

## Efforts of Controlling Money Laundering of Narcotics Money in Saudi Arabia

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### Abstract

*Money laundering is a silent crime. It is a crime based on another crime. Its goal is to cover up the source of large sums of money that criminals often gather from their criminal activities. Saudi Arabia, like many countries around the world is affected by money laundering. This is because money laundering washes money collected from different sources to finance criminal activities. This paper will analyze the situation of money laundering in narcotics as it applies in Saudi Arabia. To achieve this end, the paper will first define important terms such as money laundering and narcotics. It will then explain the relationship between money laundering, narcotics trade, and terrorism activities. This background information will form the base for analyzing the various efforts that the Saudi Arabia nation has in place for countering money laundering in narcotics trade. The paper will then explain the challenges facing these efforts, and the future of money laundering in Saudi Arabia. The largest criminal activity associated with money laundering is terrorism financing. Thus, money is collected from different sources such as charity organizations, private donations, dealing in arms, and drug trafficking. The several terror attacks associated with Saudi Arabia's terror groups like Al-Qaida have made the government realize the importance of curbing money laundering in an effort to counter terrorism. Thus, anti-money laundering strategies are set in place to address all the avenues of money laundering. According to Saudi Arabia, money laundering in narcotics trade is not a significant source of money. This is because of the many strategies in place against narcotics trade are used, including a capital punishment for narcotics traders. These efforts together control money laundering and narcotics trade in Saudi Arabia.*

**Keywords:** money laundering, narcotics trade, Saudi Arabia, terrorism, Saudi Arabia Monetary Agency, anti-money laundering

**JEL Classification:** F59, K40

### 1. Introduction

Saudi Arabia is a strong economy country in the Arabian Gulf region. This is because it is home to the world's biggest oil reservoirs. Its economy is diverse, engulfing domestic and international investments and businesses. Unlike most legal systems, laws presented in the Sunna and the Holy Qur'han governs Saudi Arabia. The country is also obliged to keep the Shari'ah, which is Arabic for Islamic Law (Weston, 2008).

Organized crime requires extensive resources to be successful. Terrorists are able to carry out extensive operations because they can afford the resources. The government cannot easily seize these resources because of the money laundering process. Terrorist and other criminals acquire their funds from illegal sources and cover these sources using legal sources. An example of illegal sources includes the black narcotics trade. Since the year 2003, the Saudis have had Anti-Money Laundering (AML) regimes as an incentive to counter terrorist financing (CFT). Under this umbrella, the government uses several

policies to counter the criminal activities of money laundering, terrorism, and drug trafficking (Salinger, 2005).

The Saudi Arabia Monetary Agency (SAMA) also has policies that control the flow of money within and without the country as a measure of countering money laundering. Through these policies, the government is empowered to freeze a terrorist's assets, or confiscate property that is involved in terrorism financing. Some of these efforts have succeeded, while some are underway. Some efforts also need to be revised to enhance effectiveness. It is not easy to assess the success of AML strategies in Saudi Arabia as money laundering is associated with predicate crimes. The country has also not analyzed its crime level for several years (Champion, 2003).

This paper will analyze the situation of money laundering in narcotics as it applies in Saudi Arabia. To achieve this end, the paper will first define important terms such as money laundering and narcotics. It will then explain the relationship between money laundering, narcotics trade, and terrorism activities. This background information will form the base for analyzing the various efforts that the Saudi Arabia nation has in place for countering money laundering in narcotics trade. The paper will then explain the challenges facing these efforts, and the future of money laundering in Saudi Arabia.

## **2. Money Laundering**

The meaning of money laundering is quite direct. Literally, money laundering refers to the process of washing money. One can only wash that which is dirty, with the hope of making it clean. Dirty money is that which is obtained through illegal means. This could be through criminal activities such as drug trafficking, robbery, and murder (Primakov, 2004). Criminals wash this money by transferring it to legal sources of money. This is especially through creating legal businesses to cover up for the illegal businesses. It became a current issue that "a black market exists in all economies, no matter how evolved they are but when people start to depend on the black market for acquiring food" the phenomenon of money laundering meet dangerous dimensions (Kagitci and Tatu, 2008). Confidential banks such as the Swiss Bank can also play a role by posing at the loaners of such money. This cover helps criminals escape the probing hand of the law, and gives them a chance to expand their activities. Therefore, money laundering is associated with criminal activities such as terrorism and organized crime. Money laundering can also refer to the disguise of the original source of money, even if the source is legal. If money from source A is presented as money from source B, then the process is money laundering (Madinger, 2012).

Money laundering occurs in three major stages. At first, the money is acquired from the illegal source, and placed in a legal source. This stage is called placement. The money is then used in the legal source in order to disguise it, a process known as layering. Finally, the money is mixed with the clean source, a process known as integration. This can be done through various methods. For instance, the money can be deposited into an account, and then be transferred overseas through a complex chain of banks to disguise its source. The money can also be used as capital to buy an asset, which is later, sold and claimed as the legitimate source. Money-launderers can also use dubious loan repayments as the source of their illegal money. Therefore, it is hard to tell the difference between clean and dirty money at the end of the money-laundering process. The money laundering offense is

punishable by Saudi Arabia's Sha'riah, labor law, and bank control law (Cordsman, 2009).

Designated centers known as financial intelligence units responsible for obtaining all relevant information pertaining to money laundering must be set up in order to ameliorate and even to stop, if it will be possible, the complex phenomenon of money laundering (Kagitci and Tatu, 2008).

Money laundering has its roots in the illicit activities of the US' Laundromats mafia owners. This group was involved in illicit businesses that earned them huge sums such as prostitution and bootleg liquor. To prevent curiosity over the source of their money, the gangsters bought legitimate businesses. These businesses acted as cover for their illicit activities as they could explain why they were so wealthy. Thus, the earnings from the illicit activities would appear clean. In a way, the dirty money underwent cleaning by passing through legal activities. Thus, the term money laundering was coined (Diane Publishing Company, 1995).

Money laundering was first identified in the US as a crime in the 1980s. This is because of the huge sums of money that drug traffickers earned. The crime is associated with organized crime because of the power the money gives to criminals. The huge amounts of money enable these criminals to use the sophisticated technology, and professional help, which makes them more dangerous. It is also responsible for heavy drug abuse since it makes the drugs easily accessible to users. Money laundering criminals use the money to expand their criminal pursuits to global dimensions. In Saudi Arabia, money laundering is the major means of financing terrorism (Madinger, 2012).

### **3. Saudi Arabia and Terrorism**

Terrorism in Saudi Arabia has been a crucial issue for decades. Several terror attacks were effected against westerners in this country. Saudi Arabia's Osama bin Laden is known internationally as the leader of the Al-Qaida group (Tares, 1996). In the past, Al-Qaida has claimed responsibility for various terror attacks internationally. The September 2001 attacks in the US were the turning point for the war on terror. These attacks increased insecurity and made governments alert to terrorism. The Saudi government had always mentioned that it does not support the terrorism activities of the Al-Qaida group. In addition, the Saudi government cooperated with international efforts to wage war on terror. In the year 2003, Al-Qaida group made terror attacks within Saudi Arabia. The insecurity following these attacks enhanced the efforts on fighting terrorism for Saudi Arabia and the international world (Blanchard, 2010).

Terrorism in Saudi Arabia dramatically reduced as from the year 2004. Apart from a few non-severe attacks, the terror groups have been silent. Several terror suspects have been captured in the years following 2004. Internal terrorism attacks since 2004 include the attempt on Prince Mohammed bin Nayef's life in 2009 in a Ramadan gathering. The long time Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden was killed in a shoot out with the US armed forces in the year 2011 (Kleiman and Hawdon, 2011).

### *Saudi Arabia and Narcotics Trade*

Drug trafficking is a rampant trade in Saudi Arabia. As of the year 2012, the value of Saudi Arabia's black market was at \$6.1 billion. Narcotics are among the drugs that are trafficked on a daily basis in Saudi Arabia. Narcotics refer to the class of drugs that relieve pain by numbing the senses. These drugs work by changing one's mood, inducing relaxation, and hence leading to a stupor. Physicians use small doses of narcotics to relieve intense pain in patients. When used as drugs, narcotics are addictive. Examples of such drugs include opium, heroin, and Demerol. These narcotics are destructive to the users and this is the reason for stringent regulation of the drugs (Tares, 1996).

Narcotics trade is prohibited in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government is against any drug production, and there is little production of drugs in the country. The country is also based on conservative religious values and thus fighting drug trade has been a priority since 1988. The country is a 1988 UN Drug Convention member. The government imposes a capital punishment in an effort to curb drug trafficking. In 2009, about seven narcotics criminals were executed. Strict regulations are also enforced both domestically and through international liaisons to control narcotics trafficking (Brownfield, 2011).

However, the trade is still ongoing at different levels of the country. Although there are few public records concerning the current level of narcotics use in the country, cases of narcotics trade have been on the rise. This is because of the availability of a porous border, increase in the number of unemployed youth, the promise of high profits from the narcotics use, existence of a wealthy population and the annual movement of pilgrims across the border. The strict laws only serve to make the smugglers more alert. The highest number of narcotics traders includes young males of Saudi and non-Saudi origins (Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, 1999).

Narcotics traffickers enter Saudi Arabia along the Yemen, Jordan, and Iraq borders, across the Dammam and Jeddah ports, or via air flights. Regulation of narcotics is done through government policies and international cooperation. Saudi Arabia is a signatory of the International Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the Convention on Narcotic Drugs, among others. This convention requires the nation to pass uniform laws that prohibit the ownership, purchase, or planting of narcotic drugs. The laws also impose a uniform verdict for violators (Anderson, 2013).

Saudi Arabia wages a strong war against the narcotic trade. Hawari and Al-Sulami (2012) showed an incident where the Saudi Interior minister confirmed having seized smuggled narcotics and other drugs. This included heroin, cocaine, amphetamine, hashish, and narcotic pills. According to the minister, smugglers use deceptive means to ensure success. For instance, smugglers take their families along or used females to distribute the drugs and thus avoid suspicion. To control the narcotics trade, the minister noted the need for youth supervision and education (Hawari and Al-Sulami, 2012).

### *Saudi Arabia and Money Laundering*

Saudi Arabia has been home to many terrorists to date. It is a fact that the Al-Qaida terror group is set in Saudi Arabia. To support these terrorism activities, the terrorists need a source of constant money. Money laundering is one such source. Insufficient control of funds by the Saudi Arabian kingdom allows terrorists to engage in money laundering. This is also compounded by lack of proper regulation of individuals who enter the kingdom for Hajj. Hajj pilgrims enhance poor law enforcement concerning the flow of

large sums of money within the country is another gap that the terrorists use to engage in money laundering (Kleiman and Hawdon, 2011).

Money laundering in Saudi Arabia raises international concern because of the global terror attacks claimed by terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida. These terror groups use money laundering as their major source of funding. The 9th September 2001 terror attacks on the US' New York twin towers by Saudi nationals was a wake up call for the kingdom to combat money laundering. The first formal anti-money laundering laws were put in place in the year 2003. This was induced by international pressure on the Saudi Arabian kingdom (Koh, 2006).

#### *Money laundering and Narcotics Trade in Saudi Arabia*

There is a close link between money laundering and the narcotics trade. Drug trafficking forms a back drop for other crimes such as terrorism, violence, and organized crime. This is because of the good proceeds earned from the trade of drugs. Narcotics are especially expensive and this culminates in more returns. In order for the criminals to use this money without the government seizing it, they have to wash it. This process is called money laundering. There are several methods of money laundering. The money from narcotics trade is transferred through a complex chain until to make tracing the original source impossible. Commercial banks and charity organizations are among the most commonly used institutions for money laundering (Menelik, 2005).

### **4. Efforts of Curbing Narcotics Trade**

Narcotics trade is minimal in Saudi Arabia due to the policies in place against drug trafficking. The government makes it clear that the possession, sale, or use of narcotics is illegal. There are several laws that discourage individuals from this practice. For instance, drug trafficking is a capital offense in Saudi Arabia. This discourages individual in engaging in the trade for fear of the death penalty. Narcotics trafficking are met by the death penalty, while narcotics addicts are rehabilitated and given another chance to live a narcotic free life (Tares, 1996).

Most narcotics enter Saudi Arabia through its land borders. For instance, heroin traffickers usually use the Jordan border, while hashish traffickers use the United Arab Emirates border. Most khat traffickers use the Yemen border. The government imposes strict rules for monitoring these borders. Technology is embraced to improve the effectiveness of this surveillance (Brownfield, 2011, p.534).

Incorporation of drug education into the curriculum is another policy that discourages drug trade in Saudi Arabia. There are no specific drugs produced in the country and this reduces availability and accessibility to the drugs. Several treatment centers exist within the nation to help drug abuse patients. The Saudi government treats only Saudi criminals. Expatriates who are caught using narcotics are sent back to their homes immediately. This is because of the high treatment costs (Brownfield, 2011, p.535).

Public campaigns against drug use are conducted constantly to emphasize on the ill effects of narcotics use. The media is one of the major campaign agents in Saudi Arabia. Other campaign strategies include education of school, universities, and communities.

The issue is also handled from a religious perspective as it is against the Islamic law to use drugs (Brownfield, 2011, p.536).

These strategies help create a negative perception towards drug use and hence limit the number of individuals who use them. Saudi Arabia also involves the bordering countries in ensuring there is no cross-border drug trafficking. It is a member of the Common Arab Unified Law, and Arab Anti-drug Strategy, commissions whose aim is to control drug use and sale in the region. This is the government's way of showing that it is not in favour of the production, distribution, cultivation, or sale of drugs, especially narcotics. The nation has set up a General Directorate of Narcotics Control convention that is responsible for enforcing the anti-narcotics laws. Saudi Arabia is a member of several international conventions against narcotics such as the UN Convention against Narcotics. Implementing the strategies of these conventions is the Ministry of Interior way of ensuring that the country is narcotics free (Forest, 2007).

However, the trade is still ongoing, albeit at a minimal level. This is because of the occasional arrests made of narcotics traffickers. According to a 2012 US Department Narcotics Report, over 1456 drug traffickers were caught in Saudi Arabia between the year 2010 and 2011. The value of the black market was at \$450million in September 2011 (Brownfield, 2011).

## **5. Efforts of Combating Money Laundering**

The Saudi Arabia government first took measures to safeguard its financial system in 1988 by joining the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances. The government made drug trafficking a capital crime in order to do away with the drug trade. Due to the presence of organized crime, most criminals use the country as a transit centre for drug trafficking (Salinger, 2005, p.47). The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) as a body was founded solely for countering money-laundering activities through commercial banks in 1995. SAMA puts in place guidelines that are followed by commercial banks to monitor the activities of their customers. It is the duty of Saudi Arabian commercial banks to report any dubious transactions to SAMA (Cordsman, 2009).

As a government, Saudi Arabia is a Financial Action Task Force (FAFT) affiliate. It thus implements and assesses its own performance regarding the FAFT recommendations on money laundering prevention and terrorism financing. Saudi participates in internationally organized conferences regarding countering money laundering and drug trafficking. This allows Saudi Arabia to take part in the international efforts of countering money laundering of narcotics trade (Cordsman et al., 2005, p.127).

The available information regarding money laundering is scarce. To counter this barrier, SAMA trains investigators and judges on the legal issues surrounding money laundering. This is a program that took effect in the year 2003. The Saudi cabinet also passed a legislation that raised the severity of penalties for money laundering and terror financing criminals. This law requires commercial banks to monitor all transaction within the country and across the border. The dubious transactions are then frozen, as required by the FAFT recommendations (Cordsman, 2009).

Saudi Arabia also formed the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in the year 2005. This group's purpose is to counter-terrorist financing policy efforts, a process geared towards anti-money laundering activities. This unit is subdivided into seven segments that help in handling the financial intelligence in seven different stages. Suspicious financial operations are reported to this unit. Here, data is collected, analyzed, monitored, and manipulated to show the best way forward. This helps to monitor the financial situation in the country. The creation of Bank Al-Bidad in 2005 by SAMA was another effort to counter money laundering in Saudi Arabia. Here, eight of the country's biggest commercials were merged to form one bank. This was an effort to tighten the rules of making money transfers across the border. The Saudi Anti-Financial Crime Unit (SAFCU) was also formed in this year to act as the FIU (Cochrane, 2007).

Over the years, the Saudi government has improved on the strategies developed in 2004. As of the year 2012, border security was under development to incorporate technological security systems. Saudi Arabia has also been stricter in bringing suspects of terrorism financing under judgment. The government publicly prosecutes suspects of the different terror attacks and those found guilty are sentenced. These included the cell of 55 and the khafji cell, suspect groups that were on public trial as of 2012. This is an improvement as it takes care of the criticism towards the implementation of the AML strategies (Odeh, 2010).

Charity organizations are used by criminals to carry out money laundering activities in forms of donations. Saudi Arabia is aware of this gap and it has laws in place to monitor against the wrong use of charity organizations. In line with the UN Security Council Resolution, Saudi Arabia froze organizations such as Somalia's and Bosnia's Al-Haramian Islamic Foundation branches, Bosnia's Vazir and Liechtenstein's Hochburg AG in 2002. These organizations were found guilty of financing terrorist groups like Al-Qaida (Cordsman et al., 2005, p.127).

In order to manage the transactions of all charitable organizations, SAMA came up with stringent rules for Saudi's commercial banks. According to these rules, each charitable organization must have only one account, individuals who deposit into these accounts must identify themselves, charitable organizations must not be given ATMs, and the accounts must be SAMA approved. SAMA also requires the organizations to make no cash withdrawals, and to make no transfers overseas (Cordsman, 2003, p.220). In the year 2004, the UN closed the Al-Hamarian Islamic Foundation and five of its branches. A transparent foundation was created to manage charity contributions for Saudi Arabians. In this same year, the Saudi government identified close financiers of Al-Qaida and froze their assets. These individuals include, Osama Bin Laden, the Al-Qaida leader, and Wa'el Hamza Julaidan, the general director of Rabita Trust. Rabita Trust was an Al-Qaida financier suspect (Cordsman et al., 2005, p.128).

Monitoring the charitable organizations through their bank accounts proved effective at the time. However, most organizations turned to direct donations such as drop boxes where donors would drop their contributions instead of banking them. The Saudi government issued a ban regarding this practice and required all registered charity organizations to be audited (Cordsman, 2003, p.220).

Saudi Arabia is a significant member of the Gulf region. As a country, Saudi Arabia participates in various regional and international affairs. This international membership is a strategy to counter money laundering in narcotics. For instance, Saudi Arabia is a member of the UN, G-20, Interpol, and League of Arab States. This membership, obtained through multilateral and bilateral agreements helps the country control money

laundering and narcotic trade (Shahidullah, 2012). For instance, Saudi Arabia's cooperation with nations such as US, European Union, and other Asian countries enables the Saudi government to access vast information fast. Increased resources gained through international cooperation give Saudi Arabia an advantage over the criminals and thus enhances anti-money laundering activities. Historically, Saudi Arabia has been in favour of the war against terrorism. In 1996, Saudi Arabia formed a coalition with the United States to counter Al-Qaida activities. This coalition was reenergized by the September 2001 terror attacks and the subsequent 2003 attacks (Cordsman et al., 2005, p.130).

## **6. Discussion**

Several International Narcotics Control Strategy reports agree that there is a money laundering problem in Saudi Arabia. However, the problem is not directly connected with narcotics trade in the nation. This is because the trade is under control and thus it money laundering in narcotics poses a minimal threat (Cochrane, 2007). The nature of money laundering also makes it hard for individuals to know the source of the money. Thus, it is possible that there are significant narcotics returns that are changed to look like they are from charities and private donors (Oxford Business Group, 2007).

The extensive anti-money laundering policies that have been in force since the year 2001 have had an effect on the narcotics trade in Saudi Arabia. By the year 2007, the narcotics trade was almost under control according to the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report. Money laundering is also under control, because of these efforts. This is due to the challenges to internal security and terrorist incidences in Saudi Arabia. The government is compelled to devote much attention to countering terrorism financing. Money laundering is a major source of financing. However, according to the government, the money laundering in narcotics trade is no longer an issue. This is because of the stringent laws enacted by the government to counter drug trafficking. Incidences of narcotic trade are minimal and thus they cannot account to the terrorism financing. Money laundering continues to be a threat, however, and this is the reason why the Saudis wage constant war on the practice. The flow of money in Saudi Arabia is under strict regulation. This has born good results, as it is clear that terror activities have reduced since 2003 in Saudi Arabia (Forest, 2007).

Measuring the success of these strategies is not easy. It is clear that the policies towards anti-money laundering and narcotics trade are in place. It is not clear, however, that these practices have been fully implemented. The US is critic of the way Saudi Arabia enforces the mentioned strategies. This is because of the lack of public prosecutions of the suspects caught by the government of Saudi. The US government feels that when the terrorist financiers are caught, they should be held responsible for terrorism. This is because they are terrorists by extension. Those individuals whose assets were frozen on terrorism grounds were only required to remain within the country. No criminal charges were brought against them. This is because some of them are key government officials. It is necessary that these individuals are prosecuted, and duly sentenced for their involvement in criminal activities (Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, 2006).

The international efforts to combat money laundering efforts have also met with various challenges. According to the US State Department, Saudi Arabia has signed, but not ratified, the international convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1999. There are also loopholes in the control of cash flow, and Saudi may need to increase the amount of information needed for foreign currency conversion to counter money-laundering attempts (Congress, 2010).

According to Cochrane (2007) the inability to monitor implementation of AML strategies in Saudi Arabia is connected to the nation's high secrecy. This poses a barrier to international bodies like FAFT that try to analyze the country's compliance. These organizations were able to carry assessments in 2004, and have not succeeded in gathering comprehensive information since then. This explains the inadequate information regarding the implementation of AML strategies since 2005 to date. Another gap is presented by the ability of the donors to make cash donations. There are no records of individual's incomes and there is high cash flow in Saudi Arabia (Merritt, 2010). Thus, private donors can make direct contributions to the terror groups to avoid the strict bank regulations. Transactions can also be made directly across the border during the Umrah and Hajj pilgrimages. During this period, several pilgrims make a visit to the Islamic holy cities like Medina and Mecca. This presents an opportunity to smuggle large amounts of money into and out of the country (Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, 2006).

Before the year 2003 Saudi Arabia did not collaborate with other countries effectively in AML strategies. However, the country has been more involved since the year 2003. This is in part due to the internal terror attacks of 2003 by the Al Qaida terrorists. This led to the creation of strict AML regulations to control the flow of money within the nation and across its borders (Cochrane, 2007).

Controlling money laundering in Saudi Arabia is not an easy task. There are several avenues for terrorist financing and the biggest threat is through donations. Saudi Arabia is a strong economic country and there is constant flow of money. There is also a lack of agreement between international bodies and Saudi Arabia on the definition of terror groups. This shows that there is a gap in the implementation of AML activities, or that the terrorists are outsmarting the government (Cochrane, 2007).

## 7. Conclusion

Money laundering is a real problem in Saudi Arabia. The major sources of the money are through private and organizational donors. These donors contribute through *zakat* in the mosques, on public contribution centres, or through charity organizations. Drug trafficking is almost under control in Saudi Arabia. Therefore, the government does not see narcotics trade as a threat to money laundering. Several strategies are used by the country to control money laundering of narcotics trade (Congress, 2010). These include extensive campaigns, incorporation of drug use education in the curriculum, imposing capital punishment for drug traffickers, and using religious leaders to campaign against the practice. This has ensured that there are few cases of drug trafficking in Saudi Arabia. However, there are loopholes in these efforts and criminals use them to practice the trade anyway. This is because of the arrests made of individuals who are caught trafficking

drugs on transit or within the country, even after these strategies have been implemented. Thus, the government uses anti-money laundering policies to counter money laundering regardless of the source of the money (US State Department Money Laundering Report, 2013).

Money laundering is dangerous in Saudi Arabia because it is the major source of terrorism funding. Curbing the money laundering crime will in essence curb the levels of terrorism. Thus, strategies made towards countering money laundering are a part of the war on terror. AML efforts include strict financial regulations imposed on financial institutions, monitoring charity organizations, cooperating with international bodies, and implementing AML policies that discourage money-laundering activities. In recent years, the government started to arrest and publicly persecutes terror suspects and this may make money launderers afraid of cooperating with the terrorists (USA International Business Publication, 2005).

The dramatic decrease in money laundering incidences is proving of the effectiveness of these strategies. In conclusion, the Saudi Arabia government is putting effort on curbing money laundering and narcotics trade. Despite the setbacks, the country is on the right track, but it might need time to bring the level of these crimes below significant levels. After all, Rome was not build in one day!

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