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Riyadh, on 27 Rajab 1424 (24 September 2003)

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In the name of Allah most Gracious Most Merciful

"In defense of the nation"

Our country is witnessing increasing violent acts that use weapons and bloodshed as a means to prove its existence and impose its points of view instead of words and dialogue, which will generate a lot of damage on national security and social stability and civil peace.

And in such hard circumstances, in which our country faces the hardest internal and external challenges, expressing refusal and condemnation to all kinds of extremism and violence becomes a national, political, moral, and cultural necessity.

And based upon our faith that we are partners -both people and government- in preserving the stability, security, and unity of our country, we are all invited to take our responsibility and review our steps and admit that being late in adopting radical reforms and ignoring popular participation in decision-making have been the main reasons that helped the fact that our country reached this dangerous turn, and this is why we believe that denying the natural rights of the political, cultural, and intellectual society to express its opinions has led to the dominance of a certain way of thinking that is unable to dialogue with others because of its inherent structure, and which does not reflect the greatness of Islam nor does it reflect its enlightened trends, which is what helped create the terrorist

and judgmental mind that our country is still plagued with.

Confronting terrorism cannot only be done through security means and solutions, but with a thorough diagnosis of the political, social, economical, and cultural factors that have led to it, and by starting to implement the political and economic reforms, developed through many suggestions, opinions, and demands that were expressed in the writings and speeches of those interested in the public affairs of our country, one of them being a report of a vision "to the present and future of our country," which was submitted to his Royal Highness (May God Preserve him) last January, and which included a demand to empower the constitutional governmental institutions, and make room to achieve popular participation in decision-making and electing the Shoura Council, and enable this council to enact all its legislative and observational missions, and implement the notion of separation of powers, and reinforce the independence of the judicial branch , and respect Human Rights, and permit the work of civil society institutions, and work on elaborating on a religious, informative, cultural, and educational speech that refuses unilateral and judgmental thinking and pretending to hold and monopolize the truth, but instead works on nurturing a pluralistic atmosphere and paves the way towards strengthening cultural values such as compassion and the acceptance of the different Other, whether it is on the national Islamic level or the humanistic one, and these ideas and demands express the expectations of the different groups within the Saudi people, and convey mostly a vision shared by the political leadership and different national figures.

We also see that eliminating all aspects of administrative corruption and mismanagement of public funds, as well as widening the productive bases, and applying the principle of fair redistribution of wealth among all social classes and regions, in addition to addressing the problems of poverty, education, healthcare, and housing, and enabling women of practicing their social and economic duties, and other recurrent problems, will not be addressed properly unless they come through implementing the general reform demands.

And as we proclaim our condemnation to all kinds of extremism and symbolic or material violence that seeks to kidnap society and destroy the foundations of government, we demand from those who participate and instigate these actions to reject all kinds of extremism and violence and terrorism, in words and actions, hoping that this will be taken into account by the officials in government, and that they be treated according to fair judicial laws and systems, we also emphasize on the other hand the need for the political leadership to announce an encompassing national initiative - that has been long awaited - and to found an independent national organization made up of all national figures that shows the cultural, regional, and religious plurality in our country, and this to achieve the execution of the mechanisms that will put forth the demands of a constitutional, economic, social and political reform, and move to a phase of executing and implementing the reform according to a publicized timetable.

May God preserve our country from any harm and May He directs its footsteps towards good.

Signatories to Letter to CP Abdullah 24 Sept 03

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Dr. Ahmad Al Oweiss	Academic
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Issam Hassan Bassrawi	Lawyer
Rabih Issa Al Saadoun	Lawyer
Mansour Al Bakr	Engineer
Abdel Rahman Al Hassan	Employee
Hashem Mortada Al Hassan	Social Activist
Abdullah Hassan Abdel Baki	Social activist
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Dr. Mohamed Hassan Al Sinan	Doctor
Dr. Adel Al Ali	Doctor
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Saleh Abdel Rahman Al Saleh	Poet and writer
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Ahmad Bouqari	Writer and Critic
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Abdullah Ben Bakhit	Writer
Abdel Kareem Al Awda	Writer and poet
Saleh Abdullah Al Ashkar	Narrator and writer
Ali Bafkih	Poet
Mohamed Al Damini	Poet and writer
Hassan Al Mustafa	Writer
Abdullah Youssef Al Kuwaylit	Journalist

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Yehia Mohamed Al Amir	Writer and poet
Wajiha Al Huwayder	Writer
Abdel Rahman Al Lahem	Writer
Abdullah Al Kaid	Writer
Saleh Al Shahwan	Writer
Ahmad Al Shadawi	Critic
Adel Ahmad Al Sadeq	Journalist
Mahdi Ousfour	Aramco employee
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Mozna Al Amari	Social Activist
Ahmad Al Molla	Poet
Nahed Bashteh	Writer
Ghassan Al Khoneizi	Poet and writer
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Ahmad Al Bouq	Poet
Abdel Rahman Al Shahri	Poet
Maha Al Jahni	Poet
Abdel Aziz Al Khozam	Poet
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Abdel Majid Al Ghamedi	Journalist
Zahraa Al Damen	Artist
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Masfar Al Ghamedi	Poet
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Mohamed Al Hanaki	Employee
Ahmad Al Shakhss	Employee
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Said Al Ahmad	Narrator
Mohamed Ahmad Abu Ali	Banker
Intissar Akl Al Baheli	Laboratory specialist
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Hiyam Hassan Al Sinan	Nurse
Hayfa Mansour Abu El Seoud	Teacher
Ourouba Abdullah Al Munif	Housewife
Azraa Hashem Al Hashemi	Design and Marketing
Salwa Mansour Abu AL Seoud	Teacher
Hossa Abdullah Al Azaz	Social worker
Hossa Mohamed Al Sheikh	Educational supervisor
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Bashar Al Baheli	Employee
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Mohamed Masfar Al Ajami	Employee
Hassan Abdel Majid Al Hajhouj	Employee
Ali Saleh Salem Al Shayban	Engineer
Ali Abbass Al Matroude	Architect
Hamad Mohamed Al Abdali	Photographer
Fadi Rassoul Shaaban	Engineer
Mohamed Ben Hussein Al Askar	Employee
Hussein Abdullah Al Qatari	Engineer
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Ibrahim Seoud Joeyan	Merchant
Mohamed Ali Al Kharass	Businessman
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Abdullah Al Harakan	Legal accountant

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Fathi Baker Al Khoneizi	Education
Abdel Rahman Ahmad Al Ghuriafi	Businessman
Ahmad Al Adbel Latif	Employee
Salma Salman Al Nasser	Housewife
Mouzid Al Mouzid	Employee
Malek Maatouk Al Sheber	Aramco engineer
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Jawad Mohamed Al Safwani	Aramco employee
Hassan Jaafar Al Hassan	Employee
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Ali Ahmad Suleiman	Businessman
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