

Wan-Ifra backs call for UN investigation into Jamal Khashoggi's murder

It's been one year since the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey. And the world's press is continuing to pressure authorities on serving justice for the slain journalist - he was killed by operatives from Saudi Arabia who are believed to have been acting under the command of the country's leader.



Image credit: [The Guardian](#).

World Association of News Publishers (Wan-Ifra) has expressed its support for the global calls for an independent criminal investigation led by the United Nations to be backed up by actions from states with the capacity to hold Saudi Arabia to account.



Why the Khashoggi murder mystery has dominated news headlines

Leigh Andrews 25 Oct 2018



Justice for Jamal

"Mr Khashoggi's murder cannot go unanswered and there can be no return to 'business as usual' with a regime that has ridden roughshod over international law, human rights and the profession of journalism," said Wan-Ifra CEO Vincent Peyrègne.



Of foxes and paradoxes in the media henhouse

Derek Abdinor 17 Sep 2019



"We call for justice for Jamal Khashoggi and an end to this charade of innocence, deflection and diversion – which does nothing but perpetuate a level of impunity that chills the entire profession of journalism," said Wan-Ifra president Fernando de Yarza Lopez-Madrado.

“Mr Khashoggi’s death and the circumstances surrounding it remain a stain on our collective conscience and are an insult to the laws and protections that are supposed to govern the international system. Saudi Arabia must be held accountable, and those responsible must face justice.”



Number of journalists murdered in reprisal for reporting nearly doubles

4 Jan 2019



On 2 October 2018, Khashoggi entered the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul, Turkey to collect documents related to his upcoming marriage to his Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz. But he never came out.

For the next two weeks, the Saudi government denied any knowledge about Khashoggi’s whereabouts, claiming that he had left the consulate after an hour. Then, on 20 October, state television reported that he had been murdered in an operation ordered by a Saudi intelligence officer.

However, conflicting information about his disappearance continued to surface, with differing reports on how Khashoggi had died. More than a month later, Saudi Arabia’s attorney-general admitted that he had been given a lethal injection inside the consulate and that his death had been premeditated.

Crimes left unanswered

Since Khashoggi’s murder, 11 people have been charged over the journalist’s death – with five facing the death penalty. However, none of those charged have been identified, despite intelligence reports from multiple global sources – including the CIA – supporting the theory of official Saudi involvement.



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Leigh Andrews 12 Nov 2018



In a report released in June 2019, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard, concluded there was credible evidence of individual liability amongst high-level Saudi officials, including Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

The UN report stated that Khashoggi’s killing violated six international laws “and was the result of elaborate planning involving extensive coordination and significant human and financial resources.”



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19 Mar 2019



At a ceremony on 1 June, Jamal Khashoggi was posthumously awarded the Golden Pen of Freedom, Wan-Ifra's annual award recognising individuals or organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to the defence and promotion of press freedom.



Jamal Khashoggi awarded Golden Pen of Freedom

3 Jun 2019



While the crimes against Khashoggi go unanswered, the climate for media freedom in Saudi Arabia remains in severe decline. Reports indicate at least 16 journalists are known to be behind bars.

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