

**FORMAL SUBMISSION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY RECOMMENDING SANCTIONS FOR
INVOLVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND/OR CORRUPTION**

THIS SUBMISSION IS MADE UNDER:

**THE GLOBAL MAGNITSKY HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT
AS IMPLEMENTED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 13818**

AND

§7031(C) OF THE FY 2020 FURTHER CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT

**RECOMMENDATION SUBMITTED BY
DEMOCRACY FOR THE ARAB WORLD NOW (DAWN)**

**POINT OF CONTACT REGARDING SUBMISSION
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INFORMATION ABOUT SUBMITTING ORGANIZATION

DAWN¹ is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, 501(c)(3), based in New York. It promotes democracy, the rule of law, and human rights for all of the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). DAWN's research focus includes exposing government officials responsible for human rights abuses, as well as enablers who facilitate these abuses.²

The prominent Saudi journalist and dissident, Jamal Khashoggi, founded DAWN in 2018, a few months before Saudi officials murdered and dismembered him in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The United States government has designated 18 Saudi officials and a Saudi entity involved in that murder under the Global Magnitsky Act and E.O. 13818. DAWN has documented the responsibility of additional Saudi individuals for serious human rights abuses, including the official described in this submission.

¹ <https://dawnmena.org>

² <https://dawnmena.org/countries/dawns-culprits-gallery/>

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Section 1. Case Summary

Country: **Saudi Arabia**

Perpetrator: **Awadh bin Ali bin Aaed al-Musheer al-Ahmari**, Head of Saudi Arabia's Specialized Criminal Court (since June 9, 2022).

Summary:

Awadh al-Ahmari is a loyal associate of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS). He served as a detective in the State Security Circuit of the Public Prosecution Office from 2010 to 2022. His duties included leading investigations and interrogations of detainees accused of security and terrorism offenses by the Saudi government, and assisting the Saudi government to prosecute them.

In his role as public prosecutor, al-Ahmari was complicit in the torture, extraction of forced confessions, and detention of peaceful human rights activists. This included prominent Saudi human rights defender, Dr. Abdullah al-Hamid, whom al-Ahmari interrogated in 2013 and extracted forced confessions from him. As a result, Dr. al-Hamid was sentenced to 10 years in prison, where he died in April 2020. Another prisoner of conscience whom DAWN is not naming for safety reasons told DAWN on October 12, 2022 that al-Ahmari interrogated him in 2014 about videos he posted to YouTube and forced him to sign a confession that he was an "extremist" and "terrorist." When the prisoner retracted his confession in court, he said that al-Ahmari locked him in solitary confinement for months, a form of torture, until he confessed again under threats from al-Ahmari. He said that al-Ahmari dictated his confession verbatim and then coerced him to sign it. As a result, he was sentenced to and served a few years in prison.

Al-Ahmari was appointed by the Saudi government to lead the investigation, together with the Saudi Attorney General, into the Saudi government's murder of Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul in October 2018. The investigation came as part of a campaign by the Saudi government that at first denied knowledge of Khashoggi's whereabouts, and later acknowledged that he was murdered by Saudi officials at the Consulate. But it protected high-ranking Saudi officials, such as MBS and Saud al-Qahtani, by denying they had given the orders to the killing, despite clear evidence to the contrary.

On June 9, 2022, MBS appointed al-Ahmari by royal decree to head the infamous Saudi counterterrorism court, the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC), despite al-Ahmari's lack of judicial training and any previous roles as a judge. As head of this counterterrorism court, al-Ahmari has continued to serve the Saudi government's campaign of repression, including by targeting family members of activists abroad by using the SCC to sentence them to lengthy prison terms and even death, such as in the case of Mohammed al-Ghamdi, brother of dissident Saudi cleric in exile, Dr Saied al-Ghamdi.

Section 2. Biographical Perpetrator Information



Full Legal Name of Perpetrator: Awadh bin Ali bin Aaed al-Musheer al-Ahmari

Name in Arabic: عوض بن علي بن عائض آل ميشر الأحمرري

Country: Saudi Arabia

Title or Position: Head of Specialized Criminal Court (since June 9, 2022), and former detective in the State Security Circuit of the Public Prosecution Office in Saudi Arabia (from 2010 to 2022).

Date of Birth: Unknown

Other Known Personal Identifiers: N/A.

Past Travel to the United States: Unknown

Section 3. List of Known Assets Controlled by Perpetrator

We do not have information about assets held by Awadh al-Ahmari.

Section 4. Factual/Contextual Background

Beginning in 2017, Saudi Crown Prince MBS embarked on a brutal campaign to concentrate power in his own hands by replacing existing security agencies with ones that report directly to him, eliminating his rivals, and imprisoning activists, clerics, and businessmen. To achieve his goals, he relied on loyal and trustworthy advisors who were willing to carry out his dirty work. One of those loyal henchmen was Awadh al-Ahmari.

Al-Ahmari's abuses began before MBS appointed him Head of the Specialized Criminal Court, the notorious Saudi counterterrorism court, in June 2022. Al-Ahmari was a detective in the State Security Circuit of the Public Prosecution Office from 2010 to 2022. During his time as a detective, he oversaw the interrogation and torture of numerous political detainees accused of security-related offences, including peaceful human rights activists. He used his position as a detective to extract false confessions from detainees who ended up being sentenced to lengthy prison terms solely based on forced and coerced confessions. At least one of these detainees died in prison before finishing serving his sentence.

MBS has relied on al-Ahmari to eliminate his rivals and consolidate power in Saudi Arabia. Al-Ahmari was part of the Saudi delegation that visited Istanbul in 2018 to cover up Jamal Khashoggi's murder. Together with the Saudi Attorney General, he refused to share with Turkish investigators information from interrogations with Khashoggi's murderers and prevented his Turkish counterparts from interrogating the suspects. His role in the Khashoggi investigation, as explained below, served the purpose of exonerating MBS and other senior Saudi officials from the murder.

Since being appointed Head of the SCC in June 2022, largely as a reward for executing MBS's wishes, al-Ahmari has been involved in the unfair trials and sentencing of a large number of detainees, many of whom did not commit any internationally recognizable offense. This includes the sentencing to death of Mohammed al-Ghamdi by the SCC on July 10, 2023, solely on the basis of peaceful tweets, and to punish his brother and renowned Saudi religious scholar Saied al-Ghamdi who is in exile in the U.K., as explained below.

4.1. Torture, Coerced Confession, and Lengthy Imprisonment of Dr. Abdullah al-Hamid and Others

Al-Ahmari is complicit in the torture, extraction of forced confessions, and detention of peaceful human rights activists. Family of prominent Saudi human rights defender, Dr. Abdullah al-Hamid, told DAWN on September 7, 2022 that al-Ahmari interrogated Dr. al-Hamid in 2013 about his peaceful activism and extracted forced confessions from him. As a result, Dr. al-Hamid was sentenced to 10 years in prison. He died in prison in April 2020 due to health complications from lengthy imprisonment and inadequate access to care.

Another source, a prisoner of conscience whom DAWN is not naming for safety reasons, told DAWN on October 12, 2022 that al-Ahmari interrogated him in 2014 about videos he posted to YouTube and forced him to sign a confession that he was an "extremist" and "terrorist." When

the prisoner retracted his confession in court, he said that al-Ahmari locked him in solitary confinement for months, a form of torture, until he confessed again under threats from al-Ahmari. He said that al-Ahmari dictated his confession verbatim and then coerced him to sign it. As a result, he was sentenced to and served a lengthy prison term, after which he was released from prison.

4.2. Cover-up of Jamal Khashoggi's Murder in Istanbul

Al-Ahmari was part of the Saudi government's efforts to conceal evidence of, and mislead Turkish investigations into, U.S. resident Khashoggi's murder in Turkey. He was part of the delegation accompanying the Saudi Attorney General to Istanbul in October 2018, after the Saudi government denied knowing where Khashoggi was or that he was killed. At the Istanbul consulate, al-Ahmari participated in a Saudi government cover-up of the crime, during which the Saudi team thoroughly and forensically cleaned the crime scenes before allowing Turkish investigators to have limited access and prevented them from draining a well located in the Consular's residence where investigators believe the perpetrators hid Khashoggi's remains.

Al-Ahmari and the team also refused to share evidence with the Turkish authorities, including testimonies of members of the Saudi hit team, prevented Turkish authorities from interrogating the suspects implicated in the crime, and provided false information to the public about what had transpired, including that Khashoggi had left the Consulate, that the killing was an accident, and that it was carried out by rogue elements. Attorney General Saud al-Mojeb decided not to indict MBS's right-hand man, Saud al-Qahtani, even though the U.N. and the U.S. Office of Director of National Intelligence identified him as the mastermind of the operation. Al-Mojeb and al-Ahmari also failed to investigate MBS's role in the murder, who U.S. intelligence reports concluded had ordered the murder. The Saudi prosecutors also gave contradictory statements about the murder and failed to investigate the location of Khashoggi's remains.

4.3. Death Sentence against Mohammed al-Ghamdi, Saied al-Ghamdi's Brother

Al-Ahmari is also implicated in extraterritorial repression against U.K. resident Saied al-Ghamdi, overseeing and approving a retaliatory death sentence against his brother Mohammed al-Ghamdi in Saudi Arabia. On June 9, 2022, MBS appointed al-Ahmari by royal decree to head the Saudi counter-terrorism court, the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC), despite al-Ahmari's lack of judicial training and any previous roles as a judge. Soon after his appointment, the SCC charged ten former judges, including six from the same court, with "high treason," a crime punishable by death in Saudi Arabia, for being too lenient in cases they presided over.

On May 28, 2023, al-Ahmari assigned the case of Mohammed al-Ghamdi to three unnamed SCC judges who on July 10, 2023, sentenced al-Ghamdi to death for his peaceful social media posts. According to Saied al-Ghamdi, Mohammed al-Ghamdi's brother, the sentence was a retaliatory punishment against him due to his peaceful dissident activism in exile in the U.K. As head of the SCC, al-Ahmari reviews and approves all cases where defendants are accused of crimes punishable by death or are sentenced to death by the court.

Section 5. National Interest Argument & Explanation of Foreseeable Impact

It is in the U.S. government's interest to ensure that torture, other forms of ill treatment, repression of reformist and pro-democracy activists, and transnational repression do not go unpunished. The designation of al-Ahmari would demonstrate the commitment and leadership of the U.S. to holding human rights violators accountable and ensuring that criminal convictions against individuals are aligned with international standards of fair trial rights. It would also show that the U.S. stands with the rule of law, international norms, and brave Saudi pro-democracy and rights activists.

These designations are aligned with the aims set out in Executive Order 13818, finding that human rights abuses outside the United States “undermine the values that form an essential foundation of stable, secure, and functioning societies” and “degrade the rule of law.” Degrading the rule of law is a threat to global peace and security when practiced by our enemies but an even greater threat when openly tolerated by our allies. As one of MBS's close aides, al-Ahmari has engaged in systematic human rights abuses, which are undoubtedly the type of activity the President intended to target in issuing Executive Order 13818. The ~~GSS~~ designation would send a bold message that the United States does not employ the Magnitsky Act as a method of impugning our adversaries but will hold even our allies and individuals to account when they commit serious human rights abuses.

Sanctioning al-Ahmari would send a message to al-Ahmari, MBS and his aides that the United States is observing the conduct of Saudi officials and will take action in the case of severe human rights abuses and gross violations. It would contribute to establishing human rights standards as a consistent policy in U.S.-Saudi relations and deter future abuses by al-Ghamdi and high-level Saudi officials.

Section 6. Case Type

DAWN submits that al-Ahmari is subject to Global Magnitsky sanctions under Executive Order 13818, Section 1(a)(ii)(A), “to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged in, serious human rights abuse,” and Section 1(a)(ii)(B)(1) and (2) as a current official of “or a person acting for or on behalf of such an official, who is responsible for or complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged in: (1) corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery; or (2) the transfer or the facilitation of the transfer of the proceeds of corruption.”

DAWN also submits that al-Ahmari is subject to 7031(c) sanctions under Section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020 (Div. G, P.L. 117-94) for being directly or indirectly involved in multiple gross violations of human rights.

Section 7. Summary of Evidence

Evidence of al-Ahmari’s involvement in gross human rights violations comes from testimony of victims and relatives of victims of cases in which al-Ahmari was involved as a Saudi government official. The evidence also includes publicly available sources that contain information about al-Ahmari’s involvement in specific cases, in addition to his command responsibility.

Al-Ahmari’s role in the interrogation, torture, and extraction of forced confessions of human rights activists during his time as an investigator in the Saudi prosecution comes from two separate sources. One is the family of Dr. Abdullah al-Hamid, a renowned Saudi reformist and peaceful activist, whose family told DAWN on September 7, 2022, that al-Ahmari interrogated al-Hamid in 2013 and coerced him into signing false confessions that were later used to sentence him to a lengthy prison term in 2013.

Similarly, the family of a second prisoner of conscience, who have not consented to DAWN sharing their name, told DAWN on October 12, 2022, that al-Ahmari forced the prisoner to sign false confessions that he was an “extremist” and a “terrorist.” They told DAWN that when the prisoner retracted his confession in court, al-Ahmari locked him in solitary confinement for months, a form of torture, until he confessed again under threats from al-Ahmari. They told DAWN that the prisoner told them that al-Ahmari dictated his confession verbatim and then coerced him to sign it. As a result, he was sentenced to and served a few years in prison.

Al-Ahmari’s role in the cover-up of Jamal Khashoggi’s murder is publicly available. His photo accompanying the Saudi Attorney General Saud al-Mojeb in Istanbul has been produced by different media outlets and was formally announced by the Saudi government.³ The Turkish authorities announced that the Saudi delegation, headed by al-Mojeb and with the involvement of al-Ahmari, did not allow them to interview the Saudi suspects.⁴ The delegation that al-Mojeb was part of visited the crime scene, which was later discovered to contain evidence of a thorough cleanup.⁵ Together with al-Mojeb, al-Ahmari did not charge suspects such as Saud al-Qahtani who was involved in Khashoggi’s murder as announced by the U.S. government based on evidence from U.S. Intelligence agencies. Additionally, al-Ahmari did not interrogate MBS, whom U.S. Intelligence concluded had given the orders to kill Khashoggi.⁶

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<https://hourriya-tagheer.org/news/%D8%A3%D8%AD%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%AA-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%AF-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D9%83%D9%85%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A3%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%87>

⁴ <https://www.docdroid.net/sEed5Ru/un-khashoggi-report-june-2019-pdf>

⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-executions/inquiry-killing-mr-jamal-kashoggi>

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<https://www.odni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/Assessment-Saudi-Gov-Role-in-JK-Death-20210226v2.pdf>

As for sentencing Mohammed al-Ghamdi to death, al-Ahmari was responsible for assigning the case to judges at the Specialized Criminal Court and approving his death sentence.⁷ This is despite it being clear that the only evidence against Mohammed al-Ghamdi were a handful of anonymous and harmless tweets. Furthermore, Dr. Saied al-Ghamdi, brother of Mohammed al-Ghamdi, himself accused al-Ahmari for sentencing his brother to death to punish Dr. Saied al-Ahmari for his criticism of MBS.⁸

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<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/08/saudi-arabia-drop-ludicrous-conviction-and-death-sentence-against-man-convicted-over-social-media-posts/>

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<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/08/saudi-arabia-drop-ludicrous-conviction-and-death-sentence-against-man-convicted-over-social-media-posts/>

Section 8. Application of Legal Standards to the Facts of the Case

1. Gross Violations of Human Rights under 7031(c)

Section 7031(c) utilizes the “gross violations of internationally recognized human rights” standard defined in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to include “torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges and trial, causing the disappearance of persons by the abduction and clandestine detention of those persons, and other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of person.”⁹ It is clear that al-Ahmari has been involved in systematic abuses that meet this standard.

The acts overseen by al-Ahmari show a pattern of abuse, torture, and ill treatment. These actions constitute torture under the U.S. definition, as they were carried out by government officials acting under the color of law, and they were intentionally inflicted to cause severe physical or mental pain or suffering upon the individuals in their custody.¹⁰ However, the U.S. statutory definition applies only to perpetrators and acts under the territorial or personal jurisdiction of the United States. As such, the international definition must also be considered, notably that found in the Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). These actions also meet the definition of torture under CAT, as they were intentionally inflicted by public officials for the purpose of obtaining confessions, intimidation, or punishment.¹¹

Al-Ghamdi’s actions have also demonstrated a pattern of prolonged pretrial detention and forced disappearance. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ('Working Group') has found that detention is "arbitrary" when it fits into any one of the following categories:

1. When it is clearly impossible to invoke any legal basis justifying the deprivation of liberty.
2. When the deprivation of liberty results from the deprivation of the exercise of the rights and freedoms granted by certain other rights in the Declaration or the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the right to freedom of speech.
3. When the right to a fair trial has been so gravely breached that it gives the deprivation of liberty an arbitrary character.

⁹ 22 U.S.C. § 2340(d)(1).

¹⁰ 18 USC § 2430 (1) (2004), (“torture” means an act committed by a person acting under the color of law specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering (other than pain or suffering incidental to lawful sanctions) upon another person within his custody or physical control”).

¹¹ Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, G.A. Res. 39/46, U.N. Doc. 39/46 (10 Dec. 1984), Art. 1 (“the term "torture" means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.”).

4. When asylum seekers, immigrants, and refugees are subjected to prolonged administrative custody without the possibility of administrative or judicial review or remedy.
5. When the deprivation of liberty constitutes a violation of international law on the grounds of discrimination, including discrimination as to political opinion, that aims towards or can result in the ignoring of equality of human beings.

On November 17, 2016, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention renewed¹² its call to the Saudi authorities to release Dr. Abdullah al-Hamid and others arbitrarily deprived of their liberty by the Saudi government. It maintained that, in their treatment of al-Hamid and fellow reformists, Saudi authorities breached article 9, 10, 19, and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.¹³

Furthermore, the perpetrator of these crimes, as identified in this submission, is a government official engaging in activities within the sovereign territory of Saudi Arabia. As such, he qualifies for sanctioning under 7031(c).

2. Serious Human Rights Abuses under Global Magnitsky/EO 13818

Executive Order 13818 subjects current or former “leaders or officials” of foreign governmental entities to sanction where the entity at issue, or its members, have engaged in “serious human rights abuses.” While the EO does not define this term, it clearly contemplates “gross violations of human rights” by government officials. As described above, the current case clearly meets this threshold.

Furthermore, with crimes in this case beginning in at least 2013 and extending into the present – including the ongoing detention and death sentence on Mohammed al-Ghamdi, lack of accountability of Jamal Khashoggi’s murder, in addition to al-Ahmari’s role as the head of the SCC, which is involved in systematic abuses, – the case meets Global Magnitsky’s recency requirement. As such, al-Ahmari’s case meets the threshold of a “serious human rights abuse,” and DAWN hereby submits al-Ahmari to be considered for sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Act for his membership in a government entity that has perpetrated these abuses.

In 2018, the United States government designated 17 Saudi officials involved in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi under the Global Magnitsky Act and E.O. 13818. Like al-Ahmari, those officials were found to have used violence to suppress peaceful dissent.

¹² UN Special Procedures, “One Year On: UN group renews call for Saudi Arabia to release human rights activists,” 17 November 2016,

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/2016/11/one-year-un-group-renews-call-saudi-arabia-release-human-rights-activists>

¹³ Human Rights Council Working Group Opinion No.38/2015 (Saudi Arabia), 26 October 2015,

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Detention/Opinions2015AUV/Opinion_2015_38_SaudiArabia_Sheikh_al_Rashudi_and_et_final_AUV.pdf.

3. Role of the Individual Perpetrator

Executive Order 13818, signed by former U.S. President Trump in December 2017, provides for the sanction of individuals who are “leaders or officials” of governmental entities engaged in serious human rights abuses “relating to the leader’s or official’s tenure.” Section 7031(c) provides for the sanction of individuals who are involved in gross violations of human rights both “directly and indirectly.” Al-Ahmari has held an official position as investigator in the Saudi public prosecution since 2010 and Head of the SCC since 2022.

Due to the widespread and regular nature of al-Ahmari’s abuses, and the fact that these incidents of torture, unfair trials, prolonged detention, death sentences, and cover up for murder have been well known and documented and have occurred repeatedly for a period of years, DAWN submits that al-Ahmari was knowingly complicit in, and knew or should have known, that the government entities he led, or their subordinates within those entities, have been engaged in, ongoing human rights abuses. Furthermore, al-Ahmari failed to take necessary measures to halt the abuses or to investigate them in a genuine effort to impose punishment on the perpetrators.

Section 9. Discussion of Contrary Evidence/Arguments

The Saudi authorities commonly claim that their judicial system and justice process is fair, and that there is no ill-treatment or unfair trials in Saudi courts. They therefore reject evidence and arguments to the contrary. This is despite the fact that numerous reports by UN bodies and international human rights organizations have clearly stated and provided evidence of systematic fair trial violations, including torture and ill-treatment in Saudi prisons and detention centers.

When confronted with decisive evidence, the Saudi government claimed that Khashoggi's murder was a mistake carried out by rogue agents. They argue that they sent al-Ahmari to Istanbul to investigate Khashoggi's murder, and that the investigation later led to holding eight Saudi officials accountable. However, human rights organizations, UN officials, and journalists criticized the trials as "mockery of justice." The UN Report concluded that "The hit-men are guilty, sentenced to death. The masterminds not only walk free, they have barely been touched by the investigation and trial."

Al-Ahmari did not charge MBS and Saud al-Qahtani, the masterminds and highest-ranking officials involved in Khashoggi's murder. This is despite the direct evidence collected by the Turkish authorities that the hit team discussed the murder before it occurred and reported back to officials back in Saudi Arabia immediately after it occurred, and also despite evidence collected by the U.S. intelligence community of MBS's involvement. The Saudi authorities came up with a number of clearly false and misleading narratives to cover the premeditated killing of Jamal Khashoggi. We now know that none of these narratives – that Khashoggi left the Consulate soon after he entered it, that he left using the back door as evidence by video-recordings of his double, that his killing was an accident, that the Crown Prince was not aware of the planned killing, etc. – are accurate. In fact, they were created to conceal the premeditated, targeted, extra-territorial killing of a peaceful dissident.

Saudi authorities argue that they arrested, charged, tried, and sentenced Dr. al-Ghamdi's brother, Mohammed al-Ghamdi, according to the Saudi laws and for a list of offenses including "renouncing allegiance to the guardians of the state"; "supporting a terrorist ideology and a terrorist entity (the Muslim Brotherhood)"; "using his accounts on Twitter and YouTube to follow and promote individuals who seek to destabilize public order"; and "sympathizing with individuals detained on terrorism-related charges." But they also acknowledge that evidence for all these charges came from a handful of tweets that al-Ghamdi has posted through an anonymous Twitter (X) account, which had less than ten followers. Peaceful tweets which do not incite hatred or violence are not violent acts, should not fall under the jurisdiction of the SCC, which is a specialized criminal court limited in jurisdiction to terrorism and security-related offences, and should not be punished by death as they do not constitute a serious or major crime.