TOP SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

14 November 2002

Saudi-Based Financial Support for Terrorist Organizations

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
EO 12958 1.4(b)<25Yrs
EO 12958 1.4(c)<25Yrs
EO 12958 1.4(d)<25Yrs
EO 12958 1.4(e)<25Yrs
EO 12958 3.5(c)
EO 12958 6.2(c)

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Saudi-Based Financial Support for Terrorist Organizations

Key Findings (U)

Saudi Arabia is a key base of financial support for al-Qa'ida

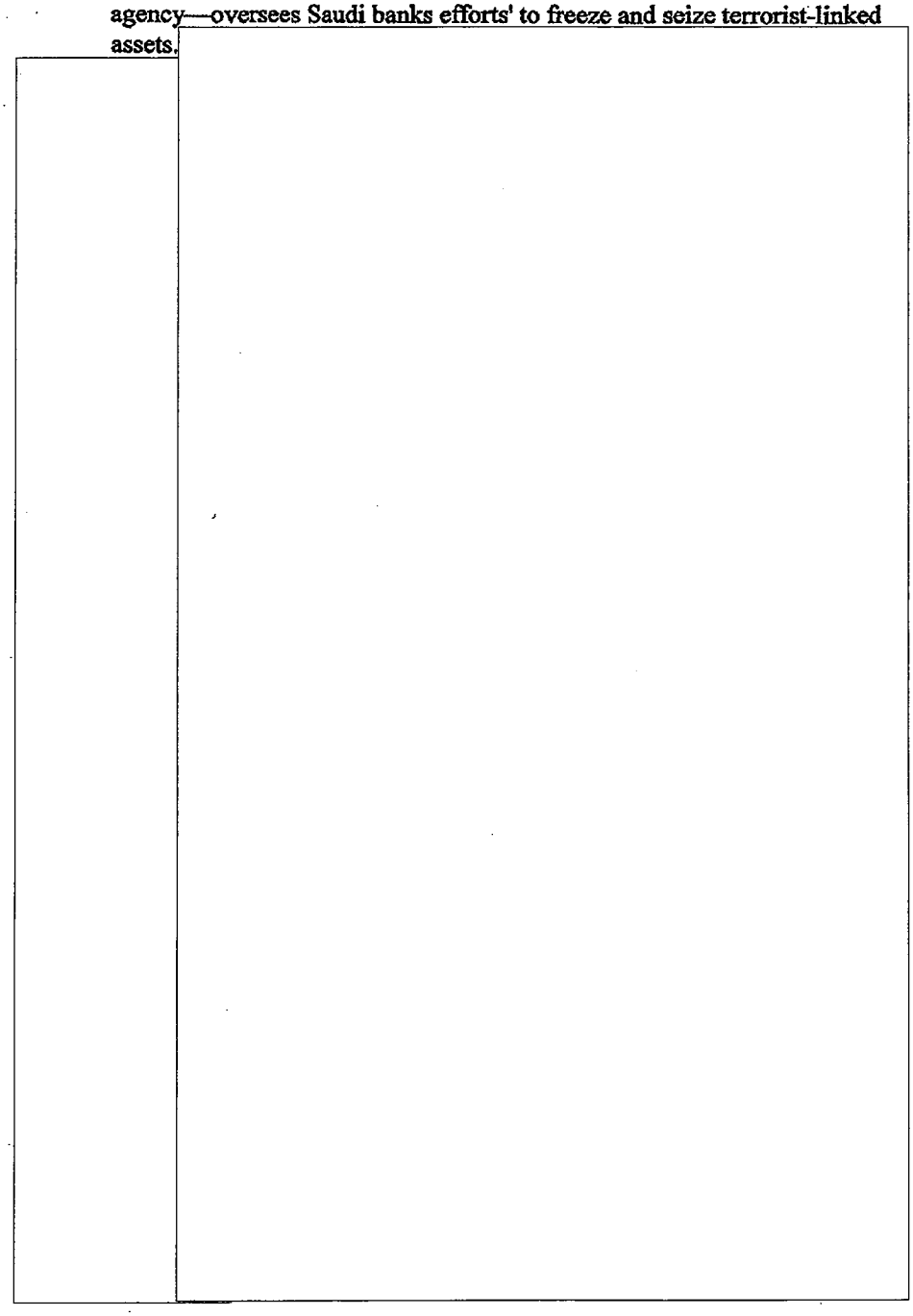
Most of the money originates from wealthy individuals, fundraisers who solicit smaller donations, and diversions from non-governmental organizations (NGOs); a portion of the funding is derived from legitimate religious contributions.

Saudi Arabia for the bulk of its fundraising for several years

Since 9/11, Riyadh has responded to a number of US requests to staunch the flow of funds

these actions, coupled with donors' fears of US and international actions, have led to a drop in money flowing from Saudi Arabia to al-Qa'ida

- SAMA—Saudi Arabia's central bank and chief financial enforcement agency—oversees Saudi banks efforts' to freeze and seize terrorist-linked assets.



Scope Note (U)

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Saudi-Based Financial Support for Terrorist Organizations

A Major Source of Terrorist Funds

consider Saudi Arabia a key base of financial support.

Most of the money originates from wealthy individuals, fundraisers who solicit smaller donations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

- The Kingdom has a conservative and–by developing country standards—an affluent populace inclined to bestow large grants on Islamic missionary groups to fulfill their religious obligation to contribute to charity and the propagation of Islam.

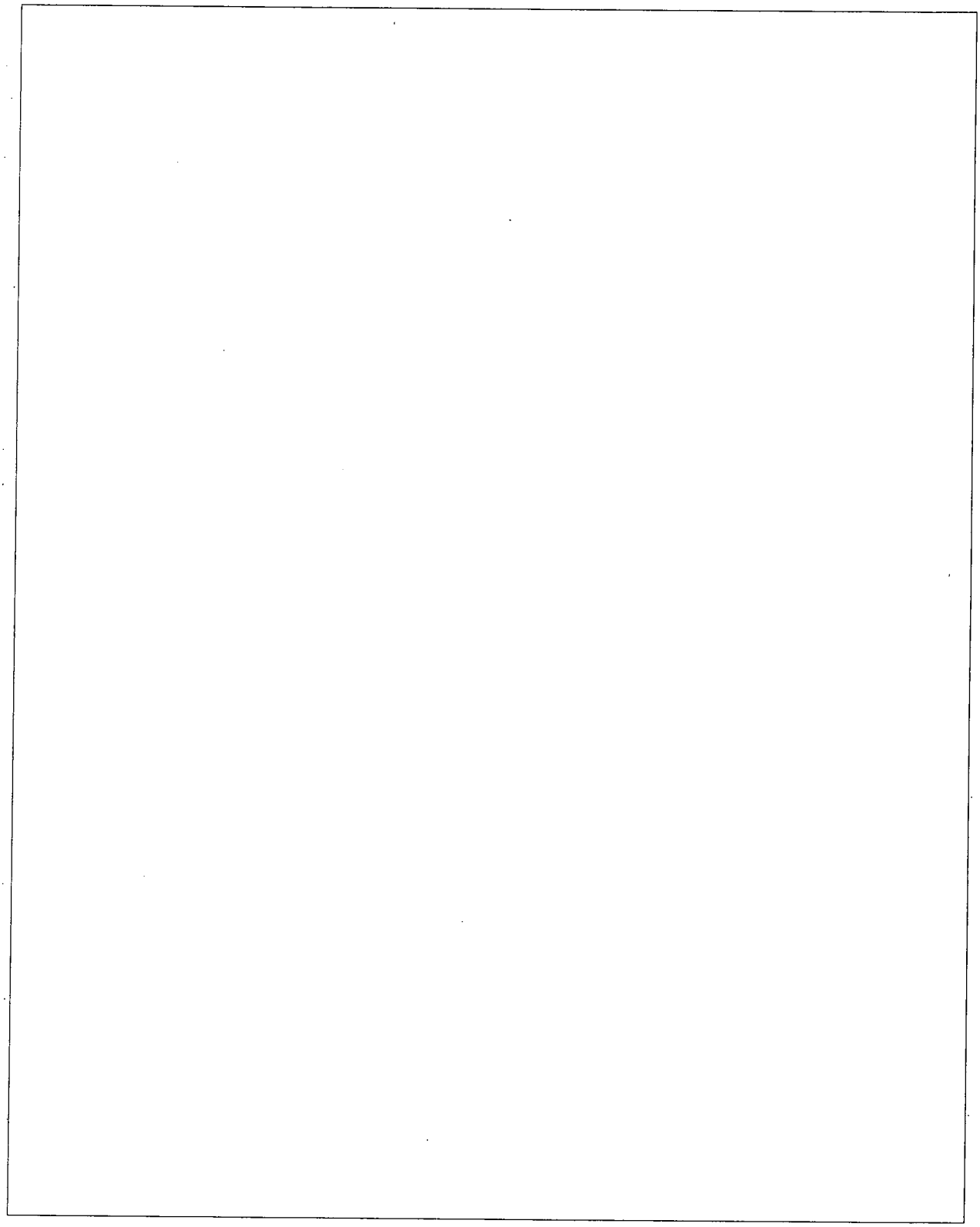
- As a result, a portion of the income that al-Qa'ida and other groups count on is derived from legitimate religious contributions, where the donor is either unwitting, misled, or inclined to look the other way.

financiers, however, knowingly donate funds to al-Qa'ida and are witting that the money finances terrorist activity

This assessment was prepared by the DCI Counterterrorist Center's Office of Terrorism Analysis. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to

Key Financial Base for Al-Qa'ida

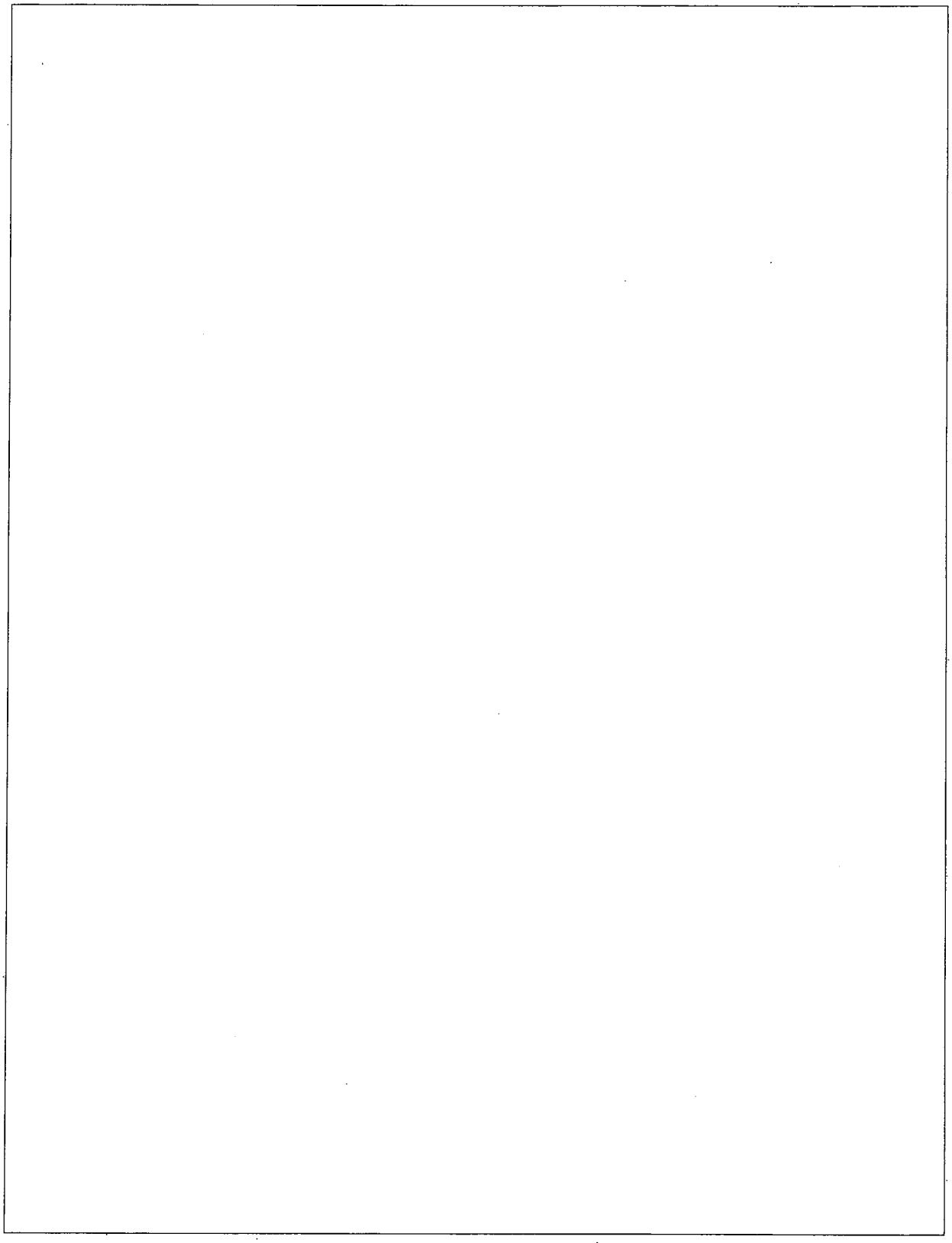
Bin Ladin's network Saudi Arabia for the bulk of its fundraising for several years

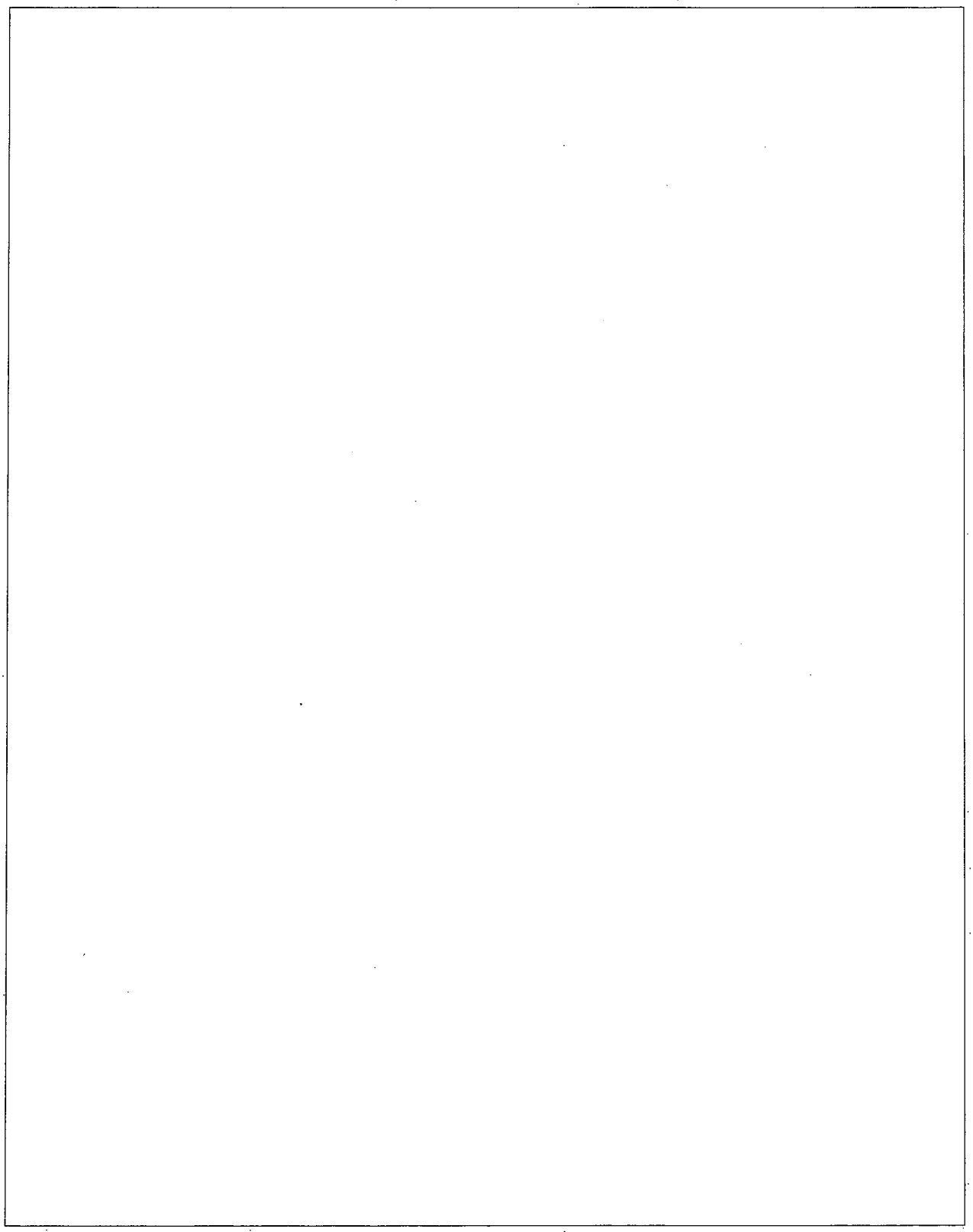


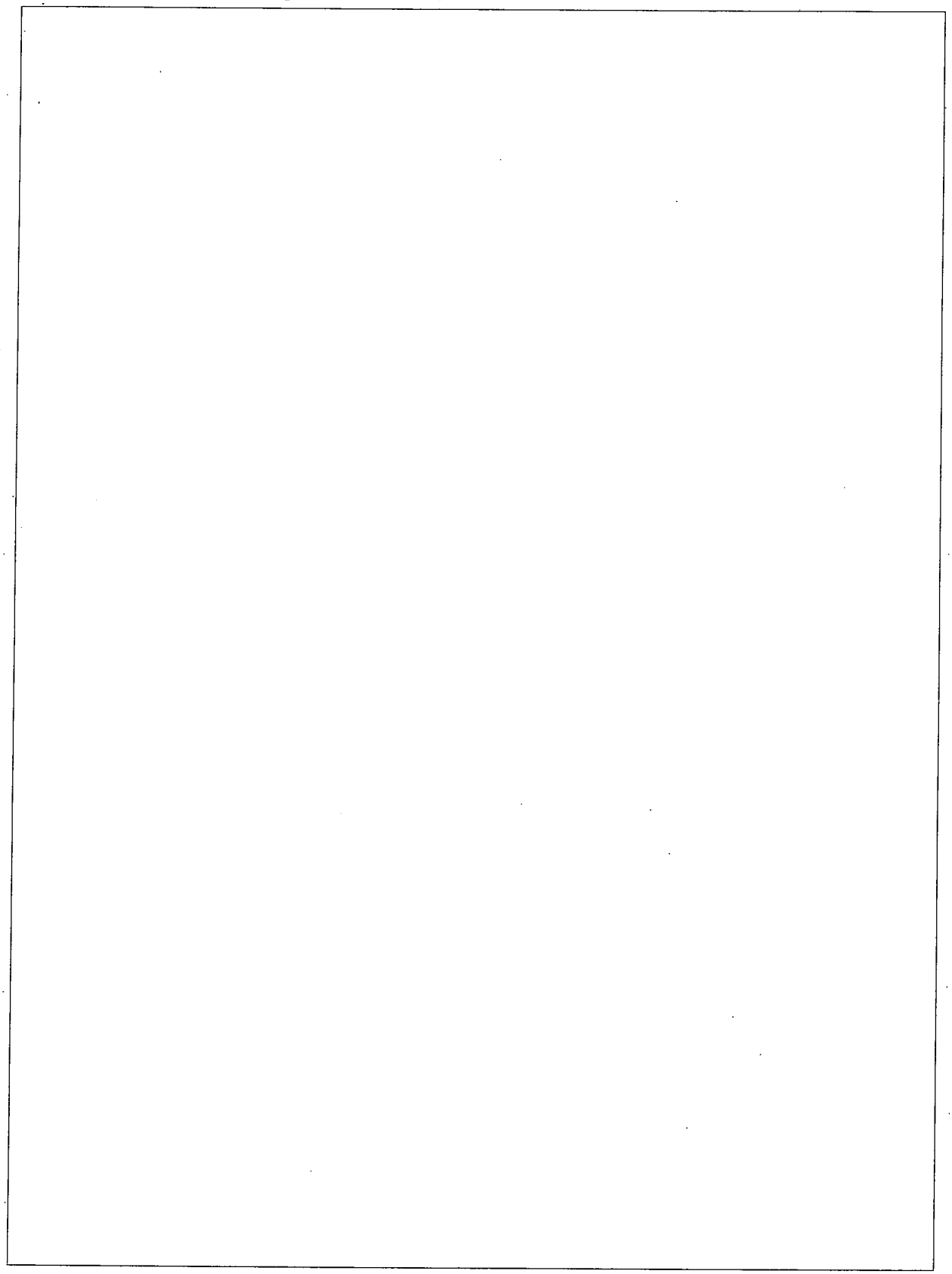
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Islamic Charities

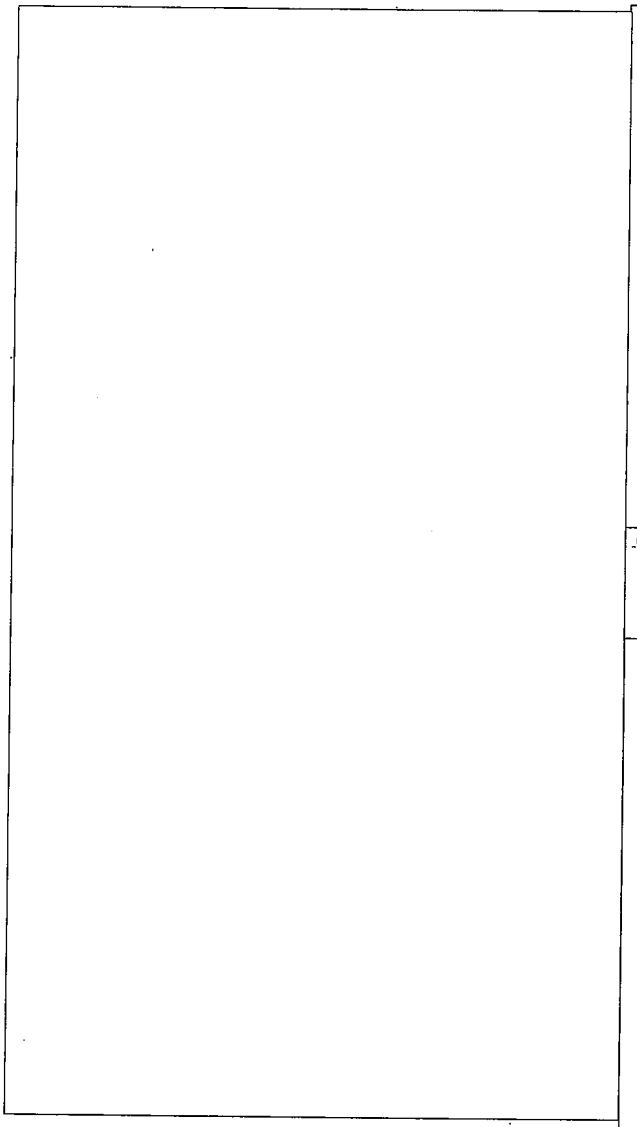
has exerted influence on several Islamic NGOs, using them to raise and move funds

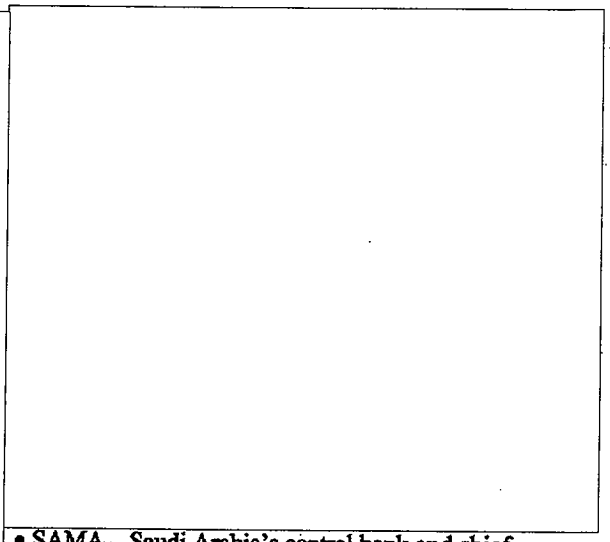
several Saudi-based NGOs that al-Qaida has been able to exploit by diverting funds from legitimate activities to finance al-Qa'ida.



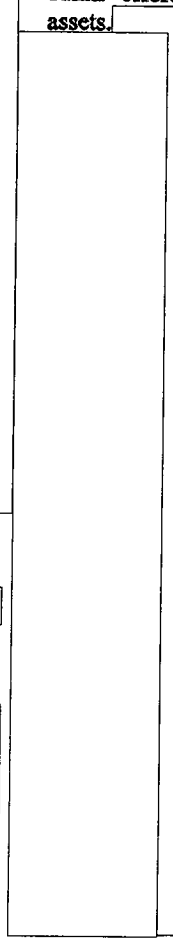


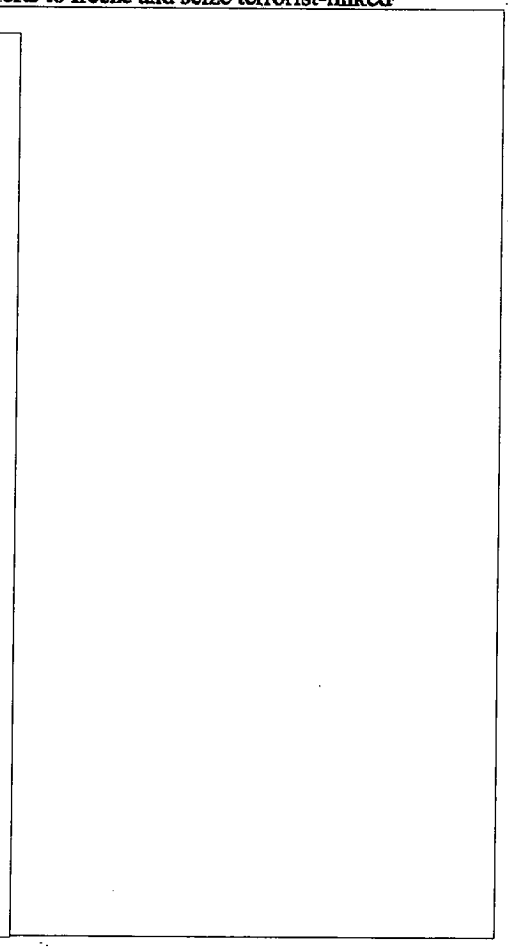






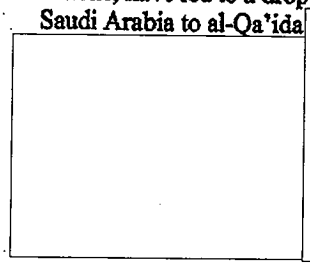
• SAMA—Saudi Arabia's central bank and chief financial enforcement agency—oversees local banks' efforts to freeze and seize terrorist-linked assets.

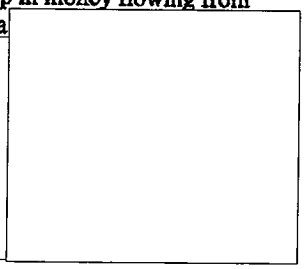


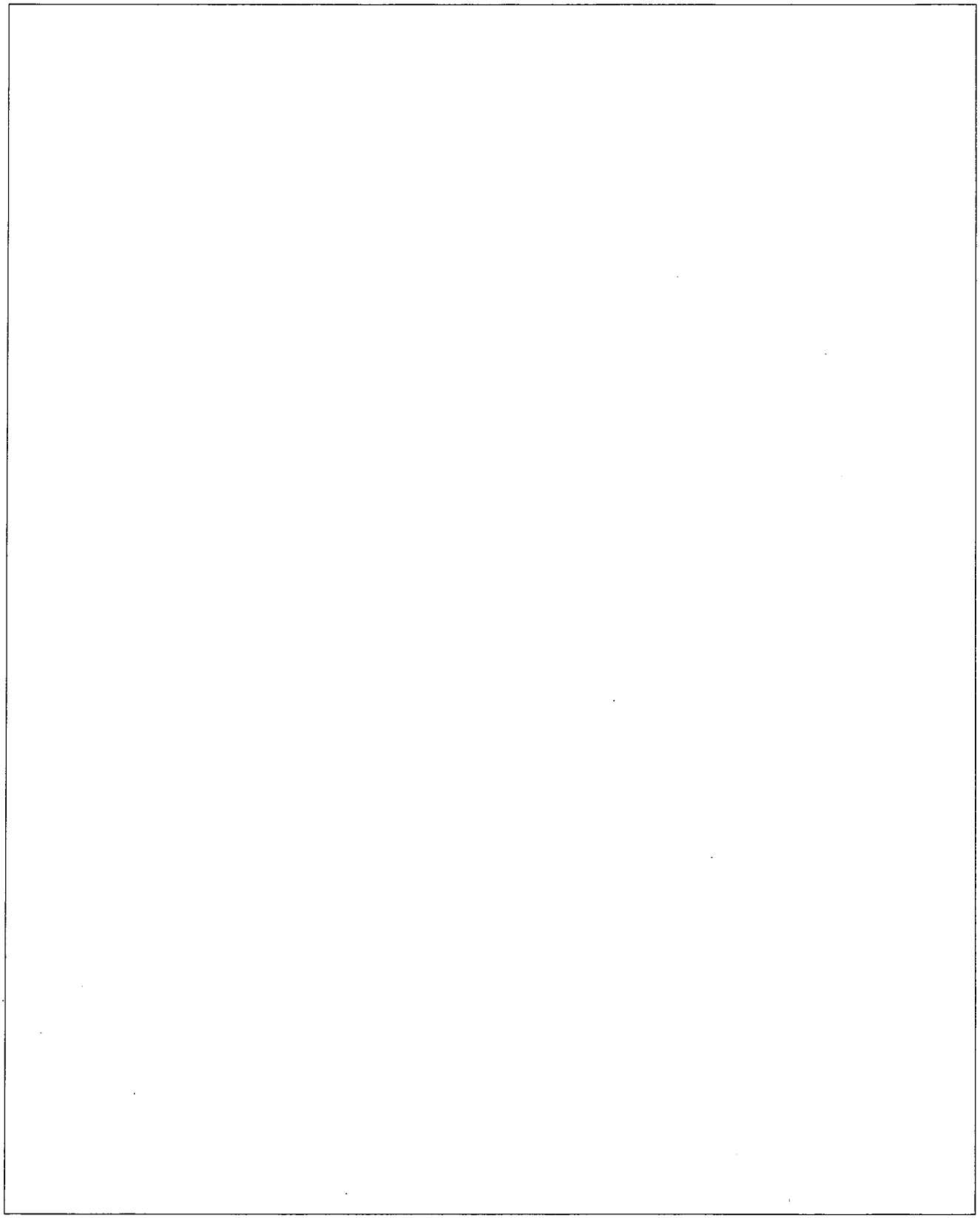


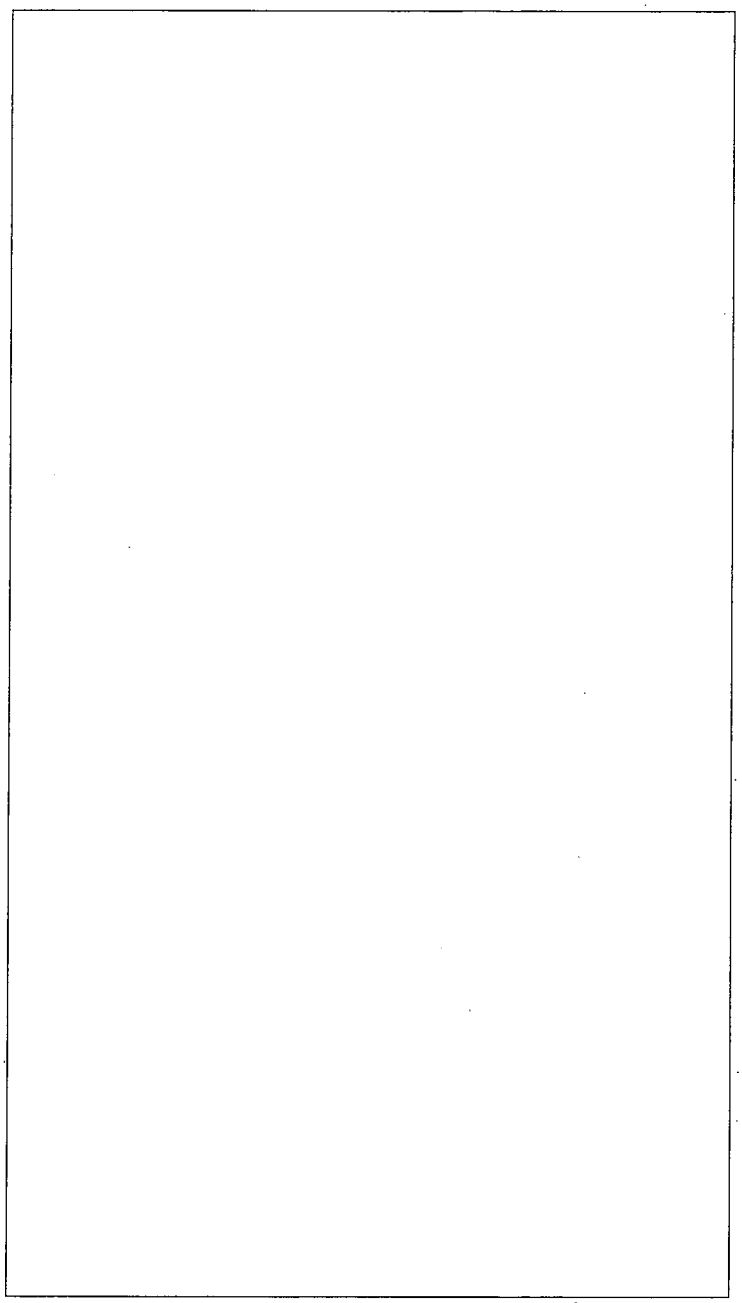
Since 9/11, Riyadh has responded to a number of US requests to staunch the flow of funds to terrorists from the Kingdom.

these actions, coupled with donors' fears of US and international actions, have led to a drop in money flowing from Saudi Arabia to al-Qa'ida



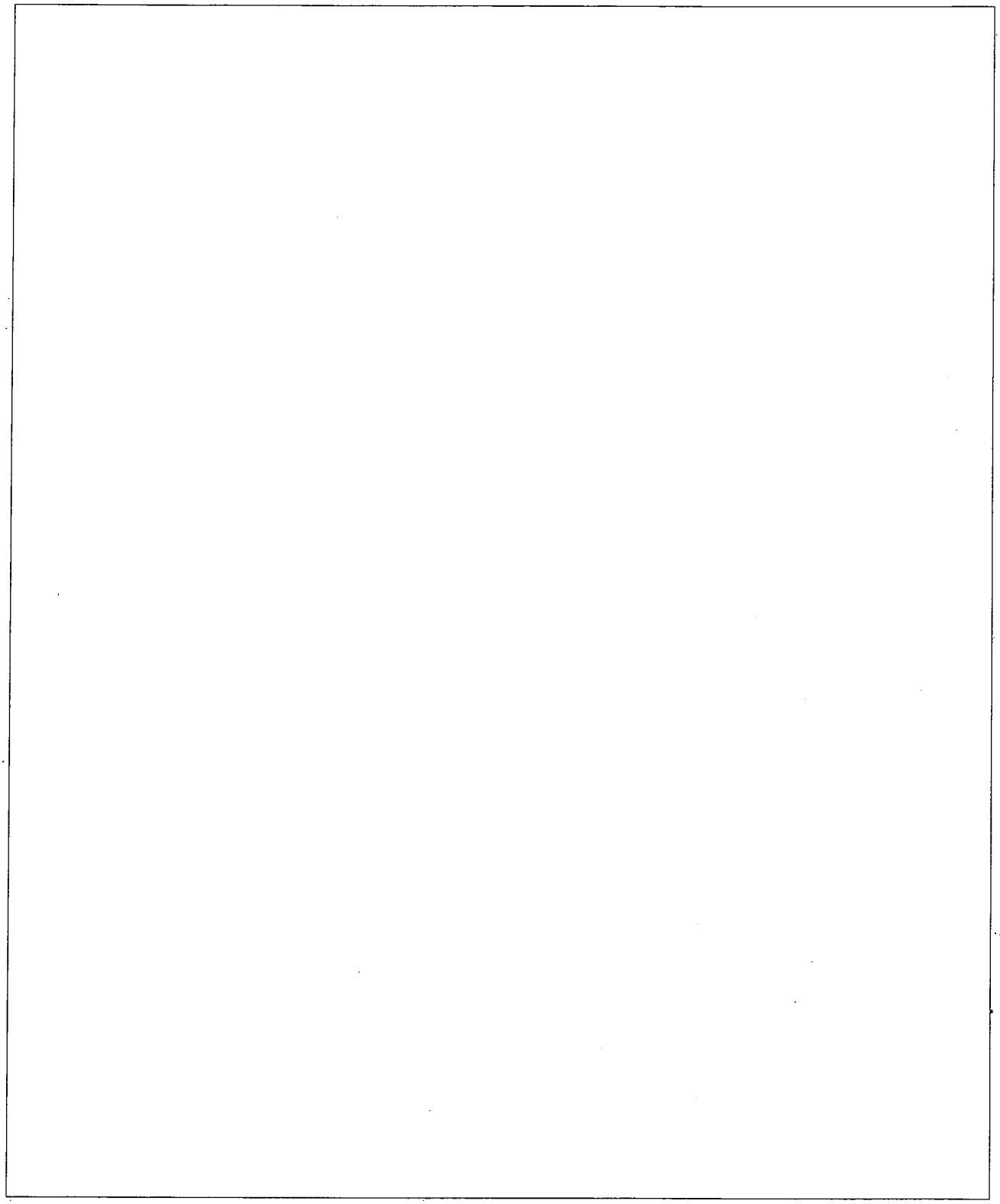






Appendix A

Collection Efforts

US and Coalition efforts to identify donors and fundraisers will continue to be key to sustaining progress on terror finance and curbing the tens of millions of dollars of Saudi donations

Collecting against or disrupting conduits such as banks and NGOs will also be critical to identifying donors and crippling the financial networks supporting al-Qa'ida