



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1501

February 26, 2021

The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Brooke Pinto  
Councilmember  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Pinto:

I support the Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021 (B24-22), which would symbolically designate New Hampshire Avenue NW between Virginia Avenue NW and F Street NW as “Jamal Khashoggi Way.” It is fitting that the road in front of the Embassy for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would be designated as Jamal Khashoggi Way. Jamal Khashoggi was a Washington Post columnist, a resident of the national capital region and an advocate for human rights. His commitment to American ideals, like freedom of speech and democracy, are worth honoring in the District of Columbia.

The U.S. Intelligence Community has concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the killing of Khashoggi. According to investigations by Turkey and the United Nations, Khashoggi was lured to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to pick up paperwork, where he was drugged and his body dismembered by Saudi agents.

Renaming the street in front of the Saudi Embassy would serve as a constant reminder to Saudi government officials that the U.S. remains committed to promoting democracy, freedom of the press and freedom of speech and that the brutal murder of Khashoggi will not be forgotten. The UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings, Agnes Callamard, also urged D.C. to “erect a memorial to Mr. Khashoggi’s stand for freedom of the press in front of the Saudi [Embassy]” or “the street should be renamed in his honor,” as this bill would do.

I commend Councilmember Pinto for introducing this bill and support the Council passing this important bill to honor the legacy of Jamal Khashoggi.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress