this is what is meant by the phrase “There is no ceiling for freedom we collide with, but broad space from which we advance in light of our faith and our values and our heritage”.

And HE Explained that his participation in the electronic media, especially Twitter and Facebook came from the importance of communication with a category represents a large segment of the public – the young people - who make up the vast majority that use social networking sites, stressing that the move made him closer to the young people to know their opinions and suggestions for what the Ministry of Culture and Information presents. And HE revealed a partnership between the Ministry of Culture and Information and Family Safety Program - which is chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Adela Bint Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, in which purposeful awareness content is prepared to tackle the issue of domestic violence through the programs and meetings, whether radio or television, or through a special production of the radio and television serials or educational films.

I am honored and I am one of your students to conduct this interview for “Rights” magazine issued by the Saudi Human Rights Commission in order to highlight humanitarian aspects in the Saudi media and I hope your time will allow conduct this interview.

- Media all over the world have an impact on displaying the human rights issues, by highlighting abuses and solutions, where the Saudi media stands in this side?

At the beginning thank you for your good feelings of wishing you success in your work as editor-in-chief of the magazine “Rights” issued by the Human Rights Commission in the Kingdom, and the answer to your question is that the experience of the Saudi media is distinct and unique in the field of highlighting the human rights issues, and in this regard television or radio programmes, as well as what is published in Saudi daily press, always display TV or radio or press programs or coverages aiming at defining and discussing everything related to human rights issues, including domestic taunting, depriving of marriage issues, inheritance, custody, social security and social services and all that may be thinkable of issues that aim at the end to raise awareness of human rights and issues.
Responsible freedom was and is still a characteristic of Saudi media. And it is based Mainly on the significant contribution by the state owned media, including TV, radio and local press, to every thing related to the efforts of Developmental state. And private and state owned media still address transparently all the topics and issues of concern to the homeland and the citizen, and worked efficiently to fight all advocates and calls for extremism and exclusion and sectarianism that do not benefit the homeland and the citizen but it only creates disagreement between the citizens and destabilizes security of the nation.

The wise methodology which is one of the most important characteristic of the work mechanism of Saudi media is based on responsible freedom distancing itself from anything that would sedition and unrest that are worthless.

As Your Excellency one of the first officials who communicated with the public through social networking online and the number of followers of your tweets became too high.

- How do Your Excellency assess this experience? Has this method been used positively by its users, or you see that the negative side is prevailing?

In light of the great growing of the means of social communication, which became now a urgent to communicate between people and citizens to touch their needs, for that reason my participation in such electronic media, especially Twitter and Facebook, comes from the importance of communication with a category represents a large segment of the audience – the young people - who make up the large majority that use social networking sites, and this service made me closer to the young people to know their opinions and suggestions for what the Ministry of Culture and Information presents and its various activities, which helped me to make decisions that would make their participation in the media sector very effective to promote the media of the Kingdom. There is no doubt that there is a category that misuses the means of social communication, and those who belongs to this category think that as long as they entered into the virtual world, they have the right to insult and curse others, in addition to spread malicious rumors and exaggerating and amplifying it and manipulation of people's fears, thankfully they are few.

To sum it all up there is no problem in communicating via social networking but the problem is the misuse of these means and how some people use them.
As you surely know the work is in the media industry needs to create and develop continuously so as to keep pace with the tremendous development in the electronic media and its devices which witness every day an accelerated and successive development that led to a change in the habits of the people and their ways to get the news and information. And therefore we are always working in the Ministry to review the rules and regulations that relate directly and indirectly to the media work to enable it to catch up with all the new developments in the world around us, and not contrary to, of course, full commitment to what came in the media policy of the kingdom which is based on the tolerant and generous teachings of Sharia. Also, among the main objectives for the establishment of the Radio and Television Commission is to enable it to work professionally in upgrading the programs, its work in a competitive way that will allow it to get a large share of the advertising market in the Kingdom, which is considered the largest Ad market in the Middle East.

Your Excellency was a guest of honor at the Fifth National Meeting of Experts for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, which was organized by the Council of Family Safety Council chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Adela Bint Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz on Tuesday 27/6/1434 AH and the Ministry of Culture and Information was the strategic partner of the Family Safety Council.

What is hoped from the Ministry of Culture and Information for the prevention of domestic violence?

At the beginning I appreciate and value the outstanding efforts of Her Royal Highness Princess Adela Bint Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz regarding human rights issues in general and the issue of domestic violence in particular and Her Highness pays most of her attention to highlighting these issues and solving them. As you mentioned in your question, in the Fifth National Meeting of Experts for the Prevention of Domestic Violence under the auspices of Her Royal Highness an agreement was reached on a partnership between the Ministry of Culture and Information and Family Safety Program from which we will be able to prepare meaningful awareness content that deals with the subject of domestic violence through programs and meetings, whether or radio or television, or through a special production of educational series or films by Radio and Television Corporation that tackle this serious and important subject in the same time. This also requires concerted efforts from everyone to address this phenomenon in our society that ostracized by our religion so as all members of the family in society enjoy safe and decent living free from all forms of violence. After the agreement with the Family Safety Council chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Adela Bint Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, there will be doubled and prompt efforts in the media to highlight the problem of domestic violence and human rights in general, relying in these efforts on the solid base represented by our Islamic values upon which we all grew up which call for compassion, harmony and communication among ourselves as individuals and groups in the society.

To what extent Saudi TV channels are able to compete with other channels in light of the accelerated events and the eagerness to get the scoop?

It must be noted here that the Saudi media is witnessing development that did not come true by chance, and it would not be achieved without the grace of God then the limitless support for media and information sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz - may God protect him - whether moral or physical support so that Saudi media continues to deliver its mission and its message in a way that reflects what Allah Almighty granted this blessed country of honor by making it the place of Divine Revelation and the land of the Two Holy Mosques in Mecca and Medina, which is the starting point for the noble permanent message over the times until the Resurrection, to be a beacon in the East and the West. Because of that and on the basis of this principle and the position of the Kingdom, the media policy was approved more than thirty years ago by the Council of Ministers resolution No. 169 dated 20 / 6 / 1402 AH, which confirmed the commitment of the Saudi media to Islamic teachings and maintaining it in all what comes out of the media, and that it will work hard to avoid anything that contradicts Islamic law in the media. With the media’s commitment to the constants adopted by the media policy of the Kingdom, this media also has kept pace with the social and technical developments of the age based on the belief in the fact that the media work is of creative nature that requires a continuous change and renewal. In the Ministry of Culture and Information, the craving after development and innovation resulted in thankfully granting many TV and radio programs Arab and
other awards, which confirms the high level of the programs. That's why we are trying hard to work in a professional way to upgrade the media work with concerning with getting the scoop and credibility in conveying news and events inside and outside the Kingdom. Observers and viewers of Saudi channels find that there are great efforts in order to attract the viewer and a quantum leap in the transfer of such events. And the decision of the Council of Ministers to establish an independent corporation with legal status for Radio and Television aims mainly to work in a flexible and competitive and professional manner which would inevitably help in the final output in the development of the level of programs and make them able to compete with the vast amount of TV and radio channels available to viewers and listeners.

Your Excellency know that some of the social networking sites such as Youtube, Twitter and Facebook present and show some images of violence that have adverse impact on people who are not adults. Does the Ministry of Culture and Information have solutions to reduce the deployment of such scenes that reinforce violence and instill it in the minds of those who watch them, especially the controls of electronic publishing stipulate that it does not lead to criminality or encouraging it, also the ministry has committees that are concerned with considering violations of electronic publishing.

The Ministry is working hard to reduce publishing these scenes which help reinforcing and instilling violence as you mentioned in your question, and frankly speaking this requires considerable efforts and hard work and coordination with many competent authorities to block or warn the violators. Based on the aforementioned, the Ministry updated regulations for electronic publishing to reduce publishing anything that would encourage or incite violence in its various forms. Also the ministry receives many complaints regarding these violations and making the proper decisions after considering them to reduce the spreading of this phenomenon in our society that is complying with the teachings of our religion which is fighting everything leads to extremism and violence. The Ministry has identified the problems related to publishing on cyberspace (Cyber Space) and issued electronic publishing regulation codifying work in his field, and as you mentioned in your question the controls of electronic publishing stipulate that it does not lead to criminality or encouraging it. As is the case with all laws, there will be some persons who will not comply with and abide by them. And the system and its application is the decisive criterion for the violators. Any way, and based on the saying “Prevention is Better than Cure” the family and the school have an active role in educating young people in avoiding the sites that induce and instill the culture of violence.

What are the latest creative works of our sensitive poet Dr. Abdulaziz bin Mohiuddin Khoja?
Poetry and poet are inseparable as if they were twins, and as long as there is a poet there will be poetry that would arouse his imagination without timing and without permission in constant mobility with no solidity, regardless of daily life concerns. I have issued eleven collections of poetry, the most recently one is “Starting and Ending Journey,” followed by many poems that I may include into the last collection or issue them in a new collection.
Workers’ Rights To Be Known and Applied

Dr. Mansour Abdul Aziz bin Masood,
Work-Related Injuries and Occupational Diseases Specialist

Our Islamic Sharia ensured worker’s rights before advocated by the modern world and international human rights bodies, as Our Prophet Muhammad - peace be upon him – said “Pay the Laborer his Wages Before his Sweat Dries”. Not to mention positive laws that ensured the right of the worker, whether physical right or with regard to his health and safety during the performance of his work, and these rights are obligatory on employers throughout the year. Also the laws enacted some changes in line with the climatic as well as religious conditions, such as the summer months, where the temperatures are high, i.e., changing the period of work and reducing working hours and preventing work in specific hours as we will see in this report.

World Statistics
We start with reviewing statistics that show the problem and its size in abstaining from giving workers their rights or neglecting these rights either by them or by their employers. Statistics of the World Health Organization (WHO Fact sheet) and statistics of the American International Employment and Labour Law represented by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have shown that approximately one million and one tenth of million persons in the world die due to occupational injuries and diseases in its various forms and causes, the statistics also showed that approximately 160 million cases are recorded annually as occupational injury and some of them are likely to lead to death or disability of the injured person, whether this is total or partial disability.

Risks that Threaten the Lives of Workers
Hundreds of millions of workers in all industrialized countries and developing countries are vulnerable to many physical, chemical and biological factors in the workplace, which endanger their lives. Worker usually spends at least 8 hours of continuous or non-continuous of work in workplace surrounded by the aforementioned risks that could affect his health and can be summarized here as follows:
- Physical factors: such as noise, radiation, temperature and climate such as heat and cold and moisture and other such factors.
- Chemical factors: where there are a lot of chemicals to which workers are permanently exposed and which are surrounded by many of the real risks that endanger public health and the health of the worker himself and among the most important dangers they offer Factor for cancer as well as their impact on the skin and organs Other vital, such as respiratory, brain and nerves. The studies prepared by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have shown that more than 2336 chemical substances classified as a hazardous substances and caution must be taken when handling these substances and of these substances 350 substances proven to cause cancer.
- Biological factors such as viruses and microbes that may exist in some health occupations and crafts and agricultural occupations as well as dusts and fumes rising from some industrial work environments such as silicosis or asbestosis and coal and also the substances the are existing in the...
agricultural work environment, such as cotton cultivation (byssinosis) which is one of the most important causes of chronic respiratory diseases and cancer.

**Worker’s Rights in the “Labor Law”**

We all know and recognize the right of the worker to know all the risks that surround his workplace and how to avoid them, but the question here is: Are all employers apply this right and give it to the worker?

Let’s start with Resolution No. 1559 /1 of the Ministry of Labour and discuss the reason behind it and its dimensions, with respect to change of working hours at the times in which temperature increase in the summer with respect to natural and physical hazards. With the start of summer temperature sometimes reach to 47 degrees at nine o’clock in the morning however, you find the construction workers from all nationalities diligent in their work. Apart from addressing the articles of the “Labor Law” upon which the decision and was made and their dates, I would like to touch on its six clauses, where the resolution stipulates in its first basic clause that it is not allowed to employ workers under sun beams from twelve o’clock noon to three o’clock in the evening, and specified a period of the year July to the end of August of each year. And in Clause II, the resolution urged the employer to adhere to schedule and organize previous periods, and in Clause III excluded those who are working in oil and gas companies and did not leave the exception open, but stipulated the provision of the necessary measures to protect them from the sun. In Clause IV explained the application of penalties on violators according to the Labor Law to denote the importance and strictness of applying the Resolution, and shows that the subject is not up to the personal wishes of employers. In Clauses V and VI, the Resolution urges the implementation and follow-up of the Resolution as soon as possible by the competent agency in the ministry. The Resolution is in effect years ago. It is a wise resolution that involves health, practical, economic and humanitarian dimensions, since the specified hours are highest in temperature during the daytime, also the specified period of the year is the warmest months where the sun approaches the earth the heat reflected by the land increase.

**Bad climate affects the productivity of the workers**

In terms of scientific and medical aspect, the worker who works under these conditions is less active and focused and productive, as most of the involuntary organs of his body are busy dealing with the external environment and reducing the temperature and thus consume the activity and energy of the body for this purpose, while the voluntary organs focus its activities on reducing effort and convincing the body and trying to take a break and drink liquids and the search for cold weather even if forced to stop work for long hours or minutes and this is natural reaction and is required to protect the body from sunstroke, and the real working hours rate becomes much less than required, which is reflected on productivity.

**The Kingdom is interested in creating a healthy work environment**

In terms of humanitarian aspects, the Kingdom took upon itself, represented by the Ministry of Labour and officials of occupational health and safety, upgrading the workplace and creating a work environment suitable for everyone, particularly those who are working in difficult environmental conditions without distinction between the workers and the nature of their positions, whether they perform clerical or field work, and their main concern is to upgrade the workplace wherever it is, and through this they are investing in this labor force, putting the health of the individual worker in mind because he is the real power that upon which any economic developmental growth is built.
Even when the Resolution excludes oil and gas sector which is considered the main nerve of the country’s economy, it did not leave this exception open to the desire of employers but stipulated provision of protection for workers from sunstroke whatever the cost of this protection is.

The implementation of this resolution aims to protect the worker’s health and upgrade the environment of the workplace which ensures the economic benefit of the company which in turn leads to the public good, and the necessary measures have been developed to apply it. Let’s go back and talk about the general laws during the year and the terms of the worker and the workplace. There are rights for the worker and the Labor Law obliged the employer to put them in effect and special and clear clauses were contained in a all labor laws wheather from the International Labor Organization (ILO) or regional and international organizations and labor ministries. Based on the aforementioned it is clear that the worker has the absolute right to know what risks that surround him in workplace, and also it is clear that it is the duty of the employer to clarify and shows these risks and should try to reduce them, and follow and apply the laws and legislations that govern them. All laws and legislations of International Labor Organization (ILO) and local laws of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour And Social Affairs as well as legislations of General Organization of Social Insurance based on labor law of the Ministry of Labour agreed on the absolute right of the worker, and urged employers and workers themselves to try to reduce these risks and apply health and safety programs that limit these risks, and enacted laws and regulations that guarantee this right of the worker (WORKER’S RIGHT TO KNOW) and also put illustrative bulletins on the hazardous chemicals containing all the data to be known about the material used (Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)) and all their physical and chemical properties and their potential risks and ways to avoid and prevent them, including the means of security and safety to be used when using thes materials.

The Worker’s rights and responsibilities

This gave all categories of workers many rights and responsibilities that must be adhered to so as to reduce the risks that surround them in the work environment and among these rights and responsibilities:

- Reviewing laws and regulations and environmental measurements and requirements to be known about the workplace and that should be provided by the employer and requested in the case of not being available, and should be adequate for all potential health risks and methods of its security, safety and prevention and the sound reaction in the event of exposure to these risks.

- Requesting all preventive precautions including means of security and safety, which are required for work and determined by the quality of materials used and the factors surrounding workplace.

- Requesting examination, exploration and investigation from the competent authorities whether in the plant or relevant government agencies when in doubt the existence of risk factors on the worker’s health, whether chemical or physical or biological factors and granting him or his representative the right to access to the results of these tests and measurements and comparing them with world standards.

- Requesting Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) of the chemicals to which the worker is and which should be present in the workplace presence, and these awareness bulletins are originally prepared by manufacturers of chemicals according to the recommendations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and attached when they distribute such materials to factories.

- Introducing intensive and written dangers program in the factories (Protocol) and training programs that educate workers on all the risks and materials to which they are exposed in the work environment, the program should be directed to each new worker or a new substance added to the work environment, and the training must contain a full explanation and maximum concentration permitted for exposure and place of use, knowing that that worker who works directly with such substance gets special and additional training on the risks and how to avoid them.

The worker who works in a bad environment is less productive which is reflected on the overall output.

The Kingdom took upon itself creating proper workplace that preserves the rights of the worker.
Consumer Rights and Applications of His Protection in Islam

If the western positive legislator did not include a protection for the consumer in his positive laws until after 1945, the formulation of consumer rights in Islam has been done in the age of the Prophet Muhammad - peace be upon him.

So, the failure of most contemporary Islamic systems in rooting consumer rights and applications of his protection does not represent the real interest for Islamic Thought. Islam has identified the rights enjoyed by the individual in the Islamic state clearly, as its foundations are founded in the Quran and the Sunnah, then jurists assumed the responsibility of clarifying it and determining its scope.

There is the right of God and there is the right person, and it was said: the right is divided into general right and special right, and they gave example of the foregoing by: the right of retribution, the right to property, the right of preemption, the right of choice, and from these divisions it is clear how Islamic thought pays attention to individual rights, including rights relating to its consumption, especially that Islamic thought has singled out for the consumer within what the jurists call (rights of other people) rights that fall within the in rem financial rights. The meaning of the term “consumer” expands to be designated to the person who gets the basic requirements or luxury to meet his personal and family needs. This is because the consumption process focuses on direct humanitarian handling of goods and services to satisfy human desires and needs and, therefore, economists considered consumption the ultimate goal of economic activity.

The consumption in Islam is not just a target for satisfying instincts and meeting humanitarian needs, but it is an act of worship and a kind of obedience, and it is a natural life habituation, and a way leading to the satisfaction of God, provided the sincerity and good faith and pursuing the legitimate gaining and the consumption of good things and piety to worship Allah and then the fruitful work for the benefit of the Muslim community.

Allah says “O you who have believed, eat from the good things which We have provided for you and be grateful to Allah if it is [indeed] Him that you worship”. And it is said that evoking faith in consumption turns it from a habit and instinctive demand to worship for which the person is rewarded.

The most important rights of consumer in Islam are his right of individual private ownership, his disciplined freedom, providing a sufficiency limit for him, his right of choice, his right of social security, providing a system for monitoring the markets, pushing back causes of the damage and the right to obtain sufficient information.

Possession is an innate instinct of man and a right of the consumer from this perspective, however, is not absolute right, as Islam advocates the principle of possessing, and puts restrictions and rules to ensure that possessing is not based on injustice or exploitation or causing harm to others, it is restricted by good things and permissible.

The consuming freedom is a right of consumer, provided that it is disciplined by compliance with the legitimate controls (Shariah) in earning money and spending, as freedom of dealings in Islam is restricted, and contracts are not valid until they are subject to legitimate conditions.

And the provision of the sufficiency limit is a right of the consumer, so that his appearance is preserved by dress and adornment, and to have a proper housing and good means of transportation and to obtain the good things and drinks, Allah Almighty says “And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference”, Isra / 70.

Consumer has in the buying and selling transactions the right of choice option in its different forms: the option of the condition, the option of appointment, the option of vision, the option of defect, the option of the seat, the option of injustice, the option of fraud and the details of these types can be found within a contemporary search documented by Dr. Yousef Marsafy, and his research titled (Options in contracts in Islamic jurisprudence).

One of the signs of tolerance and easiness of Islam is its endorsement of the right of option, for the sake of lifting the embarrassment and making it easier for the people, and avoiding what could cause damage to one of the contractors in the case of the necessity of the contract, and this is the reason and the wisdom of option legislations in Islam.
Perhaps the Observer of the issue over recent years could find some examples of some companies and institutions’ inflexibility towards the right of Muslim workers to practice their religious rituals and perform their prayers, whether through understanding their timings or the provision of appropriate working environment such as adjusting the work schedule.

On the other hand, there are a lot both at the level of persons or institutions that proceeded to support Muslim employees and give them full rights.

Report by Abu Zeid Abdel-Fattah

Respecting the rights of Muslims in non-Muslim countries vary from one country to another, and may vary from one company to another, according to the understanding of these institutions and companies of the nature of the religious rituals as a right of rights guaranteed by international conventions and international laws issued by the United Nations and international institutions.
Moreover, some companies have changed work schedules to conform with the Fasters times and provided fast breaking (Iftar) meals for them if they were working during the fast breaking (Iftar) time as an expression of respect for the religious rights of their employees.

Some of the civil society organizations and interested parties in human rights, especially those with strong relationships with Muslims in those countries, have contributed to increase awareness among some Western societies in this regard. The Islamic Networks Group (ING) that is concerned with civil and religious rights published a definition of the month of Ramadan, noting that Muslims are working in this month normally and do not stop working, but the only difference is the change of meals times that are after sunset, calling on companies and public and private institutions, and even individual workers, to understand this change and respect their right to work during the rest time (at noon) and moving their rest time to be after sunset so that they can have their fast breaking (Iftar) meal if the work continued until the evening.

The organization also noted that the fasting worker may need to change the working period during this month, requesting his bosses and his colleagues at work to understand this, referring to the possibility of cancelling the rest time at noon in and going out from work early.

These institutions not only clarified the rights of the fasting worker, but also showed that if the fasting person was sick or if the fasting woman is pregnant or fostering and could not fast, he/she has a license not to fast in this case according to Islamic law, pointing out that some Muslims prefer to continue fasting. They demanded good planning by everyone for this holy month, so that the fasting person gets his rights, and at the same time the work is not affected negatively, and everyone gets his rights in an interchangeable manner.

**The Right to Practice Religious Rituals**

In the United States, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) dealt with many companies that detracted from the rights of Muslim workers in the month of Ramadan, whether regarding changing time rest or meals or shift schedule.

Perhaps the most prominent issue was almost two years ago when the Council on American-Islamic Relations invited the Swedish company “Electrolux” to ensure respecting the rights of its Muslim workers in Ramadan after the company banned eating in the areas of production, which means depriving fasting workers from eating any meals.

Muslim workers filed a lawsuit against the company based on Section VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Minnesota’s Human Rights Act that prohibited discrimination by employers against individuals on the basis of their religion.

The law also obliges employers to have a “reasonable” room for the religious practices of their employees or prospective employees.

Indeed, “Electrolux” had other precedent in dealing with its Muslim workers’ rights unfairly, where in 2013 the company prevented more than 150 Muslim workers from performing their prayers during the work, which was considered by the institutions defending religious rights a discrimination against those workers. But the company withdrew its decision and allowed them to pray.

**France**

In 2012, some human rights and anti-discrimination organizations expressed their deep regret after some French companies expelled some Muslim workers for fasting the holy month of Ramadan in this year. These organizations emphasized the freedom of practicing religious rituals and disseminating the noble values of Islam and preventing the practices which represent severe discrimination racism against Islam and Muslims in Europe. They pointed out that what was done by these companies represents a flagrant violation of international customs and covenants on human rights, which emphasizes freedom of expression, belief and the right of every individual to practice his religious rituals and worships in complete freedom.
Britain
The British newspaper “Independent” published an investigation on its website in 2010 under the title “Ramadan and me: A month in the life of British Muslims”, in which it talked about the customs and traditions of British Muslims in the holy month of Ramadan, saying: “Some Muslim workers face fasting difficulties in some non-Muslim countries in which the working hours remain unchanged in the holy month of Ramadan without respecting the long hours of fasting for Muslims.

Positive Models
But on the other side, there are a lot of official bodies, institutions, companies and individuals who deal with the rights of fasting person with great deal of respect and a spirit of cooperation. There are many examples that revealed clear understanding by many communities for the values of fasting and the Muslim worker’s rights in the holy month of Ramadan. Two years ago, specifically in 2012, “Johnvelier” municipality located in the French capital Paris, cancelled a decision to suspend 4 Muslim workers from work because of abstaining from eating and drinking with children during the month of Ramadan. In Britain, special preparations have been made for the reception of Muslim athletes participating in the Olympic Games events which coincided with the month of Ramadan in 2012. It also announced at that time for the provision of special services for Muslims such as and fast breaking meals and private rooms for prayers in hotels, as well as in gaming venues. In the United States, and specifically in 2005, the police chief of the U.S. city of San Jose, Rob Davis, decided to fast the whole month of Ramadan in an attempt to understand Islam and Muslims who increase rapidly in his city. The “San Jose” newspaper in 2005 reported the policeman Rob Davies as saying that he wanted to recognize the Muslim community, pointing out that his relationship with fasting began after a speech he delivered in front of 7000 Muslims in Ramadan 2003 and noticed at that time that they have spent a long time without eating or drinking unlike him as he did not feel hungry. Then decided to try “understanding the exact things of this religion, through joining them in their fasting”. This is what caused him to fast the whole month of Ramadan of that year. “Everyone should be aware that the Police Chief is serving all people and not just the majority, nor those in power, and I need to be a police chief for all to serve them especially those who feel marginalized”, said Davis (47 years). Davis read about Islam and visited Muslim mosques and was invited to deliver a speech.

San Jose Police Chief in USA decided to fast the whole month of Ramadan to try to understand Islam
An American company prohibits fasting workers from fastbreaking in production areas
at lesser Bairam (Eid al-Fitr), which are considered stimuli that made him fast this month, and stated that his fast will not affect the working hours of up to 72 hours a week, but said that they will affect him inevitably in his lead of administration which includes 1400 policemen in the city that comes in the eleventh rank among largest cities of the United States, an he confirmed that it he found that fasting helps him focus.

In France, the court postponed, in 2008, looking at one of the theft issues with respect to the month of Ramadan, because the defendant was fasting. The court responded to the request of the defense who pointed out the “fatigue” of their client as a result of fasting, according to the French newspaper “Le Figaro”.

Jurisprudential Opinion of Sheikh Abdullah bin Beah

In conclusion, the Vice President of the International Union for Muslim Scholars and a member of jurisprudential academies Dr. Abdullah bin Beah addressed the issue of Muslim employees who fast in the Western countries, saying: “I do not think that there is a body in the West that lies in wait for people to check whether they are fasting or not, as they do not care about if the people ate or drank, hence if the Muslims fasted they would not be exposed to harm”.

“The fast breaking of Muslims in the Western states issue was discussed at the European Council for Fatwa and Research, and the length of the day in Western countries, which could be up to twenty hours in some Scandinavian countries, was also discussed and the conclusion reached was that there is a major need for not fasting such as the fasting prevents the workers from doing his work which is the only source of his livelihood so he may not fast provided making up for the missed days of fasting”, Bin Beah explained.

Bin Beah pointed out that in the case of forcing employees break their fasting by their employers, it is better for the workers to search for another source of income, except in one case when they fear for himself and his family from destruction, by then they can break their fasting, but they have to look for another job in order to preserve the performance of the fourth pillar of Islam.
Highlights on the Standing Committee on Combating Trafficking in Persons

The formation of the Standing Committee on Combating Trafficking in Persons came under the generous guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz aiming to protect human rights in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic Sharia and applicable regulations in the Kingdom and in implementation of the Royal Order No. 30 497 / b dated 7/22/1430 H that entrusted the Commission with the task of preparing the national plan to combat trafficking in persons and developing a policy that urges active search for victims and training of personnel on means of identifying victims and combating these crimes and cooperation with the concerned authorities in this regard.
The Attention of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

Human rights are of major importance to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz and His Majesty pays great attention to this aspect in the state plans and its developmental programs which are based on raising the level of human living and securing the human rights.

The Regulations are derived from Sharia

Because the Kingdom recognizes, by virtue of its constituent membership in the international community, the seriousness of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings which is prohibited by the Islamic law and international laws and regulations, it devoted special regulations, derived from provisions of the honorable Sharia that keeps the human dignity and stature, to combating this phenomenon.

Ministerial Decree

Council of Ministers issued Resolution No. 244 dated 10/7/1430 H approving the formation of a permanent committee to combat trafficking in persons crimes in Human Rights Commission in consolidation of efforts in policy-making and the development of mechanisms that contribute to the coordination of the work of the concerned parties, pointing out that the committee consists of representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Human Rights Commission.

Bajaber: The Committee protects and assists victims of trafficking in persons

For his part, Secretary General of the Standing Committee on Combating Trafficking in Persons Badr bin Salim Bajaber confirmed that the Committee aims to prevent and combat the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, which has become one of the international phenomena which represents a flagrant violation of human dignity, and working to monitor the situation of the victims and providing them with the protection and assistance they need. He pointed out that the Committee contributes to the prevention and combating the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, which have become international phenomena which represents a flagrant violation of the human dignity, and working to follow-up the situation of the victims and providing them with the protection and assistance they need.

Bajaber explained that the Kingdom recognizes, by virtue of its constituent membership in the international community, the seriousness of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings which is prohibited by the Islamic law and international laws and regulations, it devoted special regulations, derived from provisions of the honorable Sharia that keeps the human dignity and stature, to combating this phenomenon.

He noted that the Council of Ministers issued Resolution No. 244 dated 10/7/1430 H approving the formation of a permanent committee to combat trafficking in persons crimes in Human Rights Commission in consolidation of efforts in policy-making and the development of mechanisms that contribute to the coordination of the work of the concerned parties, pointing out that the committee consists of representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Human Rights Commission.

Bajaber expressed his great thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and the Second Deputy Premier for the precious confidence in appointing him as Secretary-General of the Standing Committee on combating Trafficking In Persons that is affiliated to the Human Rights Commission, saying: “I pray to Allah to help me performing the duties of this function and achieve the aspirations of the rulers”, and extended his thanks and appreciation to Dr. Bandar Al-Aiban, President of the Human Rights Commission for nominating him for the post.

Committee Members

The Committee consists of representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Human Rights Commission.
Acceding to International Conventions

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pays great attention to acceding to many international charters that frame the protection and promotion of human rights in all aspects of life at various stages of human life, and monitors several laws and systems that make up an organizational tributary to protect these rights in the context of the basic system of governance and under the umbrella of the honorable Islamic Sharia. The Kingdom took the initiative to accede to many international instruments and conventions, such as the Convention against Torture, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other conventions, the most recently Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The Kingdom also joined the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, as being the most vulnerable to trafficking and the most in need of protection and care.

Spreading the Culture of Human Rights

The culture of human rights is no longer a kind of luxury or publishing it limited to one party without another, but it has become rights became a life, social and cultural necessity and a civilizational feature of communities as well as a religious duty the on which the purposes of Islamic law are based and for which all heavenly religions called.

Then the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques approved the program of spreading the culture of human rights, which undoubtedly contributes to raising awareness of these rights, while the Commission is moving forward in the implementation of this program in partnership with government agencies and NGOs, through awareness and education programs that have been launched through the media and mosques and lectures and seminars in all regions of the kingdom, with taking advantage of cyberspace to reach the greatest beneficiaries, by working on the preparation of researches, information and mass media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent trafficking in persons as well as coordination with state agencies with respect to information and statistics relating to crimes of trafficking in persons.

The Kingdom started paying attention to preserve and care for human rights at both national and international levels early as this is considered a religious and national duty based on its commitment to the teachings and principles of the Islamic Shariah that ensured all these rights, and Islam has laid down the principles of human rights in its clearest picture and widest scope, and emphasized the human dignity without discrimination.
Human Rights Commission Registers 32 Cases of Trafficking in Persons

Within the framework of the efforts of the Human Rights Commission and its committees in the dissemination of culture of human rights and the combating human rights violations, the “Standing Committee on Combating Trafficking in Person” managed in observing 32 cases during the past two years, indicating that the most prominent images of trafficking in person are in prostitution and begging.

More than one million children are sexually exploited every year in the world.

80% of people who are trafficked and transported annually are women.

The Secretary-General of the “Standing Committee on combating Trafficking in Persons” Badr Bajaber that the Committee will monitor the cases of trafficking in persons and counting them in a precise manner, because some courts classify trafficking in persons cases under other categories not under anti-trafficking system. He also confirmed that there are about 32 cases of trafficking in persons in Saudi Arabia during the past two years.

Bajaber explained to Al-Hayat newspaper that 50 people were victims of those cases, in addition to other persons accused by the Bureau of Investigation and Prosecution, and in case it the charges are proved they will be convicted and transferred to the courts. He pointed out that combating trafficking in persons system in Saudi Arabia was unequaled in finding images that did not exist in other international systems, such as the removal of organs and medical experiments and begging.

The “trafficking in persons” crime is defined as exploitation of man, through the threat or blackmail and exploiting the conditions of the targeted person, to make profits through prostitution or forced labor or organ transplants. And this crime is classified in the organizations and bodies of the United Nations under the human rights crimes.

World statistics of Trafficking in Persons

The estimated number of victims of trafficking in human beings in the world, according to “Report of the U.S. Department of State on Trafficking in Persons” published on the fourth of June 2008 on the site of the Ministry", who are transported across the border by 800 thousand people per year. And according to the same report, more than one million children are sexually exploited every year in the world, and about 80% of people who are trafficked each year are women and more than 70% of these women work are in the sex trade and 30% of them are victims of forced labor.

161 Countries have Trafficking in Persons Crimes

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the countries concerned with trafficking in persons are 161 countries, from which 127 countries are classified as a country of origin for this crime and 98 countries are classified as a transit country and 137 countries are classified as a final destination, (some countries are considered country of origin and transit country and country of destination). And according to ILO statistics, the value of profitability from the crime of trafficking in persons is estimated at more than $ 30 billion annually.
American Expert Commends the Culture and the Development of Saudi Women

Ann Doyle - American expert specializing in female leadership activities, and a local political activist in Auburn Hills, Missouri – said she was dizzled by the progress and development of Saudi women, after talking to a large number of them and noted their development and their interest in local and global issues as well as science and technology, during her visit to the University of Prince Mohammed, where she spent a long time in the women's campus.

Ann Doyle published her impressions in an article in the American “Forbes” magazine specialized in business men and women, under the title: “Behind Black Robes, Hijabs And Niqabs, Saudi Women Are Dreaming Big”, and she wrote: “If you think “Saudi feminist” is an oxymoron, come with me behind the walls of the female side of the campus of Prince Mohammad University (PMU)”. And she described the university as a new, private, co-ed center of higher education in Saudi Arabia’s Eastern Province.

Doyle described the ten days she spent in the Kingdom as ‘incredible’, indicating that she traveled there to give lectures on “Modern Woman: in America and Saudi Arabia”, where her visit to Saudi Arabia sponsored by Saudi Cancer Foundation.

Doyle was wearing the Saudi abaya (robe) during her presence in the university among female students in respect for and in line with the culture of the kingdom, and said: “Everywhere I went, I was greeted with great warmth, respect and a hunger for cross-culture discussion and stories”. The American expert in her article attributed this cultural shift taking place in Saudi society to several factors such as: Two-thirds of the Saudi population is under 30, the government has built 30 new universities in the last decade, in one generation the kingdom has gone from one of the highest illiteracy rates (60%) in the world to one of the highest literacy (96%) rates, since 2005, an average of 100,000 Saudis a year, including women, have been studying abroad, primarily at U.S. universities. Tuition and expenses paid by King Abdullah’s Scholarship Program. And Doyle pointed out that surveys shown that Saudis are some of the largest users of the Internet. Arabic is the fastest growing language on Twitter. Saudis watch more than 90 million videos daily on YouTube –the largest national viewership in the world.
The American expert praised the decision of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz stipulating the naming of thirty women to the Shura Council, and described this as another phenomenal and historical step. She told about examples of Saudi girls with whom she met, including PMU Student Council leaders who told her about their election campaigns, Nouf, who wants to be Saudi's first female astronaut, Retal, who plans to be part of the first generation of female lawyers to practice law in their courts, Hawra who writes a blog in English to share the voice of a young Saudi female with anyone who is listening, Laila Bukhari, a Technical Account Manager for Saudi Oil & Gas enterprises, and Budoor Ashadawi, who recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for the Saudi Cancer Foundation.

**Women in the Era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques**

The era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, is considered the era of the achievements for Saudi woman, whether on a personal level by meeting her, or on a career level and assuming leadership positions, most recently granting her membership of the Shura Council and candidacy and the right to vote in the municipal council, it also marked the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - may God protect him. – Also, the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud is characterized with renaissance in education in general and women’s education in particular, as his majesty paid her his attention and cared of her education and founded the modern facilities that meet the needs of the times and support the new technologies in education, based on his belief in women’s capacity and their ability to contribute to the support the nation’s match and become an influential member of any position occupied by them. This renaissance is reflected in the establishment of the University of Princess Nora Bint Abdul Rahman, and the launching of University Students City at King Saud University. We review some of the stories of the successes achieved by Saudi women to be a significant sign and a beacon for this great achievement. For example, in the area of the Shura, a decision recently was issued leading to increase the number of part-time female counselors in the Shura Council from six members to 12 members, Dr. Arwa bint Yusuf Al-Aamh was appointed an assistant to the Secretary of the Jeddah for Information Technology which is considered a great leap, and in the attorneyship field the first class specializing in law was recently graduated from the Faculty of Law and Political Science at King Saud University. Also the state has recently executed many newly procedures that would support women socially and also would support female business sector, including the approval of the Ministry of Labour to establish a special unit for national organization for girls joint training like the boys’ unit and supervised by qualified female staff, as well as the directions of Minister of Commerce and Industry to simplify procedures for the establishment of companies, institutions and activities of Saudi businesswomen to increase employment opportunities for Saudi women according to legal controls.

In the area of scientific research the, achievements of Saudi female researchers in various fields of science continued, including the invention of a new treatment discovered by Dr. Hiam Bint Ibrahim Alham, from King Saud University, with the support of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, for cases of pre-eclampsia in pregnant women, as well as the inventions of Dr. Ahlam Ahmad Al-Awadi, associate professor in microbiology at the College of Education for Girls in Jeddah. In addition, Prof. Intisar Saleim AlSuhaibani, from Faculty of Science, King Saud University, has won two international awards for her scientific achievement "Sister chromatids Exchanges Dyer", as well as Dr. Mashall Mohammad Al Saud, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, King Saud University, the first Saudi professor specializing in applied geomorphology, including the latest technologies in geodesy, who recorded her named as the first Saudi woman working at the Institute of Space Research and Remote Sensing of the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology in Riyadh.

Ms. Lubna Ghalayini is the first Saudi woman to get the licenses approved by the United States for the certification of educational and family counseling for women and men in the Middle East.

**External Scholarship**

In the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah the door of external scholarship for higher education opened extensively for women, and many women raised the name of the Kingdom high abroad in scientific research such as Dr. Hayaa Cindy who is the first Arab woman to receive a doctorate in biotechnology from Cambridge University, and Professor Faten Khurshid, Department of Biology in the Faculty of Science and supervisor of cell transplant unit at King Fahd Center for Medical Research at King Abdulaziz University and her researches in the fight against cancer. Also the Saudi physics scientist Ibtism Badharis, who participated in the first experiment of its kind in the world which is a big explosion resulting from power specific collision at European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), and physician Nora Ahmad Rashad that saved millions of people with diabetics from amputation due to gangrene, as well as the treatment of problems the protection of the bowel resection and she is currently working in San Natwa Hospital in Italy.

**Young Innovators**

The ten years old child Rada Ibrahim Khulaifi was classified as the youngest Saudi author and inventor, as she wrote "Who I am" book, and also received a certificate of the youngest participant in the fifth forum of the Swiss Association of Inventors (IVFA). Also 21 Saudi young female inventors were nominated for the contest the most beautiful "Educational Robot" by The King Abdulaziz and His Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity in the light of the summer program launched by the Foundation in the College of Computer and Information Sciences at the University of Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University. It is worth mentioning the initiative of Princess Nora Bint Abdulrahman University, which is going to launch the first union of female students, as a beginning of the democratic era in the history of the university, as announced by Princess Aljawhara Bint Fahad Al Saud, the University Director, stressing on granting students the right to participate in making decisions of the university, through 150 students representing student councils.

In the field of science and knowledge the student Byan Mohammed Mushat won the first place globally in the field of the invention after she has invented a tool that measures the ability of children to use the Web and search engines, and she got the first prize in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Also, we have to remember the achievement of the 12 years old Rowan Mousa Juhani who made the largest mental map of the world on an area of about 1800 square meters. And in the field of horsemanship, Saudi women won numerous international awards. Furthermore, the first sports women company was allowed and established for supporting sports activities. This is in addition to what has been achieved for women in the field of freedom of writing in newspapers and articles that serve the development process and support the wheel of development significantly. Here is Dr. Badria AlBeshr who won the best columnist prize in Arab Journalism Award for the year 2012.
The Human Dimension in the Extension of the Deadline of illegal Workers

The approval of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to extend the deadline of correcting the status of the illegal workers who are in violation of the residency system in the Kingdom, came to give another opportunity to the beneficiaries of this matter, in a humanitarian gesture you rarely find it in another country. Although the huge numbers have revealed the size of the violation, but that did not make the wise and compassionate leadership press in the direction deporting those violators, but allocated its competent authorities to work day and night to overcome the obstacles, and give them the opportunity to correct their situation, though the opportunities were available before. And when the competent authorities at the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Labour saw those huge numbers who want to take advantage of the respite period which is about to run out, they initiated and raised reports to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to consider the extension of the respite which is about to run out. So, the noble guidance promulgated to extend the deadline to the end of the year 1434 H.

All states enforce immigration, residency and work laws strictly, without regard to the negative effects on offenders, and without exception for any one whatever his circumstances, on the grounds that he is violator and must be punished. But Saudi Arabia, the kingdom of humanity, set an inimitable example which can not be followed by any other country. The wise leadership considered the damage that will be attached to these offenders, and noted the huge crowds around competent government offices and concerned embassies, and the desire to stay in this good country lawfully, so the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques made this humanitarian decision to be added to noble positions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I have no doubt that these workers have found the opportunity to work, otherwise we have not seen these thousands of expatriates flock since the early morning hours around government offices, to be able to correct their situation, and to ensure their survival in the Kingdom.

The decision to extend the deadline of correcting status of the expatriates involves human dimension by which the country of the two Holy Mosques characterized rather than other countries.
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