

# UN report links MBS to Khashoggi killing

Says execution of the dissident journalist was the responsibility of the state of Saudi Arabia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
GENEVA

There is "credible evidence" linking Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) to the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a UN expert said on Wednesday, calling for sanctions on the Prince's foreign assets.

The allegation regarding Prince Mohammed's possible direct role in Khashoggi's execution was detailed in a new report by the UN special rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard.

Ms. Callamard, an independent human rights expert who does not speak for the United Nations, called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to initiate a formal international criminal investigation into the case.

She told reporters it was clear "the execution of Mr. Khashoggi was the responsibility of the state of Saudi Arabia".

She added: "There is credible evidence, warranting further investigation of high-level Saudi Officials' individual liability, including the Crown Prince's."

Khashoggi, a *Washington Post* contributor and critic of Prince Mohammed, was murdered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2. His dismembered body

## Who killed Khashoggi?

UN Special Rapporteur Agnes Callamard released on Wednesday her report on Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi's killing

### KEY FINDINGS

a) Khashoggi's murder constitutes extra-judicial killing, for which Saudi Arabia is responsible

▪ The murder can also be considered an international crime, for which states should claim universal jurisdiction

b) There is credible evidence that high-level

Saudi officials, including Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Salman**, can be held liable for the attack

c) Investigations conducted by Saudi Arabia and Turkey fail to meet international standards

d) There is a need for further investigation by an independent and impartial international team



### HOW IT UNFOLDED

**Sept. 28: 11.50 a.m.:** Khashoggi and fiancée **Hatice Cengiz** visit Saudi's Istanbul consulate unannounced, seeking a certificate. Officials ask Khashoggi to return on Oct. 2

**2.40 p.m.:** Khashoggi flies to London but, before that, information on him is relayed to Riyadh

**Oct. 1, 4.30 p.m.:** Five Saudi men, later identified as part of the 15-member team involved in the killing, arrive in Istanbul

**Oct. 2, 3.30 a.m.:** Nine other Saudi officials arrive

▪ The Consul General orders

non-Saudi staff to either not report to work on October 2 or to leave it at noon

**Oct. 2 (morning):** An official asks Khashoggi to arrive at the consulate at 1 p.m.

**10-11 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials split into two groups. Five go to the Consul General's residence, while the other 10 go to the consulate

**1.15 p.m.:** Khashoggi enters the consulate, leaving his phones with Cengiz

▪ Recordings suggest that he could have been injected with a sedative and suffocated using a plastic bag

▪ **3.53 p.m.:** Cameras record two

Saudi officials exiting the back door. One of them is wearing what appears to be Khashoggi's clothes and the other has a plastic bag

▪ **4.41 p.m.:** Cengiz phones an emergency contact on Khashoggi's disappearance

▪ **4.53 p.m. till Oct. 3, 1.25 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials leave in three different flights

▪ **4.53 p.m. till Oct. 3, 1.25 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials leave in three different flights

▪ **4.53 p.m. till Oct. 3, 1.25 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials leave in three different flights

▪ **4.53 p.m. till Oct. 3, 1.25 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials leave in three different flights

▪ **4.53 p.m. till Oct. 3, 1.25 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials leave in three different flights

▪ **4.53 p.m. till Oct. 3, 1.25 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials leave in three different flights

▪ **4.53 p.m. till Oct. 3, 1.25 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials leave in three different flights

▪ **4.53 p.m. till Oct. 3, 1.25 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials leave in three different flights

▪ **4.53 p.m. till Oct. 3, 1.25 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials leave in three different flights

has never been found. Riyadh initially said it had no knowledge of his fate, but later blamed the murder on rogue agents. Saudi prosecutors have absolved the Crown Prince of responsibility.

But Ms. Callamard said probes by Saudi Arabia and Turkey "failed to meet international standards regarding the investigation into unlaw-

ful deaths". The report specifically came across evidence that the crime scenes were "thoroughly, even forensically, cleaned" by the Saudis, in what "may amount to obstructing justice."

### Cover-up efforts

Ms. Callamard said the Saudi Crown Prince must have been aware of the cover-up efforts. She stressed she had

not found concrete evidence of who ordered the killing, but pointed out to reporters that "people directly implicated in the murder reported to him (the Crown Prince)".

"What needs to be investigated is the extent to which the Crown Prince knew or should have known what would (happen) to Mr. Khashoggi, whether he directly or indirectly incited

the killing... (and) whether he could have prevented the execution," she said.

The UN expert also insisted that any international sanctions over Khashoggi's killing "ought also to include the Crown Prince and his personal assets abroad, until and unless evidence is provided and corroborated that he carries no responsibilities for this execution".

## Sri Lanka Minister slams monk over racially charged comments

Samaraweera calls for unity against 'Talibanisation' of faith

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera on Wednesday slammed a Buddhist monk's controversial comments targeting Muslims and urged "true Buddhists" to unite against the "Talibanisation" of the religion.

In a tweet, Mr. Samaraweera said on Wednesday: "True Buddhists must unite NOW against the Talibanization of our great philosophy of peace & love of all beings. No Buddhist can condone a statement to stone another human being to death, even if it emanates from the robbed orders. #lka"

### Monk's message

His message comes days after a senior monk attached to the Asgiriya Chapter – one of the two most influential Buddhist orders in Sri Lanka – accused Muslims of "destroying the country", and called for a boycott of Muslim-run shops and businesses.

"Don't eat from those (Muslim) shops," the monk said, at a temple ceremony in the central city of Kandy,



Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera. ■ THE HINDU

they should be stoned to death. I don't say this, but what should be done is this," the monk said, according to translation by the local media of his speech in Sinhala.

The Buddhist clergy in Sri Lanka wields significant influence in national politics. Hard-line monks have in the past resorted to hate speech with little consequence.

### Lone voice

Mr. Samaraweera, the only prominent politician so far to directly challenge the Asgiriya-affiliated monk's racially charged comments, earlier challenged a fasting Buddhist monk's demand that three Muslim politicians resign over alleged links to Easter suspects.

Following the collective resignation of nine Muslim Ministers early in June, he tweeted: "Hatred is never appeased by hatred. By non-hatred alone is hatred appeased. This is a law eternal. Today, it was left to our Muslim Ministers to exhibit this sacred teaching of Lord Buddha while impostors in robes incited hatred in his name. A shameful day for our beloved #lka"

## Mike Pompeo cancels Sri Lanka visit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
COLOMBO

U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo has cancelled his visit to Sri Lanka due to "scheduling conflicts", the American mission in Colombo said on Wednesday.

Mr. Pompeo was scheduled to arrive in Sri Lanka on June 27 on a short visit. "Due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts during his upcoming visit to the Indo-Pacific region that includes accompanying President Donald J. Trump to the G20 Summit in Japan, U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo is unable to visit Sri Lanka as previously announced," the U.S. Embassy in Colombo said.

The development comes in the wake of a raging debate within Sri Lanka's political class on the government's proposed signing of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), more recently referred to as the 'Visiting Forces Agreement', with the U.S. Amid speculation, a senior official told *The Hindu*: "SOFA was not on the cards during Secretary Pompeo's visit this time... his cancellation has nothing to do with that."

## MH17 crash: 3 Russians, 1 Ukrainian to face charges

REUTERS  
NIEUWEGEIN

Three Russians and a Ukrainian will face murder charges for the 2014 downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine which killed 298 people, in a trial to start in the Netherlands next March, an investigation team said on Wednesday.

The suspects are likely to be tried *in absentia*, howev-

er, as the Netherlands has said Russia has not cooperated with the investigation.

Justice Minister Ferdinand Grapperhaus said in a letter to Parliament that the Netherlands had taken unspecified "diplomatic steps" against Moscow for failing to fully comply with legal requests.

The Dutch-led international team, tasked with as-

signing criminal responsibility for the plane's destruction, named the four suspects as Russians Sergey Dubinsky, Oleg Pulatov and Igor Girkin, and Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko. It said international arrest warrants for the four had been issued.

Girkin, 48, a battle-hardened Russian nationalist, is believed to live in Moscow where he makes regular pu-

blic appearances. Ukrainian authorities said they would try to detain Kharchenko, the suspect believed to be on their territory.

Most of those on board the crashed plane were Dutch. The investigation team formed by Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine found that the plane was shot down by a Russian missile.

## ELSEWHERE



### Morsi was murdered, says Erdoğan

ANKARA  
Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Wednesday vowed to try to ensure the Egyptian government is tried in international courts for the death of Mohamed Morsi. "Mohamed Morsi flailed on the courtroom floor for 20 minutes and the authorities did not help him. This is why I say Morsi did not die, he was murdered," Mr. Erdoğan said at an election rally. REUTERS

### U.S. again blames Iran over tanker attack

FUJAIRAH  
A Japanese-owned tanker attacked in the Gulf of Oman last week was damaged by a limpet mine resembling those used by Iran, the U.S. military said on Wednesday, as Tehran slammed accusations against it. The Japanese-owned *Kokuka Courageous* came under attack last Thursday. AFP

## A fortnight after resignation, 2 Muslim MPs return to govt.

7 others have decided not to rejoin the administration

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

A fortnight after resigning from their ministerial positions in protest, two Muslim legislators were on Wednesday sworn in to the posts they earlier held.

Parliamentarians Kabir Hashim and Abdul Haleem took oath but seven other former Ministers, who resigned with them, did not assume ministerial charge.

Citing growing instances of Sri Lanka's Muslims being "demonised" and "framed" following the Easter terror attacks, all nine Muslim Ministers had stepped down on June 3. This sudden move came in the wake of a fasting Buddhist monk's demand that three key politicians, including a Minister, resign over alleged links with the Easter bombing suspects.

The resignations sparked anger among critics who accused the country's leaders



Kabir Hashim, who took oath as Minister on Wednesday.

of succumbing to undue pressure from the Buddhist clergy. Soon after, the monk called off his "fast unto death". Days later, senior clergy met the Muslim leadership and reportedly urged them to withdraw their resignations.

### UNP members

The two Ministers who took charge on Wednesday are from the ruling United National Party (UNP). The seven others are from the Sri

Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) and the All Ceylon Makkal Congress (ACMC).

All Muslim MPs met on Tuesday and held discussions on next steps. Local media reported that the meeting was "inconclusive". "The two of them were under a lot of pressure from their party and its leadership to re-join as Ministers. We appreciate their need to work within their party," SLMC deputy leader H.M.M. Hareez said.

However, the other former Ministers decided that they would not take up the posts until their concerns are fully addressed. "So many Muslims have been arbitrarily arrested. And our politicians have been accused of several things – let the authorities probe all that and clear any doubts. We have decided that the ministerial posts can wait until then," Mr. Hareez told *The Hindu*.