

**OPINION**  
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THE SAUDI  
MEDIA FORUM  
By Faisal J. Abbas  
Editor in Chief  
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# ARAB NEWS

The Voice of a Changing Region



## Boxing Day

The wait is almost over — the eyes of the sporting world turn toward Saudi Arabia this evening for the highly anticipated rematch between world heavyweight champion Andy Ruiz Jr. and challenger Anthony Joshua who face each other in Diriyah in the 'Clash On The Dunes' — a night that could rival the historic 'Rumble in the Jungle' and 'Thrilla in Manila.' **Report P14**

Illustration  
for Arab  
News: The  
Sporting  
Press

MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE CONFERENCE IN ROME

## Saudi foreign minister warns of intolerable Iranian threat

Extremely disturbing picture emerging from Iran, says UN human rights chief

Arab News Jeddah

**Iran continues to pose a serious threat to the entire region and its aggression can no longer be tolerated. Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir said on Friday.**

He told the Mediterranean Dialogue Conference in Rome that the regime in Tehran must be deprived of the tools it uses to endanger the region and the world.

"Iran believes in the principle of exporting its revolution and does not respect the sovereignty of states," said Al-Jubeir. The regime is spending millions of dollars to build nuclear weapons but does not take care of its people, he said.

Nobody is suggesting a regime change, the minister said; the solution instead lies in more effective negotiations to agree an improved Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the so-called Iran nuclear deal), and halt Tehran's interference in other countries and its support of terrorism.

Turning to the crisis in Yemen, Al-Jubeir said only a political solution will be effective. "The Houthis are the ones who started the war, not us," he added, but stressed that they will not be excluded from the peace and recovery process.

"All Yemenis, including the Houthis, have a role in the future of Yemen," he said. "We support the legitimate government and the creation of new institutions that can be representative of all Yemenis."

In a series of tweets on the Saudi Foreign Ministry's Twitter account, Al-Jubeir addressed a number of other issues, including the regional dispute with Qatar.

"We have a common history with Qatar and we have a common destiny, but there are necessary steps that need to be taken," he wrote.

Regarding the decision by the Trump administration to withdraw US forces from a number of countries in the region, Al-Jubeir noted: "While they redeploy from Iraq they're sending more troops to Saudi Arabia. Their presence is welcome, because they're our allies."

Al-Jubeir's strong criticism of Iran was echoed on Friday by UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet.

She said that Iranian security forces used "severe violence" to quell

anti-government unrest last month, shooting at protesters from helicopters and a rooftop. They aimed for people's heads and also fired at protesters as they ran away, she added, citing verified video footage.

Bachelet said the UN Human Rights Office has received information indicating that at least 208 people were killed, including 13 women and 12 children, during the demonstrations and at least 7,000 people arrested.

Iranian authorities this week confirmed for the first time that security forces killed demonstrators during what human rights groups have described as the deadliest anti-government unrest since 1979.

"All in all, the picture now emerging from Iran is extremely disturbing," Bachelet said.

FLORIDA ATTACK

## King Salman calls Trump, offers condolences to families of shooting victims

Arab News Jeddah

Saudi Arabia's King Salman called US President Donald Trump on Friday to offer his sincere condolences after three Americans were killed during an attack by a Saudi student at a US naval base in Pensacola, Florida.

The king offered his sympathies to the families and friends of the victims and said he prays for the quick recovery of those injured during the attack.

King Salman said the culprit, a Saudi air force trainee, does not represent the Saudi people, "who have utmost respect for the American people."

King Salman said Saudi Arabia stands by the US in its hour of grief, and that the Saudi people

are greatly angered by the barbaric actions of the gunman, and that this person in no way, shape or form, represents the feelings of the Saudi people.

King Salman ordered Saudi security services to cooperate fully with the relevant American agencies to share all information that will help to reveal the circumstances surrounding the shootings.

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