



### [The U.S. House Oversight Committee Launches an Investigation Regarding the Saudi Government's \\$2 Billion Investment into Jared Kushner's Private Equity Firm](#)

The United States House Committee on Oversight and Reform has launched an investigation of former President Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner. The probe will examine the massive \$2 billion investment into Kushner's private equity firm from a wealth fund controlled by Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. It seeks to determine whether Kushner utilized his government position to secure the funding, and if the policy advising and foreign policy decisions of the Trump White House were influenced by the Saudi government's promise of investment. The financing of Kushner's firm has drawn particular unease having been pushed through by the Saudi crown prince despite objections from a panel that screens investments on behalf of the sovereign wealth fund, and also coming six months after Kushner's tenure as a senior adviser to the former president. The Trump White House shielded Saudi officials from criticism even as much of the United States, in a non-partisan fashion, was beginning to express growing condemnation over their involvement in the destructive war in Yemen and the heinous murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. While the exact findings or implications are to be answered by the investigation, the laws surrounding federal ethics and conflict of interest concerns are likely to come under scrutiny with calls to strengthen them becoming increasingly popular.

The investigation, which is being led by House Democrat Carolyn Maloney, has a fairly limited scope. Human rights activists and ethics watchdogs have conveyed even more far-reaching overall concern with the behavior of Trump White House officials as a whole, but the House committee probe will only focus on Jared Kushner and his private equity firm's securing of the colossal Saudi investment. It is worth noting that other Trump officials such as Steven Mnuchin have also drawn questionable business ethics issues as well. Kushner's dealings with the Saudis exhibit a long line of deeply troubling business practices and conflicts of interest, while the Saudi government has come under increasing scrutiny from rights activists, Congress, and American voters. The Saudi regime, under the direction of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has committed an array of abuses including the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, egregious war crimes in Yemen, and a brutal internal crackdown on dissent by violating human rights within its own country.

Despite the widespread and growing condemnation from Americans and the international community, Trump White House officials like Kushner protected the Saudi government from deserved criticism and provided unwavering support. This saw the enacting of blatantly pro-Saudi policies and weapons dealings, even in the face of notable bipartisan concerns. As a result, many observers have praised the idea of an investigation and highlighted that the only telling understanding of this questionable behavior lies in uncovering evidence of corrupt ties and connections.

The outcomes of the investigation are yet to be seen. With the probe in the infant stages, the pathway it takes remains up to speculation. However, irrespective of the concrete outcomes and findings of the investigation, the strong possibility exists that federal ethics laws will be strengthened. Additionally, experts also contend that federal ethics laws will continue to grow as a hot-button political issue to be debated in upcoming American elections. Congresswoman Maloney herself stressed that one of the major aims of the investigation is to gather information about whether stricter laws are needed to restrain former public officials from doing business with their past government counterparts.