

# 2017

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Ministers of Defense Council



التحالف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب  
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION



## Communications Domain Speech

H.E Dr. Mohammad Al Momani,  
Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communications,  
and Jordan Government's Spokesman

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Peace and blessings be upon the Prophet, his household and companions.

Your Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

May the Peace, Mercy and Blessing of Allah be Upon You,

I am honored to be among you today, in this blessed country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which adopts today new perspectives in all domains and strong aspirations for a prosperous future for the good of its people and for the good of the Arab and Islamic nations.

I would like to express my compliments to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its leadership role in the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, as well as for its great efforts and services in fighting extremist terrorist ideology.

I am honoured to be among the speakers in this extraordinary and historic meeting of the Ministers of Defense of the Countries of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, to discuss the role of the media in combating extremist terrorist ideology, and inaugurate the work of the Coalition in the Communications domain. This meeting is exceptional, not only because we Muslims are a community of peace, justice, moderation, and tolerance, but also because we should be at the forefront of fighting those who spread fear and kill in the name of Islamic religion.

It has become a reality of our generation amidst the repercussions of a fourth industrial revolution, that nowadays wars are fought through media and communication channels. As a result, the Communications Domain has become a domain of confrontation, little different from the traditional military and security domains.

Your Royal Highness, Crown Prince,

Distinguished guests,

Over the past months, the spineless terrorist gangs have suffered major defeats and setbacks. However, the war is not yet over, especially in the Media and Communication Domains. We will continue to fight, in order to strengthen our societies against the obscurantist threats and terrorist ideologies, and we will leverage our media to be an effective tool enabling our societies to fight extremism and terrorism.

The war on terrorism and the confrontation of extremist terrorist ideology in all its aspects is a continuous process and a fateful battle. The comprehensive strategy, which was devised by your brothers in Jordan to combat obscurantist ideology, and translated the vision of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Alhusain. This strategy has focused, to a large extent, on the Communications and Ideology domains which require time and extended pioneer awareness-raising and intellectual efforts.

As Arab and Islamic countries, we need to intensify coordination and cooperation amongst one another, share expertise and experiences, and build on the achieved successes to set up effective mechanisms that contribute to combating terrorism on the ideological and intellectual levels, as well as counter the allegations, myths, and misconceptions that contradict with religious and human values and principles.

Professional, enlightened, and balanced media must have the upper hand and the utmost impact. It must surpass all the means used by the enemies of humanity and their media to undermine our identity and our history.

Perhaps one of the most important roles that various media outlets in the Arab and Islamic countries must address is to refute the false allegations and the major fabrications that terrorist groups use to justify their crimes worldwide. In addition to refuting these allegations, the role of the media must be to proactively broadcast and produce a straight content that cherishes the true values of Islam, with all its lofty human dimensions. The Media should sow these contents in the minds of young people and future generations, to make them protective shields for their societies against plans aimed at destroying the Nation and eradicating its history.

The responsibility for refuting the false allegations and spreading positive content falls on all of us, especially given global connectivity and the great technological development of modern media and the explosion of social networking. The latter is exploited by terrorist groups to spread their poisonous ideas, recruit supporters to their extremist tendencies, and wrongly attribute these ideas and tendencies to our Islamic religion.

We should acknowledge that we were taken by surprise by the scale of the sophisticated use of the media and social networking by the terrorist organizations. This has challenged us to respond swiftly by harnessing advanced expertise to develop effective and convincing mechanisms to reach not only a specific segment but rather all segments of society, and protect them from the extreme content produced by extremist and terrorist gangs.

Your Royal Highness,

Distinguished guests,

Our Jordanian experience in dealing with the media and the various communication channels, which represent one of the most important fronts in fighting terrorism, is based on a three-level approach. First, the political and professional level, which defines the frameworks, policies and interactions to be used in dealing with all forms of media in an open and professional way. This framework aims to promote the professional media that are seeking and enhancing the truth. Second, the legal level, which is applied through legislation and regulation, protects societies and establishes clear legal controls on abuse of media. Finally, there is the security level, which monitors any manifestation in media that infringes on the national security, such as diffusing hate speech or exploiting media to promote extremist ideas and terrorists' recruitment. The interaction at all three levels has proven to be an efficient way to transform the media into a factor to prevent and immunize societies against extremism instead of being a weakness point.

Your Royal Highness,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The challenge awaiting us today is historic and unprecedented. We need today, more than ever, to utilize non-traditional means that contribute towards defeating extremist ideas. The media and social networks must no longer be a weakness point that can be exploited by those - whether they are terrorist organizations or countries - who want to undermine our societies, spread division, strife and fanaticism, foment chaos and undermine our security and stability.

Hence, it is important to create a conscious educated youth generation that believes and trusts in their future, and doesn't bend towards negative or dark ideas. This means a brighter future, a more proficient society and a more cohesive community.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate my greetings and appreciation to His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, may God preserve him, and my sincere appreciation for this noble gathering of the sons of the nations in their endeavour to defend the history, the present and the future of our countries.

All hope rests with God to enable all of us to achieve our goals and aspirations, which will serve the Arab and Islamic nations.

May the Peace, Mercy and Blessing of Allah be Upon You.