

## Saudi Funding of Jihadis Raised at Hill Hearing

Oct. 7—In the wake of the terrorist attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee was held Oct. 3, chaired by Ed Royce entitled: “Al-Shabaab: How Great a Threat?” Testimony included the subject of how al-Shabaab could attack the U.S.A. directly, or by attacking U.S. interests.

After the completion of the testimony presented to the hearing, Republican Committee member Michael McCaul (R-Tex.), who is also chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, directed his first question to two former longtime FBI agents who had provided testimony, and who are still active in the security field. He asked directly about funding for al-Shabaab coming from the “Saudi Peninsula.” Neither of the two ex-FBI agents answered the question, nor did a British Africa expert

at a Washington think tank, who also testified.

McCaul began his question by noting that he had been briefed the previous day on the threats facing the U.S.A. He said:

“The majority of these threats—when you look at these organizations, and you look at the funding streams—the majority of them are tied back to the Saudi Peninsula, in terms of funding. This is the inconvenient truth no one talks about. And no one wants to deal with it either.”

McCaul cited a report he had received of \$100,000 sent to al-Shabaab’s intelligence unit to carry out a wave of assassinations in Mogadishu, Somalia. He continued:

“This is something we’re going to have to deal with at some point in time. And I know it’s something—with the Saudis being our ally—that presents a problem. It’s a challenge, but I think it is something we need to address, and see it for what it really is.”

The officials had no comment.

—*Douglas DeGroot*