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

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

She added: "There is credible evidence, warranting further investigation of highlevel 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?**

KEY FINDINGS

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

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

has never been found. Ri-

yadh initially said it had no

knowledge of his fate, but la-

ter blamed the murder on

rogue agents. Saudi prosecu-

tors have absolved the

Prince

But Ms. Callamard said

probes by Saudi Arabia and

Turkey "failed to meet inter-

national standards regarding

the investigation into unlaw-

b) There is credible evidence that



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

d) There is a need for independent and impartial international

ful deaths". The report spec-

ifically came across evidence

that the crime scenes were

"thoroughly, even forensical-

ly, cleaned" by the Saudis, in

what "may amount to ob-

Ms. Callamard said the Saudi

Crown Prince must have

been aware of the cover-up

structing justice."

Cover-up efforts

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

HOW IT UNFOLDED

a.m.: Khashoggi and

visit Saudi's Istanbul

nounced, seeking a

certificate, Oficials

ask Khashoggi to

2.40 p.m.: Khashoggi

flies to London but,

before that, informa-

tion on him is relayed

consulate unan-

fiancee Hatice Cengiz

Sept. 28: 11. 50

officials arrive The Consul

Oct. 2, 3.30 a.m.:

Nine other Saudi

to leave it at noon Oct. 2 (morning): An official asks Khashog gi to arrive at the

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

non-Saudi staff to

either not report to

work on October 2 or

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

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

Cameras record two

and the other has a plastic bag • 4.41 p.m.: Cengiz phones an emergency contact on Khashog-

Saudi officials exiting

the back door. One

of them is wearing

what appears to be

Khashoggi's clothes

gi's disappearance 4.53 p.m. till Oct. **3, 1.25 a.m.:** The 15 Saudi officials leave in

three different flights

with Cengiz

3.53 p.m.:

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

The UN expert also insist-

ed 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".

It is 2016 redux as Trump launches re-election campaign

Slams media and attacks Democrats over immigration

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

U.S. President Donald Trump launched his campaign with a rally in Orlando, Florida, focusing on themes that he has repeatedly touted during the first three years of his presiden-

Mr. Trump spoke for over an hour to a crowd of about 20,000 at the Amway Center, emphasising tried and tested themes - illegal immigration, an America-first policy, fake media, the economy, and a characterisation of himself and his base as victims of an increasingly leftist Democratic party trying to overturn the 2016 election results.

Supported by boos and chants from the crowd, Mr. Trump took shots at the media early on in his speech. A few minutes into the speech, the crowd chanted, "CNN sucks", and laughed and clapped when Mr. Trump pointed to the media gallery and said, "By the way, that's a lot of fake news back there..."

'Drain the swamp'

The President repeatedly returned to the theme of his base and himself taking back the country from an en-

trenched political class that "enriched itself" at the expense of the people.

"We did not merely transfer power from one party to another but we transferred power to you, the proud citizens of the Untied States of America," he said, of his Inauguration Day in January 2017.

"We broke down the doors of Washington backrooms where deals were cut to close our companies, give away your jobs, shut down our factories and surrender your sovereignty and your very way of life... and we've ended it," Mr. Trump said.

He said that he was "draining the swamp", his trademark reference to the Washington political establishment, and that is why the swamp "was fighting back so viciously and violently".

At one point in his speech, he called for a vote on whether to keep his 2016 campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," or to adopt a new one, "Keep America Great," [which won].

Mr. Trump railed against the Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 elections, calling it "a

great hoax" and accused the Democrats of conducting a "witch-hunt" to overturn the results of the 2016 election.

The crowd chanted. "Lock her up", when Mr. Trump's 2016 Democratic opponent Hilary Clinton was mentioned in this context.

The President accused Democrats of trying to ruin Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's life and family. Mr. Kavanaugh was publicly accused by three women of sexual misconduct and faced a rocky Senate confirmation last year. The President also touted his record for filling judicial vacancies.

Illegal migration

Mr. Trump accused the Democrats of wanting to flood the country with illegal migrants in order to bolster their support base. He termed "morally reprehensible" the Democrat agenda of "open borders" [Democrats have not actually articulated "open borders" as a policy].

On Tuesday morning, in what critics said is a campaign ploy, Mr. Trump tweeted that immigration agents would, next week, begin "removing the millions of illegal aliens who have illicitly found their way into the United States."

Sri Lanka Minister slams monk over racially charged comments

responsibility.

Samaraweera calls for unity against 'Talibanisation' of faith

MEERA SRINIVASAN

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

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 robed

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

near the famous Buddhist temple of the tooth relic.

In the two months since the April 21 Easter bombings, which killed about 260 people, reactionary forces in the country have resorted to anti-Muslim violence and hate speech on more than one occasion.

Further, referring to a Muslim doctor who has been at the centre of an unsubstantiated sterilisation scare, the senior monk said the doctor was doing a "heroic" deed by destroying "hundreds of thousands" Sinhalese children.

"These traitors must not be allowed to live in freedom," he said in Sinhala. 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 nonhatred 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

Mike Pompeo cancels Sri Lanka visit

not found concrete evidence

of who ordered the killing,

but pointed out to reporters

that "people directly impli-

cated in the murder reported

to him (the Crown Prince)".

gated is the extent to which

the Crown Prince knew or

should have known what

would (happen) to Mr.

Khashoggi, whether he di-

rectly or indirectly incited

"What needs to be investi-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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 an nounced," 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

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, however, 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

The Dutch-led international team, tasked with assigning criminal responsibilifor 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 public 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



says Erdoğan

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

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





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



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*.