



[Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Comments on Khashoggi Killing](#)

In an interview with CBS News this past Sunday night, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman denied having any connection to the murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey last year. Khashoggi was last seen at the Saudi consulate there where he was collecting documentation before his upcoming wedding. According to reports, his body was dismembered and taken from the building, and his remains have not been found.

Mohammed bin Salman's recent television interview, which aired on CBS' "60 Minutes," was the first time that the Crown Prince had conducted an on-camera interview regarding the Khashoggi murder. In it, bin Salman took indirect responsibility for the killing, saying that as the de-facto Saudi leader he was to blame as it was an action committed by Saudi officials against a Saudi citizen. He also called the crime "heinous" and said that the perpetrators were being investigated and would be put on trial, regardless of their rank. To date, 11 people have been charged in relation to the murder, including two in bin Salman's inner circle, but Saudi Arabia has shrouded the trials in secrecy and not allowed access to any international investigators. One aide, Ahmed Al-Assiri, the former Deputy Chief of Saudi Arabia's intelligence agency, is on trial for the murder in Saudi Arabia. Another, Saud Al-Qahtani, a former media advisor to bin Salman, has not been formally charged. A high-level advisor to the Saudi Crown Prince said that charging someone so close to bin Salman would be "politically disruptive." The Saudi crown prosecutor has alleged that Al-Assiri and Al-Qahtani were plotting to bring Khashoggi back to Saudi Arabia when the operation was botched and it resulted in his death.

In the aftermath of the killing, the CIA concluded with "medium to high" certainty that bin Salman was, at the very least, aware of the plot before it happened. U.S. President Trump and members of his administration have publicly stood by the Crown Prince, despite the fact that a multitude of Republican and Democratic lawmakers came to a bipartisan conclusion that bin Salman was "complicit" in the murder. Additionally, a United Nations' special report on the murder found that it was "inconceivable" that bin Salman was unaware of the killing before it took place. The Saudi Crown Prince has defended himself from these allegations, and said that with 3 million employees working for the Saudi government, he cannot be expected to know what each of them are doing on a daily basis. When asked how he believed the killing had impacted the relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia, bin Salman expressed that the relationship was much bigger than this, and that he was focused on improving things in the future. In regard to allegations leveled at him by the CIA and other organizations, bin Salman noted that there hasn't been an official statement from the United States' government implicating him, but that he would welcome his accusers coming forward.

The one-year anniversary of Jamal Khashoggi's murder was on October 2nd, 2019. There have been no convictions yet in the trials against his alleged killers.