**SAUDI KING DISMISSES CONSERVATIVE ADVISER**

**AFTER RECENT REMARKS AGAINST REFORMS FOR WOMEN**

**Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah has dismissed a controversial ultraconservative adviser after he publicly criticized reforms aimed at easing restrictions on women. Sheik Abdul-Mohsen al-Obeikan had told a local radio station that officials were working to Westernize and secularize the country's laws by "legalizing taboos."**

**"This situation is a very dangerous one that is linked to schemes by influential people to corrupt Muslim society by removing women from their natural position."**

**The official Saudi Press Agency reported Friday al-Obeikan's dismissal without giving further details. King Abdullah has irked the country's hardline clerics by easing some restrictions and allowing women to vote and run in 2015 municipal elections.**

**After his dismissal, al-Obeikan posted on his Twitter account a statement saying he hopes that the kingdom's rulers are kept away from "bad advisers."**

**neo comment: This guy is utterly clueless to the fact that the world is moving on, and that religious fundamentalist idiots in every religion, are being left behind.**

**Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest sites, implements a strict interpretation of the religion and prohibits unrelated men and women from mingling. But those restrictions are enforced sporadically. This year the kingdom began to apply a 2006 law that allows women to work in lingerie and female apparel stores, despite disapproval from the country's top clerics.**

**The separation of men and women is also relaxed in other sectors of the work force. Women work as engineers, doctors, nurses and a range of other posts.**

**The former adviser, 81, sparked an uproar in 2010 when he said that a woman could be alone or even appear without her veil in front of an unrelated adult male if he drinks her breast milk because it establishes a mother-son bond in Islamic tradition. That reasoning is rejected by most Islamic scholars.**