UN and KSA ...
A heritage of Historical Attitudes and Cooperation
in the Field of Human Rights

Al- Aiban: Protecting and Enhancing Human Rights is a
Strategic Choice
Justice is the Basis of Human Rights

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

“Is any of our subjects to feel oppressed or suffer an injustice, they should send their complaint via free mail or telegram and we are to afford the expenses. On the other hand competent employees shall accept such complaints even if they are addressed against members of the royal family (my sons and grandsons).

Let it be known to any officer who attempts to dissuade any of our subjects from submitting their complaints or influences them to memorandum in a milder tone, will receive severe punishment. I am not willing to hear about any oppressed or wronged. I am not willing as well to be held guilty before Allah because any of my subjects suffered injustice or because I did not support the wronged or help them get their rights”.

“O Allah, I have delivered the message, may Thou be my witness”.
Fighting Terrorism

Recently, the whole world has been complaining against the increasing phenomenon of systematic terrorism. Systematic terrorism is actually the ultimate result of wars and unrest taking place in neighboring countries. Such circumstances had made it easy for terrorism to become deeply inherent in these societies. Unfortunately, it takes advantage of the extreme beliefs which are prohibited and even criminalized by our peaceful Islamic faith. Terrorism manipulates youth and makes use of their passion and good intentions. Hence it pushes them into the hell of violence and conflict where it is difficult to distinguish between truth and falsehood.

Being part of this world, Saudi Arabia has suffered violence and terrorism as well. Terrorism has become a global phenomenon taking various forms. It extended to several countries all over the world. It is a destructive germ that acknowledges no home, religion, race, place or even epoch. Yet, great countries like Saudi Arabia managed by means of its strong faith, and the collaboration of its people and leadership to eradicate terrorists. Thanks to the determination of the political leadership and the state policy that is supported by the people’s will regardless of their different classes, which are all based on Shari’a and Prophet Mohammad’s(PBUH) teachings, these astray terrorist ideologies totally fell apart.

Terrorism; however, usurps the most important of human rights which is leading a safe life. Thus, Saudi Arabia emphasizes its complete rejection and conviction for terrorism in its various forms. It showed its willingness to participate effectively in the international efforts exerted against terrorism and its funding. It acknowledges its commitment to carrying out all international decisions issued by the Security Council concerning fighting terrorism. It has taken part in different regional and international assemblies that tackle fighting and criminalizing terrorist acts or whatever supports it. Thus, it acts according to Islamic Shari’a which is the cornerstone of its constitution and system.

On the local level, Saudi Arabia has enhanced its superintendence over borders, made legislations, regulations and decisions that consolidate safety for whoever lives on this kind land. The most recent of these was criminalizing travelling to war areas to participate in the ongoing wars there. Saudi Arabia has also tried hard to highlight fanatic terrorist groups in order to distinguish good from evil and enlighten our youth who might be deceived by sweet talk and become an easy prey for those who know nothing about humanity, or the importance of safety. The wise leadership has allowed the chance for those who are willing to come home and depart from war areas. It facilitated their return. The royal decree no. A\44 was issued on 2\4\1425 A.H., according to which whoever participates in any form of fighting abroad, or is a member of any fanatic religious or ideological group that are labeled as local or international terrorist organizations shall be sentenced to jail for a term that is not less than three years and does not exceed 20 years. The same sentence is to be applied to whoever supports or adopts ideologies pertaining to these groups, whether financially or by promoting these ideologies orally or in written form. The decree was followed by a firm statement issued by the ministry of interior affairs declaring the names of all terrorist organizations, movements or groups so that every sensible human should avoid them.

Internationally, meanwhile, the Saudi Kingdom pioneered supporting and encouraging the international society to fight terrorism that has deprived humans from their right in a safe life. It has recently donated 100 000000 USD to the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre. Moreover, it was the first country to sign the Counter-Terrorism Treaty issued by Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Safar 1421 AH. – May 2000 AD.

Truly, terrorism is the ultimate enemy of human rights.
This is the Fourth Issue of “Rights” magazine in English. It contains a translation of the most important topics and contents tackled by the Arabic version of the magazine.

Our Vision: We want to be pioneers in offering complete solutions in specialized media in the Arab world.

Our Mission: We are the first agency of specialized media in the Arab World that seeks a pioneering status in the Arab world. We offer complete solutions and distinguished media products that are highly professional and credible as it fulfills all the requirements of our clients and make them satisfied as we surpass their expectations.

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Protect me from violence.
Put your hand away Tamim. Do not beat Bassam! Why are you that violent? You are friends!
Similar to previous issues, this issue of Rights has maintained diverse journalistic forms including news, reports, surveys, articles, researches and interviews. We have considered the humane and civil aspects within the content whether locally or internationally. Moreover, this issue tackles the effective Gulf partnership in supporting common human issues.

Meanwhile, international events and national occasions were not omitted. The issue covers International Women’s Day and the great achievements fulfilled by Saudi women locally and abroad. Had it not been for the continuous support of Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, none of these would have taken place.

The issue highlights the great efforts that have been exerted by the Kingdom over several years to support world organizations led by the UN and its different branches. The cover story is about the history of mutual collaboration between the UN and Saudi Arabia to support human rights issues. It covers the Saudi financial and spiritual support given through Counter-Terrorism Fund, International food Program and the call for dialogue between different religions. This is in addition to its honourable attitudes in defending Arab and Islamic issues, particularly the Palestinian Cause and the Syrian Crisis. The Kingdom’s rejection of the Security Council membership, such an unprecedented step, was another way to force the Security Council to put its decisions into action.

The issue has tackled as well influential Arab and Gulf causes. It tackles issues such as depriving women from marriage, rights of the divorced women as stated by the Islamic law. It also reviews the international treaty to eradicate discrimination. Creative writers and specialists in the field of human rights were allowed adequate space so that Rights can be the pulpit they use to communicate civil knowledge to society.

The last section is dedicated to children. It is a story that even parents should read. It helps children to understand the rights they are granted by the Islamic law and supported by our wise government. This way the child is able to understand his rights at an early age.
UN Official Praises the Efforts of Custodian of the two Holy Mosques in Engaging Women in Building Society

The reforms led by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, were praised by Adib Na‘ema, the regional consultant for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Special tribute was paid to his concern for women as they constitute a primary partner in the comprehensive development process. He referred to the progress witnessed by the Kingdom during the last two years concerning women participation in legislative councils. He describes this act as a step on the right track.

This was part of the statement made by the regional consultant for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) the meeting held lately at the Arab Woman Center for Training and Research. Based in Tunisia, the Center has issued a referential and training guidebook about women empowerment in the Arab world starting from the objectives of the millennium until the post 2015 agenda.

Na‘ema has highlighted that this guidebook that was prepared as cooperation between the Arab Woman Center for Training and Research and ESCWA is updated on progress in the fields of human issues and development. He further illustrates that it tackles the developments of the situation in the Middle East since 2010 and its influence on women, based on the latest results obtained by the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2013.
The Cabinet Affirms its Commitment to the Protection and Enhancing of Human Rights

During the last session led by Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz, the Crown Prince, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, the Cabinet affirmed that Saudi Arabia led by The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, is committed to the protection of human rights and enhancing them on the local, regional and international levels. The session was held at Al – Yamama Palace in Riyadh.

The Cabinet has highlighted that the Saudi cooperation with the mechanism of Universal Periodic Review before the Security Council 'embodies that its concern for enhancing and protecting human rights is a strategic option. Such an option comprises the cornerstone for the comprehensive development policy adopted by the Saudi State. Moreover, it consolidates this policy committee report about the Syrian crisis. Khoja has, meanwhile, expressed his deep concern about the Syrian refugees' suffrage. International reports have revealed how the situation is getting complicated and the disastrous situation through which the Syrians, particularly women and children, survive. He reaffirms the necessity of holding all war criminals responsible for their crimes and supporting the Syrian refugees and offering them the necessary aid.

The Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs Praises Human Rights Commission Cooperation

Vice Swedish foreign minister, Frank Belfrage, has praised the fruitful cooperation of Human Rights Commission and its response to the queries concerning human rights. This took place during his meeting with Dr. Zaid Bin Abdul Mohsen Al- Hussein, Vice President of the Human Rights Commission. Belfrage has expressed his admiration for the developmental improvements that Saudi Arabia has witnessed in different fields. He affirmed that the Kingdom has witnessed pivotal changes during the last twenty years, since he was the Swedish ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Al Hussein has displayed the Human Rights Commission tasks. And mentions that according to the Islamic code of law which is based on Islamic Shari'a, respecting and protecting human rights is a priority of the Saudi Kingdom. He has also pointed out how keen the Kingdom is on consolidating and supporting human rights.

Al Hussein also highlights the Kingdom’s belief in constructive cooperation with friendly countries, activating international cooperation and the importance of human experiences exchange in enhancing and protecting human rights. He indicates that the Kingdom has witnessed several improvements in the fields of development and human rights. Saudi Arabia has performed several procedures and policies to support and enhance human rights in several fields.

During the meeting, relations between both countries and how they can be enhanced, particularly in the field of human rights, were discussed. Developments in different aspects of human rights were discussed as well. In addition, developments led by King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz and witnessed by the Saudi Kingdom in advocating human rights. He affirmed that the Islamic shi'a has secured all the rights for both residents and Saudi citizens.

His has tackled the activities performed by the Commission to enlighten and increase the awareness about human rights, as well. The Commission works on a program to advocate human rights and broaden social participation in advocating these rights and training personnel to work in such a field.
Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has issued a royal decree recently according to which Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, is appointed Deputy Crown Prince. Meanwhile, he will continue in office as a second deputy for the prime minister. The decree was received with great applause among the princes and officials in the Kingdom. It reflects the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques political experience and leadership. They believe that the decree revealed the leader’s concern for the welfare of the people, their stability and development. Below is the script for the royal decree:

In the Name of Allah the Most Glorious
No. A/86
Date: 26\5\1435 AH.
Thanks to Allah’s guidance and based on the Islamic code of law which dictates cooperation and reliance on valid reasons for national unity and the Islamic principles to guarantee the Kingdom’s continuity, and a flourished future and the welfare of its people, having read the regulation of the Allegiance Commission issued according to the royal decree no. A/135, on 26\9\1427 A., the executive regulation of the Allegiance Commission issued according to the royal decree no. A/164 A on 26\9\1428AH., and the minutes of Allegiance Commission no. 1\A.C. dating to 26\5\1435AH., which is based on the document no. 19155 dated on 19\5\1435 A.H. and revealing the King's and Crown Prince, Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz' desire that members of the Allegiance Commission express their opinions concerning selecting Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz as Deputy crown prince. The decision should be supported by a majority exceeding 75% of the Commission members. Furthermore, based on the third article of the royal decree no. A/135 dated on 26\9\1427 AH., and owing to the public welfare, we, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, Custodian of the two Holy Mosques have decreed the following:

First: Appointing Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz Deputy Crown Prince while remaining in his post as a second deputy for the prime minister. Second: In case the crown prince office becomes vacant, Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz is paid allegiance to as crown prince. Moreover, in case both offices of the king and crown prince become vacant at the same time, he is paid allegiance to as King and crown prince simultaneously.

Third: Our selection of Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz as Deputy crown prince and its support by the current crown prince is deemed valid once it gains the support of the Allegiance Commission. Thus, based on the document no. 19155 and dated on 19\5\1435 AH that we signed along with our brother, the Crown Prince and Allegiance Commission minutes no. 1\A.C, dated on 26\5\1435 AH., which supports the selection of prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz with a majority exceeding three quarters of the Commission members, this decree cannot, by any means, be modified, altered, or paraphrased.

Fourth: Without violating any of the aforementioned articles, in case the King desires selecting a Deputy crown prince, he should inform the Allegiance Commission with his choice. Following the agreement of the majority of the Allegiance Commission, a royal decree announcing this selection is to be issued.

Fifth: Concerned parties are to be informed with this decree in order to implement it.

Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Praise by Princes and Officials

On behalf of himself and of the people of A’Sir Province, Prince Faisal Bin Khaled Bin Abdulaziz congratulated Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the occasion of issuing a royal decree appointing Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Crown Prince while continuing as a deputy for the prime minister. In a telegram sent on this occasion, the Prince of A’Sir said: “Certainly the wise leadership had revealed how insightful it is by making such a step. It affirms the fact that this country is fortunate because of its leaders who consider its security and its stability as their priority.” He goes on further to say: “ on this occasion, I congratulate Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud”. He continues: “ Blessed is this great trust in him the Deputy Crown Prince and Second Deputy of the Prime Minister, Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, whom we pray to Allah to guide him to the best for this country”. Congratulations were also given by Prince Faisal Bin Bandar Bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Al – Qassim Province and on behalf of citizens in the area to
Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King and his loyal Crown Prince on the occasion of issuing a royal decree appointing his Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Crown Prince. According to Prince Faisal: “this honorable royal decree affirms the king’s insight and keenness on achieving permanent stability for the country. Thanks to Allah, and to the cooperation between the people and their leaders, this country will always be on the right track and will always remain safe and untouched by the criminals and villains guided by its wise and brave king.”

He also congratulated Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Crown Prince and second deputy of the prime minister for this great royal trust. He says that Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz is a leading character who will hopefully contribute to the progress of this country. We pray to Allah to help him to be the best guide for the faith, the country, and the King.

Congratulations were given also to Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the occasion of issuing a royal decree appointing him Deputy Crown Prince and second deputy of the prime minister by Prince Mohammed Bin Nasser Bin Abdulaziz, ruler of Jizan.

He says that “the royal decree is an embodiment of the insight of both, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and his Crown Prince. They both lead the country wisely, and with a good prospect for the future in a way that achieves stability for the country and its citizens. Prince Mohammed Bin Nasser has referred to Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz as a skilful statesman and brilliant politician. Moreover his leadership and managerial qualities qualify him to perform his assigned tasks in the way that is best for the country and citizens. He prays to Allah to guide everyone and to forever bless our country with its wise leadership, its security and development in different aspects.

### Biography

Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz was born in Riyadh in 1364 AH. – 1945 AD. He was raised under the auspices of his father, late King Abdulaziz where he was an ardent learner and a brave equestrian. He received his early education at the Capital Exemplary Institute. After his graduation in 1384 AH.- 1964 AD., he joined the Saudi air force. He pursued his studies in Britain where he graduated as lieutenant-pilot in 1388AH.- 1968 AD.

He received advanced training courses in using fighters at Al- Dhahran Airfield during 1389 AH. – 1969 AD.

He worked in the Second Air Force Wing during 1390AH. – 1970 AD. to 1393 AH.- 1973 AD.

In 1393 AH. – 1973 AD., he became regularly enrolled in a training course for trainers in Britain. He then joined the staff officer training course in the U.S.A in 1974 AD. – 1394 AH. He obtained a diploma degree (which is an equivalent of master). In 1397 AH.- 1977 AD., he was appointed an assistant for flight operations head, and head of the plans and operations in the Saudi Royal Air Force.

On 2-5-1400AH. – 1980 AD., a royal decree was issued appointing him a prince of Ha’il Province. He remained in office for 20 years, during which the Province witnessed more progress in cultural, agricultural and urban aspects. During this period he was an epitome of devotion, modesty and honesty. He was keen on meeting citizens regularly and following up with affairs. He was also the president of several councils and charities, then.

On 16-8- 1420 AH. – 2000 AD., the supreme royal decree no. 205- A was issued according to which he was appointed Prince of Medina, as a successor to his late brother Prince Abdul Majeed Bin Abdulaziz.

On 19-9-1426 AH.- 2005 AD., he was appointed president of General Intelligence as a successor to Prince Nawwaf Bin Abdulaziz. He remained in office until 29th Sha’aban 1433 AH. – 19th July 2012 AD. He was then appointed a chancellor and private envoy for the King.

On 20-3-1434 AH.- 2013 AD., a royal decree was issued according to which he was appointed second deputy of the prime minister.

### Praise by the Grand Imam

Meanwhile, blessings to this decision were also given by the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, President of both the Council of Senior Scholars and the General Presidency of Scholarly Research and Ifta, Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh. He pointed out that such a decision is for the welfare of the country as seen the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz. He goes on to say that “the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and his Crown Prince always seek the welfare and development of this holy land. Their work is based on permanent rules inspired by the Noble Qur’aan and the teachings of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). We pray to Allah to reward them for devotedness.

His Eminence the Grand Mufti has also confirmed that the royal decree calling for the selection of Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz as a crown prince or a king in case both offices becomes vacant reveals the concern of those in charge for the country’s stability and protecting the society against whatever may harm it whether currently or in the future.

His Eminence has also prayed to Allah to guide Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz to forever bless our country with its wise leadership, its security and development in different aspects. The Mayor, Engineer Abdullah Al Muqbil, has also congratulated Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz on the occasion of issuing the honourable royal decree according to which he is appointed Deputy Crown Prince and Second Deputy of the Prime Minister. “The honourable royal decree reflects an insight on the
sides of both King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz and his Crown Prince according to which they lay sound bases for the stability and protection of the country;” says Al Muqbil. He further points out that Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz possesses all the qualities required in a statesman. The most prominent of which are wisdom, managerial efficiency, decision making and deep connection with different classes of the Saudi society.

He added: “we congratulate his Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz for this great trust. We pledge our allegiance to him for better or worse and to be devoted and loyal to him. We pray to Allah – the Almighty- to suppor and guide him to the welfare of our country and the Arab nation.

Moreover, Prof. Mohammed Abdullah Al Nagi, Chairman of the Committee on Administration and Human Resources in the Shura Council (Majlis Ash-Shura) has affirmed that the King’s decision concerning appointing Prince Muqrin as Deputy Crown Prince and the steps of making such a wise decision reflect the leading qualities of King Abdullah – may Allah bless him. It also reflects his keenness on the people’s stability and welfare. Al – Nagi, who is a professor in managerial leadership and educational planning, adds the details included in the King’s decision concerning appointing Prince Muqrin as a Crown Prince, or a King in case both offices become vacant reflect the King’s perspicacity and keenness on achieving stability. It will also positively affect different economic, social and security aspects.

Congratulations and blessings were also delivered by Dr. Adnan Al Abd Al Karim, Director-General of the General Directorate of Health Affairs of Riyadh Region to Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz on the occasion of issuing a royal decree according to which he was appointed Deputy Crown Prince. He prays to Allah to guide him and help him perform his assigned tasks and fulfill the expectations of both, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz and his Crown Prince, Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz, so that progress dominate our homeland. Dr. Al Abd Al Karim has pointed out that the biography of Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz is full of achievements throughout the different offices he held. These achievements affirm that he is worth the trust bestowed upon him by the wise leadership. They also attest that he is the best to be chosen for this office, thanks to his awareness of the society and his great skill in tackling local, regional and international challenges.

Director General of Civil Defense, Maj. Gen. Suliman bin Abdullah Al-Amro, head of the civil defense, has delivered his sincere congratulations and expressed his loyalty to Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz, the Deputy Crown Prince, Second Deputy of the Prime Minister, the chancellor and private envoy of the King. He says that Prince Muqrin has earned the royal trust thanks to his being a devoted statesman. In addition, his pioneering actions on the local, regional and international levels are a source of pride for both the country and citizens. He regarded the acclaim earned by the prince as the reward for his hard work as perceived by the wise leadership. Al-Amro goes on further to say: “this honorable trust reflects his deep concern for the stability and safety of the country and his perpetual attempts to fulfill its requirements. His biography that is replete with achievements that attest to his worthiness. Al-Amro has concluded by affirming the importance of our legislative and national axioms in achieving national solidarity and welfare. He prays to Allah the Almighty to guide Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz with his responsibilities. He has also prayed to the Almighty to guide both Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz and , the Crown Prince, Deputy prime minister and minister of defense, Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz to the best for our country and citi- zens.

### Human Rights Commission Appraises the Decision as it Enhances Stability within the Society

**The Grand Mufti: the Decision is for the Welfare of the Country and Achieves Progress and Flourishement**

Dr. Bandar Bin Mohammed Al- Alban President of Human Rights Commission expressed congratulations on the behalf of himself and the Commission board members and its employees to His Royal Highness Prince Muqrin Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on being appointed as Vice Crown Prince along remaining in office as a second deputy for the prime minister. He has indicated that such a decision on the King’s part is a crowning for Prince Muqrin’s long career in developing the state and guarantying its stability. It is also a reward for Prince Muqrin’s devotion to the service of faith, country and the King across the different offices he has held. He concluded by praying to Allah to guide the prince and to secure the safety and stability of our dear homeland under the wise leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and his Crown Prince.
A meeting was held lately between Dr. Bandar Al Aiban and the delegation of International Labor Organization (ILO) headed by Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia, at the Commission headquarters. During this meeting Dr. Al-Aiban has reviewed the efforts and tasks adopted by the Commission, its role, the authorities and the support it receives from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz. Additionally, he has highlighted the efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia to maintain human rights equally for both Saudi citizens and residents. He has also reviewed some of the labor related laws inside the Kingdom, the latest of which was the domestic labor regulation. It regulates the relationship between the employer and workers. He also pointed out that this regulation tackles both the rights and duties of both parties. It affirms the keenness of King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz’s government on the benefit of both the citizens and residents and regulating their contractual relationship with foreign labor and guarantees the rights of both parties.

Concerning advocating human rights awareness, he has also reviewed some examples of the efforts exerted by the Commission. He affirmed that Saudi Arabia will keep advocating different aspect of civil awareness by all available means. Several civil rights documentaries, which were made by the Commission to advocate human rights, were also shown. He has also affirmed that this regulation is one in a series of consecutive initiatives aiming at maintaining human rights and framing their practice through issuing the required systems and regulations in the Kingdom.

Reception of the Indian and Egyptian Ambassadors

Dr. Al-Aiban, also affirmed during his reception of both the Indian and Egyptian ambassadors that Saudi Arabia is keen on legislating laws and regulations that maintain and protect foreign labor rights. During his reception of the Egyptian ambassador, Affifi Ahmed Abdul Wahab, Dr. Al-Aiban highlighted the historical relations connecting the two countries. He pointed out the King’s attitudes towards Egypt and his keenness on the welfare of the Egyptian community in Saudi Arabia and making sure that their rights are in accord with the laws and regulations. Meanwhile, Affi, the Egyptian ambassador has expressed Egypt’s deep appreciation of the consistence of the King’s attitudes towards Egypt and his concern meanwhile with correcting the residents’ status.

At the beginning of his meeting with the Indian ambassador, Hamid Ali Rao, Dr. Al-Aiban has surveyed the tasks and roles played by the Commission and the authorities and the support it receives from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. He also referred to the efforts exerted by the Kingdom to maintain the rights of both citizens and residents equally. The Kingdom’s keenness on legislating laws protecting and maintain the rights of foreign labor of which domestic labor regulation is part. This regulation aims at regulating the relation between the employer and the worker. He also indicates that this regulation tackles the rights and duties of both parties. On his part, the Indian ambassador has praised the way in which the Kingdom tackles the violating labor, particularly within the correction campaign. He affirmed that dealing with the violators is a sovereign right of the Kingdom.
"The first training program on the United Nations’ mechanisms for human rights" was lately launched as part of the mutual cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. The inauguration ceremony was held at Alkhozama Hall in Riyadh. It was attended by 150 trainees (males and females) from both governmental and civil institutions. They are to be trained by 5 UN experts in order to increase the civil awareness and be well informed about the international human rights law.

In the speech he delivered during the inauguration, Dr. Bandar Al-Aiban, President of the Human Rights Commission, has affirmed that signing a memorandum with the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights was based on the Kingdom’s desire to enhance the activities, and training programs for national capabilities in the field of human rights. It was the inevitable result of the positive mutual visits between the Commission and the Office of High Commissioner. These visits were crowned by the meeting between the High Commissioner for human rights herself and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. This reflects his keenness on enhancing and advocating human rights and developing the potentials of those working in this field.

President of the Human Rights Commission, has pointed out that this memorandum aims mainly at enhancing the potentials of those specialized in the international law for human rights in Saudi Arabia. Special attention is to be paid to the UN mecha-
The United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights

It is an international organization affiliated to the United Nations. It aims at advocating and protecting human rights according to the international treaties stated in the international declaration for human rights in 1948. It is referred to by the acronym (UNHCHR). The UNHCHR represents the world's commitment to the international values for human dignity. It is authorized by the international community to enhance and protect all human rights.

Leadership

The High Commissioner is main official responsible for human rights in the UN. It presides over the Office of High Commissioner and leads the UN efforts in the field of human rights.

The United Nations General Assembly has appointed “Navanethem Pillay” as a high commissioner on the 28th of July, 2008. She started her term on the 1st of September, 2008. Her term was renewed for two more years starting from the 1st of September, 2012.

Mrs. Pillay, a South African citizen originally, was the first woman to practice law in her local province “Natal” in 1967. In the few following years, she worked as a lawyer for activists fighting racial discrimination. She suffered torture. She contributed to establishing the major rights for prisoners in RoBin island.

She had led a vital role in formulating a legislation that considers rape a form of genocide. This is in addition to issues of freedom of expression and propagating hatred. In 2003, she was appointed judge in the International Criminal Court. She remained in this office until August, 2008. She participated in establishing “Equality Now”, an international organization concerned with women rights. She has also worked with other organizations concerned with children, prisoners, torture and domestic violence victims and a variety of economic, social and cultural rights.

Pillay has earned a B.A. in law from Natal University, South Africa. She has also earned master degree in law and Ph.D. in judiciary science from Harvard University. She was born in 1941 and has two daughters.

System

The UNHCHR supports the UN affiliated human rights mechanisms such as Human Rights Council, and major organizations established according to the treaties formulated to trace the member countries commitment to these treaties. It also enhances the right to development, and coordinates the UN activities relative to advocating human rights.

It also enhances human rights within the UN.

It attempts to guarantee implementing the internationally acknowledged human rights by different means among which is advocating the international approval of major human rights treaties, implementing them worldwide and respecting the rule of law.

The UNHCHR has an office in the UN headquarters and offices across several other countries. In addition, there is an executive office for the high commissioner herself and several units affiliated to the vice high commissioner. It includes two major sections and four branches.

It comprises 1000 employees based in Geneva, New York, 13 international offices and other 13 regional offices across different parts of the world. Its labor force comprises 235 international officials working in the field of human rights who are part of the UN peacekeeping delegations. It is funded by the UN budget and the donations offered by the member countries, international governmental organizations, institutions and individuals.
Determing the Legal Marriage Age to be at 18 under Consideration

Human Rights Commission Rejects Recommendations that do not Conform to the Islamic Law

Rights/Exclusive

During a forum held lately, Dr. Zaid Al Hussein, the vice president of the Human Rights Commission has announced that the Commission has rejected 17 direct recommendations issued by the UN, not conform with the Islamic law. These include ceasing death sentence and building churches. He affirmed also during this forum that was held at the Commission headquarters in the eastern Province, that the kingdom’s objective are always based on Islamic law. He indicated that similar recommendations were offered in 2009 and 2012 and were rejected as well.

Dr. Al Hussein has affirmed that “Saudi state is always reserved towards whatever defies the Islamic faith. Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has earlier encouraged the contribution to advocating human rights. He affirmed that our reference should not be European. He also adds that human rights should be an actual salvation for human beings.”

The Commission branch in the eastern Province has lately held a forum aiming at communicating with participants who have a thorough say in the results of the comprehensive regular survey that that each country has to present to the UN human rights committee. Saudi Arabia has presented two reports in 2009 and another one in 2013. It has also received 225 recommendations. “During this meeting several dialogue recommendations were proposed. Aspects of similarities between the questions posed in the forum. We presented 75 recommendations. They included social, economic, and educational recommendations. All participants in the panel of experts consider how these recommendations are to be carried out”, says Dr. Al Hussein.

Dr. Al Hussein has also pointed out that there was a proposal to limit the age of marriage so that it starts at 18. “We have been work-

Human Rights Commission Consider Child Support Line a Vital Shift for their Protection

Rights/Exclusive

Dr. Bandar Al-Alban, President of the Human Rights Commission, has referred to the official launching of “Child Support Line” in Saudi Arabia as a vital shift for protection of children against abuse and protecting their rights. It is also crucial to increasing the awareness about renouncing violence.

He has made this announcement lately during the inauguration ceremony of the regional conference for the child support line. The conference is organized by the National Family Security Program and was held at the headquarters of King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health sciences in Riyadh.

Dr. Al- Alban has also expressed his appreciation of the great support and care provide by Princess Adila Bint Abdullah Al Saud to the “Children Support Line”. She is the head of the National Family Security Program, and head of the supervisory board for “Children support Line”. She is directly concerned with this line because of the role it plays in protecting children against different forms of violence and abuse.

He has praised as well the great and increasing steps taken by the health affairs in the ministry of national guards to consolidate the concept of children rights and secure social and health care for children by means of a specialized program. He referred to the instructions given by the minister of the national guards, Prince Mu- taib Bin Abdullah. He also highlighted the follow-ups done by the general executive manager for health affairs Dr. Bandar Al Qenawy.

Dr. Al Qenawy organizes training courses and conferences and gets informed about international experience related to children protection against violence.

Dr. Al-Alban has also reafirmed that the “Commission” is an essential partner in the “Line”. He says : “the Commission lays its full potential to support this line and the efforts of those working in it led by Princess Adila Bint Abdullah Al Saud head of the National Family Security Program, and head of the supervisory board for “Children support Line”. We are looking forward for more efforts and are willing to offer all the potentials needed to build different forms of awareness, protection and support.”

Dr. Al-Alban has also stressed that any case of violence against children is totally renounced in our society. We hope to eradicate this phenomenon completely from our society. This will be done by assimilating efforts to protect children, not only at home; but all over the world as well. He affirmed that violence against children is a great concern for the Commission and all parties. The Commission regards this issue with great concern.

He added: “the increasing violence against children creates an urgent need for documented local research investigating this issue and evaluating it. Such studies shall include violence at schools so that the actual worth of these violations can be realized and decide whether it is a phenomenon or not. I believe that all the parties concerned with child care and protection should help in conducting theses civil studies and surveys throughout schools, random family and community surveys, in order to realize whether violence against children is becoming a phenomenon or not.”

He stated that the Commission keeps an eye on the parties responsible for such cases. The Commission is actually an observant party not an executive one. Once the judge receives the case, the Commission has nothing to do with it any longer. However, it has to make sure that the case is perceived correctly.
Dr. Al- Aiban has also pointed out that the vital shifts with which is the Islamic law.
of red lines that cannot be trespassed, the most important of fluenced by such a criticism, particularly within the existence
development.
that Saudi Arabia, led by King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz and Custodian
of the Two Holy Mosques, has so far estab-
lished in the field of human rights.
He has also said that the Commis-
sion has delegated several official and members to superintend trials and judicial hearings. They attended more than 250 sessions. During these ses-
sions positive and negative aspects were tracked. He also pointed out that the Commission seeks to consolidate the idea of having public trials or judicial hearings.
He has affirmed as well that litigation, education and labor and health rights in Saudi Arabia have reached advanced levels. He highlighted that the Kingdom has transcended the international standard of children health by 50%. He believed that the prog-
ress achieved by Saudi Arabia in the judicial, educational and health sectors renders it a pioneer in international economic development.
He has also indicated that the criticism that the Kingdom encoun-
ters is merely political owing to political disagreements with some countries. He says that the country is not at all in-
fluenced by such a criticism, primarily within the existence of red lines that cannot be trespassed, the most important of which is the Islamic law.
Dr. Al- Aiban has also pointed out that the vital shifts wit-
essed lately by Saudi Arabia in different aspects of human rights and the projects of judicial reformations and the par-
ticipation of women in decision making are the first steps towards reformation. He also highlighted that the Kingdom has donated 100 million dollars to support the UN Fund for Fighting Terrorism.
*The Saudi woman has recently made significant achieve-
ments in several fields. The most eminent of these was the participation in making national decisions. She can now be a member in the Shura Council( Majlis Ash-Shura). She has also now the right to vote or stand as a candidate in municipality elections*, says Al- Aiban. He adds : “the number of female workers in the governmental sector has increased with 8%. 228000 women versus 2240000 men are working in the edu-
cational sector, i.e women working in the educational sector are more than men”.
He has indicated that the number women learners at univer-

sities has jumped from 11000 to 12000 during the period 2009-2012. He added that the number of women in different educational phases is 473 000 versus 429 000 men. Moreover, the number of women graduates from higher education in-
stitutions in the period 2007 – 2011 was 60000 versus 56000 men. Additionally, in the period 2007-2011 women students sent on scholarships was 389 000, i.e the ratio of women to men was 90% to 20%.

Dr. Al- Aiban has also indicated that the Kingdom seeks to employ sev-
eral Saudi citizens in international organizations. It looks forward
to paying their salaries itself as a means of support and training for
these citizens. This would bring along universal expertise into the Kingdom.
He has also highlighted the proj-
ects which represent the develop-
ment of human rights fields in
Saudi Arabia. The most significant of these was King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz’ Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, project concerned with the reform of the judiciary. It is the most important reforming step. It supports human rights in
Saudi Arabia since judiciary is the actual guarantee for human rights protection. He highlighted that the question of public trials is restricted by the court of law based on the international systems followed. It depends on the court to decide whether it is better to do without it for the sake of national security or to conform to public morals. He indicated that a new law known as alterna-
tive penalties is being studied as a substitute for prisons or reformatory institutions. He also pointed out that education in the Saudi Kingdom has reached the highest international standards. It is considered one of the most successful models in the way it conforms to human rights. All phases of edu-
cation are free of charge. There is even financial support for graduate students and researchers in Saudi universities.

The Commission Attends the Trials of 30 Suspend
A delegation from the Human Rights Commission has attend-
ed the trials of 30 suspended. The delegation that visited the headquarters of the Board of Grievance Court (the adminis-
trative court) was led by Dr. Zaid Al- Hussein and comprised official at the Commission. The suspended were accused of administrative charges such as forging official documents and possession of weapons etc….
The delegation has also visited some wards in Breman Prison, Jeddah. They got a briefing about the conditions of prisoners and suspended. Moreover, they had some remarks, some of which were attended momentarily.
Dr. Al – Hussein has expressed his satisfaction with what he has seen. He praised the initiative launched by Breman Prison and the Board of Grievance. It aims at executing the sentenc-
es based on the criminal law and other related laws. Among these are rapid trials of the suspended, relieving the prison load and avoiding troubles that might occur during the trans-
portation of the suspended to the courts of law etc.
Dr. Al Hussein has also convened with the prison warden and
other heads of department officers. He expressed his apprecia-
tion for their efforts and encouraged them to do more to
protect the rights of prisoners and suspended. He stated that
this task is a religious obligation and is advocated by our no-
bile faith. It is also emphasized by relative laws and regulations. During the meeting they discussed different conditions and troubles at the prison.
Dr. Zaid Al- Hussein, Vice President of Human Rights Commission, has affirmed in a press release to “Al Riyadh” newspaper that some countries depend on inaccurate sources for the reports issued by their parliaments or ministries of foreign affairs. Such sources are usually stereotypical and exaggerated aiming at mischief whether for political reasons or not. They serve the purposes of the countries where they were issued. Several examples of such reports double standard policies. They are actually repeated annually despite the development and momentum witnessed by the country. He negated all the lies and fake accusations propagated by parties attempting to undermine the Kingdom and question its concern for the rights of both residents and citizens living there.
“Everyone shall know that we possess an ancient yet progressive reference. It has pioneered other human rights references. It should be revered and not criticized unless thoroughly studied. Based on this reference, human rights are a top priority. They occupy a supreme status that even transcends constitutional ones. This status is second to none in related legal ideology”, says Dr. Al- Hussein. Al- Hussein further indicated that the Saudi policies are clear on human rights and their mechanisms. Saudi Arabia rules according to the Islamic law that primarily aims at enhancing human rights as stated in the Noble Qur’an and the Prophet’s (PBUH) teachings. These have been a pioneering reference for more than fourteen centuries. They comprise all the principles concerning human dignity and respect. Islam has actually provided the first declaration of human rights. This is the speech delivered by the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) during the farewell pilgrimage. The speech, delivered in 620 AD, was addressed to mankind regardless of colour, ethnicity or nationality. It affirmed human rights including rights to dignified life and ownership. Moreover, Saudi Arabia has amply contributed to the UN Human Rights Declaration issued in 1948. It has relieved some of its principles from mono-cultural domination. It has also consolidated common aspects between nations. Thus, it participated in universal efforts leading to international initiatives launched by countries that have suffered from killing and injustice for several centuries. These countries attempted to issue local treatises advocating the protection of human rights. The earliest of these was the Magna Carta in 1215 AD. It was followed by other initiatives relative to their localities. They all advocated justice, equality, and relieving injustice.

Al- Hussein has revealed that Human Rights Commission will initiate dialogue with those skeptical parties despite their wanton mischief. The Commission will focus on particular points like being well informed about cultural backgrounds and references that value human rights. Sincere and objective criticism that is based on proper understanding should also be taken into consideration. Parting with misleading stereotypes that are enriched by dishonest local media is a must as well.

Al – Hussein has also highlighted that reform in Saudi Arabia is based on eliminating ignorance which is the root of all evil. Thus, the efforts exerted by the Kingdom in the field of education are really impressive. Saudi Arabia was able to compete internationally in a very short while almost equal to its actual age. If this period is considered as a progress standard to be compared with any part of the world, it will be clear then that that the achievement procession in Saudi Arabia is based primarily on education. Saudi Arabia considers education the cornerstone of comprehensive development. A person who is deprived of his right to education can neither respect others’ rights nor perform his duties or obtain his own rights.

“We might have been criticized because we have not presented ourselves properly. This is actually an informative task that requires alert media. Or perhaps we have resorted to our national media that, despite its qualification, discards the technical and scientific aspects of human rights. Thus, we were obliged to react instead of act. Although we are trying to account for
About the Commission

The Arab Commission for Human Rights (the Convention Commission) is the first Arab mechanism to track the implementation of the Arab Convention for Human Rights that was agreed upon during the Arab Summit held in Tunisia in 2004. The Commission is also responsible for considering the reports submitted by the member countries. The Commission comprises seven members. They are elected by member countries for a four-year term by ballot. They have to be highly qualified and efficient. They are hardworking and devoted. The Commission should not comprise more one citizen from the member countries. He can be elected for term only, taking into consideration the circulation principle. Member countries should secure the required protection for the Commission members against spiritual, financial harassments or judicial follow-ups owing to their decisions or declarations while in office.

these criticisms as being influenced by media or dominated by long held stereotypes, it is noteworthy that we live in an age where information are easily accessible”, says Al-Hussein. Henceforth, he clarified human rights in its comprehensive meaning is one important political value in for Saudi Arabia across its history. This attitude enables the country to deal with global facts consistently. There is no difference between individual and collective rights any longer. Discrimination based on selectivity of political, civil, economic, social or intellectual rights do not exist. There is no room for priorities conflict on local and international levels concerning human rights. Double standards are not any longer accepted within this perspective. This shallow perspective that establishes the significance according to his opposition to his values, culture or country should be dismissed even if it is accepted in other systems. Saudi Arabia is second to none in applying the Islamic law which obliges the ruler to protect human rights and cope with human development in terms of both space and time. He added that human rights reports worldwide depend on several sources. The most of prominent of which are national reports. These are recommendations or suggestions proposed for discussion and cooperation in the field of human rights and their mechanisms.

Saudi Arabia has presented its first report during the regular comprehensive review in 2009. This report was based on the guidelines of the review process. The report includes the systematic and institutional frameworks for human rights in Saudi Arabia. It reflects the extent to which the Kingdom carries out its international obligation based on the agreements it so far signed or joined. It was discussed in February, 2009. The Kingdom has presented 70 recommendations and accepted to discuss 52 of it. The second report was issued comprising what has been done concerning the recommendations it accepted in 2009. The Council has discussed the second report in October 2012. The report was highly praised by several countries. The interactive dialogue has concluded in several recommendations. Saudi Arabia is supposed to make decisions concerning those recommendations in March 2014. He highlighted that the Kingdom considers human rights as obligations that should be fulfilled. Whoever does not stick to this is to be held accountable. Human rights as stated in the Islamic law comprise an integrated entity that would fall apart if coherence is not observed. He added that the second source for human rights reports is the reports that some countries issue about each other through its parliaments or ministries of foreign affairs. These reports are usually not supported by legal evidence as their counterparts issued according to the contractor mechanisms of the UN. They are usually inaccurate for several reasons. One reason is depending on inaccurate and indirect information. They are also too general, exag- gerative and stereotypical. They are not credible because they seek mischief, whether for political reasons or not, in the first place. They aim primarily to serve the goals of the countries by which they are issued. Several examples of such reports reveal bias and double standards despite the development taking place.

He further said that the final source is civil organizations. These are actually few and are classified into two categories. The first can be referred to as objective. They write reports including all remarks. Sometimes they are confounded, so mistakes are found. Yet, they are willing to correct these mistakes. Henceforth, communication is possible. The second category proposes fake, yet offensive remarks. Such remarks are propagated for the sake of personal gains other than the human purpose in which the report is disguised.

Dr. Al-Hussein has admitted as well the existence of “individual” violations and breaches. These are criminalized and combated by the state. Yet, he affirmed that most critical reports, even if they are few in number, are unjust and misleading. They discard all the efforts criminalizing such violations. An example of these efforts is the law fighting human trafficking. It has repressive sentences including 15 years in jail and a fine reaching up to a million SR. The sentence is doubled when the victim is a child or a woman.
Following his election as the President of the Arab Commission for Human Rights

**Al- Yami: I Look Forward to the Ambitions of the Members and I Invite the Rest of the Countries to Join**

Following his election as the President of the Arab Commission for Human Rights in the League of Arab States, Dr. Hadi Bin Ali Al- Yami, the member in the Human Rights Commission and the supervisor of its branch in Aseer, has expressed his deep thanks and appreciation for the wise leadership that supports the representation of its citizens in regional and international congregations. Meanwhile, Dr. Abdul Majid Al-Za'alany was elected vice president and solicitor Assem Al-Rababa’a as rapporteur. The elections were held during the 25th committee at the League of Arab States headquarters. Dr. Al- Yami, who is the first Saudi to hold this office, appreciated Dr. Al- Aiban's, President of the Human Rights Commission, continuous support. He affirmed that this emerging situation represents the Saudi methodology that is devoted to consolidating its civil existence on international levels.

He goes on to express his gratefulness to his colleagues in the Arab Commission for Human Rights for their confidence in him. He hopes that the Commission will be able to achieve the expectations of the members embodied in implementing the articles of the convention. He invited other members of the League of Arab States to sign the convention. He also urged countries that have signed the convention to present their regular reports as stated by the convention.

Ambassador A-Kattan Expresses his Appreciation

On his part, ambassador Ahmed Abdulaziz A-Kattan, the Saudi ambassador in Cairo and permanent delegate the League of Arab States had said that electing Dr. Al Yami for this post reflects the Arab countries appreciation of the Kingdom's efforts. It also reveals their understanding of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz’ and his government’s concern for human rights. Such a concern that is inherent in our Islamic faith and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The statement issued by the League of Arab States pointed out that electing Dr. Al-Yami meant launching a new phase in the career of the Arab Commission for Human Rights. It is part of the procedures undertaken by the League of Arab States to establish the Arab Court for Human Rights. During the meeting, the Commission decided on the guidelines related to presenting the preliminary and regular reports by the member countries. It also decided on the guidelines related to presenting counterpart decisions by civil organizations. The Commission has also made several decisions related to coordinating its work with member countries and counterpart panels. The panel in its current round Dr. Hadi Al- Yami, Dr. Abdul Rehim Al- Awdy, Dr. Abdul Majid Al- Za'alany and solicitors Assem Al-Rababa’a, Advisor Asa’ad Naeem Younis, Mohammed Fezi’a and Azz El din Al- Asbahy.

Dr. Abdul Rehim Al Awdy was the President of the Arab Commission for Human Rights since its establishment. Together with his fellow members of the Commission he tried to formulate the entity of the Commission, develop its structure and achieve its goal.
Rights/Follow-up

The Director-General of the International Labor Organization (I.L.O), Guy Ryder, has affirmed that Saudi laws do not discriminate against foreign labor. They aim mainly at achieving justice and equality. He praised the reforms which the labor market underwent. He believes that these reforms enhanced employment rates among the Saudis and raised the competitiveness bar among different private sectors institutions.

During his recent visit to the Shura Council "Majlis Ash- Shura", Ryder has indicated that Saudi Arabia is very serious when it comes to the implementation legislations related to rights of foreign labor. He also highlighted the necessity of more reforms within labor market.

Ryder has illustrated that all the programs and initiatives he has seen lately during his visit to Riyadh cope with the variables of the labor market. He was in Riyadh to attend the Second Arab Forum for Development and Employment. He highlighted the "Together" program. This program invites different social classes to participate in formulating and modifying decision drafts before they are issued.

Ryder adds; “the financial support provided by the human resources fund "Hadaf" (Goal) and represented in researcher aid program "Haifez" (Stimulus) and other similar programs have contributed to raise the wages in the private sector. It has also created a safe and appropriate work environment for the Saudis”.

He pointed out that the policies followed by Saudi Arabia, gives hope to those working within the International Labor Organization. Saudi Arabia is on the right track that copes with Organization. He emphasized the Organization’s willingness to support its Saudi friends in a way that would help labor market to flourish.

Taibah University Organizes a Conference on “Women Rights in Islam”

Taibah University in Medina has organized a conference entitled “Women Rights in Islam”. The conference is part of the proceedings of choosing the city as the capital of Islamic culture. Several scholars and researchers participated in this conference. It sought to reveal how Islam has been pioneer in the field of human rights. It also unveils the asiduous efforts exerted by the Saudi Arabia to empower women. It also aims at emphasizing the greatness of Islam in maintaining such rights. It also seeks to refute the suspicions surrounding these rights. Moreover, it aims at highlighting the Muslim women identity in international conferences and treaties.

According to Prof. Adnan Al- Mazrou’a, the university president, the conference was held to consolidate how Islam has secured women rights. It seeks to inform society in general and decision makers in particular about women rights in Islam and civil and legal codes in Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, Prof. Mahmoud Ghabban, vice president of the university, and head of the conference supervisory committee, has pointed out that several experts across different universities are participating in this conference. It is held in four sessions tackling five main points. These are: the concept of women rights in Islam and its controls, women ownership rights, civil rights for Saudi women, women rights in international conferences and treatises and the Muslim woman identity; is she independent or a dependent. Prof. Ghabban has added that the conference proceedings included a keynote address given by Rev. Sheikh Salih Al- Maghamsy. Papers presented included “Muslim Women Rights: Solid Roots but Frail Implementation” by Prof. Khaled Al- Deris, professor of hadith at King Saud University. Dr. Al Deris is also the chairman of Prince Naif’s Ideological Security Seat. Prof. Huda Al- Delijan, professor of exegesis at King Faisal University has given a paper on “Civil Rights for Saudi Women: a Consolidating Study”. Other papers presented at the conference included “Misconceptions about Women Inheritance and their Corrections” by Dr. Basma Jistinia ,professor of principles of jurisprudence at Taibah University, “Civil Rights of Saudi Women: The Litigation Right Owing to III Marital Life” by Dr. Nour Karout, professor of associative jurisprudence at Um El Koura University, “Women Rights to Ownership and Resources”, by Dr. Mohammed Al- Rawshida, professor jurisprudential and legal studies at Taibah University “Women Rights in International Conferences and Treatises”, by Dr. Has- san Abu Ghedda, professor of comparative jurisprudence at King Saud University, “Civil Rights for Saudi Women: A Consolidating Study” by Dr. Mustafa Makhdoom, assistant professor of principles of jurisprudence at Taibah University, “Muslim Women Identity: An Independent or a Dependent”, by Dr. Faten Al Halwany, associate professor of Qur’an and Sunnah at King Abdulaziz University, and “The Status of Muslim Family and the Risks that Women Face” by Dr. Nora Al Sa’ad, professor of sociology at King Abdulaziz University.
Protection From Abuse Order Secures Families

The Protection From Abuse Order issued according to the royal decree no. 52 constitutes a pivotal change in the protection of children, women and all family members from all forms of domestic violence. It provides a realistic image of Saudi Arabia’s commitment and respect to international human rights conventions.

It should be perceived, however, that the application of this Order is not confined to women and children only. It encompasses, according to article 1, domestic labor, the handicapped, elders, husband, and whoever is subject to custody or care of another. In addition to the preventive role, the regulation plays a therapeutical one. It handles the incident once it occurs by taking the required procedures to held the criminal accountable or punish him. It is preventive in the sense that it increases the society awareness about such crimes and their effects and thus prevents their occurrence (article 2).

The preventive role of the ministry of foreign affairs should be acknowledged as well. The ministry performs all the preventive procedures, such as those stated in article (15), to protect from abuse. This Order is really flexible to the extent that a well-intending reporter is not liable to any punishment provided that the case reported is not abusive.

It is discreet as well as the reporter’s name is never revealed (articles 6 & 5). It is also observed that it commits all the parties concerned, including the police, to report the case to the ministry of foreign affairs. Article 13 includes the sentences which can be a month to year imprisonment and a fine that is less than (50000 RS) and does not exceed (50000 RS) or one of them only.

Despite the advantages of this Order, it received a great deal of criticism. Critics say that it did not enumerate different forms of abuse. As a response, I would support the view adopted by legal experts which states that it is impossible to make one unified sentence for different forms of abuse. Henceforth, judges should not be restricted to one sentence that might not suit the crime severity.

Thus, I call all sectors to cooperate together and coordinate their efforts to limit this phenomenon that is widely spreading within the Saudi society lately.
News

A team from Al- Jawf Commission branch, has conducted a field visit to the well site in which the child Lama Al–Rouqi in Al- Asmar valley, nearby Haql Governorate, in Tabuk. The teamwork’s job was to follow the search process closely.

The team has visited all the governmental locations found at the search site. These included locations of the police, the Red Crescent, and the Health Affairs to investigate the working mechanism at the wellhead and be informed of the most important results arrived at by relative parties, particularly the civil defense.

The team then visited the child’s family. They met her father Ayed Al Rouky and her uncle Khaled Al- Rouky to get informed about the latest developments. They also met director of the civil defense department. The latter pointed out that everyone is working hard to get out the girl’s body.

The team has prepared an urgent report including their most important remarks and recommendations. It was submitted by the branch general superintendent Dr. Ali Bin Mad- Allah Al Rowished to Dr. Bandar Al- Aiban, the President of the Human Rights Commission.

Moreover, the images exhibited by the Commission branch, were widely appraised. They expressed both the negative and positive aspects of human life through his dealing with his wife, children, society, or other weaker beings such as domestic labor or house maids. Short documentaries about the rights of maids, divorced women and depriving them from seeing their children were screened to the festival visitors.

The Commission Branch at Al- Jawf Follows the Case of Child “Lama ”

Uncovered Wells

Within the same context, the municipality of Wadi ad-Dawasir has invited all citizens and residents to report the uncovered or deserted wells. Mobile number (0515081774) was assigned to report such wells. Other reporting options are visiting the municipality headquarters. It emphasized the importance of reporting for the safety of everyone.

It has also invited the civil defense department to initiate a comprehensive qualifying process to handle similar accidents. The process should include getting the necessary equipment and training needed to handle them. Moreover, the civil defense department has to communicate with similar departments in other countries to make use of their experience.
Al – Souhail Discusses Means of Mutual Cooperation with “Anti-Corruption Commission”

Human Rights Commission member and the general supervisor for the eastern Province, Mr. Abdullah Bin Salih Al-Souhail has discussed means of mutual cooperation with Mr. Ali Bin Mussa Hantoul, director of the National Anti-Corruption branch in the Province in the field of protecting and supporting human rights.

During the visit he paid lately to the headquarters of the Anti-Corruption Commission in the eastern Province, Al Souhail has affirmed the importance of integrating roles between the two commissions as means of mutual cooperation between Human Rights Commission and other related governmental institutions.

Meanwhile, director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (Nazaha) has welcomed the visit. He praised the efforts exerted by the branch of the Human Rights Commission in the eastern Province. “There are a lot of links between human rights and fighting corruption”, he says.

HRC Branch in Eastern Province Organizes an Informative Pavilion at the “Hope (Al-Aml) Forum”

The Commission branch in the eastern Province has participated with an informative pavilion in the “Hope” forum held in Dammam recently. The forum is organized by the activities department in the social care home at Dammam to strengthen the connection between the residents of the home.

The pavilion included several proceedings such as the plays entitled “And I Found What I Long Sought For”, and “A Rebuking Letter”. This is in addition to a variety of intellectual and entertaining competitions. Moreover, the residents have prepared several pavilions themselves such as flowers, henna drawing, make-up, and folklore pavilions there were other pavilions dedicated to psychological tests and social, health and psychological consultations. Another pavilion was for the branch of the Human Rights Commission in the eastern Province.

The social care house has also participated with a pavilion during the forum. The pavilion has been providing informative pamphlets about the care house. Additionally, the medical department of the care house has also participated. It provided some goods, examined diabetes and blood pressure patients and provided medical advice as well.

The Minister of Labor Thanks Al-A’ssiry

The minister of labor, engineer Adel bin Muhammad Fakeih has sent a thank you letter to Mr. Ibrahim Al-A’ssiry, the legal consultant of the Human Rights Commission branch at the eastern Province. The letter was sent as a form of appreciation for the latter’s efforts in supporting human rights and for perpetual coordination with the ministry of labor office in Dammam.
12 Workshops to Increase Awareness of Domestic Violence at Al-Qatif

Owing to the increasing phenomenon of domestic violence recently, the female department for the Charity Marriage Fund at the city Safwa – Al-Qatif Province has held an enlightening and health conference about domestic violence. A bunch of specialists have participated under the slogan of “towards a safe community”. The conference proceedings encompassed informative lectures, workshops, advisory pavilions by family centres and thorough examinations for all family members at Al-Shallal hall at Safwa.

More than 12 specialists (males & females) have provided lectures and workshops. Among these were the workshops delivered by Muhammad A-Suffar, and Asa’ad El Nemr. They were entitled “Youth between Two Pivots” and “Domestic Violence and its Psychological Impact on a Harmonious Life” respectively. The lectures delivered were “Introducing Family Security Committee in Al-Qatif” by Nazek Al-Khenizy, “Domestic Violence within National Laws and Regulations” by Zaker Al-Habil, “How to Protect my Marital Life Against Violence” by Dr. Turki Al-A’gian, “Emerging Violence” by trainer Zoheir A-Soymel, “Family Harmony” by trainer Abdullah Salman Al-Habib, “Peace Forts: An Interactive Program” by trainer Muhammad Sa’eed Al-Khayat and “Your Peace of Mind Relieves You of Violence” by Dr. Fatma Al – Farag, “Artistic Participation” by trainer Akram Al-Mattar and finally “A Safe Family” by Ali Al A’bad.

HRC Discusses the Mechanism of Advocating Human Rights Awareness with the Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and the Arts

In the light of the Human Rights Commission plan to advocate Human Rights awareness and effectuating cooperation between relative parties, a meeting was held lately between Mr. Abdullah Bin Salih Al-Souhail, member and the general supervisor Commission branch in the eastern Province, and Mr. Ahmad Bin Muhammad Al Mulla, head of the Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and the Arts and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was held at Al-Souhail’s headquarters. During the meeting, Al-Souhail has discussed the mechanism to be used for advocating Human Rights awareness. Possible means of cooperation between the Commission and the Society for Culture and the Arts were also discussed. He praised the wise leadership of the Commission, its programs, and the support it provides along its perpetual attempts for human development and protecting and consolidating human rights. Meanwhile, Al-Mulla has also praised the efforts exerted by the Commission branch. “Most of the Society’s audience is young people, who look forward to learning about human rights.”

HRC Branch in Aseer Shows its Concern for Orphans in Jizan

The Human Rights Commission branch supervisor in Aseer Province, Dr. Hadi Al Yami has affirmed the necessity of improving the life conditions of 5 orphans. They live with their aging grandfather in very rough conditions in Jizan. This was an immediate response by the Commission after the case was tackled in media. Al-Yami has pointed out that this case is to be instantly tackled because these people have the right to lead a dignified life.

Dr. Al-Yami has demanded that media provides him with information about the case and a means of communicating with them. He wanted to find out the possibility of providing them with legal support and required aid by the responsible parties. This took place in less than two hours after having the case on news.

A report has been circulated in media about a grandfather living with 5 parentless grandchildren under very rough conditions. They are all striving to earn their living. Moreover, the five children help the grandfather in raising his livestock.
Al-Yami Condemns Publishing Photos of Scared Children by Families

Dr. Hadi Al-Yami, the general supervisor of the Human Rights Commission branch in Aseer has emphasized the importance of holding accountable whoever taunts or abuses children. He also affirmed that those who shoot the physical or psychological abuse processes and publish them on social media shall receive tougher punishments. He indicated that some people think that beating a child is a means of upbringing. However, if the aggressor realizes how horrible and gross his behaviour is, he might think repeatedly before acting in such a severe manner.

Dr. Al-Yami has also illustrated that the role of the Human Rights Commission upon receiving such cases is to investigate alongside the media these people in order to punish them according to regulations that would render them exemplary for whoever considers committing the same harmful behaviour.

Al-Yami further affirmed that there are several parties working in coordination with the ministry of social affairs are thoroughly considering the executive regulation relative to the “Protection Against Abuse Law.” They aim to provide concerned parties with their opinions about the regulation and its articles. Thus, it paves the way for issuing it and abiding by it in short time.

On his part, television director Muhammad Abu Herid has pointed out that child abuse is actually a violation of their character. This is a crime in itself. What about publishing it in public without any constraints or respect for the traditions of our conservative society?! This is mainly due to lack of intellect.

A great deal of the advocates of this issue argue that creating a sense of humour is the motivation behind such a behaviour. When watching such stuff, people may laugh at the children’s spontaneous reactions although they are usually expected.

It is noteworthy that social media web pages were recently replete with inhumane videos void of mercy or kindness. This is actually very true about the “youtube” website which allows users to upload and watch videos for free.

Hail Province Governor Received a Report on Human Rights in Saudi Arabia

Prince Saud Bin Abdul Mohsen Bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Hail has received a report about human rights status in Saudi Arabia. He has also received the executive summary according to which the Kingdom has earned membership of the UN human rights council. He has received this report from Dr. Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim Al-Sayef, the general supervisor of the Human Rights Commission branch in the Province. Dr. Al-Sayef has informed the Prince of Hail about the achievements of the branch in the Province. The report submitted included several, activities, events, workshops and a statistical report about the number and types of complaints submitted at both branches of the department (male & female).

The report also included issues concerning consolidating human rights, rights of the prisoners and arrested persons, and the right to nationality. Other rights tackled were labor rights, rights to safe environment, protection against abuse, torture and domestic violence, dignity and reputation, rights to ownership and freedom of transportation etc.

Dr. Al-Sayef has also illustrated that the cases submitted at the Commission branch were 193, 125 for males and 68 for females. He has also provided examples of the publications and efforts exerted by the branch to advocate awareness about human rights.
Human Rights Commission branch in Hail has recently held several workshops within the context of implementing the fourth phase of the campaign concerned with advocating human rights within the society. The workshops have hosted human rights related government parties in the Province. The first workshop was launched by Mr. Motlak Al- Oteybi, general manager of the civil Status in Hail. The workshop was held at the Commission branch in the Province. It was attended by Dr. Muhammad Al-Sayef, a board member in the Commission, and general supervisor of its branch in Hail, and Mr. Ali Al- Orify, the branch manager. The presence has agreed upon an outline for the partnership between the civil affairs and the Commission branch in order to facilitate providing service for everyone in the Province.

The female department has participated in the dialogue through the local loop. They discussed women issues as reported to the female department in the Commission branch. These included ID cards, registering children, divorced women and widows. They were listened to attentively. Moreover several answers contributing to resolving women issues as reported by the female department were offered.

The second workshop was launched in partnership with Mr. Salem Al- Sabhan general manager of the social affairs in the Province. It tackled the common affairs that the Commission and the Social Affairs share in the Province contributing to serving people. Furthermore, the role of other departments affiliated to Social affairs in providing this service was also tackled. Also the importance of coordination between these departments and the Commission branch was also emphasized.

Activities tackled included the protection against abuse unit, domestic violence, considering the cases reported to the Commission branch, participating along the Social Affairs in overcoming obstacles to access all that serve human, women and children rights, shelter homes, and centres for children and the handicapped.

A Legal Workshop
Through the legal workshop held by the Commission branch, the legal consultant and expert, Dr. Fahd Al- Kholief has discussed the partnership between legal experts and the Human Rights Commission. This partnership seeks to achieve legal integration required to serve people in this Province. Officials at the Commission branch, both men and women, have participated in this workshop by means of queries, interventions and seeking advice about the issues reported to the branch and how to address the from a legal perspective.

Both the social researcher Ms. Khayeria Al- Zabn and the legislative researcher Ms. Amany Al- Naheet from the Commission branch have raised some questions concerning the ‘Khula’ law and other issues relative to women such as children custody. Other women issues and the way to address them legally were also discussed. Additionally, the importance of implementing regulations decreed by the Cabinet and relative to women issues was also emphasized.

The workshop was attended by Dr. Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim Al- Sayef, the general supervisor of the Human Rights Commission branch in Hail and Mr. Ali Al- Orify, the branch manager. Male officials at the branch have also participated in the workshop. Moreover, the female department has also taken part in it through the local loop.

The participants have tackled the importance of considering establishing family and traffic courts. This would stress the role of civil organizations in consolidating these concepts within the society to serve human rights on this holy land and achieve justice and equality. This should be done in accordance with the strategies sponsored by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, the Crown Prince and the Vice Crown Prince.

By the end of the workshop, the legal expert, Dr. Al- Kholief, has expressed his willingness to become the legal advisor for the Commission branch in Hail. He said he is ready to receive any communication concerning different cases requiring legal consultation. It is noteworthy that the Commission branch has awarded Dr. Al- Kholief a trophy as a means of honouring him.
The Women’s Section at the HRC Branch in Mecca Visits Female Prisoners in Jeddah

**Rights/ Mecca**

The Female department at the Mecca branch of the Human Rights Commission has delegated a team led by the Women’s Section head, Jawaher Al- Nahary to pay an inspection visit to the women prison in Jeddah. The team members have wandered around the wards and have also meet some of the prisoners and the prison officials.

The team has recorded some negative remarks and reported them to the concerned parties. Among these was the presence of foreign prisoners awaiting deportation. They were imprisoned until being deported. This would cause a sort of pressure upon the prison. The team pointed out that the services provided by these prisoners in shelter homes suffice to terminate their deportation procedures without having them imprisoned.

The team has also remarked that the prison clinic is available only during the official working hours. Health care is provided at other times of the day by transferring the prisoner to any hospital outside the prison. This would of course delay providing them with the required medical care. It is noteworthy, that the situation at shelter homes in Al-Shumisi is the complete opposite, where medical care is available 24/7.

The team has also reported that the isolation ward, along with other wards, require more maintenance. They have also reported that some of the prisoners’ clothes were not so good compared to the prison’s potentials. There was also shortage in women laborers. Some wards may have only one shift. This would certainly pose a threat in case a mischief occurs. The team highlighted that the Human Rights Commission cares for the female laborers’ rights and welfare as much as it does for the prisoners. The Commission also is concerned with raising their number to be proportional with the number of the prisoners.

Dr. Al- Nahary : 50 Cases of Violence were Traced Through A Year

**Rights/ Mecca**

The head of the female department at the Human Rights Commission in Jeddah, Dr. Jawaher Abdulaziz Al- Nahary, has revealed that 50 cases of violence were traced in 1423 AH. "Yet, our statistics for the year 1424 goes far beyond this number. We shall formulate a comprehensive statistical report comprising domestic violence cases, and violent behaviour against children in the last five years. We are currently working on a study about domestic violence and how to overcome it," she says.

Dr. Al- Nahary has condemned the parents who lack awareness of proper education. Thus, they confuse between bringing up children and rebuking them. She points out that her conclusions are based on actual violence incidents directed against children reported to the Commission.

She indicated that some parents consider violence a form of disciplining. They have to realize their responsibilities towards their children. They should take care of step mothers, who sometimes pose a real threat.

Moreover Al- Nahary goes on illustrate that the Commission plan in advocating children rights is based on both practical and theoretical aspects. The plan also encompasses organizing workshops about guiding the targeted people on how to get their rights.

Dr. Al-Nahary has added that an integrated campaign entitled “Our Children are A Gift that We Should Save” in cooperation with the ministry of social affairs and other concerned parties. The program aims at advocating children rights and contributes to the reduction of maltreatment. She added that the Commission provides this year all what is related children rights, behaviour, and methods of evaluation. As it is previously mentioned, it depended on theoretical and applicable aspects. The theoretical aspect is concerned with about guiding the targeted people on how to get their rights. To serve this goal, lectures are to be delivered at schools, public places and congregations.

HRC’s Branch in Mecca Ends An Eighty-Year Old patient Suffering by Moving her to Abha to Receive Medical Treatment

**Rights/ Mecca**

The Mecca branch of the Human Rights Commission has intervened to end the suffering of a bed ridden eighty year old woman who is left at home without any care although she lives with her family. The Commission branch in Mecca has removed the aged woman from her dilapidated house in Al Qunfudhah to King Fahd’s hospital in Abha to receive the needed medical treatment. Preliminary medical reports have revealed that liquids have been accumulating in the brain.

A team of the Human Rights Commission in Jeddah has visited a remote village in Al Qunfudhah following a report about a bedridden woman who lives at her own home without being taken care of. Two of the Commission members have intervened to move the woman, by the help of the Red Crescent of Al Qunfudhah hospital, when her family refused to move her. The aging woman was moved to King Fahd’ s hospital in Abha where she was admitted to the intensive care unit. She received a surgery to remove the accumulated liquids from the brain.
UN and KSA ... A heritage of Historical Attitudes and Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

Whoever is well informed about the history and the efforts exerted by international organizations in general, and the UN with its different agencies in particular, within the field of human rights can easily realize the assiduous efforts paid by Saudi Arabia to support human rights. The Saudi Kingdom considers human rights a valid framework for cooperation between different nations. It also argues that it is an important pulpit for communication and effective method to end disputes and handle crises.
Saudi Arabia is a founding member of the United Nations. It participated in the San Francisco Conference, during which United Nations Charter was signed. The participating delegation was led by late King Faisal Bin Abdulaziz, who was minister of foreign affairs then. The General Assembly of the United Nations first convened in London on January, 10th, 1946. Representatives of 51 countries were attendant. Furthermore, the UN Security Council has convened for the first time on January, 17th, of the same year. Saudi Arabia is feels pride in its permanent commitment to the principles included in the San Francisco Charter. It attempts assiduously to effectuate these principles. Thus affirming an essential fact, which is the organization’s ability to perform all these roles and handle these burdens, is associated with the political readiness to apply the principles advocated by the former. Saudi Arabia has also affirmed the importance of updating the UN and its affiliated agencies. They should all be developed in a way that allows them to perform their required role. It believed that actual reform requires allowing the General Assembly of the UN an actual and effective role in maintaining international peace and stability.

The Kingdom still believes that any development for the structure of the UN Security Council should aim at enhancing its abilities in order to be able to perform an effective role. Thus, the Kingdom argued that double standards should be avoided in order to achieve the objectives stated in the Charter. It also emphasizes the importance of reliability and seriousness manifested in the respect for the principles of international law and justice.

Rejecting the UN Security Council Membership
The Saudi rejection of the UN Security Council until it could perform its duties concerning maintaining the international peace and security has been received with positive reactions. Such a decision is inspired by the belief that Saudi Arabia has a historical responsibility towards both the Saudi people, the Arab and Islamic nation, and the peoples who look forward to peace and stability across the world. It is also motivated by its belief that the members’ commitment to what they agreed upon is the actual guarantee for peace and stability all over the world. The Kingdom argues that having the Palestinian issue unresolved for 65 years led to several wars that have threatened the international peace and stability. This is a clear cut evidence on the failure of the UN Security Council to make the Middle East void of mass destruction weapons. This can be attributed to its inability to subdue all nuclear programs for different countries to international monitoring and inspection. It can be also due to its failure to prevent any country in the region from possessing mass destruction weapons. Moreover, the genocide committed by the Syrian ruling regime and its usage of chemical weapons without being held accountable or receiving any deterrent punishment is another evidence of the UN Security Council’s failure to perform its assigned tasks and duties.

Fighting Terrorism
Within the efforts exerted to enhance international cooperation to fight terrorism and thanks to the Kingdom’s belief in the necessity of enhancing cooperation between UN members and local agencies and international organizations to face this phenomenon, Saudi Arabia donated 10 million dollars to the UN–Counter Terrorism Centre. The centre was inaugurated in September 2011. The donation is supposed to cover the centre’s activities across the next three years. Such an incident affirms the Saudi support to all the efforts exerted to fight terrorism.

The Kingdom has emphasized the importance of fighting terrorists and their plans, that are not at all excused by any faith, race or culture. On the contrary, it defies our Islamic faith or any other divine religion since they all advocate peace, tolerance, respect and criminalize killing the innocent.

Prince Saud Al- Faisal, minister of foreign affairs, and head of the Saudi delegation to the 66th round of the UN General Assembly conventions in New York during the inauguration of the centre has said: “like several other countries, Saudi Arabia has suffered from terrorist acts. They dealt with it in a strict and serious manner. It was supported by the Saudi people who stood along its leadership in fighting this strange phenomenon that defies our culture and traditions”. The Saudi policies were not limited to tackling the phenomenon from a security perspective. It employed comprehensive policies to handle this astray thought and prevent all means of funding it.

Moreover, Saudi Arabia has held an international conference to fight terrorism in February, 2005. The conference was attended by specialists and experts from over 60 countries, and national and local organizations. During the conference, Saudi Arabia submitted a proposal suggesting that the UN General Assembly adopt Al- Riyadh Declaration that was issued at the end of the counter terrorism international conference and the recommendations it entails.

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Due attention is to be paid to the proposal submitted by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah
Bin Abdulaziz, concerning establishing an international counter-terrorism centre. This is in addition to the Kingdom’s suggestion concerning the formation of a team comprising specialists from the counter-terrorism committee and the countries participating in the conference to study the recommendations and the idea of establishing a centre. The team should also be responsible for planning the procedures needed to implement these recommendations and present them to the UN General Assembly in its 61st round, in 2006.

The UN General Assembly has adopted in September 2006, a consensus decision condemning different forms of terrorism. The decision has also agreed on a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy that is based on respecting law and human rights. The Kingdom has been renowned for its honourable historical attitudes. Through the UN pulpits, it has been advocating the best for humanity. It advocated the protection of human rights, the rule of law, and advocating peace culture and initiatives for dialogue between cultures and different peoples. These are considered essential elements in any effective strategy for fighting terrorism and extremism. It affirmed that respecting international legitimacy and its principles is the only means to resolve permanent international disputes and eradicating tension centres. Thus, preventing terrorists from manipulating the feelings of depression resulting from being subjected to aggression and occupation.

**Dialogue between Religions**

In response to King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, call to hold a high level meeting for dialogue between different cultures and religions, the UN General Assembly has held a meeting attended by world leaders and government representatives at the UN headquarters in New York, in November 2008 for dialogue between different religions, cultures or civilizations. During the speech delivered at the meeting, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has said: ‘our dialogue, which will be conducted in a civilized manner, will hopefully revive supreme values and consolidate within peoples and nations. This will inevitably be an amazing triumph for the best over the worst of human beings. It will give humanity hope about a future dominated by justice, safety and dignified life. Fear, poverty and injustice will not be there any longer’. The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, has praised at the concluding statement of the meeting King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz’ initiative to call for a dialogue between different cultures and religions across the world.

The minister of foreign affairs, Prince Saud Al-Faisal, has signed a convention for establishing King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz’ Centre for Dialogue. Other parties who signed the convention were Dr. Michael Spindelegger Austrian minister of foreign and European affairs and the Spanish minister of foreign affairs and cooperation Trinidad Jiménez García-Herrera. The convention was signed in Vienna on October 13th, 2011, in the presence of representatives from international agencies, cultural and religious dialogue organizations and several distinguished social figures and media representatives.

**The Palestinian Cause**

The Saudi Arabian attitude towards the Palestinian cause has been consistent since the reign of its founder King Abdulaziz Al-Saud who participated in the London Conference (1935) – also known as the Round Table Conference- until the reign of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz. The Kingdom has supported the Palestinian issue across its different phases and perspectives (political, economic and social). This is due to its firm belief that the efforts it pays to serve the Palestinian issue is an obligation to which it is committed owing to its faith and sense of belonging to the Arab and Islamic nation.

Owing to its historical responsibility towards the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Kingdom has affirmed that this struggle dominates other issues in the Middle East. It is the most influential regional conflict on the international peace. The Israeli settlements undermine possibilities of establishing a Palestinian state. The Arab countries have clearly stated, during the peace initiative launched by the Kingdom and adopted by the Arab Summit in Beirut (2002) their commitment to achieving comprehensive peace.
Supporting the Palestinian and Syrian cause and persuading the international community to support them

The UN responds positively to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques call for dialogue between religions

that is based on principles of international law. However, Israel did not show similar commitment.

As for the incidents witnessed by the Arab region recently, Saudi Arabia has affirmed that these situations require a responsible attitude that aims at maintaining stability and civil peace within the region and within the borders of the legal demands of the people in the region. Although the Kingdom is Keen on not to intervene with other countries internal affairs, its leadership feels deeply sorry for the civil causalities falling daily as a result of the crises and unrest witnessed by the region. Saudi Arabia has called for using reason and wisdom to handle these crises, avoid violence or more bloodshed and resort to serious reforms that secure human rights and dignity. Meanwhile, safety and stability across the Arab region should be maintained.

The Syrian Cause

Saudi Arabia has been the official patron of the Syrian cause. It provided the latter with financial and political support. It donated millions of dollars to support the Syrian people. This is in addition to the campaign launched by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to support the Syrian children. Moreover Saudi Arabia has demanded that the Security Council to perform its legal and moral roles. It should launch initiatives calling to stop violence and the killing machine in Syria. It should also work to save the besieged civilians Homs, Hama and different Syrian cities, enhance the mission of the international and Arab envoy Kofi Annan and help in delivering the medical and humane aids to the affected civilians. Moreover, the Saudi Kingdom demanded that the Security Council should find a solution that secures welfare and dignified life for the Syrians regardless of their political, ethnic and religious beliefs. It should also abide by the Road map formulated by the League of Arab States and supported by the UN General Assembly. It also called for the deployment of international and Arab forces for the process of peacekeeping in Syria.

The presidency of Prince Abdulaziz Bin Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz , deputy of the minister of foreign affairs, of the Saudi delegation to the UN General Assembly has contributed amply to elaborating its perspective on Islamic law and explaining it to the world. “I assure the Saudi commitment to the rule of law in a way that conforms to what has been stated in the UN charter. The Kingdom also assures that abiding by this charter and its emphasis on liberty, sovereignty, and justice for all is a guarantee for creating a hopeful future for our offspring who will inherit our world with all its problems and challenges.

Combating Poverty

Saudi Arabia has contributed to restricting the consequences of natural disasters and combating poverty and diseases by means of donating to several UN funds including the International Food Program. This is in addition to the role played by the Saudi Fund for Development. The SFD has provided aids during the last three decades estimated as 100 billion dollars which were beneficial to more than (90) of the developing countries. The Saudi government has assured before the UN General Assembly that it pays due attention to the efforts that aim at achieving the developmental goals of the millennium, reducing poverty and combating infectious diseases that kills people ruthlessly. Within this context, Saudi Arabia has implored the capable countries to commit to their obligations and contribute the share assigned by the UN.

The UN has celebrated on Thursday, January 11th, 2013, the 50th anniversary of the Saudi partnership with the International Food Program and donating (500) million dollars to it in order to combat the developmental goals of the millennium, reducing poverty and combating infectious diseases that kills people ruthlessly.

The Speech Delivered by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Before the UN

During the UN Millennium Summit, held at the UN headquarters in New York in 2000, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques (who was the Crown Prince then) has delivered a speech in which he says: “My homeland is proud of being a founding member of this great edifice. It is also proud of still being an effective member. It assures its belief that the UN will remain the greatest hope for humanity second only to Allah. It would help prevent the next generations from facing the horrors of war, despite the obstacles it encounters”.

He added: “the Saudi government appreciates the current efforts that aim at updating and developing the agencies affiliated to the UN so that they can perform their roles as required and in a way that cope with the latest developments that the international relations currently.”

He has also assured that the Kingdom supports the UN efforts. “Our firm belief in the importance of the role played by the UN in handling crises and avoiding the horrors of war and allowing methods of international cooperation makes us more determined than ever to support this organization in order to continue its procession based on its supreme principles and goals.”

The UN has responded positively to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques call for dialogue between religions.

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History of the United Nations

The former American president Franklin D. Roosevelt coined the name “United Nations”. The name was first used in the “United Nations Declaration” issued on the first of January, 1942. This was during WWII, when representatives 26 countries have agreed on behalf of their governments to fight together against the Axis. The UN Charter was signed by representatives of 50 countries during the UN conference held in San Francisco from April 26th to June 26th in 1945. The delegates have discussed the proposals made by the Soviet Union, the U.S.A., China and the United Kingdom during the Dumbarton Oaks Conference in August, 1944. The 50 representatives signed the Charter on June 26th, 1945. The Charter was signed later by Poland, which was not represented in the conference. Thus, the founding members become 51. The UN entity emerged officially on October 24th, 1945. This date marks the signature of the Charter by the Soviet Union, China France, the United Kingdom, the U.S.A. and most of the signing countries.

Energy and Environment

Based on the Kingdom’s keenness on taking its international responsibilities towards the challenges faced by the world including climate changes, food security and increasing prices of basic goods. It has announced during the last OPEC summit in Riyadh donating 300 million dollars to establish a special fund for research in the field of energy, environment and climate change. Owing to the international cooperation in the field of energy, the Kingdom has allowed dialogue between producers and consumers. Actually, the city of Riyadh has hosted the general secretariat for the International Energy Forum. Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz has sponsored the Jeddah Conference for the Countries Using and Producing Petroleum. He has also launched an initiative entitled “Energy for the Poor”. This initiative aims at overcoming the expenses required for having energy. Moreover, Saudi Arabia represented by the National Committee for Clean Development Mechanism, in the UN international competition for climate change, has been awarded the best committee prize. The competition aims at presenting the best communi- cative models to introduce its projects, its role in promoting these projects to reduce the effects of gas radiation that leads to global warming and reduce the effects of climate change.

The follow-up reports issued by the Kingdom about the implementation of millennium the developmental goals have revealed that Saudi Arabia has transcended the standardized limits for achieving most assigned goals. Moreover, it is about to achieve the remaining before the proposed dates in 2015, which is the year for achieving developmental goals of the millennium.

Saudi Arabia has also made several achievements to reduce poverty, starvation and in the field of health sector, secure elementary education for different social classes and integrating both genders in educational organizations and other aspects related to the developmental goals.

Saudi Arabia has also assured that the concepts of international and developmental partnership are its consistent methodologies. They are now part and parcel of the eighth and ninth developmental plans that advocate supporting cooperation and integration on both local and international levels. This would contribute to the economic and social development and maintain the international peace and stability. Within this framework, Saudi Arabia has provided help and support to whoever needs it based on its available potentials and its human heritage. In addition, Saudi Arabia is considered a donor country and an essential partner in international development. Foreign aid constituted and integral aspect of the Saudi foreign and developmental policies. The total aids provided by Saudi Arabia to the developing countries in the period (1973-2009) was estimated as more than (99.75) billion USD. More than 95 developing countries in Asia, Africa and other parts of the world have benefited from these aids. The Saudi aids to the developing countries have increased compared to the total national income during this period. It exceeded the target percentage of developmental aid by the donor countries as assigned by the UN. This percentage is equal to 7% of the national income. The actual percentage of Saudi aids exceeded 5% of the national income. Thus, Saudi Arabia is considered an effective partner in the developing countries as it directly finances developmental projects. Saudi aids take different forms such as facilitated loans, grants, relief aids and relieving debts. Saudi Arabia has actually cancelled debts exceeding 6 billion dollars owed by some developing countries.
Freedom of Speech and Expression

One morning I submitted a brief study to the internal media agency at the ministry of culture and information about the freedom of speech and expression. I summarized its main points in a small paper and presented it to the responsible for the office of Minister of culture and information. I never knew what happened to this paper. I remembered that the editor of the Human Rights Magazine has asked me to work with them. I thought it might be one of the good and rare opportunities. Since the magazine is concerned with civil rights, and this kind of freedom is among the acquired and basic human rights, writing about it is a good introduction to the audience who would pleasure me with reading my article.

I am not going to consider the definition of freedom; we are sufficed with a primary fact, that civil rights that are advocated and struggled for are the most valuable for humans. The second fact is that the concepts and limitations of freedom vary from one society or class to another. Yet, most people do not accept to eliminate the thin line between freedom and chaos. In our Saudi, Muslim society this principle is adapted based on the Islamic law and other legal regulations without violating the religious, traditional or social aspects. It is important here to highlight the differences between the freedom of speech and that of expression.

Freedom of speech is divided into three phases: seeking specific information, obtaining and understanding this information, and finally to send this information to any informative media, either orally or in a written form.

The degree and context of this kind of freedom varies from one country to another or from one society to another within the same country, or even from one class to another. They all agree that there is a particular obstacle preventing the implementation of this last phase. This can be referred to as the specific outlet that decides on what is allowed and what is prohibited within the society. This kind of freedom is usually confined by laws and regulations that change within particular circumstances either greater restriction or liberation. It also varies from one country to another, what is appropriate for one country is inappropriate for another. This kind of freedom encompasses some expressionist practices like protests, etc…

Saudi Arabia, for instance, allows all forms of written and verbal expression during live talk shows, on magazines or the minutes produced at the end of intellectual and literary forums and symposia. During these, freedom of speech is practiced fully where its three phases are implemented starting from searching for information. Then understanding it and finally create the output be it oral, red, visual or auditory in whatever media form. The concept of the freedom of speech is based on the available capacity for an individual to express his opinion about a political, social, economic or religious topic that is liable to discussion. This should be done prior to making a decision about it. Talking about it in the phase following making this decision is not an opinion, but it is a criticism. It is referred to as a critical opinion. Thus, the opinion is transformed into criticism that should be controlled by the limitations of objective criticism. Otherwise, it will be considered a form of incitement or chaotic opinion.

Saudi Arabia also allows the practice of this right in different forms of media or in discussing any topic liable to public discussion. It also allows written objection on newspapers targeting projects that are actually there or still under construction, whether these projects are ideological or financial. This means that this right is practiced by a degree of freedom that varies from one institution to another or within different communities within the society. This freedom is confined only by two constraints: the essence of Islamic faith and national integrity.
Dr. Bandar Bin Mohammed Al- Aiban, President of the Human Rights Commission has affirmed that the Saudi Kingdom renews its call for immediate effectuation of the UN Security Council and Human Rights Council decisions. It also urges the world to hold the war criminals in Syria accountable for their own mischief and the withdrawal of foreign fighters there. This was announced during the Kingdom’s speech delivered at the inauguration of the 25th round of the UN Human Rights Council, that was held lately in Geneva.

Dr. Al- Aiban has invited the UN Human Rights Council to review and evaluate how effectively it can face the horrible violations against human rights, particularly in areas of crises and unrest. He emphasized the important role played by the Council to protect human rights. He has also warned against the increasing violation threatening people’s lives. He says that these should be the top priority of the Council in the coming period.

Dr. Al- Aiban goes on to emphasize the role played by the Human Rights Council in enhancing common values apart from politicization. “The Saudi delegation affirms the necessity of having the UN Human Rights Council perform its duties and obligations. Its efforts should be directed in the future towards establishing common values and concepts between cultures and civilizations. It should also affirm cultural diversity and investing human values in order to protect and enhance human rights. It should also avoid politicization and monoculturalism particularly when it comes to imposing new values and concepts that are not agreed upon internationally”, he says. He further adds: “the international reports issued about the Syrian situation indicate that we are facing anti- human crimes that are as horrible as earlier war crimes and fatal conflicts documented by history”.

War Criminals Should be Held Accountable before International Justice

Dr. Al- Aiban has pointed out the world has witnessed last year the death of almost 60 000 Syrians. “Today, that three years have passed since the Syrian Revolution broke out, over 140 000 Syrians have been killed. Meanwhile over two millions and half have become refugees abroad and seven millions are expatriates inside Syria itself. Moreover (over 11,000) of the suspended are tortured
in the regime's prison because of the stubbornness of the Syrian regime and its continuity to kill its people with the most destructive weapons including chemical weapons and throwing exploding barrels above civilians even if they were children and elders. We now face a terrifying scene replete with human rights violations.

Dr. Al – Aiban has held the international community responsible towards the rapid deterioration taking place in Syria. It should take the "necessary procedures" to guarantee delivering humane aids to Syria rapidly and safely and provide all that can lift the Syrian people's spirit. He says: "In continuation of the efforts exerted by the Saudi government to support the Syrian people and terminate its suffering, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, has called for having an international day to support Syrian children. It should highlight their suffering and providing the support required to fulfill the needs of thousands of Syrian children living under tragic conditions.

Furthermore, Dr. Al- Aiban has highlighted that the disastrous events emerging in different parts of the world should not make us forget about the Palestinian cause. The Palestinian people has been suffering the terrors of occupation for six decades and undergoing the worst forms of human rights violations. This attributed to not achieving any substantial results in the peace process.

Moreover, Israel continues to impose the status quo, particularly when it comes to settlements , tyrannical arrests, and depriving the Palestinians from their basic rights, the most important of which is the right of self-determination and establishing an independent state where Jerusalem is the capital.

"We should always recall the memory of this human disaster and work hard to effectuate the international decisions, particularly those issued by the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly", he says. He demanded that Israel – as an occupation force- allow the human rights reporter in Palestine to go inside the areas within the borders assigned for him .Dr. Al – Aiban has also expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by Ms. "Navanethem Pillay" the high commissioner of human rights and her assistants to enhance human rights. He has also congratulated Ambassador "Boudlier Nadong Elia", permanent representative of Gabon for his election as a president for the Council.

Dr. Al Aiban goes on to express his thanks to countries that supported the election of Saudi Arabia as a member in the Human Rights Council for a third term. He assured that the Saudi government will always work towards fulfilling the promises it had made voluntarily when it was first elected. He also affirmed the Saudi commitment to protecting and enhancing human rights and supporting its mechanisms, particularly the Human Rights Councils, in order to achieve the goal it was established for.

Internal Reforms
Dr. Al- Aiban has indicated the Kingdom's keenness on establishing a fair and effective regime. It should be based on firm bases that conform to the Islamic law. This inspired by its belief in the importance of the rule of law to maintain peace, human rights and achieve perpetual development. He argues that issuing new procedures for criminal law, court pleadings, and hearings before the Board of Grievance is an important step in reforming the judicial system within the Kingdom. Thus enhancing and protecting human rights.

He has also affirmed that the initiative launched by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz for dialogue between followers of different cultures and religions is an unprecedented step. It would help to spread tolerance, peaceful living and moderation to face the hatred calls. It would also allow diversity of religions and cultures to be the bases for understanding not clashes. This initiative was crowned by the establishing King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz centre for dialogue between followers of different religions and cultures in Vienna, in November 2012.

Dr. Al- Aiban goes on to assure that the Kingdom has subdued all its financial and economic resources to serve humanity. Thus, enhancing the procession of development and encourages investments that would in turn create more job opportunities and push the economic growth forward. The largest portion of the State's budget in 2014 was dedicated to the health, social and educational sectors and specialized developmental funds.

On the international perspective, Dr. Al- Aiban has indicated that the Saudi government has supported economies of different countries because it feels it has an obligation towards establishing a new, international economic system that cares for human rights. This can be done by means providing facilitated loans and generous donations to poor countries. Moreover, it should provide more job opportunities for foreign labor of different nationalities. Foreign labor is actually one source of supporting the economies and raising the life standards in their countries.

Rights of Foreign Labor
Dr. Al- Aiban has emphasized that the Saudi government led by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, has adopted more structural reforms and regulatory initiatives to secure rights of foreign labor.

Thus the domestic labor regulation was issued. It determined the rights and obligations of worker and employer. Moreover, it decided on a programme to protect wages. This programme would secure providing foreign labor with their financial rights at the allocated times. Based on this regulation, a national centre was established to receive the complaints of foreign labor in their own native languages.

He has pointed out that the Kingdom reassures protecting the rights of foreign labor and their families in Saudi Arabia. They are actually more than 9 million workers. They have transferred over thirty nine and five hundred billion USD to their countries in 2012. This signifies an increase equal to 18% compared to the previous year. Thus
Saudi Arabia Donates “one million dollars” to Support the High Commission of Human Rights

The president of the Human Rights Commission, Dr. Bandar Al- Aiban, head of the Saudi delegation to the UN Human Rights meetings, held lately in Geneva, has offered the High Commission of Human Rights a million dollar. This comes as part of the continuous voluntary support the Kingdom provides for the UN mechanisms.

During his meeting with the high commissioner, Mrs. Navanethem Pillay, Dr. Al- Aiban has expressed the Saudi support for the High Commission of Human Rights. He assured its assiduous efforts to relieve the suffering of the Syrian people. They have also discussed possible aspects of mutual cooperation and how to enhance them.

Meanwhile, Ms. Pillay has expressed her deep thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and her appreciation for the Saudi attitudes towards human rights.

Dr. Al – Aiban has announced that the Saudi Kingdom will donate million dollars to support the efforts exerted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Somalia. He affirmed that this donation is part of the King’s support for the efforts exerted by the organization in providing the required humane aids.

The announcement was made during the meeting held between the Dr. Al- Aiban and William Swing the president of the IOM. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Fiasal Tarrad, Saudi Arabia’s permanent representative at the UN in Geneva, on the sidelines of the 25th round of the UN Human Rights Council held lately in Geneva.

On his part, the IOM president has expressed his thanks for the Saudi Kingdom. He says that this is a continuation of its support for the UN humane organizations. He has also expressed his deep thanks to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and the Saudi government for this generous donation that will help the Organization perform its assigned tasks.

Application of the Islamic Law Secured Rights

Dr. Bandar Al – Aiban has affirmed that Saudi Arabia feels pride in having the Islamic law as a constitution and a way of life. It has secured the effectuation of justice and equal rights for everyone, since they are a gift from Allah. This was during the discussion round organized by the UN Human Rights Council lately in Geneva. The round is entitled “Wondering about the Death Sentence”.

He says: “we respect the right to live as it is one of the basic rights secured by the Islamic law. However, calls against death sentence advocated by several countries and organizations should not let us forget about the rights of the other parties being violated by the criminals. This should be taken into consideration.

Several countries had advocated the continuity of applying death sentence as it conforms to its laws, regulations and legislations. There is no international law obliging all countries to abide by. The issue is left to each country based on its own internal legislation. The kingdom has always been keen on applying the death sentence only in serious cases that threatens the safety of the society. Moreover, it is keen on conforming to the standards of justice as part of its commitment to its international obligation. Whenever a verdict of death sentence is decreed, it is effectuated through three phases: court of first instance, the court of review and finally the supreme court.”

He further adds: “the Saudi delegation affirms their country’s commitment to human rights treaties and conventions. He reaffirms their insistence on the sovereignty of the state and its right to apply its internal legislations that considers equal rights for each party. Criminal laws and pleadings have secured the rights and safety of the society when it comes to applying such a sentence”
How to Enhance The Rights Awareness in our Society?

Our religious faith is most distinguished because it is based on civil pivots. These are the basic of justice that Allah has prescribed. The Almighty has reassured this concept in several holy verses. Thus being free leading a safe and dignified life and being able to make one’s own choices are basic principles in our faith. This is in addition to several other duties that have to be secured for all mankind as their deserved rights and not as gift. Based on the Noble Qur’an, Allah has emphasized the importance of being free and able to make your own choices: “There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong.” (2:265), and in His saying “And say, “The truth is from your Lord, so whoever wills - let him believe; and whoever wills - let him disbelieve.”(18:29).

Moreover, THE Almighty has always reassured Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that he is not responsible for the behaviour of those who calls into Islam “So if they argue with you, say, “I have submitted myself to Allah [in Islam], and [so have] those who follow me.” And say to those who were given the Scripture and [to] the unlearned, “Have you submitted yourselves?” And if they submit [in Islam], they are rightly guided; but if they turn away - then upon you is only the [duty of] notification. And Allah is Seeing of [His] servant” (3: 20)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has also illustrated this fact in most of his sayings and attitudes and so did the Righteous Caliphs. Their behaviours and attitudes within this aspect were exemplary indeed. The famous saying by Omar Ibn Al- Khattab: “ when have rendered peoples slaves although they were born free” and Ali Ibn Abi Taleb’s : “ do not ever be someone else’s slave when Allah has created you a free man” attest to this concept.

Henceforth, our religious faith advocates freedom and equality and this something by which all Muslim people abide. Similarly does Saudi Arabia. Owing to its position as a supreme religious value for Muslim peoples as it accommodates the Two Holy Mosques which all Muslims cherish and hold in high esteem, Saudi Arabia commits itself to abiding by these Islamic values in almost all its attitudes.

Yet, enhancing civil awareness within our society requires more educational programmes and more clarity in written legislations and laws. This is what should be done in the future whether civilly or officially.

Thus, we are in an urgent need for a special educational programme that aims at introducing our children across their different ages to their rights and duties. This can be done by means of media programmes and curricular or extracurricular activities that help establishing a society well aware of human rights in the future.

These preaching and enlightening frame work should, meanwhile conform to the behavioral and legal framework. When the youngsters realize that the road has rights that they should respect such as keeping it clean and that there would be a punishment for whoever violates these rights since road is a public facility that everyone benefits from, such rights will be consolidated in their minds. The same applies to all human rights that should be fulfilled whether civilly or officially, so is there a way to achieve that?
Al- Aiban: Protecting and Enhancing Human Rights is a Strategic Option

The royal decree issued lately by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, was highly appraised in political, civil, and social media circles. According to this decree whoever participates in war or fighting abroad or belongs to extremist ideological or religious groups shall be sentenced to jail.

The Kingdom has affirmed during the discussion session and accrediting the final results for the comprehensive regular review that enhancing human rights is a strategic option. It is the back bone for the comprehensive development adopted by the Saudi government. The Saudi efforts to protect human rights assures its keenness on establishing these pivots on both the national and international levels and supporting efforts exerted to achieve these goals without violating societies’ values and traditions.

President of the Human Rights Commission, Dr. Bandar Al – Aiban has affirmed that the effectiveness of the comprehensive regular review is based on several essential factors. The most important of these is objectivity. Objectivity can contribute to achieve the goals of the mechanism and helping countries to enhance and protect human rights and overcome the challenges they face.

He indicated that continuity is an important aspect of the success of the review mechanism. The more continuous the mechanism is the more accessible its objectives can be. This requires support from everyone and preventing any attempts to make it fail. Hierarchy is also important, when it comes to effectuating human rights conventions. Other factors included: taking cultural diversity into consideration. Different cultures across dif-
different countries are a reality we all live through. Attempting to impose a particular culture on others, especially in the field of human rights does not help as much as it does harm. This diversity enhances human rights and is part of the “human rights universality” concept.

Dr. Al- Aiban says: “the Saudi government led by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is committed to the protection and enhancing human rights on the national level. It would also contribute to that on the regional and international levels. The Saudi government cooperation with the comprehensive regular review mechanism and accepting the recommendations provided during the review process and putting them into action is clear evidence on this commitment. The Saudi government has moreover, has provided objective recommendations for the countries that has undergone this review or will undergo it in the future.

“Our attempts to improve the comprehensive regular review mechanism, and our response to what is imposed by the variables and professional reality, affirm that the Saudi government emphasizes abiding by the principles included in decision 5\1. The most important of which is conducting the review process objectively and in a constructive and non-politicized manner,” he adds.

Dr. Al- Aiban has pointed out during the discussion session that the achievements made so far by the Kingdom to advocate human rights and enhance them are not the ends in themselves. These constitute a motivation for intensifying national work to protect national achievements and lay the mechanisms needed to consolidate the values of human rights and protect them.

He has reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to the promises it had mad voluntarily before the UN Human Rights Council and to its cooperation with mechanism of comprehensive regular review. He argues that this mechanism is a cornerstone for Council’s job. It is the perfect means to achieve its objectives as well. The most prominent of these objectives are self evaluation of the human rights case in order to consolidate universal respect for all human rights and basic liberties for everyone in an objective and responsible manner and without any discrimination.

The Commission President has also indicated that the Kingdom has provided 250 recommendations on more than 12 subjects of human rights. They were all met with great in-
terest and thorough examination. They were all studied starting with the Human Rights Commission Board. Later, a supreme committee comprising over 13 governmental institutions was formed to study these recommendations.

"On a parallel, yet equally important line, several meetings were held across different parts of the Kingdom. Both male and female representatives from national organizations for human rights, civil society institutions, academic institutions and activists in the fields of human rights have participated in discussing these recommendations and providing methods of implementation". He indicated that these meetings have elaborated a comprehensive national vision upon which the Saudi government could evaluate these recommendations.

He has also highlighted that the extensive discussions, that had taken place last November, has concluded in supporting, whether totally or partially, (for 188 recommendations) and not supporting (37 recommendations). Those recommendations were rejected because they defy the principles of Islam and the ruling regime. They also do not conform to the values and traditions of our society. Moreover, they violated the principles of the review, as they contained false claims.

Concerning becoming a state party in human rights international conventions, the Commission president has illustrated that the Kingdom has finally signed the International Labor Organization Convention no. 138. The convention is concerned with the minimum age of employment. Moreover, a study is conducted currently concerning becoming a state party in several other conventions concerning human rights.

"The criminal law has been recently modified. Similarly, are legislative pleading and pleadings before the Board of Grievance. This is part of the improvement process of the judiciary system. It secures the Kingdom’s continuity to consolidate the pivots of truth and justice by means of an objective judiciary. Such a judicial system would secure delivering rights to those who deserve it fairly and held the guilty accountable according to fair and objective laws.

Dr. Al- Aiban has added that the Kingdom was keen on finding a comprehensive way to achieve the goals of enhancing human rights. This is done by means of issuing several specialized regulations. These include counter human trafficking and protection against abuse laws.

He indicated that the Kingdom affirms that its judicial system is regulated by the principle of criminalization and punishment. Article (38) of the primary ruling law states that:"a punishment is received personally. No penalties are to be received except according to a systematic or legislative statement. Penalties are applied in case incidents occurred after applying the systematic statement".

Dr. Al- Aiban has added that the judicial system in Saudi Arabia pays due attention to the principle of public judicial hearings. Achieving justice is a main reason behind improving the Judiciary system. Both the criminal and the legislative pleading laws have clearly stated that the norm for judicial hearings to be held in public. However, the court may decide otherwise for security or moral reasons. This conforms to the international standards. He highlighted that the Human Rights Commission and the National Society for Human Rights continues to attend trials in an attempt to enhance this principle.

In the field of constructing judicial potentials, Dr. Al- Aiban has highlighted that the ministry of justice has cooperated with several academic and governmental institutions such as: the High Institute of Judiciary, the Human Rights Commission and other organizations inside the Kingdom and abroad to organize several training courses and workshops. They focused on different judicial aspects. Several workshops and symposia were held in the field of human rights and to enhance the role of judiciary across different parts of the world.

Concerning women and children rights and fighting domestic violence, Dr. Al- Aiban has said that several procedures were made in this respect. The most important of which is issuing the “Protection Against Abuse Law” which aims at protecting the society particularly women and children or elders, from abuse. It is also concerned with tracing and documenting cases of violence and held whoever tries to prevent domestic violence complaints from getting access to the concerned parties.

Dr. Al- Aiban has also affirmed that based on the guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, women have been empowered women to participate in the next municipality elections as both a voter and a candidate. This will enhance women participation in political, economic, and social life. Moreover, it will enable her to contribute effectively to decision making.

"Saudi Arabia works hard to enhance the rove of civil
societies as an essential partner in their responsibilities towards the protection and enhancing human rights. Several human rights organizations and societies obtained license and empower to perform their tasks independently. He highlighted that that legislative institutions devote much time and effort to study the project proposal (civil society organizations) in order to formulate a well- knit phrasing that comprise all the opinions related to the project;" says Dr. Al- Aiban.

He indicated that a comprehensive national plan has been formulated in which several governmental organizations related to human rights and civil society organizations. This plan aims at enhancing awareness about human rights. it is based on several principles. The most important of which are; contributing to the effectuation of the Saudi obligations that are based the conventions it signed. He has also affirmed that the Saudi government has tried hard to create an appropriate atmosphere to accommodate foreign labor. This is done by means of making laws and mechanisms that illustrate their rights and duties without discrimination of a race or class over the other. This should secure them their rights and a dignified life. The latest thing in this respect is issuing "the foreign labor regulation". It defines clearly the relationship between workers and employers.

He also added that within the same respect the ministry has lately launched "Supportive" program, (Musaned), an educational program that aims at introducing the regulation and highlighting the rights and duties of domestic labor and employers. It also introduces the complaining mechanism.

The Commission president has also indicted that "protecting wages program" has also been launched lately. It is an electronic mechanism through which the organization's punctuality in paying wages or salaries, and in the amounts agreed upon is tracked. The data submitted will represent an accurate reference to resolve complaints about labor dues. It contributes to handling several labor issues.

Dr. Al- Aiban has pointed out that the Saudi government has laid several laws and procedures to correct the status of the violators of labor and residence laws in order to secure foreign labor rights and for economic, security and social reasons. He indicated that statistics reveals that the correcting campaign had managed to a great extent in allowing a lot of violators to benefit from the period of time and the facilities provided by obtaining labor license and systematic residence. They thus correct their status and continue to work systematically into the country.

He adds: “the labor licenses issued during the corrected period were 3,890,916. The number of foreign labour who have changed career during this period was 2,423,779 worker. The number of foreign labor who have changed employers was 2,600,128 worker. In return, the departure of violating workers to their countries was facilitated, meanwhile, their rights were secured".
Family issues take the lead in the Human Rights Commission Fair in Jenadriyah

The Human rights Commission Fair in the National Festival of Heritage and Culture “Jandareyyah 29” has witnessed a widespread interest of visitors of different age categories. The family issues took the lead where the raising awareness took various forms and addressed various age categories through the sections targeting men, women and children, especially those programs for family and child affairs through eight monitors that present a documentary about the commission from the time it was established and the stages of its development, in addition to animated movies that tackle a number of child rights, and a display to the Commission’s website and how to send complaints through the internet. There were also other monitors and screens that display legal guidelines and tips and information related to occasions about human rights.
The Commission specified a pavilion to receive men’s complaints and another one to receive women’s complaints through a number of social and legal female researchers in order to facilitate the process of receiving inquiries and complaints related to women.

The suite also has introduced several printouts and releases of the Commission which include: the magazine and brochure of the Commission, the pamphlets and flyers targeting several categories of the society. Also, the arcades of the fair had 40 panels that carried legal awareness phrases in both Arabic and English.

The Commission participation in the festival of Janadriyah insured the importance of effective participation that achieves the mission and objective of the Commission, which are involved in the general objectives of the program of spreading the culture and awareness of human rights for individuals as well as institutions whether public or private. This will lead to improving its performance that insure protecting human rights inspired by the tolerant message of Islam that calls for justice and equality and all the international treaties and agreements as well as the valuable traditions that conform with it.

Child Corner:
There was a prepared gallery for children that included stories and booklets to raise awareness. It also included painting note-books and colors that help children to express their concept of human rights through painting as well as writing phrases that reveal their understanding to the concept of human rights. The painting room witnessed a widespread interest. It also presented through a TV screen cartoon and animation material that raise their awareness to some of their rights.

As the painting area fills the entertainment notion in children, it witnessed a great interest from them. The Commission president, Dr. Bandar Al-Aiban spoke to kids about their vision and opinion of the child corner, the booklets and paintings there. He also listened to their aspirations and dreams. He participated with them in painting. In turn, children cared about having his signature on their paintings.

Foreign visitors
The commission suite was admired by many foreign visitors to the festival as it provides services that touch the needs and issues of the visitors through direct contact with audience.

What took the attention of the foreign visitors, especially the Americans and the British, was what the festival included to spread the culture of human rights in both Arabic and English through the TV screens along the fair as well as the awareness material that aim at guiding, raising awareness and instructing people from different backgrounds and the variety of speech media.

The British Deputy, Daniel Kavznesky, the director of the British Saudi Group, and the accompanying delegation to the Kingdom, visited the site of the festival and wandered the corridors of the fair and listened to an explanation about the nature of the Commission participation in the Janaderyyah festival.

The visiting delegations praised this participation and spoke about its role in touching the society issues. The foreign delegations also cared about having the Commission printouts and a number of visual material.

Ahmed bin Mohamed Al-Khamis, the supervisor of the Fair, mentioned that the number of consultations received by the commission exceeded 1250 assuring that this is a positive indication to the increasing degree of awareness of people in relation to their duties and rights.

Al-Khamis said that the commission area that participated in the festival gained a great interest from the foreign delegations as it provides services that touch the needs and issues of the visitors through direct contact with audience. Besides, it presents and spreads the culture of human rights in both Arabic and English.

Al-Khamis also declared that the printouts and publications
of the Commission that were distributed among the suite visitors have exceeded 11000 copy involving the commission magazine, brochure, pamphlets and flyers targeting various social categories.

Dr. Al- Aiban Praise

The Commission president ,Dr. Bandar Al-Aiban, praised the role that was played by the National Guard under the leadership of Prince Mutaib bin AbduAllah bin Abdulaziz , the minister of National Guard , director of the supreme committee of the festival. He said that he played a great role in continuing the success of Jenadriyah festival.

Dr. Al-Aiban said that "the Commission participation in the National Festival for Heritage and Culture is a part of its efforts to spread the awareness of human rights and getting audience to know more about systems and procedures that protect those rights through the direct contact with audience in different events that aim at achieving that".

His added "In its participation in the National Festival for Heritage and Culture, the Commission of Human rights cared about different issues as the specialists in the suite receive inquiries and complaints of the visitors through male and female researchers and legal scholars. In addition, the suite presents awareness and culture through screens and printouts as well as the accompanying activities and events. The commission of Human Rights seeks, through this participation, to confirm and assert the tendencies and jurist behavior in a constructive way that contribute in raising the importance of human rights".

Dr. Al- Aiban asserted that the Commission cares about the issues of mother and childhood through its
participation in the festival. This happens through receiving women's complaints and inquiries in an independent corner for women in order to facilitate the task of receiving inquiries and complaints related to women.

He declared that the Commission suite in the Jannadereyyah festival next year will witness a quantum leap since they are working on establishing a permanent building for Human Rights that includes various sections and lecture rooms and conference rooms as well as different events which the Commission seeks to provide for its visitors in Jenadriyah.

Dr. Zaid bin Abdul Mohsen Al-Hussain, vice president of the Commission, visited its office in Jenadriyah. He also listened to brief explanation of the programs and events presented to the visitors this year from Ahmed El-Khamis, the supervisor of the suite. He praised the variety of the media presentation through the suite galleries which addresses various age categories from both genders.

Minister of Agriculture Visits the Fair

During his participation in the inauguration of the twentieth Jenadriyah festival, The minister of water and agriculture, Eng. Abdulallah Al-Hassein, showed admiration to the suite of the Human Rights Commission in Jenadriyah. He also asked the commission to repeat the Jenadriyah experience in huge markets so that more citizens can have more benefits and more access to the services presented to them by the commission. Ahmed El-Khamis, the general supervisor of the suite of Human Rights Commission in Jenadriyah, accompanied the minister in his visit. He assured that the commission seeks to introduce all the services that care about human rights in accordance with Islamic Sharia.

Goals of Jenadriyah

• Assuring the social and religious values that are deeply rooted in history that show the Islamic heroism in order to regain the virtuous behavior and traditions encouraged by the true Islamic faith.
• Finding a formula to link the public heritage in all its aspects and the civilized accomplishments that the Kingdom witnesses and working on removing the imaginary barriers between art and literature creativity on the one hand and the folk heritage on the other.
• Encouraging formation and employment of folk heritage in successful art and literary works.
• Encouraging the care, refinement and keeping folk heritage from loss or carelessness.
• Refining the social values of folk heritage in order to show its symbols to the creative imagination so that creative people can have access to choices from their heritage to use in art and literature.
• Encouraging the study of heritage in order to benefit from the treasures of positivity such as patience, carrying responsibility, depending on one’s self in order to support it and searching for the best ways make use of the environmental resources.
• Working on introducing the folk heritage through playing roles and depending on the tangible aspects so that the image would be deeper and clearer. And, providing the past, with all its artistic and cultural meaning, with a live, vivid image.
Minister of National Guard

Prince Mutaib bin Abdulallah, Minister of The National Guard and the director of the supreme committee of the festival, expressed his appreciation to the good care given to the festival, saying, “It is a pride for all those who belong to the National Guard who are working hard to make this great national occasion appear in an honorable image”.

120 thousand visitors in two days

General Major. Abdul Al-Rahman bin Abdulallah Al-Zamel, the unit commander of the security and guard camp of Jenadriyah, declared that the number of visitors to the Jenadriyah 29th Fair reached in its second day for men about 120 thousand visitors.

General Major. Al-Zamel also mentioned that visitors enjoyed the festival events in the light of services and facilities presented by the ministry of National Guard under the supervision of Prince Mutaib bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Minister of National Guard and the director of the supreme committee of the National Festival for Heritage and Culture and his effort to introduce whatever can contribute to continuation of the festival success.

Al-Zamel asserted that most suites and galleries of the festival witnessed remarkable attendance of visitors. In addition, workers in the Jenadriyah Camp made sure to facilitate and flow the traffic movement including the flow of visitors to get inside and outside the festival.

On behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques… the Crown Prince Sponsors the Inauguration of the Festival

On behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosque, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Royal Highness prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the crown prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence has recently sponsored the inauguration of the annual 29th National Festival for Heritage and Culture in Jenadriyah, that is organized by the ministry of National Guard.

Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the crown prince, was accompanied by prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Chairman of the General Authority for Tourism and Monuments and Prince Faisal bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, ruler of Medina, Mohamed bin salman bin Abdulaziz, President of the Crown Prince’s Court and his Special Advisor.

Each of Prince Mutlaib bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Minister of National Guard and the director of the supreme committee of the National Festival for Heritage and Culture, prince Turki bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, prince of Riyadh, and also Mr. Abdul Mohsen bin Abdulaziz Al-Twegry, Deputy Chief of National Guard and Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Committee of the festival were in reception of crown prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on arrival to the festival headquarters.

The Crown Prince, Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud received prince Salman bin Hamed Al-Khalifah, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Sheikh Hamed bin Zaid Al-Nahyan, President of the Court of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

After the Crown Prince took his place on the main platform, the royal anthem was played. The party started by reciting some verses of the Noble Qur’an followed by launching the first round of the great Camel Race.

During the race, the sponsors of the annual 29th National Festival for Heritage and Culture had the honor of greeting the Crown Prince.

Events

Camel Race is considered one of the principal events in the festival. This year, about 1200 participants got into all rounds. In the evening, attendants saw “Planet Earth” operetta written by the poet Abdulallah Abu Ras, composed by Naser El-Saleh, and performed by Mohamed Abdo, Abdul Majid Abdulallah, Rashed El-Majid and Majid El-Mohandes. The party sponsor honored the writers; Saad El-Bawardy and Abdulallah Shabba.
Jenadriyah.. An Inexhaustible Historic Spring

Each civilization has its history, and each glorious present has its own majestic past. History has been always a part and parcel of human culture and civilized texture. For each one of us, knowing about our history and heritage is a source of pride and honor. The more we take from our past, the more stable and strong our future will be, and the more we can contribute to achieve progress, prosperity, stability and safety and the more we can achieve our ambitions and aspirations for the generations that will witness a flourishing future.

Jenadriyah has reached its 29th year inspired in its righteous path and continuous successes by the support of Allah first and the wise directions of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. And here it is beautiful and glittering every year with its unique specialty and its increasing popularity that grows year after year.

The participation of the Commission of Human Rights for the seventh year respectively happened according to the instructions of the President of Human Rights Commission, Dr. Bandar Al-Alban who asserted the importance of active participation in order to achieve the mission and objectives of the commission which are included in the culture of spreading human rights and raising awareness of individuals as well as different institutions in the public and private sectors.

The participation took place within the commission concern to attend public forums which are considered a window to communicate with several social categories with the aim at asserting and developing awareness of human rights among individuals in the society and enabling them to practice those rights as well as warning and alerting people of the dangers resulted from violating those rights.

Through this participation, the commission aims at introducing its different efforts, asserting the legal and lawful tendencies, situations and behaviors in a constructive manner that contribute to the culture of human rights.

The suite included various sections since the committee specified a section for receiving men’s complaint, and another one to receive women’s complaints and inquiries through a number of legal and social female researchers with the aim of facilitating the mission of receiving inquiries and complaints related to women. The suite of Human Rights Commission addressed various age categories through eight monitors that present various documentaries related to mother and childhood, education and upbringing, and women’s rights as well as fighting trading people. It also showed animation movies tackling a number of the elderly, children and people with disabilities in addition to a documentary movie about the commission from the time it started and through its stages of development and a display to the official website of the commission and how to present complaints electronically.

Also, the arcades of the fair had 50 panels that carried legal awareness phrases in both Arabic and English printed and distributed throughout all corners that shed light upon the method of the conditions of handing complaints, employees’ rights and duties towards supervisors, the rights of workers and the mechanism of dealing with them without prejudice or violating their rights that are guaranteed by Islam, and documenting what Islam included like principles and values that protect those rights and criminate violation against them.

The suite distributes a lot of publications and printouts of the commission in addition to the magazine, the flyers, brochures and pamphlets addressing various social categories. Besides, it also distributed calendars that carry the name, logo and addresses of the Commission.
Depriving Arab Ladies from Marriage…
A Pre – Islamic Habit and A Violation of their Legal Rights

Depriving ladies from marriage is one of the most important social and humane issues that women and young ladies suffer from in the Arab world. It deprives them of their legal rights even their right to accept or refuse their suitors. The custodians believe that they know better and have the final say in determining their daughters’ fates. Thus, they would prevent them from marrying the right guy without a good reason. Or they might keep her unmarried to benefit from her money or work regardless of the legislative constraints that Islam has secured for women and deprive her of the right to be a good wife and mother.
Greed and Lack of Religious influence

Depriving ladies from marriage has become a widespread owing to residuals of pre-Islamic thought that still haunts some girls. Among these are seizing a woman’s salary, possessions or inheritance. On the other hand, some custodians believe that some suitors would propose to their girls for her salary. Thus, several custodians reject their daughters’ suitors because they are skeptical of their intentions.

Sometimes, although it is a bit rare, ladies are deprived from marriage by their mothers. This is because the mothers might feel unsecure and thinks that her son-in-law would deprive her of her daughter’s love or from her daughter’s financial support in case she is working. Also, there are families who would control their daughters’ marriage because the help in the house work or taking care of their siblings in case the mother is dead.

Physical and Psychological Conflict

Specialists in mental health indicate that are a lot of risks and chronic diseases from which young ladies who were not married suffer and affect them negatively or lower their self-esteem is due to the inner conflicted between their innate desires and the traditions of their societies or their parents’ insistence on preventing them from getting married without any reasonable excuse.

Depriving girls from marriage would inflict them with depression as a result of emotional and physical deprivation which would affect their life negatively. It may hinder their educational, social life and career. This would sometimes make them lose hope and fear becoming an “old maid”. At other times they might feel inclined to commit suicide. There are several other negative consequences that would lead to a gloomy family life, a tense relationship between the girl and her custodian and others as well. Some of the human rights studies that tackled this issue had revealed that the problem of the girls who are deprived of their rights to get married and who are so timid to speak out for their rights is getting worse and would eventually lead to “disobedience to their parents”.

Depriving Ladies from Marriage, a Sin that disentitles Guardian to Custody

Islam has granted women their full right to accept or reject suitors. All scholars have agreed that a custodian is not allowed to deprive a woman from marriage as long as the suitor is good religious and manners wise. If he does so, then he is committing a sin that would drop his fairness and eventually his custody. According to Imam Ahmad’s doctrine, he cannot even lead people in prayers. His custody over the girl is transferred to someone else as stated in the Noble Qur’an: “do not prevent them from remarrying their [former] husbands if they agree among themselves on an acceptable basis. That is instructed to whoever of you believes in Allah and the Last Day. That is better for you and purer, and Allah knows and you know not,” (2:222). Also, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has affirmed this issue in his hadith. He says: "A maiden is not to be married unless she gives her permission. He was asked and how to get her permission. He answered her silence is the permission".

According to Ibn Othaimen: "if the custodian prevented a woman from marrying a good suitor then his custody over her is transferred to the next relative in line and if they follow his suit, then the custody goes to the sovereign. The sovereign is then obliged to get her married."

Saudi Arabia Fights Depriving Ladies from Marriage

Owing to the seriousness of this phenomenon, international and local efforts cooperated to fight it and eradicate it. The Human Rights Commission has categorized this phenomenon among human trafficking crimes. He tracks this accusation against custodians and considers it a crime that the state fights to stop its spread in the society. If a custodian is proved to have committed this crime he receive tough sentence that can be 15 years of imprisonment or a fine equal to a million riyals. This decision is part of the Commission’s powers based on the cabinet decision no.(207). According to this decision, the Commission is regarded as governmental institution concerned with giving advice on human rights issues. Based on the first clause of the fifth article of its regulation, the Commission has to make sure that the governmental institutions effectuate the laws and find out about human rights violations that have openly agreed on criminalizing the custodians who prevents their girls’ marriage.

Depriving Ladies from Marriage Falls into the Category of Human Trafficking

A girl who is deprived of her right to get married suffer physical and psychological diseases
Some of the studies that have been conducted recently have indicated the rise of divorce rates in the Arab world in general and the Gulf area in particular. This phenomenon requires consideration and studying in order to realize its reasons and methods of treatment to reduce the risk that might befall family and society.
Women in general, and divorced women in particular receive special care from, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. He has issued several laws and regulations that allowed women to have her rights easily. The latest of these was King Abdullah’s project to improve the judiciary system. This contributed to the acceleration of women’s and family’s cases in court.

The Kingdom has paid every possible effort to protect human rights. It signed the “Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women” (CEDAW). It has also issued recently the “protection Against Abuse Law” which protects women and children. Efforts had to be interwoven to pay due attention to divorced women and provide them with their rights, that Allah has granted them. It is noteworthy that some women have suffered injustice and deprivation by their patriarchs. These efforts are based on the Islamic teachings and the values that the Kingdom has laid as the main source for the ruling regime.

**Definition of a Divorced Woman**

The lawyer, Dr. Badr Al-Basees, has defined the divorced woman as: “every woman separated from her husband during his lifetime by means of divorce or breaking up marriage”. When a woman is bereaved of her husband, she has no one to support her financially. Thus, she deserves pity and love as she is charged with responsibility on her own despite her weakness and helplessness. Meanwhile, Dr. Ibrahim bin Nasser Al-Hamoud argues that divorce can be categorized according to the type of divorce. A divorced woman is a woman who has been separated from her husband during his lifetime by means of divorce. There is a common factor between a divorced woman and a widow. Both have been separated from their husbands. This separation is due to death or divorce. Yet separation by death is irreversible. Divorce, meanwhile, can be reversed by getting back together or with a new marriage contract.

**Social Perspective**

Dr. Al-Basees, the lawyer, has criticized the tough social perspective which looks upon divorced women as an inferior. It depicts her as if she had committed a sin and is not fit for marriage or fit for anything at all. Society also considers divorced women as a source of worry and a person who has no role in life. Moreover, her fellow women would also look down upon her because they fear for their husbands. Whoever considers a divorced woman an inferior is wrong and acts like the heathen in pre-Islamic times. According to one of the divorced women, M.A.: “after I got divorced, I remarried another man. Yet, our marriage lasted only for a year. A lot of problems arose because his ex-wife believed that I lured him. Every widow has to be patient, for patience is the key to relief (And whoever fears Allah - He will make for him a way out).”

**Legislative Perspective**

Although society has done divorced women injustice, Islam has been totally fair to her. He assigned them duties and secured them rights like anyone else. Allah has granted them preventive procedures against divorce. He has also decreed that divorce is something unfavourable. He has encouraged spouses to be good and tolerant to each other. He has also guided women to the best way to deal with a discordant husband. Allah, has also prohibited using divorce frequently. He asked men to take good care of women. Yet, divorce was allowed in case agreement is impossible to achieve. Islam has granted the divorced all her rights, and no one is to deprive her of them.

**Rights of Divorced Women**

- **The right to remarry:** a divorced woman has been granted all rights, and no one is to deprive her of remarrying after the waiting months are over. The divorced woman is actually better than other women because of her life experience. There is no fault with her. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has given us a role model to follow. He married Zeinab bint Gahsh after her divorce from Zaid bin Hartha. Moreover, among the Prophet’s wives, only A’isha was a maiden. Men’s refusal to marry divorced women or widows is due to the tough social situation resulting from what she faces from other fellow women. A divorced woman may also grow a fear of failure, particularly in the second marriage. This attitude affects the society negatively where there remain a lot of old maids. Only those who realize the actual worth of a divorced women or widows as a good mother and wife who realizes her full responsibilities would marry them. Actually a lot of divorced women and widows have remarried and led a better life. No doubt also, that Allah rewards the man who marries a divorced woman and treats her kindly, particularly if he helps her raise children from a previous marriage.

- **Alimony and Accommodation:** Based on the Noble Qur’an, the divorced wife is to be supported by her ex-husband during the waiting months or until she gives birth, in case she was pregnant: “Upon the father is the mothers› provision and their clothing according to what is acceptable” (2:223). This is also affirmed in another verse of the Noble Qur’an: “Lodge them [in a section] of where you dwell out of your means and do not harm them in order to oppress them.” (65:6). Islam has also provided divorced women the right to alimony from her ex-husband who has divorced her before the marriage was consummated. This is one of the amenities in Islam. According to the Noble Qur’an: “There is no blame upon you if you divorce women you have not touched nor specified for them an obligation. But give them [a gift of] compensation - the wealthy according to his capability and the poor according to his capability - a provision according to what is acceptable, a duty upon the doers of good.” (2:236). Alimony is also preferred for other divorced women in general: “And for divorced women is a provision according to what is acceptable - a duty upon the righteous.” (2:241).
This financial right is currently dismissed by a lot of people, particularly that most women like to get separated quietly and without problems or disputes.

- **The Right to Inheritance:** the divorced has the right to inherit her ex-husband in case he dies during the waiting months. Her portion should not be reduced or compromised. Depriving her from her inheritance according to her husband’s will is forbidden.

- **The Right to Custody:** this one of the rights that ex-husbands are unjust to their wives. The divorced woman has the right of custody over her children, and the right to alimony until the child is two years old. Her ex-husband is not to deprive her from the right to custody based o the Noble Qur’an: “A mother shall not be harmed for her child” (2:233). The divorced woman shall remain custodian over her children until they are seven and she has not remarried.

**Statistics**

A modern study has revealed that the divorce rate in Saudi Arabia has jumped to 30,000 cases in 2012, i.e. 82 cases per day and 2.4 cases per hour. According to the same study the divorce rate in Saudi Arabia within the same year was 2.5 in every thousand males whose ages are over 15 years old. Among the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Saudi Arabia was second in place to Bahrain in which divorce rates were 2.7 in every thousand males who are over 15 years old.

The divorce rates in 2012 were 2.5 cases in every thousand males whose ages are over 15 years old. The number of males who were in this age range in 2012 was almost 12 millions. Meanwhile the total divorce cases in 2011 were 29.8 millions. The divorce rates in every thousand males were 2.35 cases, whereas the number of males who were over 15 years of age was 11.7 millions.

Compared to other gulf countries, Saudi Arabia was second to Bahrain in divorce rates during 2012. Divorce rates in Bahrain in 2012 were about 2.7 cases for every thousand of males who are over the age of 15. The total divorce cases were 16,491 thousands whereas the number of males who were over 15 years old were 613.6 thousand.

In the third rank comes Oman. Divorce rates in Oman in 2012 were about 1.9 cases for every thousand of males who are over the age of 15. The total divorce cases were 2,570 thousands whereas the number of males who were over 15 years old was 1.92 millions.

In the fourth rank comes Qatar. Divorce rates in Qatar in 2012 were about 1.2 cases for every thousand of males who are over the age of 15. The total divorce cases were 1,420 thousands whereas the number of males who were over 15 years old was 1.21 millions.

It is noteworthy that the 2012 statistics did not include Kuwait or Emirates because data was not provided.

In 2011, Kuwait was on the top of the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. Divorce rates in Kuwait in 2011 were about 4.5 cases for every thousand of males who are over the age of 15. The total divorce cases were 6,254 thousands whereas the number of males who were over 15 years old was 1.4 millions.

Second to Kuwait was Saudi Arabia. Divorce rates in Saudi Arabia in 2011 were about 2.55 cases for every thousand of males who are over the age of 15. The total divorce cases were 29,772 thousands whereas the number of males who were over 15 years old was 11.7 millions.

In the third rank comes Bahrain, Divorce rates in Bahrain in 2011 were about 2.3 cases for every thousand of males who are over the age of 15. The total divorce cases were 14,088 thousands whereas the number of males who were over 15 years old was 613.6 thousands.

In the fourth rank comes Oman. Divorce rates in Oman in 2011 were about 2.2 cases for every thousand of males who are over the age of 15. The total divorce cases were 3,805 thousands whereas the number of males who were over 15 years old was 1.7 millions.

In the fifth rank comes Qatar. Divorce rates in Qatar in 2011 were about 1 case for every thousand of males who are over the age of 15. The total divorce cases were 1,108 thousands whereas the number of males who were over 15 years old was 1.2 millions.

Finally comes Emirates. Divorce rates in Emirates in 2011 were about 0.7 cases for every thousand of males who are over the age of 15. The total divorce cases were 4,140 thousands whereas the number of males who were over 15 years old was 6.2 millions.

It is noteworthy that all the males within the Emirati population are included when calculating divorce rates, not those who are over 15 years old only.

**Pleading System**

Dr. Badr Al-Basees argues that there must be special departments at courts that provide advice and guidance for divorced women, since they constitute a large portion of the society, but their rights are not codified in a clear way that avoids misinterpretation.

Based on the system of legal pleadings issued according the royal decree no. n.21 and dated on 20/5/1421 AH., concerning international specialty, article (27) states: “the Saudi courts are to consider the lawsuits filed against non-Saudi Muslims who does not have a public residence in the Kingdom in the following cases:

a- the lawsuit is objecting a marriage contract to be conducted in the Kingdom.

b- a lawsuit fir divorce or annulling a marriage contract filed by a Saudi wife who resides in the Kingdom and was deprived from her Saudi nationality because of her marriage; or by a non-
Saudi wife residing in the Kingdom against her husband who used to have a residence in Saudi Arabia but has moved abroad or was forced to leave.

c- a lawsuit seeking alimony and filed against a husband residing in Saudi Arabia.

d- a lawsuit concerning parentage of a child or custody where the minor or that who shall be under custody lives in Saudi Arabia.

e- the lawsuit is about other personal affairs issue and the plaintiff is Saudi or non-Saudi living in the Kingdom unless the defendant has known residence abroad.”

The seventh article has also given the plaintiff for alimony the right to file his lawsuit in the court which the defendant or plaintiff’s residence follows.

Reasons behind Divorce

Dr. Ibrahim bin Nasser Al-Hamoud attributes divorce lately to several reasons some are caused by husband and other by wives, or both. Below are the most important reasons:

• Making a Hasty Choice: both parties may make hasty and inaccurate choices. Some young men may look only for physical beauty and dismiss what is more important. Women may also look for money only. Thus she seeks a rich husband and disregards what is more important. These hasty decisions lead to disputes in the future and eventually early divorce.

• No Meetings during Engagements: Although it is allowed religiously, some societies do not allow the betrothed during the engagement. This would inevitably lead to severe problems that would end in divorce.

• Inequality: Inequality between spouses on mental, cultural, and social levels is highly significant. Different characters may lead to disputes and inevitably divorce.

• Committing Sinner: Several wives have abandoned their husbands because they do not pray or they are drug addicts, or works with usury. A wife would ask her husband to repent and when she loses hope she resorts to divorce.

• Mal treatment: Maltreatment from both spouses, ignorance and injustice, like beating a wife for trivial reasons or because she has not given birth, might lead eventually to divorce.

• Jealousy: Extreme jealousy from both spouses would turn to doubt thus demolishing the basis of matrimony which is mutual confidence. A divorced woman narrates the following story: “I was married to a guy who had to work in a mixed environment. I was always jealous and our relation deteriorated. I asked for divorce. I went back to my family with a three-year old child. Yet, I regret this decision so much”. Regret always accompanies divorced women and men who usually do it in hasty and angry moments. It might be inspired by the devil who tried his best to separate spouses.

Dr. Al-Hamoud argues also that development of means of communication currently and the diverse concepts about freedom has contributed to the increasing divorce rates.

Divorced Women Tell their Stories

Bad Tempered

Mariam is a teacher who works in a public school at the eastern region. She had a traditional marriage. She says: “my ex-husband has proposed to my family. My family has inquired after him and he found out that people talk well about him. We were engaged for few months. We were married and I thought I was in heaven. But, I once had a problem with his mother. She asked to go to her house because some of her friends and relatives are visiting her. I was so exhausted after a long day at college, so I apologized and said I could go. He was terribly mad at me. He even insulted with very offensive words. I was shocked but to please him I went. Yet our disputes continued almost on daily basis. I then realized he was bad tempered and he listens to no body when he is angry. He kept faking reasons to stay away from the house. One day I went to visit my family as usual. Instead of picking me up he sent me the divorce document without even explaining”.

A Stingy Husband

Wedad (21 years old) from Jeddah narrates the following story: “after the marriage was contracted, I realized that he was stingy. This was revealed when we started furnishing the house. I felt he was making use of my satisfaction with whatever he buys. I believe that happiness does not depend on money. However, he hardly buys me what I need under the pretext that I should help him with the living expenses. I realized that he wants me to afford myself because I am working although my salary is only 2000 riyals. I decided to get a divorce, because life with a stingy man seems utterly horrible”.

After Three Weeks

Dalal (19 years old) from Jeddah has revealed her painful experience. “I was divorced three years after my marriage owing to disputes between our families, which I paid for by getting divorced in my honeymoon. We tried to end these disputes but our attempts end in failure. What makes it worse, that my family forced me to choose between them and my husband. They claimed that my husband’s family is not up to us. I had to ask for divorce as soon as possible in order not to have a child growing up in this tumultuous atmosphere. Thus I become divorced during my honey moon.”
I did not Want to be An Old Maiden
In the same context, Nora (19 years old) from Jeddah tells her story. “Being hasty and not thinking thoroughly were the reason behind my divorce in the honeymoon. All my friends were married. I was jealous from them. I agreed to marry the first suitor. Since the marriage was contracted, I realized the ideological gap. He was still an undergraduate and gets his allowance from his parents. We were wed however. A month later, he told me that I was so young for him. We soon got divorced and his family did not even try to make it up between us”.

Extremely Jealous
Rania (22 years old) says that “I was divorced because of jealousy. My husband was extremely jealous, even when I talk to my family and friends. I found that he is quick tempered and hard to deal with. I went to my father’s house a month and half later. I felt that continuing to live with him would turn me into a passive wife controlled by her husband’s jealousy.”

An Arrogant Husband
Hala (23 years old) talked about her experience. “I married my friend’s brother. I thought he was the right man. He was intellectual and open-minded. I thought that marrying him will help me pursue my studies, which I had to stop because of family affairs. After the marriage I felt he always dealt with me arrogantly, particularly before his family. I asked his sister to intervene, but to my surprise she did nothing. His arrogant behaviour extended to encompass my family and father. I had to ask for divorce. I could not survive his character. Sometimes a quick divorce is better than continuing to live with an arrogant husband”.

My Pride is My Priority
Mariam (24 years old) says: “I was married to a divorced man. That was ok for me because my mother was deceased and I was living with my brother’s family. I needed some privacy. The shock was when he remarried his ex-wife for the sake of his children. I agreed unwillingly. But a month later, I was divorced. He was trying to satisfy his first wife. I preferred to get divorced because my pride was hurt”.

Cannot Make his Decisions
Warda (25 years old) from Jeddah says: “at the beginning I felt that his family members do not like me. Whenever I tried to be good to them they showed me the same, but obviously their feelings were completely different. I used to ignore this because my husband was kind to me. However, I could not tolerate this for more than few weeks. I preferred to get divorced. His family did not try to make things up between us. He was passive and did not want to lose his family because they support him financially.”

Beating and Yelling
Sarah from the northern region is divorced for a second time although she is 23 yet. “In my first divorce experience I did not feel sad at all. My first husband was cruel and heartless. He did not even give me my lawful rights as a wife. He communicated only through beating and yelling. He even broke my arm during the honeymoon. I could not tolerate his maltreatment so I asked for divorce during the honeymoon.”

Perverted
Maha Al- Ghandy, a teacher, describes her suffering. She says: “I am an extremely pious woman. I would not have married but a pious guy. A man proposed and he seemed extremely pious. We were all deceived by his appearance. We got married. A week after the wedding, I noticed that my husband is bad mannered and cruel. He uses too offensive words. I collapsed upon this realization. I resorted to my family who learnt that the information we received about him was not true. My family supported me to get a divorce. I was divorced a month after the wedding. We had to pay him the dowry and all the marriage expenses back to get my freedom”.

Make – up
Ahmad (29 years old) says: “I got married after a love story that lasted for four years, during which we have agreed on every tiny detail of our life. However, after marriage she became a completely different person. She does not care for me at all or the house chores at all. She cares for her clothes and make up only. She spent large sums of money on this stuff that my salary could not afford. Although I tried to tell her the problem several times, but she was not convinced. Divorce was the only way out. Her stubbornness ended our marriage before a year has passed.”

Experts’ Views

Lack of Awareness
Dr. Sherief Azzam, a consultant psychiatrist, has attributed the increase of divorce rates to the spouses’ lack of awareness about the nature of this stage of life and the relationship with the other sex. They are unaware of the responsibilities of a family, their responsibilities towards each other and the different economic and financial level of each. Meanwhile, Dr. Maha Ahmad Hariri, professor of clinical psychology in Jeddah, has pointed out there are several psychological reasons that makes the girl ask for divorce few weeks or even days after marriage. A girl has particular perceptions about her behaviour within the requirements of modern life that defies the reality. She also has unstable feelings towards her role as a wife and mother. This makes her fragile seeking false appearances only.

Mothers’ Intervention
Dr. Ghazy Al- Shamry, chairman of the social insurance unit in the Eastern Region has indicated marriages where the spouses are not well familiar with each other is one reason behind early divorce. Thus, they always have disagreements and suffer from instability due to several reasons be it work, intellect, age gap or mother’s intervention in their private affairs. This last one is enough reason to make the marital life fall apart.

On the other hand, Prof. Soad bin Aff, an academic at the sociology department at King Abdulaziz University, has attributed honeymoon divorce to educational differences between spouses. Additionally there is economic gap and the arrogance of one spouse when dealing with the other. Other factors that would contribute to marriage failures are: wrong planning, misconceptions, illusions about marriage and being influenced by soap operas and movies and other stereotypes that are different from our societies.

Hasty Marriage Decisions
Dr. Mariam Abdulaziz, faculty of social sciences, al- Hasa, has emphasized the importance of not making hasty marriage decisions. She has also highlighted the importance of making families aware that their intervention the children’s marital life is not the right thing to do. In many cases it was the main reason leading to divorce.
Pre-MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Dr. Nora Al Soyan, officer of social services in the national family security program at Imam Muhammad bin Saud University has that young people do not receive pre-marriage preparation. Sometimes a girl is forced to marry someone she does not like. Social affinity before marriage and trying to understand realities of a marital life are integral factors for a successful marriage.

50% BEFORE HAVING CHILDREN

Abdul Rahman Al-Raqeeb, president of courts in the Eastern Region has pointed out that around three divorce lawsuits are reported in the legislative court daily. Sometimes they reach up to 5. The percentage of divorce in the period between contracting the marriage until having it consummated is 15%. Divorce percentage after consummation of marriage but before having children is 50%. This percentage becomes 35% for those who have children.

RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

Courts have made assiduous efforts to remedy divorce cases. Fiasal Al- Shiekh, judge at the general court, Jeddah has stated that there is a reconciliation committee concerned at the court that attempts to reconcile spouses by listening to them both. It makes sure that they are both present. The committee is aware that the family’s intervention may widen the gap between them. The committee reminds them of their life together. The committee makes fruitful results.

YEARS OF DOUBT

Abdulaziz Al Noqly, the lawyer, legal consultant, and collaborative member at the domestic violence in Jeddah, has attributed early divorce to the wife’s family. The wife’s family pays due attention to wedding arrangements and financial needs of the bride. It dismisses psychological preparation of the bride and introducing her to the concept of a new life and building a family. Marriage contracts is one of the highest contracts made in human life. The girl might find it hard to adapt with her new partner. I would also like to highlight that the first five years of marriage are known as the years of “doubt” because it witnesses a lot of troubles as both spouses have not understood each other nor are they familiar with their new environment, yet.

COURSES FOR THOSE WILLING TO GET MARRIED

Muhammad Al- Yehia, a lawyer, has pointed out that there is a possibility of holding training courses for those willing to get married. These courses give a comprehensive glimpse of marital life. It helps them understand the essence of marital life and how to tackle related problems. It also aims at enlightening future spouses morally about how to deal with each other. It examines their psychological state prior to marriage in order to treat psychological disturbances that might hinder their marital life.

CHOOSING YOUR WIFE

The authorized marriage clergy in Tabuk, Ferig Al- Atawy, has highlighted that reasons that may lead to early divorce during the first months of marriage include dissatisfaction with the way of choosing a wife, the absence of mutual understanding, age difference, and the existence of a gap in education and culture. Other reasons may also be stubbornness, the escalation of disputes bad behaviour on the wife’s part, wife’s disobedience and family intervention, particularly those on the wife’s side.

THE ALLOWED MEETING

The authorized marriage clergy in Jeddah, Ali Al- Malik has pointed out that there are some traditions that prohibit the man from seeing his future wife a right that is granted for him by Allah. He gets shocked after marriage because he is not convinced with her figure, intellect, etc..
Echoes of the Royal Decree...

“HRC”: Criminalizing Fighting protects Human Rights.

The royal decree issued lately by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, was highly appraised in political, civil, and social media circles. According to this decree whoever participates in war or fighting abroad or belongs to extremist ideological or religious groups shall be sentenced to jail.

The Human Rights Commission has affirmed during its 12th session that this decision emphasizes the King’s insightfulness which aims at protecting our youth from diverted ideologies. Such ideologies deludes youth into fighting and unrest. They destroy the country’s potential and violate human rights. They use perverted ideologies that do not conform at all to Islam or any other divine religion; nor to international treaties and conventions. This was said during the 12th session of the Human Rights Council, held lately and presided by Dr. Bandar Al-Aiban, President of the Human Rights Commission.

The Commission board has also indicated that the royal decree maintains human life, money, peaceful living and dialogue instead of killing and incitement pursued by diverted ideologies. It is also an evident of the King’s wisdom. It also affirms the moderate policy followed by Saudi Arabia in order to eradicate whatever violates human rights.
The Human Rights Commission Board has also warned those who were deluded by such ideologies and joined war areas to rescue themselves and come home quickly and attain forgiveness based on this royal decree.

The decree has stated that whoever commits the following violations will be sentenced to a period not less than three years and does not exceed twenty years:

- Participating in any form of fighting abroad.
- Belonging to extremist religious or ideological groups or any of the organizations labeled as terrorist, even through support or sympathy. If this applies to officer, the sentence should not be less than 5 years or exceeding 30 years.

The Grand Mufti:

Rev. Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah, the Saudi Grand Imam has referred to the King’s decree criminalizing fighting abroad or having “invalid” thoughts as a brave decision that aims at protecting the society.

He added: “the decision is clear and brave and is intended to protect the country and its people from delusion”.

The general secretary of the Council of Senior Scholars has affirmed that the royal decree helps to protect the Kingdom’s security, stability and unity.

Sheikh Dr. Fahd bin Sa’ad Al- Maged, the general secretariat of the Council of Senior Scholars has said: “the general secretariat appreciated this royal decree. It is part of the policy followed by the King and based on the Islamic law

The Grand Mufti and the Council of Senior Scholars: the King’s decision is brave and serves the society

The Cabinet: the royal decree achieves the goals of Islamic law and preserves the nation

The Grand Mufti and the Council of Senior Scholars: the King’s decision is brave and serves the society
was the first to call for an international counter-terrorism centre. He was also the first to call for dialogue between followers of different cultures and religions and it was also him who decided to establish a center for compromising between Islamic schools of jurisprudence”. Henceforth, he assures that this decision is not unfamiliar for the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia has also been renowned for its consistent policy in fighting terrorism. Moreover, the strategy it employs to help the deluded is respect worthy and inspiring both nationally and internationally.

Judge Al- Aissa Praises the Decision
Judge, Dr. Aissa Al Ghaith, member of the Shura Council “Majlis Ash- Shura” has praised the royal decree criminalizing whoever participates in fighting abroad. He described it as a wise vision on the King’s part. It required thorough thought until the reality of the fanatics is revealed before everyone.

“Issuing such a decisive and wise royal decree, although some argue that it should have been issued earlier, was done on the right time. The King’s wisdom made him wait until the reality of the fanatics is revealed before everyone. This happened actually when everybody realized the seriousness of the fanatic ideology and terrorist attitudes. Such terrorist ideologies are led by organizations that are well known. Being in custody of the Two Holy Mosques, Saudi Arabia is a unique country that feels pride in applying the Islamic law.”

Positive Reactions by Twitter Users
Twitter users were part and parcel of the wide acclaim of the royal decree. They promoted a hash tag entitled “a royal decree against extremist parties and
ideologies”. They said that Saudi Arabia shall not any longer accommodate what they call “inciters”.

Muqren, a Twitter user, has praised the decision. He says: “the decision affirms and encourages unity after our home country has been trodden upon by violators and tumults”.

Another Twitter user, Samar Al-Muqren adds: “that is amazing and we have to start by the cause of evil from academics and media representatives who shall be held accountable”.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Mohammad Al Tawyan also says “the committee formed according to the royal decree will determine these groups and ideologies. The state’s firm policy towards these will be revealed to everyone later”

Abdulaziz has also praised the decision in his comment on the hash tag. He says: “may you always prosper my dear home land … inciters have no place among us any longer… it is time to use an iron fist with any aggressor”.

Another Twitter user called Ahmad has assured that this decision does not at all defy liberties. He says: “whoever says such a thing is simply gullible. There is a great discrepancy between supporting terrorism and freedom”.

Ibn Rabee’a, another Twitter user, has expressed his thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for this decision, which he considers a bit late: “we have waited for this decision for long “Aba Meta’ab”, yet it is never too lat. Thank you our dear father”.

Hassan Al- Oriefy has indicated that those who show empathy for these groups shall be held accountable as well. “The decree assures that whoever supports or adopts such fanatic ideologies or even promote or shows empathy for them shall be held accountable.

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The Cabinet Appreciates Issuing of the Royal Decree

At the beginning of the session presided by Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the crown prince, vice prime minister and minister of defense, the Cabinet has expressed its deep appreciation for the royal decree criminalizing fighting abroad or belonging to extremist ideological or religious groups. The session was held at Al-Yamama Palace in Riyadh.

They have also acclaimed the noble goals of the royal decree. It aims at maintaining the Islamic principles concerning maintaining religion, safety and unity and avoiding bloodshed as stated in the holy verse: “And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided.” (3: 103). Henceforth, it provides the required guarantee for maintaining the state’s entity against whoever trespasses the Saudi constitution. Thus, it establishes the fair system guided by Allah’s insight that achieves peace and stability within the Kingdom and protects the youth from intruding and destructive ideologies.
“By woman and for woman”, this how one feels when going through this book. Rights has selected this book to let you know dear readers about it. It includes letters and articles sent by the author to other woman and to the society as a whole. They are actually a reflection of the women’s reality. No one can understand a woman better than a fellow woman.

The author’s position as a manager of the social protection unit in Riyadh has given her the opportunity to closely feel the suffering of a large portion of helpless women and children. Thus, she subdued all her potentials to advocate their legal rights as stated by the Islamic law. This book was published as part of these efforts. It highlights aspects of social life and fields of interest for the Saudi women.

The book also highlights eminent figures within this field. The most significant of these is Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz who is renowned for his endless efforts in serving humane issues. He worked along his brother, Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz and Prince Nayef. The latter is also renowned for his concern for family security and its role in achieving psychological and social security for both the country and citizens.

The author has also tackled the national identity of Saudi women. She discussed the undiscussed facts such as the expelling divorced women. This one the most serious psychological pains a wife can ever suffer. It also tackles how to handle such cases which have become widespread currently. The book also highlights criminal behaviour and its motivation, women harassment, and the reasons behind having girls run away. The book also tackled the online campaign that demands the judiciary to resolve the issues of disputed children custody. It included several parts concerned with women and children. Below are some of the articles and letters included in the book:
Chapter One
“Articles I Cherish”
“The Kindness of Late Prince Sattam”

We feel sorry because there are a lot of people who are very successful on the humane level but only few know about them. They refuse to talk about their kindness in several aspects because they believe it is their duty and they do not want to boast it. However after their death, we have to discuss their achievements that have been hidden for long years owing to their kindness and secrecy. They represent a role model for dealing with the concerns of home and citizens.

Late Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz was on the top of this list. As the ruler of Riyadh, he showed great concern for its issues and the daily needs of its people. He worked restlessly along with his brother Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz who was his former deputy.

These are daily achievements for the ruler of any region. Yet, the extraordinary thing was his concern for children born to women prisoners and live with their mothers of different nationalities inside the prison.

These toddlers suffer the daily life of prisoners. This would affect their characters and psychologies negatively. The prison environment is not suitable for a child to stay with his mother at such an early age.

He thus inaugurated “Department of Temporary Care Children” in 1422 AH. The department is concerned with women prisoners’ children in a reformatory centre affiliated to the ministry of social affairs. The department was supervised by Princess Sarah bint Muhammad bin Saud, the general director of social female supervision in Riyadh. She was keen on providing them with the suitable environment for the children who were done injustice when their mothers got imprisoned. Accordingly they will be deprived of several rights, the most important of which are living in a safe environment something which cannot be easily obtained in prison.

This is the only service of its kind in the Middle East. It was encouraged by late Prince Sattam. We hope that Allah will reward him for it. His work with charity has been prolific. He was keen on having his charitable works continue and flourish under the leadership of the ministry of social affairs and guided by its kind minister (Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen). Dr. Al-Othaimeen always provide these children and their families with money gifts during the feasts. He wants to make sure that they enjoy the feast like everybody else, particularly those taken care of by the ministry itself.

This department is currently supervised by the social protection unit in Riyadh. Thus, children regardless of their nationalities, have teachers, governesses and supervisors. They are also secured health care where nurses attend them regularly. Additionally, there are social workers who take care of their affairs. Their mothers visit them weekly and spend half a day with them so that their paternal relationship remain strong.

Second to Allah, the Almighty, Prince Sattam has been highly supportive in cases of domestic violence. His thankful phrases that were addressed to me personally when I could handle one case, a motivation for continuing and overcoming the challenges I face. It helped me to stop questioning our inability to tackle such difficult cases.

His last statement was utterly fatherly: “I thank everyone working here for the efforts you have exerted that lead, after Allah’s guidance, to accomplish the task in perfect timing. I assure you that what you have done is really worth appreciation.” May your soul rest in peace, Sattam bin Abdulaziz.

The 2nd article from the same chapter, entitled:
“Nayef .. and achieving Family Security”

The death of Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, the late Saudi Crown Prince, was a shock for the whole world not the Saudi people alone. No matter how much will be written about his achievements, particularly in the fields of family and security, it will never rise to his actual worth. All we can do is to pray to Allah to bless his soul.

Prince Nayef’s keeness on achieving family security was not confined to the military alone. His wise decisions were highly motivating for us in the ministry of social affairs to face domestic violence prior to the emergence of Protection Against Abuse Law. It has also helped us to work on social problems at times when different social classes could hardly accept the interference of the social affairs in their private life which they consider highly sacred. Unfortunately this led to the exacerbation of several domestic problems.

His decisions started in 1425 AH, when the social care was first established in collaboration with Al-Riyadh region. this was a spring board for all the concerned parties to acknowledge the problem and start to handle and resolve it along with police, physicians, and counter drug police, et. Its job was to receive complaints about domestic violence,
Below are selections from Chapter Two, entitled “the Spirit of Words 2010-2011)

Article

“Expelling divorced women is one of the undiscussed facts”

One of the most severe psychological pains a wife can feel is to find herself suddenly alone and penniless after a long marital life. This is because she got divorced. When a woman gets divorced, she cannot stay within the apartment in which she had lived throughout her marital life. She does not even have the right to object when she is being expelled in embarrassing moments. She cannot even sue her ex-husband to have custody over her young children.

Things got worse for some divorced women who were threatened to be deprived of their children or getting their own possessions such as clothes, identity papers and educational qualifications. Their ex-husband would blackmail them to give up their financial rights so that they will not ask for them in the future.

There are other painful situations that divorced women have to go through. Divorce is sometimes accompanied by prior physical abuse. It might also be the result of different forms of violence starting from the least forms of giving up by women at the beginning of their marital life. As if the violence inflicted upon them by their impious husbands is a well recognized right.

Despite the perpetual proposal of this issue and the establishment of “Mawda”, the first society concerned with the problems of divorced women, divorced women still suffer. “Mawda” has designed several programs to address the needs of divorced women. These include: Mawada sheltering program that provides women with temporary residence, and Mawda Empowerment program which helps improve the skills of divorced women and provide their children with dignified living. There are also Mawada Advisory which provide different forms of advice and finally, Mawada Justice. This last one empowers women with their legal rights in residence, alimony and custody. It pays due attention to divorced women who live under harsh financial and filial conditions when she goes back to live with her family who has limited income. This condition leads to asocial rejection of her divorce. The family cannot take up her burden any longer, especially when her monthly allowance does not exceed 800 riyals.

A lot of divorced women have suffered from violence. Yet, their suffering is not attributed to the physical violence that they have survived for a long time. They suddenly decided to break up whether voluntarily or involuntarily. Their suffering is mainly due to depriving them from their simple legitimate rights, which are based in our Muslim countries, on Islamic code of law. We signed international conventions related to women and children rights as a Muslim country, so that the clauses of these conventions do not violated the Islamic law.

However, as civil, security, social and judicial parties we still disregard the application of what Allah has stated in Surat A-Talaq: “0 Prophet, when you [Muslims] divorce women, divorce them for [the commencement of] their waiting period and keep count of the waiting period, and fear Allah, your Lord. Do not turn them out of their [husbands’] houses, nor should they [themselves] leave [during that period] unless they are committing a clear immorality. And those are the limits [set by] Allah. And whoever transgresses the limits of Allah has certainly wronged himself. You know not; perhaps Allah will bring about after that a [differ-
ent] matter.”(65:1). There are several other divine guidelines that secure the rights of a divorced women. Thus, Mawda society is burdened with a heavy load. It is responsible for taking care of divorced women and supporting them to get their rights as stated by Allah the al-mighty.

The painful fact is that these rights are ignored by many parties. Henceforth, the society should address the ministry of justice to issue that prohibits expelling divorced women from their homes. Whoever violates this law should be subjected to severe punishment. Thus, divorced women can be secured a dignified life with their children based on the Islamic legislation.

Below are selections from Chapter Three, entitled “the Spirit of Words 2012”

Why do Girls Run Away?

In a big volume no less than 600 pages, the research centre at the presidency of the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, have formulated a study about the running away of girls, the reasons behind it and its consequences. This is in order to examine how gross the problem is and its effects on families and societies meanwhile offering appropriate solutions.

This is quite helpful academic effort to which they deserve our deep thanks. I recommend that experts and parents should read it in order to benefit. It has tackled such a sensitive case that has become a source of worry for several Saudi families. Prisons and reformatory institutions have recently received several cases of girls who have run away. Although, reasons behind their running away vary, they all are related to family.

Unbound families, divorced parents, and the different approaches of upbringing and the absence of emotional support can lead to huge psychological and emotional gap between the girl and her family and persuades her to run away, even if it was a reckless. It is an action to express their rejection for the reality they are living through and as a call for their rights.

Unfortunately, this entraps her into serious risks that are far worse than her family circumstances. In most of the cases we have traced in prisons or in the field of domestic violence, lack of mutual confidence and passion within the family was the spark for a criminal life. It would persuade girls to look for an alternative outside the family, whom they think will be their prince charming. Unfortunately, these anomalous relationships incite girls to escape with their feelings and bodies where they got entrapped into unlawful affairs. They become sex objects and may be used in drug trafficking as well.

The disaster is when she got arrested. She wakes up to a bitter nightmare, particularly when she receives the punishment. She will then regret and hope she could get back to her family that might have out casted her like what most families in our societies would do.

We then got entrapped into a more complicated situation concerning how to convince families to receive their girls from prisons or reformatory institutions. Girls who spend long time in prisons or reformatory institutions might turn aggressive and have hostile attitudes towards the world. They become psychologically unstable and are not easily readapted to their families and societies.

This significant study has provided several recommendations, and great therapeutical and preventive programs. Moreover the concerned parties with these programs were assigned. I really hope that these parties are obliged to perform their assigned tasks as soon as possible under the auspices of the ministry of interior that pays much attention to the safety of the country.

The pain I feel is because the harm experienced by those innocent, helpless children are much deeper than the slow procedures undertaken towards cases of violence against children. Thus, children experience more harm than before, and parents become disrespectful of the punishments they are supposed to receive. In their abuse of their children, parents may rely on weak versions of hadiths such as: (you and your money are the right of your father) and (a father cannot be his son’s killer). According to these misconceptions, they have accounted for their villainous behaviour towards their children. They treated as their absolute ownership which they can handle the way they like.

The exaggeration of these misconceptions is not explained. Nothing could account for abusing children at different ages or depriving them from their mother’s care or being careless to the extent that the children might lose their innocent souls.

Most people attribute this phenomenon to the prevalence of drugs and its consequences on the psychological status of unemployed parents. Even those who recovered and did not find support from their families, still pose a threat. They show aggressive behaviour that hurts his immediate family. There are several other parental models that require prior qualification to becoming a parent. This is highly important currently. Despite the technological progress we witness; filial problems are increasing.
The Accused Right to Have A Lawyer

Having a lawyer in a criminal case is a basic right of the accused in all criminal laws and comparative jurisprudence. It is an essential guarantee of justice and an essential condition that secures the validity of procedures and its conformity to law. In addition it secures the accused the right to present his pleading and represent an honest determination that should be taken into consideration. The lawyer specialized in civil cases is well informed about the case he defends. He should be well informed in both laws and jurisprudence. Henceforth, he speaks on behalf of the accused in a way that makes him communicates his pleading appropriately.

Most constitutions, criminal laws and UN Human Rights Commission have decreed this guarantee. Among these is the international conference for legislators held in Athens on May, 20th 1950. The conference has recommended that the accused should be secured the necessary warrants for his defense. He should also be able to choose his own lawyer. Another recommendation was also given by the sixth conference for criminal laws, held in Rome in 1953. According to this recommendation the accused should be informed before being investigated that he has the right not to talk unless his lawyer is present.

This right was actually recommended by the UN Human Rights Commission in Philippines on February, 17th, 1958. This was also included in some the international conventions such as the article (63) of the European convention held in Rome on November, 11th, 1950.

The Saudi legislator was keen on consolidating this right within the criminal law in a way that conforms to the Islamic law. The first clause of the fourth article of the criminal law states...
that: (every accused has the right to have a lawyer to defend him during investigation and trials). Thus, it has become a systematic principle and one of the fore granted rights that should be considered during the investigation and trials within the criminal law.

Moreover, it is restated within the same law when talking about the inquisitor’s behaviour and the procedures he might take against the accused. The fifty sixth article has stated that: (the accused have the right to have his own lawyer attend the investigation). This right was reaffirmed in the second clause of the sixty ninth article.

It was also secured once more in the seventieth article of the criminal law. It states that: (the inquisitor should isolate the accused from his lawyer) this right is not confined to attending the investigation only but it includes attending all the procedures taken by the inquisitor like the investigation or hearing the witness or encounters with the adversaries. In case the inquisitor does not abide by this, the whole investigation is deemed invalid.

Although articles 82 and 83 has stated that papers and correspondence or papers with the accused should be seized if they can help unveil the truth during the investigation, yet article (84) stated that (neither the officer nor the inquisitor have the right to seize papers or documents with the lawyer even if they are delivered to him by the accused). Thus document delivered by the accused to the lawyer in order to help the latter defend him should not be seized. This actually protects the accused rights and privacy of the professional relation between him and his lawyer. This right extends to encompass their mutual correspondence between them, even if they were with the accused himself, as long as they are used for his own defense.

The inquisitor can order that the accused should contact other prisoners or suspended and not to be visited for a period that does not exceed 60 days if necessary, if the investigation requires so even when the case is transferred to the concerned court. (article 139). The legislator has considered the right of the accused to have his lawyer support him in court, particularly in serious cases. The law has also obliged the court to hire a lawyer for the accused if he asks for one. Moreover the government is to afford the expenses of hiring the lawyer in case the accused cannot afford it.

All this articles formulated by the legislator within the criminal law highlights that this right is not confined to having a lawyer during investigation and trial only, but it encompasses all procedures so that the accused voice is delivered in a way that confrom to law and jurisprudence and maintains the justice decreed by our Islamic faith.
On International Women’s Day

Obama Awards Al-Maneef the Title of “the Most Courageous Woman in the World”

Simultaneous with the world’s celebration of the International Women’s Day, which is celebrated on March, 8th annually, the American first lady Michelle Obama has recently awarded the Saudi physician Dr. Maha Abdullah Al-Maneef the title of “the most courageous woman in the world”. Dr. Al-Maneef is also a consultant at the Shura Council “Majlis Ash-Shura” and executive director of the National Family Security Program. She was awarded this title for her efforts in fighting violence against women and children. President Obama has delivered the award to Al-Maneef himself during his last visit to Riyadh. The title was also given to ten women from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Fiji, Georgia, India, Mali, Tajikistan, and Zimbabwe.
Women have leading positions during the reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

During the celebration of Women's International Day, the U.S. State Department spokesman praised the efforts exerted by Dr. Al-Maneef in increasing the awareness about domestic violence and the victims of child abuse and the ways to support them. The U.S. State Department spokesman has also indicated that the National Family Security Program has proposed plans for protection and reporting statistics about domestic violence and child abuse victims in Saudi Arabia. It provides service for violence victims. Thanks to this program, the Saudi cabinet adopted an eminent legislation to deal with these cases. The program has also played a vital role by providing a draft and advice about the law for protection against abuse and domestic violence in the Kingdom. This law was the first to define and criminalize domestic violence in Saudi Arabia.

On her part, Dr. Al-Maneef said: "I have worked in the field of protection and increasing awareness about domestic violence not to earn praise or honouring. I did it because I firmly believe that it is a complicated issue that requires great efforts to change social attitudes towards it. Moreover, I do hope to serve the victims whether they were women or children."

Dr. Al-Maneef has affirmed that she was not surprised by the award. A lot of Saudi women have attained international awards in different aspects. She added: "I dedicate this award to all women and children who suffer violence all over the world. You inspire me to be courageous."

She indicated that such an international award is highly significant. From a local perspective, it affirms the Kingdom's keenness on fighting domestic violence. This is through establishing the National Family Security Program. From a personal perspective, it is considered a sign of recognition of Saudi women. It reflects her ability to work hard and efficiently and cope with international standards. This award will help eliminate the stereotypical image of Saudi women as a passive being who has no say in division making. It proves that women are capable of working efficiently to improve her society.

It is noteworthy that Dr. Al-Maneef has spent more than ten years fighting domestic violence. She led several campaigns and activities to serve her cause. Her efforts were supported by Princess Adila bint Abdel Al-Aziz Al Saud, President of the National Family Security Program.

Dr. Maha has earned a B.Sc. in medicine and surgery from King Saud University. She is a member of the American Board of Pediatrics, Infection Control, and Epidemics. She is also a member of the American Board of Child Abuse and the American Association for Infection Control, and Epidemics. She is also a member of the Security Program. Adila bint Abdel Al-Aziz Al Saud, President of the National Family Security Program. From a personal perspective, it is considered a sign of recognition of Saudi women. It reflects her ability to work hard and efficiently and cope with international standards. This award will help eliminate the stereotypical image of Saudi women as a passive being who has no say in division making. It proves that women are capable of working efficiently to improve her society.

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Islam Has Treated Women Fairly

Rev. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Sheikh, the Saudi Grand Imam and head of the Council of Senior Scholars has affirmed that Allah – the Almighty, has equated both men and women in terms of obligations and punishment. "Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do" (Surat An-Nahl "The Bee" 97). Islam has also confirmed the equal status for both men and women as revealed in verse no. 71 of Surat "At-Tawbah" (The Repentance) : "The believing men and believing women are allies of one another. They enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and establish prayer and give zakah and obey Allah and His Messenger. Those - Allah will have mercy upon them. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise." The same idea is further emphasized by the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) saying: "all people are equal". A later part of the hadith says "women are men's counterparts."

His rev. has pointed out that the Noble Qur'an has condemned the pre-Islam period "Laahiyah" which has discriminated between men and women: "And they attribute to Allah daughters - exalted is He - and for them is what they desire. And when one of them is informed of [the birth of] a female, his face becomes dark, and he suppresses grief." (An-Nahl:57-58). He pointed out women in Islam are secured basic rights such as motherhood, having a kind husband, and having her own home. The extent of injustice that women may suffer in societies which deprive them of these rights owing to legal and traditional constraints can be easily realized.

He further illustrated that Islam has held women in great respect. Veil, which anti-Islamists think of it as a symbol women oppression and reactionary thought, was decreed by Islam to dignify Muslim women. Islam distinguishes people according to their piety. There is no discrimination based on race, colour, gender or geographical location. Gender differences account for men and women not having similar jobs. Islam has taken that into consideration when assigning comprehensive that our country undergoes currently, apart from the vital role women play in this development. I am keen on enhancing women role and set the appropriate conditions and environment for that. Securing a suitable work environment for women that is in harmony with our traditions and Islamic faith is a priority of ours as well."

Women have actually held several leading positions in different governmental institutions during his reign. Woman has also become an active participant in the private sector. This led to having women made significant achievements in different scientific disciplines. Inevitably, she obtained several awards, certificates of appreciation and order of merits in different fields of knowledge and creativity. Henceforth, she proves her ability to be creative whenever chance is there.

A fair person cannot deny that the reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques is the epoch of Saudi women achievements. Saudi woman now holds several leading offices. She is now a member in the Shura Council "Majlis Ash-Shura". She has also earned the right to vote and stand as a candidate in municipalities. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz' reign is also renowned for educational renaissance, particularly in women education. He has paid due attention to to women education. He has built modern institutions that are equipped with up to date educational technologies. He believes firmly in women capacities and their contribution to the development of the country by being highly influential in any position she holds. This renaissance is best exemplified in the establishment of Princess Nora bint Abdul Rahman University and launching several female college towns at King Saud University. Women have also enjoyed an ample share of the gross achievement that Saudi Arabia has witnessed recently. Thus, women have become a catalyst in the development process. Saudi women achievements have transcended universal ones. They have become an honorable role model to be followed in the Muslim and Arab worlds, and perhaps worldwide as well.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Supports Women

A very well known quote by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz about women says: "she is my mother, wife, sister and daughter". Since his coming to power, several useful decisions and initiatives were launched to improve women status and render them an essential partner in development. He has once said in an interview with foreign press: "Saudi women have proved across years that they enjoy immense social, professional and scientific potentials and efficiency that stand on equal footing with their universal peers. We cannot talk about the
tasks and obligations between men and women. Gender integration, not similarity, is what is actually needed in this case. His rev. has also pointed out that throughout the history of mankind, women have suffered injustice and violations.

**National talents**

There are countless examples of women success stories in our society. Below is a quick review of these stories so they can be used as a guide to distinction. A pioneering decision was made recently concerning the Shura Council ‘Majlis Ash-Shura’. According to this decision, the number of part-time female advisors was increased from 6 to 12 members. In a huge leap, Dr. Arwa bint Youssef Al A’ama was appointed assistant to the general secretary for Jeddah for information technology. In the field of law, the first specialized class in law was graduated from the faculty of political sciences at King Saud University. Moreover, the state has taken several measures that support women socially. These measures support working women as well. These included having the ministry of labor establish a special unit for national common training for girls similar to this that boys receive. This training is supervised by qualified and professional women. Additionally, the minister of industry and trade had given orders to make the procedures establishing companies and institutions owned by businesswomen. This leads to increasing job opportunities for Saudi women, according to the religious constraints.

Mrs. Lubna Al-Ghalany became the first Saudi woman to obtained accredited licenses from the U.S.A. to award both men and women allover the Middle East, educational certificates and provide them with family advice. Moreover, the reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, has witnessed launching extensive graduate scholarships for women. A lot of women have honoured the Kingdom abroad in the field of scientific reseach. Examples include Dr. Hîaâ Snady. She is the first Arab woman to earn Ph.D. in bio technology from Cambridge University, Dr. Fatem Khorsheed prof. of biology at the faculty of science at King Abdul Aziz’ University. She supervise the cell transplant unit within the same university and has several researches in the field of fighting cancer.

Achievements of Saudi female scholars in different scientific disciplines were non-stop. Dr. Hayam bin Ibrahim Allam from King Saud University, supported by King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, has devised a medication for pre-eclampsia for pregnant women. There are also the inventions by Dr. Ahlam Ahmed Al Awdy the associative professor of microbiology at the faculty of education for girls in Jeddah.

Meanwhile, Prof. Intissar bint Suliman Al- Sahibany – Faculty of Scienc- King Saud University, has earned two international awards for preparing chromosome pigments. Likewise is Dr. Mashhael bint Muhammad Al Saud, the assistant professor of applied geomorphology at the faculty of Arts, geography department – King Saud University. She was the first Saudi woman to get appointed at the Space Research Institute in King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology in Riyadh.

Similarly is the Saudi physics scientist Ibtssam Badris. She participated in a pioneering universal experiment. The experiment included an explosion resulting from collision with a particular form of energy. It was carried out at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). Another eminent Saudi woman figure is Dr. Nora Ahmad Rashad. She managed to save millions of diabetes patients from amputations. She currently works at Saint Natua hospital, Italy.

The ten year old Rada Ibrahim Al Kholify was categorized as the youngest Saudi author and inventor. She wrote a book entitled Who Am I. She has also received a certificate entitling her as the youngest participant at the fifth forum for the (IVFA). Moreover, 21 young female Saudi inventors competed in the “Best Educational Robot Contest”. The contest was organized by King Abdulaziz and his Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity. The contest was part of the enriching summer programs launched by the Foundation at the faculty of Information and Computer Science - Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University. Another important initiative was also launched by Princess Nora bint Abdul Rahman University. It is about to start the first female students union. This may be considered the springboard for a new democratic epoch in the university history. This was announced by Princess and Prof. Johrh bint Fahd Al- Saud, the university president. She assured that the female students were given the right to participate in decision making at the university. This is done through 150 female students representing the student councils, which are actually 6.

In the field of knowledge and science, meanwhile, Bayan Muhammad Meshat has obtained the first rank as an inventor. She invented a game that measures the children’s ability to surf the internet and use search engines. She acquired the first rank at Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Moreover, the twelve year old Rowan Moussa Al Jehiny could make the largest mind map in the world on an area of 1800 m2. Saudi women have also been awarded several international prizes in equestrian. Also, the first sports company based on female ideology was established to support sports activities. Women have also gone milestones in the field of freedom of expression in journalistic writing. Women have written several articles supporting development. Within such a context, it is noteworthy that Dr. Badriya Al Beshr has acquired the journalistic column award as part of the Arab Journalism Award in 2012.

**Twitter Users’ Interaction**

Social media was an integral part of the momentum witnessed on the International Women’s Day. The hash tags “# Saudi_ women_forum 2’ and “#security_feminization”, have created a great deal of active interaction. These hash tags affirmed the status of housewives. They argued that her work at home is part of the national development and is worth appreciation. They called for feminization of security at workplaces to protect women against harassment and mixing with men.

Twitter users have asked officials to make legislations concerning women work. These laws should inform her about her rights and work obligations. Users have illustrated several models concerning women work. These examples reflected women suffering at their workplaces owing to the absence of such laws.

Some Twitter users on “#security_feminization” hash tag argue that women demand a great deal of laws and initiatives that protect her and conform to the conservative Saudi society.
The demands focused on three aspects: "rationalizing shops feminization, building maternity hospitals and providing secure job opportunities for women". Amel, a twitter user has wondered in the hash tag: "why is the issue of distant women work ignored?" She added: "I congratulate you on the choice of the forum pivots, particularly the main one which is "working women". Another twitter user, Nael Al Mosa'ad, has indicated his great expectations on the same hash tag. "This forum is a safe environment for investigating women issues and demands in a logical, scientific and religious manners. May Allah guide them to all the best," he says.

Saudi Female Academics Affirm the Saudi Women Brilliance

Member of the Advisory Board for Teachers in Najran, Nora Al Sorour, has affirmed that Saudi women play an essential role in the society development. The woman is the one who adds the cornerstone and educates generations of scientists. Women are commissioned by Allah to be His successor on earth alongside with man. On the International women's day: "we look forward to consolidating her dignity, securing her rights, hallowing her status and effectuate her role as decreed by our Islamic Faith since ancient times," she says. Meanwhile, Semiha Al-Sama'a, a reporter at Okaz newspaper says: "Saudi women have recently achieved a great deal of gains which is quite promising. This is thanks to the honourable trust endowed by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz. This success is also enhanced by women struggle to get their demands and requirements and their ability to perform all their tasks and obligations towards their home country. Among the achievements made by women, is holding important offices in the state's administrative body as seen in the ministry of education. She also works in the diplomatic field and ministry of foreign affairs. She is also allowed to work as a solicitor and legal advisor.

Head of the women department at Saudi Institute for Administration, Prof. Roqeya Al-Shakwan, has pointed out that women are looking forward to having all their rights as decreed by the Noble Qur'an and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Islam had held women in a highly dignified position and was fair to them. The achievements that Saudi women have made so far are based on their efforts. Thanks to their leadership qualities and intelligence, women could rich top scientific levels. Moreover, there are some professions, such as education, that only women can perform.

The UN Emphasizes Equality

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the UN has highlighted the link between the improvement of women status and society development in general. The former American secretary of state, Hillary Clinton has given a speech on this occasion. During her speech, she indicated the progress that has been achieved so far. She pointed out that the number of girls at schools or working women has increased compared to any other time. She goes on to say: "when women and girls flourish, the whole society flourishes." She adds: "any of the countries that has not achieved equality between men and women, should do it immediately and reveal their respect for these rights." She described the current situation as "a pivotal phase in this struggle".

Meanwhile, the UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon, has stated: "women's progress contributes to the development of the society as a whole." He added: "countries that display greater gender equality enjoy greater economic development. Moreover, countries that comprise more female board members achieve higher returns and peace treaties that comprise women are more successful."

The demands focused on three aspects: "rationalizing shops feminization, building maternity hospitals and providing secure job opportunities for women". Amel, a twitter user has wondered in the hash tag: "why is the issue of distant women work ignored?" She added: "I congratulate you on the choice of the forum pivots, particularly the main one which is "working women". Another twitter user, Nael Al Mosa'ad, has indicated his great expectations on the same hash tag. "This forum is a safe environment for investigating women issues and demands in a logical, scientific and religious manners. May Allah guide them to all the best," he says.

Saudi Female Academics Affirm the Saudi Women Brilliance

Member of the Advisory Board for Teachers in Najran, Nora Al Sorour, has affirmed that Saudi women play an essential role in the society development. The woman is the one who adds the cornerstone and educates generations of scientists. Women are commissioned by Allah to be His successor on earth alongside with man. On the International women's day: "we look forward to consolidating her dignity, securing her rights, hallowing her status and effectuate her role as decreed by our Islamic Faith since ancient times," she says. Meanwhile, Semiha Al-Sama'a, a reporter at Okaz newspaper says: "Saudi women have recently achieved a great deal of gains which is quite promising. This is thanks to the honourable trust endowed by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz. This success is also enhanced by women struggle to get their demands and requirements and their ability to perform all their tasks and obligations towards their home country. Among the achievements made by women, is holding important offices in the state's administrative body as seen in the ministry of education. She also works in the diplomatic field and ministry of foreign affairs. She is also allowed to work as a solicitor and legal advisor.

Head of the women department at Saudi Institute for Administration, Prof. Roqeya Al-Shakwan, has pointed out that women are looking forward to having all their rights as decreed by the Noble Qur'an and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Islam had held women in a highly dignified position and was fair to them. The achievements that Saudi women have made so far are based on their efforts. Thanks to their leadership qualities and intelligence, women could rich top scientific levels. Moreover, there are some professions, such as education, that only women can perform.

The UN Emphasizes Equality

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the UN has highlighted the link between the improvement of women status and society development in general. The former American secretary of state, Hillary Clinton has given a speech on this occasion. During her speech, she indicated the progress that has been achieved so far. She pointed out that the number of girls at schools or working women has increased compared to any other time. She goes on to say: "when women and girls flourish, the whole society flourishes." She adds: "any of the countries that has not achieved equality between men and women, should do it immediately and reveal their respect for these rights." She described the current situation as "a pivotal phase in this struggle".

Meanwhile, the UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon, has stated: "women's progress contributes to the development of the society as a whole." He added: "countries that display greater gender equality enjoy greater economic development. Moreover, countries that comprise more female board members achieve higher returns and peace treaties that comprise women are more successful."
Owing to its belief in the importance of advocating human rights, “Rights” reviews below the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and provides explanation of its articles. The convention was adopted and opened for signature and ratification by General Assembly resolution 2106 (XX) of 21 December 1965 entry into force 4 January 1969, in accordance with Article 19.

The States Parties to this Convention, were resolved to adopt all necessary measures for speedily eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations, and to prevent and combat racist doctrines and practices in order to promote understanding between races and to build an international community free from all forms of racial segregation and racial discrimination.

The Convention is divided into three parts and comprises 25 articles as follows:

**PART I**

**Article 1**

1. In this Convention, the term «racial discrimination» shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.

2. This Convention shall not apply to distinctions, exclusions, restrictions or preferences made by a State Party to this Convention between citizens and non-citizens.

3. Nothing in this Convention may be interpreted as affecting in any way the legal provisions of States Parties concerning nationality, citizenship or naturalization, provided that such provisions do not discriminate against any particular nationality.

4. Special measures taken for the sole purpose of securing adequate advancement of certain racial or ethnic groups or individuals requiring such protection as may be necessary in order to ensure such groups or individuals equal enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms shall not be deemed racial discrimination, provided, however, that such measures do not, as a consequence, lead to the maintenance of separate rights for different racial groups and that they shall not be continued after the objectives for which they were taken have been achieved.
Article 2

1. States Parties condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and promoting understanding among all races, and, to this end: (a) Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act or practice of racial discrimination against persons, groups of persons or institutions and to ensure that all public authorities and public institutions, national and local, shall act in conformity with this obligation;

(b) Each State Party undertakes not to sponsor, defend or support racial discrimination by any persons or organizations;

(c) Each State Party shall take effective measures to review governmental, national and local policies, and to amend, rescind or nullify any laws and regulations which have the effect of creating or perpetuating racial discrimination wherever it exists;

(d) Each State Party shall prohibit and bring to an end, by all appropriate means, including legislation as required by circumstances, racial discrimination by any persons, group or organization;

(e) Each State Party undertakes to encourage, where appropriate, integrationist multiracial organizations and movements and other means of eliminating barriers between races, and to discourage anything which tends to strengthen racial division.

2. States Parties shall, when the circumstances so warrant, take, in the social, economic, cultural and other fields, special and concrete measures to ensure the adequate development and protection of certain racial groups or individuals belonging to them, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These measures shall in no case entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate rights for different racial groups after the objectives for which they were taken have been achieved.

Article 3

States Parties particularly condemn racial segregation and apartheid and undertake to prevent, prohibit and eradicate all practices of this nature in territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 4

States Parties condemn all propaganda and all organizations which are based on ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin, or which attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form, and undertake to adopt immediate and positive measures designed to eradicate all incitement to, or acts of, such discrimination and, to this end, with due regard to the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights expressly set forth in article 5 of this Convention, inter alia:

(a) Shall declare an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin, and also the provision of any assistance to racist activities, including the financing thereof;

(b) Shall declare illegal and prohibit organizations, and also organized and all other propaganda activities, which promote and incite racial discrimination, and shall recognize participation in such organizations or activities as an offence punishable by law;

(c) Shall not permit public authorities or public institutions, national or local, to promote or incite racial discrimination.

Article 5

In compliance with the fundamental obligations laid down in article 2 of this Convention, States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights:

(a) The right to equal treatment before the tribunals and all other organs administering justice;

(b) The right to security of person and protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual group or institution;

(c) Political rights, in particular the right to participate in elections to vote and to stand for election-on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service;

(d) Other civil rights, in particular:

(i) The right to freedom of movement and residence within the border of the State;

(ii) The right to leave any country, including one’s own, and to return to one’s country;

(vi) The right to nationality;

(v) The right to inherit;

(iv) The right to marriage and choice of spouse;

(v) The right to own property alone as well as in association with others;

(vi) The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

(vii) The right to freedom of opinion and expression;

(viii) The right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association;

(e) Economic, social and cultural rights, in particular:

(i) The rights to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work, to protection against unemployment, to equal pay for equal work, to just and favourable re-
manner;
(ii) The right to form and join trade unions;
(iii) The right to housing;
(iv) The right to public health, medical care, social security and social services;
(v) The right to education and training;
(vi) The right to equal participation in cultural activities;
(f) The right of access to any place or service intended for use by the general public, such as transport hotels, restaurants, cafes, theatres and parks.

Article 6
States Parties shall assure to everyone within their jurisdiction effective protection and remedies, through the competent national tribunals and other State institutions, against any acts of racial discrimination which violate his human rights and fundamental freedoms contrary to this Convention, as well as the right to seek from such tribunals just and adequate reparation or satisfaction for any damage suffered as a result of such discrimination.

Article 7
States Parties undertake to adopt immediate and effective measures, particularly in the fields of teaching, education, culture and information, with a view to combating prejudices which lead to racial discrimination and to promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and racial or ethnic groups, as well as to propagating the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and this Convention.

PART II
Article 8
1. There shall be established a Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) consisting of eighteen experts of high moral standing and acknowledged impartiality elected by States Parties from among their nationals, who shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as of the principal legal systems.
2. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals.
3. The initial election shall be held six months after the date of the entry into force of this Convention. At least three months before the date of each election the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties.
4. Elections of the members of the Committee shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.
5. (a) The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. However, the terms of nine of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election the names of these nine members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee;
(b) For the filling of casual vacancies, the State Party whose expert has ceased to function as a member of the Committee shall appoint another expert from among its nationals, subject to the approval of the Committee.
6. States Parties shall be responsible for the expenses of the members of the Committee while they are in performance of Committee duties.

Article 9
1. States Parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted and which give effect to the provisions of this Convention: (a) within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned; and
(b) thereafter every two years and whenever the Committee so requests. The Committee may request further information from the States Parties.
2. The Committee shall report annually, through the Secretary General, to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its activities and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of the reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be reported to the General Assembly together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

Article 10
1. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
2. The Committee shall elect its officers for a term of two years.
3. The secretariat of the Committee shall be provided by the Secretary General of the United Nations.
4. The meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters.

Article 11
1. If a State Party considers that another State Party is not giving effect to the provisions of this Convention, it may bring the matter to the attention of the Committee. The Committee shall then transmit the communication to the State Party concerned. Within three months, the receiving State shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that may have been taken by that State.
2. If the matter is not adjusted to the satisfaction of both parties, either by bilateral negotiations or by any other procedure open to them, within six months after the receipt by the receiving State of the initial communication, either State shall have the right to refer the matter again to the Committee by notifying the Committee and also the other State.
3. The Committee shall deal with a matter referred to it in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article after it has ascertained that all available domestic remedies have been
invoked and exhausted in the case, in conformity with the generally recognized principles of international law. This shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged.

4. In any matter referred to it, the Committee may call upon the States Parties concerned to supply any other relevant information.

5. When any matter arising out of this article is being considered by the Committee, the States Parties concerned shall be entitled to send a representative to take part in the proceedings of the Committee, without voting rights, while the matter is under consideration.

Article 12

1. (a) After the Committee has obtained and collated all the information it deems necessary, the Chairman shall appoint an ad hoc Conciliation Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) comprising five persons who may or may not be members of the Committee. The members of the Commission shall be appointed with the unanimous consent of the parties to the dispute, and its good offices shall be made available to the States concerned with a view to an amicable solution of the matter on the basis of respect for this Convention;

(b) If the States parties to the dispute fail to reach agreement within three months on all or part of the composition of the Commission, the members of the Commission not agreed upon by the States parties to the dispute shall be elected by secret ballot by a two-thirds majority vote of the Committee from among its own members.

2. The members of the Commission shall serve in their personal capacity. They shall not be nationals of the States parties to the dispute or of a State not Party to this Convention.

3. The Commission shall elect its own Chairman and adopt its own rules of procedure.

4. The meetings of the Commission shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Commission.

5. The secretariat provided in accordance with article 10, paragraph 3, of this Convention shall also service the Commission whenever a dispute among States Parties brings the Commission into being.

6. The States parties to the dispute shall share equally all the expenses of the members of the Commission in accordance with estimates to be provided by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

7. The Secretary-General shall be empowered to pay the expenses of the members of the Commission, if necessary, before reimbursement by the States parties to the dispute in accordance with paragraph 6 of this article.

8. The information obtained and collated by the Commission shall be made available to the Commission, and the Commission may call upon the States concerned to supply any other relevant information.

Article 13

1. When the Commission has fully considered the matter, it shall prepare and submit to the Chairman of the Committee a report embodying its findings on all questions of fact relevant to the issue between the parties and containing such recommendations as it may think proper for the amicable solution of the dispute.

2. The Chairman of the Committee shall communicate the report of the Commission to each of the States parties to the dispute. These States shall, within three months, inform the Chairman of the Committee whether or not they accept the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission.

3. After the period provided for in paragraph 2 of this article, the Chairman of the Committee shall communicate the report of the Commission and the declarations of the States Parties concerned to the other States Parties to this Convention.

Article 14

1. A State Party may at any time declare that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within its jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation by that State Party of any of the rights set forth in this Convention. No communication shall be received by the Committee if it concerns a State Party which has not made such a declaration.

2. Any State Party which makes a declaration as provided for in paragraph 1 of this article may establish or indicate a body within its national legal order which shall be competent to receive and consider petitions from individuals and groups of individuals within its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation of any of the rights set forth in this Convention and who have exhausted other available local remedies.
3. A declaration made in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article and the name of any body established or indicated in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article shall be deposited by the State Party concerned with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit copies thereof to the other States Parties. A declaration may be withdrawn at any time by notification to the Secretary-General, but such a withdrawal shall not affect communications pending before the Committee.

4. A register of petitions shall be kept by the body established or indicated in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article, and certified copies of the register shall be filed annually through appropriate channels with the Secretary-General on the understanding that the contents shall not be publicly disclosed.

5. In the event of failure to obtain satisfaction from the body established or indicated in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article, the petitioner shall have the right to communicate the matter to the Committee within six months.

6. (a) The Committee shall consider communications in the light of all information made available to it by the State Party concerned and by the petitioner. The Committee shall not consider any communication from a petitioner unless it has ascertained that the petitioner has exhausted all available domestic remedies. However, this shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged;

(b) Within three months, the receiving State shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that may have been taken by that State.

7. (a) The Committee shall consider communications in the light of all information made available to it by the State Party concerned and by the petitioner. The Committee shall not consider any communication from a petitioner unless it has ascertained that the petitioner has exhausted all available domestic remedies. However, this shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged;

(b) Within three months, the receiving State shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that may have been taken by that State.

8. The Committee shall include in its annual report a summary of such communications and, where appropriate, a summary of the explanations and statements of the States Parties concerned and of its own suggestions and recommendations.

9. The Committee shall be competent to exercise the functions provided for in this article only when at least ten States Parties to this Convention are bound by declarations in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

Article 15
1. Pending the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, the provisions of this Convention shall in no way limit the right of petition granted to these peoples by other international instruments or by the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

2. (a) The Committee established under article 8, paragraph 1, of this Convention shall receive copies of the petitions from, and submit expressions of opinion and recommendations on these petitions to, the bodies of the United Nations which deal with matters directly related to the principles and objectives of this Convention in their consideration of petitions from the inhabitants of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and all other territories to which General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) applies, relating to matters covered by this Convention which are before these bodies;

(b) The Committee shall receive from the competent bodies of the United Nations copies of the reports concerning the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures directly related to the principles and objectives of this Convention applied by the administering Powers within the Territories mentioned in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph, and shall express opinions and make recommendations to these bodies.

3. The Committee shall include in its report to the General Assembly a summary of the petitions and reports it has received from United Nations bodies, and the expressions of opinion and recommendations of the Committee relating to the said petitions and reports.

4. The Committee shall request from the Secretary-General of the United Nations all information relevant to the objectives of this Convention and available to him regarding the Territories mentioned in paragraph 2 (a) of this article.

Article 16
The provisions of this Convention concerning the settlement of disputes or complaints shall be applied without prejudice to other procedures for settling disputes or complaints in the field of discrimination laid down in the constituent instruments of, or conventions adopted by, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and shall not prevent the States Parties from having recourse to other procedures for settling a dispute in accordance with general or special international agreements in force between them.

PART III
Article 17
1. This Convention is open for signature by any State Member of the United Nations or member of any of its specialized agencies, by any State Party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and by any other State which has been invited by the General Assembly of the United Nations to become a Party to this Convention.

2. This Convention is subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 18
1. This Convention shall be open to accession by any State referred to in article 17, paragraph 1, of the Convention. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 19
1. This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twenty-seventh instrument of ratification or instrument of accession.

2. For each State ratifying this Convention or acceding to it after the deposit of the twenty-seventh instrument of ratification or instrument of accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or instrument of accession.

Article 20
1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and circulate to all States which are or may become
Parties to this Convention reservations made by States at the time of ratification or accession. Any State which objects to the reservation shall, within a period of ninety days from the date of the said communication, notify the Secretary-General that it does not accept it.

2. A reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of this Convention shall not be permitted, nor shall a reservation the effect of which would inhibit the operation of any of the bodies established by this Convention be allowed. A reservation shall be considered incompatible or inhibitive if at least two thirds of the States Parties to this Convention object to it.

3. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received.

**Article 21**
A State Party may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

**Article 22**
Any dispute between two or more States Parties with respect to the interpretation or application of this Convention, which is not settled by negotiation or by the procedures expressly provided for in this Convention, shall, at the request of any of the parties to the dispute, be referred to the International Court of Justice for decision, unless the disputants agree to another mode of settlement.

**Article 23**
1. A request for the revision of this Convention may be made at any time by any State Party by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. The General Assembly of the United Nations shall decide upon the steps, if any, to be taken in respect of such a request.

**Article 24**
The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall inform all States referred to in article 17, paragraph 1, of this Convention of the following particulars:

(a) Signatures, ratifications and accessions under articles 17 and 18;
(b) The date of entry into force of this Convention under article 19;
(c) Communications and declarations received under articles 14, 20 and 23;
(d) Denunciations under article 21.

**Article 25**
1. This Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit certified copies of this Convention to all States belonging to any of the categories mentioned in article 17, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

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**Saudi Arabia Rejects Different Forms of Discrimination**

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud pays due attention to human rights issues and supporting them locally and internationally. Meanwhile, religious teachings and national values and traditions should be observed.

The Saudi laws are in accord with the “International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.” Different laws generally agree with the articles within the convention. The convention rejects any form of discrimination. It advocates equal rights to litigation, equality, education and health care. These laws are epitome of implementing the obligatory and cooperative health insurance. This system allows foreign labor within Saudi Arabia to enjoy equal health insurance as citizens.

Another vital civil step, that is widely acclaimed both locally and internationally, on the Saudi part, was issuing the Protection against Abuse Law by the Cabinet. He further affirms that the ministry of health is committed to treating stateless people for free. He has also pointed out that the Kingdom attempts assiduously to protect the rights of everyone living on its land be it a citizen or resident.

This accordance between the Saudi laws and international conventions had contributed to the election of Saudi Arabia as member of the first UN Human Rights Council in 2006. The Saudi efforts in this field were appraised both locally and internationally.

The Saudi efforts to support the human rights cause are actually inspired by its commitment to implementing the tolerant Islamic law which advocates human dignity in different stages of life. In order to achieve this, several procedures were carried out. Among these was what stated in the 26th article for government which affirms Saudi Arabia’s commitment to protecting human rights. Additionally, Saudi Arabia was a state party into four main international conventions. These are: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1997), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (2000), Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1997), and Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Saudi Arabia was also a state party in 5 of the International Labor Organization conventions that are concerned with human rights. These are conventions no. 105 and 26 which are concerned with forced labor (1978), conventions no. 100 and 11 that are concerned with discrimination in offices (1978), and finally convention no. 182 that is concerned with prohibiting the labor of children and minors (2001). Meanwhile the Kingdom has expressed its reservation against some of the articles that do not conform to the Islamic law.

On a regional perspective, the Kingdom has become a state party in “Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam” issued by the member states of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference adopted in Cairo, Egypt, in 1990. It also became a state party in the Modified Arab Charter of Human Rights that was adopted by the Arab Summit in Tunisia in 2004.
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Reservation Law

Enforced disappearances refer to: (arrest or detention or abduction or any form of depriving individuals of their freedom by state officials or groups acting according to state instructions. It is followed by a refusal to admit this act of deprivation or conceal the fate of those who have disappeared, thus he is denied the protection of law).

This issue has gained significance currently following the freedom and security assaults that many individuals have suffered lately. It advocates a person’s right to liberty, safety, and not suffering torture or any other form of inhumane treatment and not to deny any person from the protection of law.

Saudi Arabia considers enforced disappearance a crime that is liable to criminal procedures like any other crime. Moreover, the Saudi criminal law is not confined to a particular crime or focus on particular procedures. It provides detailed procedures to tackle crimes. Saudi criminal laws are actually based on the Noble Quran and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

As for Reservation Law: (is a right secured by International law and is practiced by several countries to protect its privacy and welfare without susceptibility. Reservation is a possibility allowed by the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. It defined reservation as “unilateral statement, however phrased or named, made by a State, when signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to a treaty, whereby it purports to exclude or to modify the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their application to that State.”

The election of Saudi Arabia as a member in the UN Human Rights Council for a third term reflects its pioneering role in the world and Arab region. It also reveals the role it plays to support human rights issues on international levels as well. It also embodies the Kingdom’s Islamic values. The Kingdom is also a state party in the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances. I believe it would be beneficial for the Kingdom to adopt it because it is comprehensive in application. It is also supplementary to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment which is adopted according to the royal decree no. (m\11) issued on 4\4\1418 AH. All the articles of the convention should be studied. The international reactions and attitudes should be studied as well, while using the Saudi right to the “reservation law” (both public and private) with whatever defies the Islamic law as stated in the international human rights it signed.
اثوروف

الشركاء والجهات الحكومية!!

@NASSERKAMES
Put your hand away Tamim. Do not beat Bassam! Why are you that violent? You are friends!

Yazeed started to stop the ongoing fight between his friends Tamim and Bassam. He was passing by when he found them quarrelling next to the school fence. He tried to calm them down. Yet Tamim rejected Yazeed’s help and pushed Bassam down on the floor.

Yazeed, then, helped Bassam to stand up and cleaned his clothes. By that time Tamim has already left.

Bassam: I did him no harm Yazeed. I just offered him a ride home when I noticed that his father was late for picking him up.

Yazeed: I know you did do him any harm. I have seen the whole thing from the very beginning. But I am shocked. Tamim was very aggressive. He has never been like that before.

Bassam: I was shocked too at his sudden change in behaviour. I think he has some problem. Have you noticed his sitting alone in class and aggressiveness towards his colleagues?

Yazeed: This is worrisome. We have to find a way to help him.

At home, during lunch time, Yazeed’s
father that his son is absent-minded. He was thinking about something.

**Father:** What’s up Yazeed? What is bothering that you are not eating?

**Yazeed:** May Allah bless you dad. I am actually thinking about Tamim, my friend.

**Mother:** What’s wrong with him son?

**Yazeed:** He used to be a quiet young man. But, his behaviour changed lately. He became quarrelsome for no real reasons. Moreover, he became introvert and prefers not to talk to his colleagues in class.

**Father:** This is serious. The reason behind this change must be known. Why don’t you tell the social worker at school to help you solve the issue?

**Yazeed:** That’s what I will do dad. Thank you.

**Father:** You deserve to be thanked son for your concern for your colleagues.

While wandering around in the school yard during the recess, Bassam and Yazeed so a group of students running back and forth.

**Bassam:** It’s Tamim. He started quarrelling again with one of the students.

**Yazeed:** Let’s stop this before any of them gets hurt.

Yazeed held Tamim back and started to calm him down. Meanwhile, Bassam held the other student back. The latter complained that it was Tamim who starting beating

**Yazeed:** Why are you crying Tamim? It was you who started the fight!

**Tamim:** I don’t know what’s wrong with me. I had not been that aggressive before.

**Yazeed:** I know Tamim. You have always been a quiet and loving person. What happened?

**Tamim:** You are a good friend Yazeed. I will tell you my problem.

Tamim then, revealed his arm. Yazeed was horrified at what he had seen. Tamim’s arm was disfigured by burning.

**Yazeed:** What’s that Tamim? Who has done this to you?

**Tamim:** It’s my dad.

**Yazeed:** Your dad?!
Find ten differences between the two pictures:

Smiling helps the muscles to relax and relieves tension. It activates blood circulation. It increases the body immunity against diseases. It helps the body maintain a large quantity of oxygen. It lifts the spirits and makes the face cheerful. It is one of Prophet Muhammad’s (PBUH) teachings. You are also rewarded by Allah for it. Thus, always be keen on meeting people with a smile.
We all suffer from troubles that would cause irritation, tension and anger. These affect the person negatively. Henceforth, our dear Prophet (PBUH) has asked us to perform ablution and read the Noble Qur’an regularly because they relieve the soul and make you more relaxed. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has actually said that: “anger is the work of Satan. Satan was made of fire, and fire is put off by water. Thus, whenever you feel angry perform the ablution.”
Parent’s Ignorance about their Children’s Rights

A parent’s love for his/her child is innate since Adam first descended from heaven to construct life on earth with his offspring. Adam and Eve has actually prayed to Allah to give them children and promised to be grateful: “It is He who created you from a soul. From it He created its mate, so that he might reside with her. And when he had covered her, she conceived, and for a time her burden was light. She carried it with ease, but when it grew heavy, they both supplicated to Allah, their Lord: ‘Grant us a goodly child and we will be among the thankful.” (7:189)

Moreover, the poet Hattan bin Al- Moe’li also says:

Our children are our shelter
Our flesh walking before us
If a blowing wind passes by one of them
We remain sleepless

Human innate nature, however, is affected by what he goes through. Sometimes love and kindness towards a child is twisted into ignorance and negligence. The children’s rights are then lost and their dignity is violated because people around them are not aware of what is happening inside their home. Their suffering thus, increases particularly when the supposed source of protection is the source fear and injustice. Unfortunately, some parents believe it is their right to bring up their children, thus they are not to be held accountable for whatever they do even if their behavior towards their children turn criminal.

This is an ideology for lots of people, who believe that they are the sole authority over their children. Actually a lot of disapproving questions were raised when the children protection line emerged and people started talking about human rights. Some believed that this is a sort of unacceptable intervention between the parent and his children. They relied on traditions, not the Islamic law that prohibited injustice and oppression, to consolidate this right. They also disregarded the fact that Islam has decreed that kindness should be paid to those who are closest. Islam has actually decreed due love and care for children because of their fragility and helplessness. In a book entitled Children’s Rights in Islam, Dr. Muhammad Al – Zaheely states that some scholars argue that Allah would hold the parent accountable for his children on Dooms Day prior to holding children accountable for their parents: “Do not kill your children because you fear poverty” (17:31) and “Allah charges you concerning your children” (4:11). Moreover, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has also said “be fair towards your children so that they are fair to you I kindness and love”.

Islam has actually granted children their rights even before their birth. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has advised men to choose suitable wives who are good enough to be mothers. He has also asked parents to give them good names and be kind to them. It is a well known fact that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to hold his grandchildren Al- Hassan and Al – Hussein on his back while prostrating in prayer. Would you find a better role model to follow while dealing with your children?
Treat with people as you would like to be treated

Do As You Would Be Done By

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