

SAUDI ARABIA

Definition and Prosecution of Terrorist Acts

The Kingdom's Council of Senior Religious Scholars issued a statement on terrorism in which it declared that "bloodshed, the violation of honour, the theft of private and public property, the bombing of dwellings and vehicles and the destruction of installations are, by the consensus of Muslims, legally forbidden because they violate the sanctity of the innocent, destroy property, security and stability and take the lives of peaceable human beings in their homes and at their work." Under the Islamic Shariah, crimes of terrorism are included in crimes of hirabah. Such crimes warrant the highest penalties as set forth by the Koran.

The 1981 Arms and Ammunition Statute strictly regulates the manufacturing, importation, sale, circulation, and acquisition of weapons and ammunition.

If a Saudi national commits a terrorist act outside its territory and is being held in another State, the Kingdom will seek his extradition in accordance with the relevant bilateral, regional, or international agreements. If the citizen is within the boundaries of the Kingdom, he will be brought to trial. In the case of a foreigner who commits an act of terrorism in another State but is found within the Kingdom, he will not be tried in a Saudi court; he will be extradited to the requesting State.

Prevention of Terrorism – Security Measures

Counter-terrorism is assigned to two of the Kingdom's agencies. They include the General Information Service and the Ministry of the Interior as represented by General Intelligence. Each agency defines its strategy independently as prescribed by the Council of Ministers.

Money Laundering – Prevention and Prosecution

Under Saudi Arabia's Bank Supervision Statute, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) is authorized to monitor banking activities and determine their legality. All banks and financial institutions are required to report suspicious banking activity to the Financial Intelligence Unit. The SAMA then investigates the activity by requesting and reviewing the bank accounts and records in question. Anyone failing to report suspicious activity to the SAMA can be punished by not less than 2 years' imprisonment and fined not less than 500,000 Saudi riyals. Additionally, the SAMA has issued an anti-money laundering guide to all banks in Saudi Arabia in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money-Laundering.

By statute, the SAMA has the power to freeze bank accounts and other assets of persons or entities linked to terrorism. The Kingdom is also considering the formation of a standing committee to consider requests from other States and international organizations to seize funds of potential terrorists. Such a committee, which is based in the Ministry of Interior, will be made up of representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Head of General Intelligence, and the Ministry of Finance. Similarly, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is in charge of reviewing the work and finances of charitable associations. It has the power to review all charitable organizations financial records and bank accounts. If suspicious activity is found, it has the authority to dissolve the association.

Information Sharing

The exchange of information with other States is dictated by relevant bilateral, regional and international agreements. Such agreements, like the 1998 Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism and the 1999 Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating

Terrorism, contain detailed provisions for the exchange of information on terrorist elements, groups, movements, and organizations. If the Kingdom becomes aware of a potential terrorist threat within the territory of a State or States, it channels this information through the embassy of the targeted State or States in Saudi Arabia. If an embassy has not been established in the Kingdom, it notifies the proper counter-terrorism authority in the State or States.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SAUDI LAWS

Definition and Prosecution of Terrorist Acts

1. Statement from Saudi Arabia's Council of Senior Religious Scholars, 1999
2. Koran 5:33
3. 1981 Arms and Ammunition Statute

Money Laundering – Prevention and Prosecution

1. Fundraising for Charitable Purposes Regulation
2. Draft Money Laundering Statute, Article 7, 18
3. Council of Ministers, Decision No. 15 of 17 Muharram 1420 (4 May 1999)
4. Council of Ministers, Decision No. 760 of 1991
5. Royal Decree No. 23 or 23 Jumada I A.H. 1377
6. Royal Decree No. 5 or 22 Jumada II A.H. 1386

Information Sharing

1. 1999 Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference
2. 1998 Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism