

*ORSAM MINUTES OF THE MEETING,
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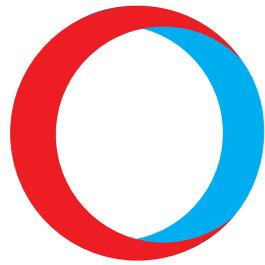
PRINCE ABDUL-AZIZ BIN TALAL BIN ABDUL-AZIZ AL SAUD'S SPEECH AT ORSAM-BILKENT UNIVERSITY'S JOINT CONFERENCE ON 6 JANUARY 2012

PRENS ABDÜLAZİZ BİN TALAL BİN ABDÜLAZİZ
EL SUUD'UN 6 OCAK 2012'DE ORSAM-BİLKENT
ÜNİVERSİTESİ ORTAK KONFERANSINDA
YAPTIĞI KONUŞMA

الكلمة التي القاها الأمير عبد العزيز بن طلال بن عبد العزيز آل سعود
في الندوة العلمية المقامة من قبل أورسام وجامعة بيلكنت
بتاريخ السادس من كانون الثاني / يناير لعام ٢٠١٢

ORTADOĞU STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STRATEGIC STUDIES
مركز الشرق الأوسط للدراسات الاستراتيجية





ORSAM

MINUTES OF
THE MEETING

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STRATEGIC STUDIES

History

In Turkey, the shortage of research on the Middle East grew more conspicuous than ever during the early 90's. Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies (ORSAM) was established in January 1, 2009 in order to provide relevant information to the general public and to the foreign policy community. The institute underwent an intensive structuring process, beginning to concentrate exclusively on Middle Eastern affairs.

Outlook on the Middle Eastern World

It is certain that the Middle East harbors a variety of interconnected problems. However, neither the Middle East nor its people ought to be stigmatized by images with negative connotations. Given the strength of their populations, Middle Eastern states possess the potential to activate their inner dynamics in order to begin peaceful mobilizations for development. Respect for people's willingness to live together, respect for the sovereign right of states and respect for basic human rights and individual freedoms are the prerequisites for assuring peace and tranquility, both domestically and internationally. In this context, Turkey must continue to make constructive contributions to the establishment of regional stability and prosperity in its vicinity.

ORSAM's Think-Tank Research

ORSAM provides the general public and decision-making organizations with enlightening information about international politics in order to promote a healthier understanding of international policy issues and to help them to adopt appropriate positions. In order to present effective solutions, ORSAM supports high quality research by intellectuals and researchers that are competent in a variety of disciplines. ORSAM's strong publishing capacity transmits meticulous analyses of regional developments and trends to the relevant parties. With its website, books, reports, and periodicals, ORSAM supports the development of Middle Eastern literature on a national and international scale. ORSAM facilitates the sharing of knowledge and ideas with the Turkish and international communities by inviting statesmen, bureaucrats, academicians, strategists, businessmen, journalists, and NGO representatives to Turkey.

* ORSAM is a member of the The Middle East Studies Association (MESA).



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ORSAM - Ankara**

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Abdülaziz Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Suud:

“Ladies and Gentleman firstly, Essalamun Aleyküm ve Rahmetüllaahi ve Berakâtûhu,

First of all I am honored to be here not just at the university and also in Turkey. I came here Ankara by car from Istanbul which supposed to take four hours by train but take around seven hours. That is another funny story maybe if you would like to share with you later this.

As maybe some of you now I am from Saudi Arabia, an Arabic country from the Middle East, a country that is really more or less a new country. We have not reached yet a hundred year of unified state. My grandfather, majestic king Abdul-Aziz was the founder of the kingdom. As maybe some of you would know that this kingdom, the Saudi Arabia is actually the third Saudi state, as somewhere between a hundred fifty years and two hundred years. The first Saudi state really

went outside the current borders of the third Saudi state, to Iraq, parts of Jordan and parts of the GCC countries surrounding Saudi Arabia. The second Saudi Arabia state was actually very small state, and was more or less crushed by the Ottoman Empire because they sought as a threat in the region. After abolishing the first state, the second state was coming out and it was about the time to get out all Saud family who are my family. The third state maybe succeeded thirty or four years later to unify the country because of the problems came with the World War I and World War II. So I think the foreign states were busy fighting each other and the Saudis had a chance to unify the country. Nevertheless we have gone through the great challenges to reach today.

As you know in the past a hundred years there were the idea of capitalism, the idea of communism, the Arab revolts and the idea of union of Arab states. Some of them were all more or less a threat to the kingdom, to the



being of a kingdom and to royal family and its family.

But I am not here to talk about history; I will talk about the Arab spring and the Saudi Arabia- Middle East relations and the relations between our side and turkey. Unfortunately a lot of people in the Middle East, of course I am not speaking on the behalf of them but what I see, live only in the past. They don't know what secularism is, they don't know whether we agree or not. Turkey wanted to survive after World War I. The important thing is the relations not just go back in history for hundreds of years but also goes back to religion, as you know most of the population in the area is Muslim umma. Our country, Saudi Arabia has a constitution more or less of Holly Quran and sunna of prophet Mohammed. Some call us Wahhabis, it is actually a funny term and sector was really put really which I don't really see really exist. For the past three years I lived in the Washington Dc which I still do. I am an advisor for couple of think thanks, for Middle Eastern Affairs as a specialist on Saudi Arabia, though I am not a specialist but I come from this area that I may help to fix the understanding how we think and why we think so.

Especially after September 11, a lot of thing has changed. A lot of analysts think that it was defected Islam, so see a kind of fight against extremism which is very threatening to Muslim world. I can tell you an experiment of me which tells the seriousness the topic. I visit a hospital in Minnesota; there was a nurse who asked me where I am from. I said that I am from Saudi Arabia and she replied me that she never heard that country. So I said

maybe because we are not a state of many hundred years, and then asked her if she knew Jordan. She said yes, she knew Jordan. Then she asked me that the Quinn Nur is the Queen of my country? I said no but they are our neighbor. Then she said that she remembered my country. So I asked her to tell me where my country is. She told me that Saudi Arabia is in Dubai. It was actually became difficult that how to explain that Dubai is a city in United Arab Emirates which is our neighbor. Lastly I asked her that if she knew Osama Ben Laden and she said yes she knew. So I said that we are from the same country. It was basically and unfortunately the easiest way to show her where Saudi Arabia. It is not so good for us to be known by a man like Osama Ben Laden.

Nevertheless the relations between Turkey and Arab world especially Saudi Arabia has been called decades. And as you may know on the last ten years a lot of things have changed in Turkey for example internal affairs and external affairs. Most of the populations in the Arab world don't really understand the boom of Turkey that appears suddenly. Officially for example Saudi Arabia, his majestic King Abdullah and his government extremely closed to government of Turkey, and Prime Minister Mr. Erdogan and President Mr. Gul. The thing is not the closeness of the leaders. What we try to do is that of working in the back channels, such as academics, students; that of finding how we can make a strategy for exchange of students between Saudi Arabia and Turkey. I heard that some Turkish students come to Saudi Arabia for just to learn about Islam, being in Mecca and

Medina. But this is also not we want; we want students who come Saudi Arabia to learn Arabic, learn culture and go back to their own country and share what they see. Saudi Arabians can come here to learn Turkish and live here for exchange the cultures between two countries also. This is our perspective.

My grandmother is a Turkish Armenian, and at the same time I feel that I have an obligation to be a part of the huge group who does work for and collaborate between the academics, students and scholars between Turkey and Saudi Arabia and Arab world.

Concerning the Arab spring, one can say where to start. Some can also describe it as virus; you have a cold then your neighbor get cold and then everyone in the class get the cold, finally everyone starts to sneeze. That is what happened basically in the Arab world. People were decades under stress with lack of services and low payments while the freedom of speech have been filtered in everywhere. The people of the new age don't accept that as you know from social networking.

I don't like Facebook but now I am very addicted to twitter. Some of my friends asked that how many people follow me. I answered them well I don't know, but I am sure two of them: my mother and my sister. Of course seeing the Arab Spring as Islamic Autumn which some sub-analysts call point the population in these countries comes from an Islamic background and they tend to choose someone have Islamic background to lead them. But I think that it is not Islam that everyone is fears from, it is extremism. For example in Egypt,

you would actually be surprised from the Muslim Brotherhood's speeches. They said that they don't want to make elected someone from their party as President; they declared that their main aim is being in the parliament. That shows what their motives are. People fed up with the unfulfilling promised given by politicians. They wanted someone from their country, lived with their life conditions and with their poverty, because the president who becomes a multi billionaire does not know anything about people's poverty which is very sad. I think Turkey is one of the countries who have very much experience, and Arab world can be benefited from these and learned from Turkey's experiences and implemented to the Arab world.

Tunisia had the revolution and someone tell me that Saudi Arabia greeted the former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to live in Saudi Arabia and sustain him a safe heaven. Nevertheless in Saudi Arabia we see things a little bit different. You can say that the move of Saudi Arabia is not right. I agree but at the same time as more or less we are a tribal country and more or less a country who believe in Islam. No matter whom this person is if he comes to us and asks our help, we should reply him. This is a humanitarian effort and an Islamic way of living. These are the main reasons why Saudi Arabia greeted Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. In Tunisia, mash'Allah, the new government is just fantastic on how they really moved in a very excellent process. Maybe they have small mistakes but they are very small problem which can be fixed in the future.

Coming to Libya, as you see every

country is different from each other; in Tunisia the process was very peaceful, while in Libya there were a war between National Transition Council and Gaddafi which was bloodshed. But basically the people fight for their life, homes, freedom and futures. It shows that the people like Gaddafi don't like their people, just looking for the chair.

That is how the things work in the new age, in the 21th century. Yemen as we saw is in very difficult situation. Yemen has a tribal society, every tribe want to take a part in controlling the country. The GCC country, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Oman and Qatar try very hard to work on the stability of Yemen, and also to fix the situation in Syria, although the Syrian government is not so cooperating. Some would say the fall of Syrian regime is not benefit of Lebanon because of fear of Hezbollah that is more or less a puppet of Iran and its power comes from Iran via Syria. That is Shiite crescent which goes to Syria, Lebanon, some of Palestine and down to Yemen. It could be a good thing if the motives are good also, but the current motives is not so hopeful for us. That does not mean that GCC countries are not positive. If we knew the motives of Iran, but when we look at the experiences of GCC and Iran in the past, these are not really very positive. Iran took advantage of the problems of Bahrain. Bahrain really wants to change the things better. In the few couple of years Bahrain have many peaceful protests, but in the current protests, destroying the public and private property harms the country's economy. You cannot just destroy it. Even in democratic countries, you

have the right the protests and when you exceed the red line eventually the government has to stop it. The economy of a country and survival is a public interest as you all know. I am not really an expert on what happens in the region, but I am one who comes from the region that really would like to share our views on the development in the area.

Going back to Turkey and Saudi Arabia, Mr. Abdullah Shamri, who is a friend of mine and is an expert on international relations but specifically an expert on Turkish-Saudi Arabia relations. Many people in Saudi Arabia think that he is the Turkish ambassador of Saudi Arabia, always speaks positively while he outlined the negative things in the past but really help me see the importance of the relations between two nations. The doors are there, we just need to find the keys. There are a lot of investments, business fairs and politically back channels which will be the main veins of collaborating and coming close to Turkey. A lot of people that I know personally welcome the role of Turkey in the Middle East. I want to quote Prince Saud al Faisal who is the Saudi Foreign Minister. I asked him in a press conference a couple of weeks ago that the Saudis views on Iran and Turkey and comparison between them if they are the same. Prince Saud al Faisal said that Iran's motives unfortunately were not very positive, they interfere in Saudi Arabia's, Bahrain's and Yemen's internal affairs, they are supporting Syrian regime in killing their people. On the other side there are huge differences between Iran and Turkey in comparison. Turkey is a great country that is

working officially an outspoken government, wants to help the region which is very clear. We know that the interest of Turkey is the peace in the region that fit to our interests. As all we can notice there are mutual interests between us. Saudi Arabia has been becoming an important country in the region because of two Holy Mosques, and of course being a rich country of oil which raises our ability and strengthening our position to spread the prosperity and humanitarian reliefs, Islamic nations of umma.

I told you about my grandmother who is a Turkish Armenian. I also want to tell you about my other grandmother from my mother side who is an American from California. So I worked three years on the Arab-American relations with students in the multiple universities to make understand them what is Islam, who are Arabs, why West afraid of us. When I open an American channel, the only thing that I can see is one carrying a flag and said "Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar, burn the America". That is really unfortunate. There are some groups who are investing on Islamophobia.

Islam is a really peaceful religion in its nature and brings everyone together. The principles are near the same with other main religions; do not kill, do not steal and et cetera. These are the main principles. There are of course the wonderful people to thank who are working against Islamophobia and call the people to common sense.

I am not here to give a lecture; I am trying to bring the entire things together in a small package. But I am really here to learn from you also. I am glad to answer your questions about Arab Spring, Wahhabism, Turkish Saudi relations and why McDonalds in Mecca; I mean whatever you like.

QUESTIONS

How do you evaluate the situation in Egypt? And do you see any possibly for the revolutions in Gulf countries also? Will the Arab Spring have an impact on the GCC countries?

The situation in Egypt unfortunately is a situation not like in any country. Most of the revolution in the world



has a leader; the one who is leading a republic, or a new constitution or a party and so on. But what happened in the Egypt is everyone's participation and now everyone wants a piece of cake. Even if Egypt is going through to the phase of secularism, if that is what people want, that is what they will have. At the end of the day, that is how the things work.

I want to underline the fact which considers the Gulf region. A fact that Saudi Arabia, I would quote the words of a close friend and cousin of mine, of course I am not quoting but also I also agree with him, that Saudi Arabia and GCC countries are not in the phase of revolution; but they are in the phase of evolution and reform. And when you have reform, you would have dialog, things will be actually much better. For the Saudi Arabia and GCC countries as monarchies, it is much easier to fix the things than republics or anything else. As you know a king can change the constitution to the benefit of people. One of the great things in Saudi Arabia is that

the king is not just put there because he wants to become a king, but he is there because he is chosen by the family on his qualifications of being better and good and religious which are very important reasons to be chosen as king. He has to be a just king. This is why I am saying that we are in the phase of evolution. When you look at Saudi Arabia, the King Abdullah bin Abdul al Aziz's popularity is very high despite the fact that the change is moving slower than the turtles' speed. But the things are stable because the people love him and this actually helps the process. On the other hand there are a lot of people who work for king to hurry up the reforms a bit. Being afraid of Arab Spring is being really conscious of Arab Spring; there could be some movements. We have seen some movements in the East against the government. Unfortunately there is something we agree with them, if everybody has the equal social right there won't be against government but there are some evidence of by some countries and Turkey also one



of them that Iran was behind these, not from the people of Saudi Arabia.

Q: The youth and social movements have been gathering in Tahrir Square and they claim that some parties who get the benefit of the elections are hijacking the revolution. How do you evaluate the situation?

The revolution which is called a street revolution is not a desirable version. Nobody wants a street revolution comes with chaos. Personally I heard that it was hijacked. The youth reformers and revolutionaries said that the revolution was hijacked by some parties and groups nevertheless if you are a group of majority, in any democracy you have the right to rule, so if they see, it is hijacked then yes it is hijacked.

Q: There has been always a Shiite factor in the region. Shiias are the majority of Iran and Iraq while they are minority in Lebanon and Syria. Also we have not Shia but Allawite minority. How can we peacefully league them?

When you go back to history, you see the years of conflict between Sunnis and Shiites, you would also see the years of commonness and brotherhood between them. I would like to quote the words of His Excellency Foreign Minister during his visit to Turkey. He said that we are entering the Islamic cold war which is very dangerous. We are moving from the prosperity to basically arms in the region that is really bad. Iran unfortunately tries to show its strength. Also in the Strait of Hormuz, Iran tries to

show its power, ability, warships and et cetera by addressing the American air carriers come back to gulf region as a reason. They declared that if USA enter the Hormuz that is basically war. There are some countries like the USA has try to find ways to hate Iran. We don't really want that. One of the reason why western countries and for example Israel, one of Iran's enemy and vice versa, want to hit Iran, because Iran has not hundreds but has thousands missiles pointing at the Saudi Arabia and GCC countries. If just one of the missiles of those thousands hit one of the oil field; imagine what will happen to world economy, it would be a disaster. Unfortunately Iran knows that. But we don't want war; we want dialogue, brotherhood, good neighborhood relations. In Islam, Prophet Mohammed said that you have to be friendly to your neighbors next to you. The doors of Saudi Arabia always open and we are always support dialogue. But Iranians every single days show very different aims and at the same time we don't really understand why. As His Excellency Foreign Minister said, we are entering an Islamic cold war, but we want to stay away from that as much as possible.

Q: Iran has been following the policies against Israel, a common enemy with the other Arab countries. Cannot these policies a common ground for the region or a opportunity between Iran and other Arab countries?

Unfortunately Israel today has a lot of

enemies. One of the problems as you know, all Arab states agree not to adverted the state really does exist. But that was since 1940s. But Iran has a problem with Israel, but they are doing it to together Muslim to follow Iran. I would see even sometimes in Saudi Arabia, if Iran said that we would do this. They are so happy. They forget all the problems and they think that Israel is the number one enemy and let's follow anyone who would destroy it. Now you can see the people who say the opposite. We would rather stands with Israel against Iran. So you really put it in the middle of milkshake. Put vanilla and milk and then you really don't know if it would be good or not. Think about Islamophobia. Of course there are some groups who are benefiting from that problem, some groups who are benefiting any kind of problem. If there is a problem that will benefit from the problem, military companies and air force companies around the world are all benefit from the problem. Who will also benefit from the problem are the big oil companies. The oil prices will up and investors can gain more profit. So that is all played behind the scenes. For example, Syria has China and Russia in its back, while European countries and Arab states want to make a resolution, though the Arab states are not personally happy with them, because they have their own problems. Why do you intervene to other countries problems? But they cannot do anything else accept sending inspectors. What they can do else? Actually this is the only thing that they can do. So I am not sure if I can answer your question but I think that all brought.

I do not understand the role of Turkey. It could be because of historical problems or that Turkey was not

around maybe five or ten years ago. They just appeared. Turkey appeared out of nowhere. Of course it is something you could say shocking, it could be something that is of importance. It could be because Turkey sees that it should interfere. There is a problem. Not some countries, they would interfere constantly, when there is a problem. I think that the government from Turkey is a gift from God. And one of the things that I would quote from our ministry of foreign affairs: when comparing Iran to another country, he said one of the countries neighboring us, they interfere our internal affairs and we do not even know their importance. But Turkey, the best thing is we know what their motives are. It is our mutual interest that they interfere and try to solve the problems in the Arab world. The problem could be solved not with the new governments in the Arab world, or new regimes. It could be with the people not understanding. This is one of our roles, myself, I'm doing it to try bring cultures together, bring understanding, extending education and culture in our countries, by the support of Turkey as well. For the people themselves to understand who is Turkey, why is Turkey interfering.

Q: Your foreign minister is saying that Turkey's intentions are very clear unlike other states like Iran but we hear a lot of criticism here and there about different interpretations of Turkey's goal in the region. Neo-ottomans are coming back, regional imperialistic attitudes, as such. From Turkish perspective, we always say we have nothing like imperialistic concerns. We are just trying to sort out our problems with our neighbors. How do you

think we should address those kind of misconceptions about Turkish perspective on the region?

In the short run it is always, central for those agencies, very important to come together and understand. For example, an expert at the Turkish-Arab relations, who knows the history of Turkey extremely well. He sometimes goes on televisions, seminars, lectures in universities about the role of Turkey and why Turkey is important to us. He is trying to fix the idea of Ottoman Empire comparing to the new Turkey. Unfortunately, I think, some of the officials in the Arab World are living in the past. They do not understand. There is a funny story, some people and individuals that recently watch series and soap operas of Turkish television, translated to Arabic, start knowing about Turkey. They know the common stories, they see the view, they see all the nice people and just in the couple of past years the tourism visits to Turkey are incredible. The numbers are going higher and higher every year. Tourism also helps our people understand Turkey, understand the people. We have much more in common than differences.

Q: So soap operas work?

Sometimes, it depends. For example, fortunately some lack the history of the Ottoman Empire. They just know the Ottoman Empire conquered a quarter of the world. There is always positives and negatives about soap operas in general. But recently this is only understood the strength of the Ottoman Empire, for example and why they were conquering etc. from the series that just came out that was

called Harem-ul Sultan, which is the women of the Sultan. I saw it in the dashboard that Sultan Suleiman. It is just now broadcasting in the Arab world. So they did not look at the negatives of the harem etc. they were looking at the history more than anything else. These things do have some people want to go to Turkey and see Turkey themselves. I do not say it does help. It is one of the things that help.

One of the same problems can be found in Turkey's side as well. The Turks know Saudi Arabia from American perspective. There is much difference in Saudi Arabia (...). there are flourishing cities that are very modernized. There are universities, education and all other things. They do not know much about Saudi Arabia. I think we need to raise the awareness of both sides with respect to each other. Most of the responsibility fall upon the news agencies, media organizations. Maybe we should develop a mechanism to cooperate on media partnership. What would you comment about these?

As you said, I think we have to use every institution, every mechanism to bring these two countries together either in public sector or private sector. There are some people that fear the collaboration because they live in the past. But I believe in the role of Turkey, and I think that we can do great things that benefit the region and its peoples in the coming future.

What countries deal with respect to Syria for example. There is a lot of concern at the moment from Turkey and Saudi Arabia. But the guys who

are hanging on the power and the Arab league monitors visit, but killings are still going on.

It is unfortunate what is happening in Syria and I think maybe being unfortunate is a very lenient word. I mean these are lives that are being lost. If you remember a couple of months ago, King Abdallah also spoke on TV to the Syrian government and he had to do this but I know he had to do this publicly, because they would not listen privately. That was the only reason he had to do. He had to show the Kingdom's motives and try and help solve the problem, for the Syrian regime to back out and go to dialogue. If the people don't want the regime, they don't want the regime. If the people wanted, the people wanted. You are supposed to be from the people. I don't think there is today any constitution that says "this party has to rule the country". It is something that is unacceptable. The Syrian regime has to open the doors. I think they are wasting time with having the inspectors from the Arab League come to their country. They are wasting time. They respected the inspectors and the Arab countries or the global nations. They would have at least stop the killing. Yesterday we heard the Secretary General of the Arab League saying that the inspectors did see the shooting. They did see the snipers on the roofs. So they are not solving the problem. Then President Assad, a couple of weeks ago, in an interview on one of the English or American channels said that "I don't own the army". We know he doesn't own the army, nobody owns the army, but you control the army.

(...)

So that's another thing that we have

heard: Assad really has no power. Some have said that this is from some friend of mine who analyze some of the situations in the Arab world, say that Assad wanted to leave long time ago but he was threatened not to leave because that would show that he is not in control. In our benefit I would say, as a citizen of the Arab world, that I fear the role of Iran, because it is not clear, its motives. With evidences in the GCC that they were a part of the disruptions in some of the region. This is unfortunate. We do not interfere in Iranian affairs. Why do they interfere in ours? I think if the Syrian regime does fall, it will weaken the Iranian influence in the Arab world. Some fear for example for Lebanon. Hizballah might want to take stronger measures to make sure that they are present. Because if the Syrian regime goes away, Hizballah has no one standing by it. This is also very bad for Lebanon. Hizballah is very strong. So what is it going to be? The government is more or less Hizballah ally. This is going to be against the Hariri party against Hizballah. It is going to be very hard. I think Hizballah will try to show its strength that it is staying in Lebanon even if the Syrian regime goes away. It is very bad.

Q: What more could Saudi Arabia and Turkey do with respect to Syria. I mean, there were economic sanctions that were led by the Arab League as well as Turkey. What more could we do to push Bashar al Assad from power?

Well, some countries now even Saudi Arabia in my opinion are officially does not want the removal of the regime. They want dialogue. I think that is the only thing they can ask for. First of all these countries have no power.

They have nothing else to do besides sending inspectors. What else can they do?

Q: Supporting the opposition?

The Arab League already did already lean to the opposition. It is the only thing we could do. Ok lean to the opposition then what? We are just talking. This is the only thing, we are just talking. We are hearing your problems and we are seeing it on television, that's it. That's all we are doing. The only thing the Arab world can do is send it to the Secretary General of the United Nations, and then to the Security Council. That's the only thing we can do. Then as you see, Russia, China, their interests are not only about Syria, but also with Iran. They are doing what Iran really asked them to do, because it is in their interest.

Q: Russia and especially China have very strong relations with Saudi Arabia as well as with Turkey. Do you think both countries can move away from Iran and Syria?

It is very sensitive, we cannot cut our relations with these two countries, and they are superpowers. What can we do? At the end of the day, all our merchandise from all over the world, especially these are from China.

Q: Chinese are buying half of your oil. You also have investment in Chinese oil industry.

You see, it is very difficult. So when Russia says we will wait for another resolution, etc, they are all in the background, negotiating "what will you give me in return". This is unfor-

unately not between individuals, but between countries and businessmen.

It's a very sad reality?

Going back to Iraq, there has been some criticism leveled against Saudi Arabia. Riyadh did not do enough in terms of engagement to Iraq. How would you respond?

It shows that Saudi really does not interfere in affairs of other countries. The second thing, Saudi Arabia, if you go back to history, 2003, insisted and had a lot of trips from the Foreign Minister and Saudi officials to all over the world to try to stop the Americans, because they have no idea what they are getting themselves into. Do we have to wait ten years today for them to leave and for us to see any influence that American have in Iraq made Iranians have greater influence in Iraq. It doesn't mean that I'm defending Saddam. I'm just saying that there could have been other ways of doing it. But Saudi does show support to Iraqis in general and it does not look at the Sunni and Shia division. This is very important. Unfortunately, especially Iranian channels, the media and some individuals are bringing up this propaganda that Saudi is backing up the Sunnis. We heard years ago that Saudis are sending ammunition and equipment, and funding the Sunnis. That is not true at all. Then the Iranians would say "Yes you see the Sunnis visited Saudi Arabia, it shows that they went there for Saudi support". It is not true. When any official visit any country, it is because of the country's interest. It is not for a certain tribe or certain sect of Islam. The Iraq situation is very bad and I think that the

Iranian influence is getting stronger day by day. The Iraqis themselves have to solve this problem.

Could they solve on their own?

If you go back to history, you see that every couple of years, every couple of decades, there is war. If you go thousands of years, there is always fighting and war going on about this area that is now called Iraq. We know a lot of Iraqis that really love their country, a lot of them are patriots. They are willing to just back down their personal opinions and decisions just to unify this country.

How concerned are you with the recent remarks coming out of Teheran with regards to the Hormuz Strait, cutting of the oil?

That's a very bad message. Unfortunately you know the world wants to hear what America says. I like to hear what everyone says. But maybe the US has more expertise about the area, with regards to the Hormuz. Americans said couple of days ago that the Iranian naval strength in that area is not strong. It is very easily pushed aside. But it is a very bad message from Iran. Unfortunately, it does not show the Iranians cooperative. Why would you do that? Why would you even think of closing the Hormuz channel? It is very bad.

Q: As a reaction to the coming sanction, either unilaterally or multilaterally, and sanctions in the UN Security Council...

Let's go back to history. How many sanctions have been done against Iran? What is the effect? There are

still countries backing Iran. Unfortunately, there are individuals, this is my personal view of course, in Iran that are lunatics. They could just push a button to send thousands of missiles to GCC, just because they want to. I think, unfortunately, the regime there would not rather fall alone, they would rather fall with everyone else. I heard there are hundreds and thousands of missiles just pointing at the Gulf. They know that is one of the main veins of the world economy. If they do that it is more or less game over for decades. Nobody knows what will happen to the world by then.

Q: You mobilized in the past months to intervene in Bahrain, at the request of the Bahraini government to crush the protests there. Do you think you can mobilize the GCC enough to counter the Iranian influence in the GCC region, especially the Iranian claims about the islands? Or do you need to bring other heavy-weights such as Turkey to the GCC?

I think at the end of the day Turkey will stand by the righter side. I will not point which side is that. but at the end of the day Turkey will stand by the right side, at the same time the GCC has been for years preparing themselves. We heard, as you heard, for years that the West is going against Iran. But the West knows if they do that within seconds the Iranians would shoots missiles on GCC. Even though we had the equipment, even though we have the international support in the area, we can still not stop a lot of them. Dialogue is always essential internally and externally, it is very important. But sometimes, the prob-

lem is one side does not have the will to dialogue and sends messages like Hormuz. It would seem that Iran did what they did in Bahrain but I would say they found a way to be a part of this disruption. As you know in Bahrain, it was not a problem having protesters. But when you have people doing disruption in the city, any government in the world would have to stop it. It is normal in any democracy, in any dictatorship; this is what the governments do. The government cannot say "they have the right to break the city".

Q: Like in "Invade the Wall Street" protests...

For example America says "do not jail the protesters", but then you see it in America or in Britain a couple of months ago as you said. The economy is affected. The country has to do what is in its interest. Many people criticized the Saudi entering into Bahrain. As you know, even in NATO countries, if a NATO country is affected by any way, the other NATO nations can also enter by agreement.

Q: Collective defense...

At the same time the Iranian influence was great in Bahrain. They worked this for years. It was not something that happened in a couple of minutes. The evidence was that not just the GCC saw, but also the global countries. So there was the evidence of the Iranian influence.

Q: In Yemen?

Yemen, we heard, yes. But at the same time Yemen is a tricky problem. As

you know the tribes control everything in Yemen. One of the ambassadors of Yemen is a close friend of mine. He said what is happening is from within Yemen, it is not from abroad. If Iran had something to do, they are participating in the disruption. But it is happening from inside. In Bahrain, Saudi Arabia did not actually stop the protesters. Saudi Arabia was there to protect government institutions and embassies, and be available in a lot of areas. But they did not participate in the stopping. It was all Bahrainis' doing. Some of it we agree with. Every country would do the same. It was a normal demonstration like happening for years in Bahrain. It is something normal. They demonstrate for five days. It is their right. But as long as it does not affect country's economy.

Q: With regard to Iran you said dialogue is the way to go. But you need two partners to play along for dialogue. And Turkey, for too many years, has been advocating engagement with Iran, trying to sort out the problems, trying to stem the influence in third countries, like Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria. But it doesn't seem to be working, when we see threatening remarks coming out of Teheran against for example the NATO missile shield. And high ranking Iranian officials said they would strike Turkey. How would you comment on that, the Turkish engagement with Iran?

I'd rather say that Iran speak about these things rather than doing them. So let them speak, they can speak for forever. But just they do not act on it. They say that they would start the world war three. Nobody wants that. You have seen what happened in the

World War 1, World War 2. We don't want World War 3. At this time it could be even much disastrous.

Q: How would you evaluate Iranian internal political struggle? A lot of competing powers within Iran and there are different voices coming out. Just yesterday, the former president Rafsanjani's daughter went to jail, because of the anti-state remarks. How do you read out the internal situation?

You know Iran has very strong internal resource-wise that basically know immediately then at the moment how to disrupt any speaking, any coup or any protesting. I think they are very good at that. They had experience since the Shah of how to stop any coup from happening so they saw themselves how they did it. Then they made sure it does not happen the same way that has done. This is my opinion. A lot do speak from Iran about change, about non-agreeing with the Iranian foreign decision and strategies. But any change that happens in Iran should happen internally. Anything from abroad will be disaster for the whole region.

Q: Do you think it is possible, an internal change based on the current dynamics?

I think the Arab spring showed that anything is possible.

Q: So we could see an Iranian spring.

The Iranian spring started a long time ago. It was two years ago.

Q: Last elections...

Yes. It is there, but it takes time for them to come back again. But at the same time, I always fear of any regime change, because look what's happening for example in Egypt. It is disastrous. It is a country that has more than eighty million. Let's say only five million is participating in all this. Others are carrying out their own lives. Five million is a big number. Iran has a lot of population. And it is very sad to see any regime change. I prefer they fix their strategy better than any regime change. Why not? It is possible. It is an easier process. Any country can continue.

Q: Going back to the bilateral, you said high level exchanges show there is a strong political commitment. But when we look at the economic levels, it doesn't reflect the political commitment. The numbers, compared to the economies of the two countries, are negligible. How do you think we should address that gap?

Q: I want to ask what is your evaluation of the effect of the Arab Spring in the Saudi Arabia and Qatar relations?

Saudi Arabia and Qatar had bad relations a couple of years ago. Unfortunately it happened because it started really with the coup from Sheikh Hamad's son against his father. As I said Saudi Arabia always greets whoever asks for help, so we greeted Sheikh Khalifa, who is the father of the current prince of Qatar. Adding to that, Al Jazeera came out and turned out that it was not just the first Arabic channel that had freedom of speech but also it was a channel really con-

trolled unfortunately. So why do you have to bring all the negative stuff about my country? Why can't you say one thing good? It showed really that there was a problem. But in the last coming years, things have been great. Not just visits from both sides, but also cooperation collaboration and sometimes Saudi would rather Qatar take over some of the region files, because they have full of files, they do not know what to do with. As you may know King Abdallah in his last speech in the GCC Council in Saudi Arabia, said we ended the days of cooperation within the GCC. It is now the time for a unified GCC. Unified GCC is something great. It is something that we all really look forward to. Qatar and Saudi Arabia is part of that. Thank you.

Q: Can you explain us what is the role of women in the Arab spring and what roles will they have in the future?

You know I have heard of some fantastic ladies in the Arab world, who really are activists and are pro-Women's Rights. They feared actually in the Arab Spring that things are getting worse. Their fear was because of that the Islamic background parties are taking control. They feared that these Islamic parties are going to lessen the rights of women. In my point of view, this is the twenty first century and there is no place for anyone to be left out. I think women are going to get stronger and it is not very far that you would find in one of the Arab states that a woman will be its leader.

Q: My question is first of all what are you waiting from the Middle

East area and the Arab spring?

In some countries in the Middle East, the Arab spring is very healthy; this is particularly true for Tunisia. In some states, we still do not know how things are going. Remember for example the GCC and some countries abroad; they participate in working a resolution for putting Ali Abdullah Saleh aside and giving all power to the Vice President. And the Vice President is very much liked in Yemen. But still the pro-Ali Abdullah Saleh tribes have a problem and conflict. They fear they might lose power in the future. So it is really not clear. For some countries it is healthy. For some other countries it is still not clear. Thank you.

Q: My question is about al Qaeda's current activities. As of June last year, Ayman al Zawahiri, now leader of al Qaeda, said that they are going to go local in the Muslim world. They will not directly confront the West anymore. After that point, Gaddafi claimed that he is fighting against al Qaeda. We know things that are going on in Southern Yemen, CIA drones, tribes' relations with al Qaeda. Lastly on 22 December, there was a huge explosion in Damascus, planned with seven car bombs, but two of them exploded. There were claims about al Qaeda being on the job. What do you think about the al Qaeda's presence in the area? Are they really active? Are they really going local as they said? If they are going local, isn't that at the same direction with the Western countries that they are both against the government of Syria for example? So what is the policy of al Qaeda in your view?

In my personal opinion, the Arab spring showed the weakness of al Qaeda. It is really what the people want. They don't want killing, they don't want chaos. But then there are some countries that chaos happened whether they liked it or not. I don't see al Qaeda as one group; I see it as just an ideology that is being taken and delivered and spread to different states, different people. But then we have to go back and see why this ideology is coming out. I'm one of the people who believe that everyone still has a good heart, even if they are bad. It is very easy to turn them around. But we have to see why this ideology really is out, it could be poverty, it could be lack of education. It could be personal, psychological problems. So I see that especially day by day, they are getting weaker. Governments and intelligence sectors are really now cooperating each other to stop these killings and terrorist activities. I can give you a greater example. Saudi Arabia was the first country not just to call terrorists to come back and this is true that their identity. We see a terrorist but King Abdallah when he was a crown prince in 2003, if I am not mistaken, came on television and said "we want the people that went on the wrong path to come back". He did not say that they are terrorists. He said they are people that were used to go on the wrong path. The Ministry of Interior thankfully did a rehabilitation center, which terrorists go and stay. Even their families are allowed to visit them. You would have scholars, professors visit them, just to understand their mentality. I swear to you, a close friend of mine was a scholar he was one of the committee that goes to visit

these terrorists he said I swear to you that they were like they came out of a hall from desert. They know nothing about Islam, love and relationships between countries and people. It is like they came out of nowhere. They were born as they are with that mentality. So we have to go back to the roots of the problem and we find that it is the poverty and it is lack of education. Education is the main way and the righteous way to make sure that everyone participate in bringing the country together and developing it. 4812

Q: I want to learn your idea about that there was a meeting. Holland was there, Turkey was there. There was a Dutch politician, sorry I cannot remember his name. He wanted to give a cartoon to Egemen Bağış, which were not good. I just wanted to learn your personal idea about the cartoon.

Unfortunately. Look at the subject in a broader way. Not just about Holland and Turkey. If we look at that in Islamic view or way, we look at it as not just Turkey but also the Arabs were affected by this. And also Islamic countries like Pakistan, etc, were also affected by this. The problem is from our side. We are not available in the West. The West has think tanks of certain groups. They have countries that West with certain groups. But we as Muslims, as Arabs or as Turks, are not really available in these countries. So how can the people know more about us? There is a cultural problem. As you know, Turkey was at the dark side for a while. Even the Arab world was at the dark side, because they were busy torturing people. The char-

acter in the cartoon, of course I was against it not because of the drawing. It was because the motive itself was to attack Muslims. You can do whatever you want. Freedom of speech, you can say whatever you want. This is the beauty of humanity and what I see is that God gave us this freedom to choose from. But to do something to attack people personally, that's where the red line crosses. Would they accept if we as Muslims for example, I won't say Arabs or Turks, Muslims in general, would they accept that we put Jesus etc, in these cartoons? We ourselves would not even accept because we believe in Jesus, we believe in Moses, we believe in Abraham. They are all our prophets. If we don't believe in them we are not Muslims. So allowing them to do this was very bad I think what the Islamic countries did was excellent to some of them even the people decided to boycott Holland products. They were really affected. Some movements in understanding, it was action in our benefit. People started knowing more of us. It was something really bad. Nobody wants

civilians to die. But in Arabic there is a saying. It could have been something bad, something good comes out of it. The good that came out of it that a lot of people start understanding Islam. But really understanding more about us. Sometimes in any situations like this we really need to know why it happened and how to solve it through the future. Thank you.

Q: Recently, a contract was signed by Saudi Arabia and the USA, and Saudi Arabia is purchasing 60 million dollars worth of jets from the USA. What was the need? Saudi Arabia feeling under danger against Iran or any threat?

You know they say that for you to be safe country you need to be updated with the latest country. Some will see it as that Saudi Arabia is helping the US economy. Some would see it as a threat because of the threat in Iran. I think they are all true all together. Of course it is not just around eighty air force plane that Saudi Arabia purchased, which is a big deal really in the



military and air force industry. Nevertheless, the reason why Saudi Arabia wanted eighty, it is not that they are going to get all the eighty today or tomorrow. It is because it goes through channels of Congress and the Presidency, etc. There is going to be fight from lobbies in the US. So they send for the next five or ten years. We will just order eighty so they can go one time to the Congress. We can just get our planes whenever we need them. That was the whole idea that's why it really looked like a big purchase. Other than that we have already around seventy or seventy five somewhere between that number, air force planes or force jets. They are also being upgraded to be exactly equivalent to the new eighty airplanes. There is going to be a total of 150-160 in the future. Of course, the threat is there. But this is the thing we are talking about. The threat is there and we don't want the threat. We don't want this cold war in the region. Every country says "I have better airplanes, missiles". It is like school, everyone showing "Look i have a pen". It is exactly the same mentality. But at the end of the days of course there are also people benefiting from these purchases from both sides. If they had good motives or not. It is I think the cycle of life.

Q: I wanted to learn your personal ideas about the future in Syria, because there have been unreliable events in Syria. Already Turkey and the Arab League got some concrete steps on Syria. What's your opinion? What would be in Syria? Is there any intervention possible in the region or any other Western powers?

Unfortunately in Syria we feared what might happen in Syria as what is happening in Iraq today and what is happening in Egypt today. I personally don't like any regime to fall. I like transitional forces very peaceful very safe, and make sure all people are living. Even one soul is important. Imagine now in Syria every day, twenty, ten, thirty people are dying. I doubt there is going to be any foreign intervention, militarily. I think this is what also Turkey said in the past. At the end of the day, dialogue is very important. The Syrian government really needs to understand that it is at chaos, and it is going to be an island very soon.

Q: There are arguments, especially after the dissolution of the Soviet Union that investment policy is increasing economic cooperation between especially the Caspian countries and Middle Eastern countries. Some people mention that the invasion of Iraq by the USA was the one way of doing was the hard power but people also said that the consequences of this is very high and in the recent days we are seeing that there are good relations between Saudi Arabia and the US: for example for Turkey some people say that Turkey is a role model for Middle Eastern countries and Caspian countries, and in the relations between these countries and the west. Do you think that Saudi Arabia has such kind of a role like Turkey has in the region?

The talk about the products and economy in the region of the Caspian Sea and Turkey etc. The views I would say in Turkey itself that even during now

the Arab spring, the economy of export from Turkey actually went from a 2-5 billion dollars in just a couple of years to now, I think it reached 180 billion dollars. This is now with the Arab spring as well and with the bad economy in Europe, I think your question basically is what do you really want to know from your question?

Q: Actually I wanted to know for example Saudi Arabia has good exports imports, economic relations with the Western countries...

Q: So is it possible to happen with Turkey?

No, I'm just trying to say does Saudi Arabia have a purpose to be a role model for other Middle Eastern countries, and have good relations with the West;

Many people think that Turkey represents a role model in the post-Arab spring Middle East, democratic, secular country, etc. So I think it is asking that if Saudi Arabia thinks that it can represent a role model with its political system to other Arab countries.

Q: Saudi Arabia as a role model. Turkey is role model or Saudi Arabia?

Saudi Arabia...

Q: One of them or both?

Saudi Arabia.

Well, Saudi Arabia could be a role model for some. It could be also to the negative. Talking about Saudi Arabia's exports, it is mostly oil. So it

is not really a role model for exporting product. Mashallah, Turkey can export anything and everything. From one thing they can make ten things. Look, this is all your... I'm sorry. I'm not sure if I answered your question. But I mean this is concrete what I'm telling you.

Q: I want to ask you something about Turkey. As an important person in Saudi Arabia, what do you think about Turkey's relations with Europe? Is it something to do with Islam that we cannot enter the Union for many years?

Going back to the important person in my country, I'm not really an important person. I am barely a citizen of Saudi Arabia. Whatever else of title comes a an honorary thing and it is more of a burden not really of importance. But going back to your question, what is your question again?

Q: Europe-Turkey relations....

In the past, Turkey really wanted to be a part of the European Union, because the model of the European Union could benefit the people. Of course, Turkey as you know is very proud of its heritage and its people and it would not allow to say from the EU would say "you have to do this, you have to do that for us to allow you". Turkey will only do that if it is in the benefit of its people, especially in the last ten years. Nevertheless today, things have changed. Europe is actually living off Turkey, not the other way around. Turkey actually buys bonds from the European banks to help the economies of Europe, so

suphanallah God works in mysterious ways. I think God is with Turkey with this. It really showed strength. And its position. It would not allow any country in Europe. Between us, especially France to try and disrupt its exports and imports, etc.

Q: What is your personal about Saudi women's initiative getting official drivers' license? Where do Saudi women stand in your society?

You know, Saudi Arabia as I said is ruled under sharia law. Islam puts ladies and women in very high place. Talking in the Quran about Meryem, Honored Mary and talking about the Queen of Sheba, talk about women in general. Prophet Mohamed's wives' position in Islam were very much high compared to how it was before Islam. This talk about Islam, because Saudi Arabia is a Muslim country. Another thing and problem was in Saudi Arabia that some of the cultures of the tribes in some areas affected the ideology and ideas of putting women in a position where they are much less than a man. This is really unfortunate. The government since the unified state, since 1930s and 40s, the first school for women was built by my father. He had to do it only after King of Saudi Arabia agreed to it. If he has the backing of the king nobody can stop him. At the same time my father had a close friend who is also a driver. He and my father went together for maybe 65 years or more. He used to have him drive a small truck, pick up woman and take them to school. That shows how important is woman in our society. Now going back to the driving, I have a very close friend that

really calls for women driving, this is essential, this is normal. How can you think that men can drive and women cannot? Then I asked him "would you allow your wife to drive?" he said "No, of course not. This is haram". But this is not haram. This is nothing to do with Islam. This is the mentality of being afraid that a man would look at my wife, or teenagers looking at my daughter. This is just a mentality that we have. I think driving is going to come very soon. It is something normal, something that has nothing to do with religion. It is just more or less a social problem than it is a governmental problem. The government said a couple of times that we will not force anything that the majority of our country refuses it. Things will come on its own. When the people want it will happen. Just like the majority refused television 40-50 years ago. Now you would find that there are 4 or 5 televisions in a house. Things go quite opposite. We were talking last night with my friend Abdallah about how they used to see the radio. Islamic scholars in Saudi Arabia were really in the dark. These are what the West called Wahhabis. They are afraid of change. So when radio came out they said "no this is Satan talking, you have to break it". What happened was that, the scholars said "ok, put the Quran on radio." So they put Quran and we asked clerics "does the Satan read Quran?" So then the idea changed one hundred eighty degrees, "no, the radio is the best, now put the Quran everywhere". This is the problem when you are coming from Bedouins and the desert that have nothing. Especially in the center region in Arabia

that we call Najd. Najd, when we look at the past, there is no empire in the world that ever conquered the central region, never. Why, because there is nothing. There is no water. There is only two trees. There is only three thousand people, nobody knows how they are living. So why go and conquer it? There is nothing. They have seen nothing really. But when you go to the East. You have traders coming from India, Asia. When you go to West, you have Muslims from all over the world for Hajj or Umra. There is trade; there is people knowing and being updated with basically evolution of technology and etc. But you could say unfortunately that Saudi Arabia started being unified from the center. So from the center, it spread all over the region and made sure everybody thinks the same way. But eventually, every ten years things do change. The people themselves. Now imagine more than half of the population of Saudi Arabia is on Twitter. I think that's why Twitter is making money. Even facebook. So how would you imagine? Almost twenty years ago if you see, telephones were this big. I don't know if you would remember house telephones were this big. Now you have iPhones, Blackberries. I hate Blackberry, but eventually things change in time and driving is part of it. but if you go to the desert, even before cars women existed. They do trade. They herd sheeps. They have cows. They would drive. And till this day, they would drive in desert and even in small towns. They are allowed and nobody can tell them no. Maybe their fathers are old. Maybe their brothers are working in another city. What are they going to do? So

nobody has any argument. The problems are in the main cities. I think it will change very soon.

Q: As you know, in the Middle East's agenda Iran practices still continue in military operations in the Persian Gulf. It takes many concerns from the West. As you said, you would have good relations with Iran. So, does it concern you as a possible threat to Saudi Arabia?

Let's talk about today, yes I do see it as a threat. I said before, we don't really want that, we don't need that. Just two weeks ago maybe a bit more, the head of the Iranian intelligence visited Saudi Arabia. Some analysts said it was assigned to give information about why are they going to Hormuz etc. But at the same time, even the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia asked in his last press conference about what was the reason for the Iranian intelligence official came to Saudi Arabia. He said "well I'm a foreign minister, I'm nor form the intelligence. You know the spies like to speak about things we never know about." Unfortunately, today we still se Iran as a threat. What they are doing in Hormuz are just enough evidence.

Q: My question is about business between Saudi Arabia and Turkey. If we compare the trade relations between Iran and Turkey, it is like ten billion dollars, it is 5 billion dollars with Saudi Arabia. What do you think about why our trade relation is better with Iran not with Saudi Arabia?

Very good question. The opportunities are there between Saudi Arabia and Turkey. And As I said maybe in

the beginning of the very short humble speech I gave that the official relations are excellent. But the trade has to increase there is a lot of investments, companies that Turks are willing to enter Saudi Arabia and vice versa. Saudis are also willing to come there. I will tell you a funny story out of trade. For the past couple of years, maybe 3-5 years- almost every house in Riyadh were watching Turkish drama. It was fascinating. Even my family, I go to the house and I see them watching Turkish drama. I don't know if they have the same name in Turkey but one is Muhannad, one is Nour, I don't know if it is the same in Turkish, maybe they changed the names. This is just recently to show that Saudis are recently getting to know Turkey. Fortunately it started by the media. When you go maybe, I wouldn't say ten years ago, maybe a bit less. The Saudis and the Gulf region tourists will go to Turkey in very few in numbers. When you look now, the numbers maybe quadrupled. Maybe quadruple is less than what the numbers are. I know some friends who travel in summer in east or in the west. In the past three years he only place they go is Turkey. The people themselves some of them tourists, some are businessman, there are teachers, they are from every sector of the kingdom. They themselves are getting to know the country, the opportunities and till this day I guarantee you that every Saudi that comes here asks the company that he can

collaborate. I think this 5 billion will in the near future will also quadruple with the tourists, inshaallah.

Q: It is my impression that you are pleased to see Erdogan government in power in Turkey. Do you think Turkey may cause a threat for the Muslim Turkey if Turkey becomes a leading power in the Muslim world? It is also possible that some different groups can take a lot of power in Turkey. Their views about you are different. I think it is an ideological issue to increase the level of relations with the Arab countries in Turkey. What do you think about the future of the relations?

It is true that during the Erdogan government, things have really went from zero to a thousand percent. Foreign policy of Turkey. I think that Turkey's policies will not change but they will get better. The reason is these recent policies that are being continued these days. Inshalah in the future it really prospered the country. Even if Turkey was the super power I'd rather Turkey becomes super power than Iran. We have so much relation with Turkey that a lot of people begin to understand. I guarantee some of the students here have Arabic roots. Some of the Saudis have Turkish roots. It is really more or less not historically but it is our blood. We'd rather Turkey be

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MithatpaŐa Caddesi 46/6 Kızılay-ANKARA
Tel: 0 (312) 430 26 09 Fax: 0 (312) 430 39 48
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