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Saudi arrests 11 al Qaeda members

(CNN) -- Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry announced Thursday it had arrested 11 al Qaeda members in the span of 48 hours who were responsible for financing and encouraging terrorism.

A ministry statement quoting a senior ministry official said the detainees were wanted terrorists in Saudi Arabia, that their assets have been frozen and an investigation into the incident is ongoing.

On Tuesday the ministry announced it had arrested three senior al Qaeda members responsible for recruiting youths via the internet and encouraging attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities.

The two Saudis and one Arab non-national were arrested in Medina, but the ministry statement did not say when.

They were also in charge of media publications for the al Qaeda terror network, the ministry said.

Saudi security forces have arrested scores of suspects in recent months as part of an anti-terror sweep against people alleged to be plotting attacks on senior officials and government oil, military and security installations.

A principal goal of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has been to bring down the Saudi monarchy, and that has been one of the key motivational factors leading the Saudi authorities to keep tabs on the terror network.

CNN's Caroline Faraj contributed to this report.