



[U.S. Court Issues a Summons for the Saudi Crown Prince](#)

The United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued a summons this week for Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in relation to a court case brought against him by a former Saudi intelligence official. Saad al-Jabri filed a lawsuit against bin Salman, commonly referred to by his initials MBS, accusing the crown prince of sending a hit squad to assassinate him. Al-Jabri's complaint alleges that in the days after the murder of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul, bin Salman dispatched another Saudi hit squad to either assassinate him at home in Canada, or coerce him into returning to Saudi Arabia where he would be summarily killed. Al-Jabri believes that his wealth of knowledge of bin Salman's activities and close ties to members of American intelligence made him a prime target for the Saudi authorities.

Saudi Arabia has issued several Interpol red notices seeking the arrest and repatriation of Saad al-Jabri, accusing him of corruption. However, Interpol has dismissed these arrest warrants as being politically motivated. It is also alleged that the Saudi authorities have orchestrated a campaign of pressure to coerce al-Jabri to return to the Kingdom where he would be killed. Two of Mr. al-Jabri's children were arrested at their home in Riyadh in March, and al-Jabri's brother was also detained in May. None of the detained have contacted their family, and there is no evidence of their whereabouts.

Al-Jabri's lawsuit states that a kill team known as "Tiger Squad" was sent to Canada by bin Salman, but were rebuffed by Canadian border security. In addition to bin Salman, twelve other individuals were named in al-Jabri's lawsuit, including two American residents. Notably, Saud al-Qatani and Ahmed al-Asiri, former top royal court advisor and deputy head of military intelligence respectively, were also named in the lawsuit, and they are widely regarded as having orchestrated the Jamal Khashoggi murder. The summons issued by the district court in Washington D.C. does not pass judgement on any of the accused, and only serves as a notice of the lawsuit.

Saad al-Jabri currently resides in Canada where he employs full-time security through the Canadian police and private security companies. His lawsuit reads "Few places hold more sensitive, humiliating, and damning information about Defendant bin-Salman than the mind and memory of Dr. Saad - except perhaps the recordings Dr. Saad made in anticipation of his killing." Furthermore, al-Jabri is confirmed to have been working with the Central Intelligence Agency over the course of his career. A spokesperson for the State Department told media outlets that "Saad al-Jabri was a valued partner to the United States on countering terrorism. Saad's work with the United States helped save American and Saudi lives" when news of the lawsuit first broke last week.

Moving forward, Mohammed bin Salman will likely turn to an obscure tenet of law called suggestion immunity, which asks a court to throw out a case that would interfere with American foreign relations. His close relations to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and President Donald Trump could prove crucial in disentangling himself from the grave charges levied against him while he lobbies the American officials to defend him.