

2017

Inaugural Meeting of the IMCTC
Ministers of Defense Council



التحالف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION



Republic of Djibouti

Your Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince,
Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defence in Kingdom of Saudi
Arabia

Honourable guests,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased today to represent my country, the Republic of Djibouti, in
this important Inaugural Meeting of Islamic Military Counter Terrorism
Coalition. It is indeed an important meeting since it represents the
beginning of a consensus among Islamic nations to work together against
terrorism in a systematic, well-planned and comprehensive manner.

In a *systematic manner*, because the issue discussed is related to how to
respond to any terrorist attack, wherever it occurs, and by the same
manner in all relevant countries. A *comprehensive manner*, because it is a
war against all Islamic nations; no country is excluded from this war.

In this context, I would like at this moment to express our sincere
condolences from the Republic of Djibouti, to first and foremost, the
people and government of Egypt, who were victims of a barbaric act,
which led to more than 300 deaths in a place of worship.

This demonstrates that this is not an ideological war. It is a war against
Islam. Last month, Somalia was the victim of a brutal attack in which more
than 400 dead, innocent civilians were massacred in a brutal, blind and
savage manner. All these incidents All these attacks demonstrate that this
is not a war being waged by one country against another. It is rather a
brutal war. It is, first and foremost, a war to distort the image of Islam,

while in the meantime, Muslims are killed in the most sacred and divine places.

I am truly pleased to represent my country here, because we have an appropriate platform, not only in the military field but also in the field of communications and ideology. It is clear that these two aspects are extremely important. We are facing today a doctrine that claims it represents Islam. It claims that it is defending something. However, it is killing innocent that civilians all over the world.

It is a war of communications because the very image of Islam that is at stake. Our role, in my opinion, is to defend the image of Islam, and to present Islam as it really is, the true face of Islam, and the reality of Islam. We know what Muslims are, but today, non-Muslims, who do not know Islam, understand that it is a danger. It is very important to highlight the role of media and communications. Of course, the war is waged every day on the military front to counter terrorism. Republic of Djibouti, like other countries in the region, has sent its forces to fight al-Shabaab terrorist group in order to help Republic of Somalia to get back on its feet. I believe we have tangible changes in Somalia now.

I would not like to conclude without thanking the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the warm welcome we have received since our arrival to the beautiful city of Riyadh. We hope for the success of this meeting.

Thank you.