



[Turkish Prosecutors Indict Six Additional Saudi Nationals for the October 2018 Murder of Journalist Jamal Khashoggi](#)

Turkish prosecutors this week have filed additional indictments against six Saudi nationals accused of being involved in the October 2018 murder of U.S. resident and Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul. Turkey's Anadolu state news agency said that two of the suspects were facing life sentences, with the other four facing up to five years in jail. The two individuals facing life sentences were staff members at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, and the other four are alleged to have traveled to Turkey after the murder to help clean the crime scene. None of the accused are currently in Turkey, as the Saudi Arabian regime has gone through great trouble to shield those involved from punishment by the Turkish authorities. This Friday, October 2nd marks the 2-year anniversary of Khashoggi's brutal murder, and this week's indictments are the latest example of Turkish prosecutors seeking to hold his killers accountable and bring them to justice, after 20 Saudi nationals were indicted on similar charges back in March.

Jamal Khashoggi was a U.S. resident and outspoken critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman when he was lured to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul and summarily murdered. His body has never been discovered, and an international intelligence investigation came to the conclusion that bin Salman had ordered Khashoggi's murder. The Saudi regime has always denied that the crown prince was involved, saying that rogue operatives were to blame. They conducted an independent investigation and eight people went on trial over their role in the murder. However, the trials were widely condemned as a sham and the life sentences handed down were eventually commuted, making a complete mockery of justice.

The team of Turkish prosecutors filing the indictments has requested that the accused individuals be sentenced to separate jail terms if found guilty. However, any punishment will be difficult to execute as the accused have all fled Turkey and returned to Saudi Arabia, which is refusing to extradite them to face justice. An additional 20 Saudi nationals are already being tried in absentia in Turkey over their role in Khashoggi's murder, and the fresh indictments indicate Turkey's motivation to bring justice against those responsible.

Friday marks the 2-year anniversary of Jamal Khashoggi's murder, and justice has still not been adequately served. The Saudi investigation and subsequent trial were both deemed a sham, and UN Special Rapporteur Agnes Callamard said as much, calling it "a mockery of justice" that only happened because of the international community's pressure on the Saudi government. In the aftermath of the murder, Congress sought ways to punish Mohammed bin Salman, particularly in the light of the intelligence community's conclusion that the crown prince had indeed ordered Khashoggi's murder. However, recent revelations have shown that President Trump personally intervened on bin Salman's behalf to shield the de facto Saudi leader from Congressional retribution. The president did this in order to facilitate further Saudi purchases of weapons, and he vetoed three congressional resolutions blocking an \$8 billion arms sale in the weeks following Khashoggi's murder. Due to President Trump's intervention on the side of the Saudi regime, Turkey is currently standing alone in seeking to bring justice to Jamal Khashoggi's murderers. The indictments filed this week further indicate this, and build upon the ongoing trials of several Saudi nationals over the killing.