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**LENGTH:** 3223 words**HEADLINE:** SAUDI THINKERS, BUSINESSMEN DEMAND INTRODUCTION OF REFORMS TO UPROOT TERRORISM**BYLINE:** Unattributed report: "Saudi Statement Calls for Introduction of Reforms To Uproot Terrorism; Reiterated Demand for Elimination of Corruption, Establishment of Constitutional Institutions, Election of Shura Council, and Strengthening of the Judiciary"**BODY:**

London, Al-Quds al-Arabi-A group of more than 300 Saudi thinkers, graduates, and businessmen -- among them 51 women -- have demanded "radical" reforms in Saudi Arabia in order to confront the terrorism and their demand came in a petition they addressed to Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz.

The statement, having the title "In Defense of the Homeland", started by "condemning all forms of violence and terrorism that our country is being subjected to" and the signatories demanded "at the same time the start of the implementation of the process of radical and comprehensive reform of all our constitutional, political, economic, and social institutions because this is the effective practical response to all the challenges we are living at present and in future." Following is the text of the statement that was published on several Saudi Internet websites: In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Your Royal Highness Prince Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz, crown prince and National Guards commander, may God protect you.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. We are pleased on the precious occasion of the national day to present to your noble highness the kindest congratulations and blessings together with the deepest expressions of loyalty and appreciation, praying to God Almighty to help you in what you are doing for the homeland's glory, progress, and prosperity.

Your Royal Highness, We are pleased to present to you our position that was formulated in the attached statement under the title of "In Defense of the Homeland." The signatories express in it their condemnation of all forms of violence and terrorism that our country is being subjected to and at the same time demand the start of the implementation of the process of radical and comprehensive reform of all our constitutional, political, economic, and social institutions because this is the effective practical response to all the challenges we are living at present and in future.

May God protect you and guide your steps in what is in the interest and development of this precious homeland and peace and God's mercy and blessings be with you.

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

"In Defense of the Homeland" Our country is witnessing increasing acts of violence that use weapons and the shedding of blood as a means to prove their existence and impose their views instead of the word and dialogue, and this is bound to inflict the gravest damages on national security, social stability, and civil peace.

In such difficult conditions where our homeland is facing the severest internal and external changes, expressing the rejection and denunciation of the phenomena of extremism and all forms of violence becomes a national, political, moral, and cultural necessity.

From the premise of our belief that we -- people and government -- are partners in maintaining the homeland's stability, security, and unity, we are all required to shoulder our responsibilities, review our steps, and admit that our long delay in adopting the radical reforms and the absence of the popular participation in the decision-making process were among the main reasons that had helped bring our country to this dangerous turning point. We therefore believe that depriving society's political, intellectual, and cultural elements of their natural right to express their view have actually led one specific tendency to be in control, which by its own structure its incapable of a dialogue with others. This tendency, which does not express Islam's tolerance and centralism or its enlightened currents, helped the emergence of the terrorist and unbelief ideology that our country continues to suffer from its fire.

(We are also required) to diagnose the political, economic, social, and cultural factors and dimensions that motivate it and to embark immediately on the implementation of the political and economic reforms, which were formulated by several proposals, views, and demands expressed in the writings and speeches of those interested in our country's public affairs. These include the "Vision of the Homeland's Present and Future" memorandum that was submitted to His Highness the crown prince in Dhi Al-Qidah (last January) and which included the demand for the establishment of the state's constitutional institutions. It also called for popular participation in the decision-making process, the election of a shura council and enabling it to exercise all the legislative and supervisory powers that similar councils have, the application of the principle of the separation of powers, the strengthening of the judiciary, respect for human rights, and the legalization of the civil society institutions' activities. The memorandum also demanded the development of a religious, media, cultural, and educational message that rejects the one-sided view that labels others infidel and claims to possess and monopolize the truth, a message that helps develop the environment of pluralism and allows the consolidation of the values of tolerance and acceptance of the other view at the national, Islamic, or humanitarian levels. All these views and demands expressed the aspirations of the Saudi society's various sectors and constituted overall a joint vision between the political leadership and the various national functionaries.

We also believe that elimination of the phenomena of administrative corruption and the squandering of public funds, the expansion of the productive base, the application of the principle of the fair distribution of the wealth among all society's sectors and various regions, and the proposal of practical solutions for the problems of poverty, unemployment, education, health, and housing as well as enabling women to perform her social and economic duties and other urgent issues can only be done by implementing the comprehensive reform demands.

While declaring our denunciation and condemnation of all forms of physical and symbolic extremism and violence that seek to hijack society and destroy the state's components and bases, we demand from those taking part in these actions and inciting them to renounce all forms of extremism, violence, and terrorism in word and deed. We hope that this step will be taken into consideration by the official circles and that they will be dealt with in accordance

with the fair judicial rules and laws. On the other hand, we also underline our constant demand from the political leadership to declare a comprehensive national initiative -- which we have been waiting for a long time -- that establishes an independent national assembly composed from all the national functionaries that demonstrate the pluralism of the cultural, religious, and provincial spectrum in our country so that it can achieve the mechanisms for implementing the demands for constitutional, political, economic, and social reform and move from the stage of adopting the course of reform to the stage of action and implementation according to a specific timetable.

May God protect our country and its people from every evil and guide their steps along the road of the common good.

The signatories: Muhammad Sa'id Tayyib - legal adviser and writer, Dr. Abdallah Manna - doctor and writer, Ali al-Dumayni - author and poet, Dr. Khalid al-Dakhil - academic and writer, Dr. Ahmad al-Uways - academic, Ja'far al-Shayib - businessman, Jamil Farisi - businessman and writer, Sultan Muhammad al-Shahil - businessman, Abdallah Mansur al-Sughayyar - businessman, Dr. Bakr Hasan - academic, Dr. Adnan al-Shakhs - academic, Dr. Fawziyah Abu-Khalid - academic and writer, Qinan al-Ghamidi - journalist and writer, Dr. Abdallah al-Mu'ayqil - academic and critic, Dr. Amirah Kashghari - academic and writer, Dr. Fahd al-Dawsari - academic, Dr. Munirah al-Nahid -- academic, Hamad al-Bahili -- writer, Ahmad Abdallah al-Ajaji -- counselor, Dr. Abd-al-Aziz al-Dakhil -- economic adviser and writer, Dr. Turki al-Hamad -- writer and novelist, Najib al-Khunayzi -- writer, Dr. Abd-al-Muhsin al-Hilal -- academic and writer, Aql al-Bahili -- businessman, Dr. Yusuf Makki - writer and researcher, Dr. Muhammad al-Harfi -- writer and researcher, Abd-al-Rahman Abd-al-Latif al-Isa -- businessman, Abdallah Ibrahim al-Habib -- businessman, Dr. Yusuf al-Ajaji -- academic, Dr. Hamad al-Kanhal -- academic, Dr. Abd-al-Rahman al-Habib -- researcher and writer, Dr.

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(Description of Source: London Al-Quds al-Arabi in Arabic -- London-based independent Arab nationalist daily with an anti-US and anti-Saudi editorial line; generally pro-Palestinian, pro-Iraqi regime, tends to be sympathetic to Bin Ladin)

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