

Speech of

HRH PRINCE KHALID AL-FAISAL

**Director General of the King Faisal Foundation and
Chairman of the King Faisal International Prize Committee
Saturday 18 Shawwal 1413H
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In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, Thanks be to God and Peace and prayers be upon His Prophet and Messenger Muhammad.

My Lord,

Your Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz; the Crown Prince, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministry and Head of the National Guard;
Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies;
Esteemed winners of the King Faisal International Awards;
Respected Audience.

It is not unusual for our discerning leadership to acknowledge learning and to honour and reward those who render outstanding services to Islam and Muslims, or contribute momentously to science and arts. It is also not unusual for our leadership to stand firmly by those who call for truth and justice to prevail. This tradition, your Royal Highness, dates back more than two hundred and fifty years, when your eminent grandfather, Imam Muhammed bin Abdul Wahab and, with a faithful heart and a judicious mind, led the masses of believers in their struggle to salvage Islam and clear the souls and the lands from the evils of misbelief, inventions, and superstition. Motivated entirely by his faith in God, he was able to accomplish dominance of Islamic rule and to bring the people of this country together, united and secure, under the banner of Islam.

Today, our leadership is maintaining that long-standing tradition of our fathers and grandfathers by continuing to strive for the glory of Islam and by standing proudly to declare to the entire world that the Constitution of this country is the Holy Quran, and the Sunna of Prophet Muhammed, Peace Be Upon Him, and also by re-affirming, through words and deeds, that we are a nation proud of its faith, committed to its teachings, contented with its policies, unbothered by the scornful, and unwelcoming to those in doubt.

It is our country's destiny to be the Qibla of Muslims throughout the world, and the center of Islamic Da'wah and solidarity. Given that, and our country's economic and political weight, together with the international esteem of our leaders, we are obliged to draw the attention of the whole world to the tragic situation of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to hold the world community

responsible for the war of extermination to which they are subjected. Meanwhile, I view with great admiration and pride our leadership and noble people standing as one line to offer their support, morally and financially, to the Bosnian Muslims while the rest of the world and the United Nations watch silently.

Your Royal Highness, allow me to express my deepest gratitude to Your Highness for patronizing this celebration and to extend my warm congratulations to the distinguished winners of this year's prizes for their outstanding accomplishments, wishing them continued success and prosperity. I would also like to thank our guests for sharing this happy occasion with us.

Thank you.
