

# General Notes

Liberty Memes page: <https://www.facebook.com/LibertyMemes2>

And group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/575184586207532/>

[WAL 324: Liberty Memes Banned By Facebook](#)

Turkey says Jamal Khashoggi 'ferociously murdered' by Saudi Arabian hit squad -  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/10/23/jamal-khashoggi-killing-investigation/1736644002/>

The Khashoggi Case: Intel Veteran Norman Roule on Implications for Saudi Arabia -  
<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/cbs-radio-news/intelligence-matters/e/56839566>

1. Saudis have no recent history of engaging in assassinations abroad.
2. They do have a history of renditions.
3. No senior Saudi officials have been relieved.
3. This was an amateurish operation.
4. The Saudis have been given strong warnings that this cannot be repeated and the investigation must be a real one.

KINGDOM CRACKDOWN - Saudi Women Who Fought for the Right to Drive Are Disappearing and Going Into Exile

-<https://theintercept.com/2018/10/06/saudi-arabia-women-driving-activists-exile/>

We have to ask why we are hearing so much about a missing journalist, but not these women's rights activists? It is because major media outlets now ONLY cover stories dealing with themselves or their agenda.

Here they are ranked:

1. Protecting freedom of the press and ensuring that we all understand how brave they are as a profession.
2. Writing any story that supports the narrative where right-of-center politicians and activists are dangerous nuts.
3. Writing any story that allows them to get close to or a retweet from their left-of-center idols.
4. Businesses that stole their revenue streams need to be regulated and controlled because of "Russia". They gaslight and bully these companies into compliance.
5. Media outlets that stole their views or ratings must be closed so that people will return to only seeing news from them.

Erdogan Is Making the Ottoman Empire Great Again -

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/06/22/erdogan-is-making-the-ottoman-empire-great-again/>

US approves proposed \$1bn arms sale to Saudi Arabia -

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/03/approves-proposed-1bn-arms-sale-saudi-arabia-180323090745361.html>

- These are the 20 defense companies donating the most money to American politicians - <https://www.businessinsider.com/the-top-20-defense-companies-donating-the-most-cash-to-us-politicians-2017-11>

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- [Questionable Saudi Explanation of Khashoggi's Death Bolsters Rand Paul's Case for Ending Arms Sales](#)
- [New video appears to show Saudi suspect wearing Jamal Khashoggi's clothing](#)
- [Bret Baier grills Saudi foreign minister over death of US-based columnist in consulate](#)
- [Saudis are said to have lain in wait for Jamal Khashoggi](#)
- [Saudi Arabia wasn't always this repressive. Now it's unbearable.](#)
- [Khashoggi Columns](#)
- [Gruesome audio is said to have captured journalist Jamal Khashoggi's brutal final moments](#)
- [The purge in Saudi Arabia, explained](#)
- [Turkey's president undercuts Saudi Arabia's Khashoggi story](#)
- [German Press Reveals Saudi Spook Saga Behind Khashoggi Disappearance](#)
- [A body double and a "rogue operation": the latest in Jamal Khashoggi news](#)
- [Vox Stream on Kashoggi \(Great Links in Articles\)](#)
- [Inside the Saudis' Washington influence machine: How the kingdom gained power through fierce lobbying and charm offensives](#)

## The Assassination of Jamal Khashoggi

His last name is pronounced “Kuh-show-gii” (hard g)

### **He was One of the Good Guys**

You can view a collection of his writings for the show notes. To summarize his views (Washington Post)

1. He attempted to re-establish Islam as a non-violent faith. He frequently wrote that the pillars and tenets of Islam don't denote violence and that the violent history can be attributed to Wahhabism, which a cultural tradition and not a part of the faith. He pointed out that, before 1979, both Muslims and even the Saudi government rejected Wahhabism for hundreds of years, meaning violent Muslims today are being co-opted by political players and not simply being obedient to their faith.
2. He was a critic of Saudi Arabia's blockades and fixing of oil prices. He asserted that driving up costs on exports made only the wealthy rich and that putting embargos on other countries resulted in embargos against his own country, which penalized the poor.
3. He is most notably credited with his campaigns to give women and men equal rights. He successfully ended the ban on female drivers. At the time of his death, he was close to ending

male-guardianship, a set of laws that forbid women to leave the house without either a male escort or a man's permission.

(Reason) Americans should be gravely concerned with his assassination. Rand Paul tweeted: "The so-called "explanation" from the Saudis is not even close to credible. What they did was unacceptable and I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in denouncing their behavior and changing how we treat them." Since we sell arms to Saudi Arabia, there's a chance that he was killed with guns we sold them. Even if not, his death emphasizes Saudi Arabia's violent intentions; that they will kill someone who posed a risk to America giving them weaponry. Also, he was a critic of the Saudi government living outside of the country, so his murder has scared critics worldwide.

### **Why would Saudi Arabia Want Him Dead?**

While Khashoggi was an ally of the Muslim Brotherhood and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, joining with the former to topple tyrannical dictators and the latter to end the women's driving ban, he ended up denouncing both. The Muslim Brotherhood began to either embrace or turn their heads in matters of violent revolution against small political adversaries. Salman changed his tune on women's rights to appease the new wave of Wahhabist Muslims and not only opposed future change, but looked to backtrack on recent women's rights, such as voting and driving.

Khashoggi, being a journalist, had regular columns everywhere across the globe, including America's own Washington Post. At a time when America is considering sanctions against Saudi Arabia, no one has done more to sway public opinion against Saudi leadership than Khashoggi.

### **Timeline**

The fiancée's name, Cengiz, is pronounced "Jeng-geez." Turkish is a weird non-phonetic language, apparently.

(Quartz)

Sept. 28: Khashoggi, a Saudi citizen who moved to the United States last year, visited the Saudi consulate in Istanbul (Turkey) to collect a document that he needed in order to marry his Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz. When he was told he would need to return, he later arranged to come back on the afternoon of Tuesday, October 2...

Oct. 2: Cengiz waited near the consulate... while he went inside to retrieve the documents at 1:14 pm. He had instructed her to get help if he did not reappear. After a couple of hours, when he had still not returned from what should have been a routine visit, Cengiz rang the police.... Turkish staff at the consulate had been told to stay home on the day of his disappearance. (Not a good sign when you have to tell somebody, "Hey, I might get murdered, call the police if I do.")

In the early hours of that morning... Sabah reported, a private charter plane carrying nine Saudi officials and intelligence officers had arrived in Istanbul from Riyadh. Around 4 pm, six vehicles left the consulate carrying Saudi officials and intelligence officers. Two additional vehicles went from the consulate to the Saudi consul's residence and remained there for the next four hours.

Oct. 3: On what should have been his wedding day, Khashoggi was still missing... Reuters reported his disappearance.

...As questions began to circulate, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told Bloomberg the Saudis... would cooperate fully with any investigations. "We are ready to welcome the Turkish government to go and search our premises," he said. "The premises are sovereign territory, but we will allow them to enter and search and do whatever they want to do. If they ask for that, of course, we will allow them. We have nothing to hide."

Oct. 4: Turkish sources reported that the country's foreign ministry had summoned Saudi Arabia's ambassador to clarify where Khashoggi had gone. The ambassador allegedly told Turkish officials he had no information about Khashoggi's whereabouts.

The Saudi government gave its first official statement on Khashoggi's disappearance, via its official news agency (Thus reaffirming why people should always be skeptical of official news agencies). The consulate would be following up on media reports about the journalist's unknown whereabouts "after he left the building of the Saudi consulate in Istanbul," the statement said, before confirming that the country would carry out further procedures and coordinate with local authorities to find out where Khashoggi had gone after leaving the building.

Foreign media outlets later reported that Saudi officials had said he had left the building via a back entrance. (Embassies and Consulates are hotbeds for spying. Several nations, not just Turkey recorded a body double leaving and noted it wasn't him, but merely reported him missing because they didn't want to confess to spying.)

Oct. 7: A... statement from Saudi officials "dismissed" reports... that Khashoggi had been killed in the consulate. "The official strongly denounced these baseless allegations, and expressed his doubt that they came from Turkish officials that are informed of the investigation or are authorized to comment on the issue."

The statement... claimed that "a security delegation of Saudi investigators arrived in Istanbul Saturday based upon a request by the Saudi government," before concluding: "The source stressed that the Kingdom holds the safety and wellbeing of its citizens wherever they are, and that relevant authorities in the Kingdom are diligently following up on this matter to uncover the complete facts." (Right... These people showed up from Saudi Arabia to his exact locations to help him stay safe...)

Oct. 8: Axios reporter Jonathan Swan received an unsolicited WhatsApp message from the Saudi ambassador to the United States, Prince Khalid bin Salman, denying any allegations about Saudi governmental involvement in Khashoggi's disappearance. "I assure you that the reports that suggest that Jamal Khashoggi went missing in the Consulate in Istanbul or that the Kingdom's authorities have detained him or killed him are absolutely false, and baseless," he said. Swan thanked him and asked whether there was footage of Khashoggi leaving the consulate. In an Oct. 12 post, he wrote: "I'm still waiting for a reply." (If somebody reaches out to a member of the media to say, "I'm innocent, you should report that," they've begun a campaign not based in legality but popularity.)

On the same day, unnamed Turkish officials told both Reuters and the Washington Post that the journalist had been killed inside the consulate....

Oct. 9: At a press conference... [the] Turkish president... asked Saudi Arabia for... evidence that, as they claimed, Khashoggi had left the consulate. "He entered the general consulate himself and if he has entered by himself and if he did not exit it, of course this should be proven by the general consulate," he said. Erdogan also announced that an investigation was underway by the Justice Ministry and the Turkish chief prosecutor in Istanbul, while airport entrances and exits were being investigated. "At the moment there are certain people who arrived from Saudi Arabia. And our chief investigator is investigating everything in this matter."

An opinion piece by Cengiz also requested the release of the video footage: "I also urge Saudi Arabia, especially King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to show the same level of sensitivity and release CCTV footage from the consulate."

Later reports claimed that the Turkish police investigation was now centered on a black Mercedes van believed to have been used to abduct Khashoggi, visible in video footage of a number of cars coming to the consulate and leaving around the time Khashoggi is believed to have been inside.

Oct. 10: After security camera footage from the consulate failed to materialize, Turkish authorities claimed that it had been removed from the Saudi consulate in Istanbul and perhaps taken overseas aboard one of the two corporate jets used to fly 15 Saudi officials from Riyadh to Istanbul on the day of Khashoggi's disappearance....

Oct. 11: Speaking to reporters at the White House, US president Donald Trump said Saudi Arabia would redirect its spending elsewhere if he were to cut off arms sales over Khashoggi's disappearance, as many had urged him to do. He stressed that the journalist had not been an American citizen and that the events had taken place in Turkey, but added: "We don't like it." In an appearance on Fox & Friends earlier that morning, Trump said he had spoken to Saudi officials: "We're probably getting closer than you might think, but I have to find out what happened."

Oct. 12: Amid mounting speculation that Khashoggi had been killed in the consulate, Saudi officials released two statements.

The Minister of the Interior... denounced "false accusations circulated in some media on the Saudi government and people against the background of the disappearance of the Saudi citizen Jamal Khashoggi." Claims that the journalist had been killed were, he said, "lies and baseless allegations against the government of the Kingdom, which is committed to its principles, rules and traditions and is in compliance with international laws and conventions."

A second statement, from an unnamed official source, announced a bilateral investigation between Turkey and Saudi Arabia into Khashoggi's disappearance. It did not acknowledge requests for... footage or earlier claims that Khashoggi had left the consulate.

Oct. 14: With pressure from the international community growing, another official Saudi statement spoke out against "threats and attempts to undermine it," citing economic sanctions,

“political pressure” and the repeating of “false accusations that … undermined the Kingdom.” Pointing to the country’s “vital role in the global economy,” the statement adopted a threatening tone: “The Kingdom also affirms that if it receives any action, it will respond with greater action.” (A common tactic when you’re touching on the truth and it hits a nerve is to threaten violence against anybody who questions you.)

Oct. 15: ...An Al-Jazeera video appears to show a cleaning crew armed with supplies descending on the consulate.

Oct. 16: CNN reported that a Turkish official had anonymously informed the broadcaster that Khashoggi’s body was cut into pieces after he was killed at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, echoing claims made in the New York Times. The night before, Turkish officials had searched the consulate for nine hours. It had recently received a fresh coat of paint “everywhere” inside the building.

In an interview with the AP, Trump raised the notion of “rogue killers” being responsible for Khashoggi’s disappearance and compared the response to allegations of sexual assault made against US Supreme Court judge Brett Kavanaugh. “I think we have to find out what happened first,” he said. “You know, here we go again with ‘you’re guilty until proven innocent.’ I don’t like that. We just went through that with Justice Kavanaugh. And he was innocent all the way. So I was unconcerned.” He reiterated that the official Saudi line was that they had no information about Khashoggi’s whereabouts.

Oct. 17: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Turkey, where he told reporters that he and Trump had spoken to the crown prince, and that more information was forthcoming. “He made clear that the Saudis had cooperated with the investigation that the Turks are engaged in.” Until the investigation had concluded, he said, they had no further comment to make. “We’re going to give them the space to complete their investigations of this incident, and when they issue their reports, we’ll form our judgment about thoroughness, depth, and the decisions they make about accountability connected to that.” (A lesson in unsuccessful tactics: Letting guilty parties assist the investigations for their own crimes... Nothing new to the Trump administration, I’m sure.)

Turkish plans to search the Saudi consul’s residence fell through after “the Saudis claimed that the consul’s family was inside,” Turkish foreign minister... told reporters. “We have said before that Saudi Arabia must cooperate with us in every aspect without delay.”

After speaking with three unnamed Turkish sources, CNN reported that Khashoggi had died after being interrogated in a mission organized by a high-ranking Saudi intelligence officer. A New York Times article described how Khashoggi’s killers had “severed his fingers and later beheaded and dismembered him, according to details from audio recordings described by a senior Turkish official on Wednesday.” He is alleged to have died within minutes. (This is where the bug comes into play. It’s illegal, so we’ll never get a name on who set it up.)

The Saudi government released another statement... at the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva. The former Saudi Minister of Justice criticized what he described as “misleading campaigns” against the country.

Oct. 19: Saudi Arabia backtracked on its previous denials that Khashoggi had died inside the

consulate, announcing through state media that the 59-year-old had in fact been killed in a "fight" there. Eighteen Saudi citizens are reportedly under investigation for his death, and deputy chief of Saudi intelligence... and royal court advisor... have been fired.

(Business Insider)

The Post on Monday quoted a diplomat as saying the Saudis sought to use a body double to cover up the killing but ultimately decided the double was too "flawed."

After the Saudis acknowledged Khashoggi's death, Trump... continued to stand by them, saying he found their explanation about how he died credible and offering his support to the crown prince — though he told reporters on Monday that he wasn't satisfied with what he'd heard from the Saudis about Khashoggi's death.

...Erdogan on Tuesday contradicted Saudi Arabia's narrative on Khashoggi's death, describing it as a premeditated act. The Turkish leader said Khashoggi was the victim of a "savage" and "planned" murder and called for the 18 men arrested by the Saudis to be brought to Turkey to stand trial, adding that Khashoggi's body had not been found.

Trump on Tuesday (Today) described Khashoggi's killing as one of the worst cover-ups in history and said he'd leave any ramifications against the Saudis up to Congress.

## Sources:

Washington Post-

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2018/10/06/read-jamal-khashoggis-columns-for-the-washington-post/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.5d4d066542ec](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2018/10/06/read-jamal-khashoggis-columns-for-the-washington-post/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.5d4d066542ec)

Quartz-

<https://qz.com/1427352/the-timeline-of-jamal-khashoggis-disappearance-and-alleged-murder/>

Reason-

<https://reason.com/blog/2018/10/20/after-questionable-saudi-explanation-of>

## Yemen:

Article: <https://newrepublic.com/article/151289/one-thing-yemen-everyone-gets-wrong>

Key Quotes: "*For many, the main symbol of international intervention in Yemen was a regular succession of U.S. drone strikes that all too often killed innocent people rather than Al Qaeda militants.*"

*“Al Qaeda seems to have been the group that thought hardest about legitimacy: When it took over the southern port city of Mukalla in 2015, it focused on service delivery and running its own local courts, with some success.”*

*“the member states of the U.N. Security Council, the Gulf states and others—will fall back into the same old patterns: They will quietly help install some familiar faces in government, look for technical solutions and bold visions for the future that exist only on paper, and react with surprise when a government made up of the elite of 2018 fails to do anything to build legitimacy on the ground and the events of 2011 and 2014 repeat themselves.”*

My key Take away: The article does a good job outlining some of the background of the civil war between the Shia Houthi's (Iran's alleged Proxi) and the yemeni government. It also highlights some of the reasons the US is so invested with Saudi Arabia with regard to the situation in Yemen. The Saudi's don't want the Shia Houthi's, who they believe are a proxi for Iran, to gain influence over Yemen on their Southern border. Being their Ally (why we are allies is a research product for another day...) we came to their support by giving them intelligence, logistics, and target acquisition support. Our other key focus was denying Al-Qaeda any increase in their already present stronghold in Yemen. The Houthi rebels, Al-Qaeda, the Yemen government, and Isis are all fighting for control of the region/country. The fight for legitimacy is the key focus of the article and rightfully so as legitimacy is the only way to truly win this war. The US is involved because the government believes our best bet is to have the Yemen government reclaim their legitimacy. There has always been the belief that Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni government is a great ally in the fight against terrorism (the validity of this is always a research project all on its own).

Article:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/08/28/mattis-us-still-backs-saudi-coalition-to-limit-yemen-deaths.html> -

Key Quotes: *“Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Tuesday the U.S. intends to continue backing the Saudi-led coalition fighting Houthi rebels in Yemen despite civilian casualties and questions about the Saudis' commitment to avoiding killing innocents.”*

*“Mattis defended U.S. support for the coalition, saying American influence on the Arab air campaign has made a difference in reducing instances of errant bombing and the targeting of civilians.”*

*“The U.S. provides the Saudis and their United Arab Emirate coalition partners with intelligence, aerial refueling and military advice, but U.S. forces are not directly involved in the airstrikes or other aspects of the fighting.”*

*"Among those in Congress calling for the U.S. to pull the plug on support for the coalition is Rep. Ro Khanna, a California Democrat, who has called the bus attack a barbaric act. On the day of the attack he said the U.S. "must end our complicity in this slaughter.""*

*"Last week, the international rights group Human Rights Watch charged that the Saudi-led coalition had not credibly investigated civilian casualties. It said the coalition's "sham investigations" have fallen short of "international standards regarding transparency, impartiality, and independence.""*

My key Take away: SecDef Jim “Mad Dog” Mattis acknowledges that we are supporting Saudi Arabia and the UAE with their fight in Yemen. We obviously knew this but it is good to hear it from him directly. Our support has made us complicit in the deaths of civilians which has caught the ire of congressmen and women as expressed by Rep Ro Khanna in the article. The biggest issue I have is that we don’t what the extent of the war crimes being committed by our allies truly is. At what point do we say enough is enough?

Article: <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/yemen-war-united-states-704187/>

Key Quotes: *Since the conflict began, medical services have been devastated across the war-torn country, and children in particular have been affected, with as many as 400,000 at imminent risk of starvation. In April, U.N. General Secretary Antonio Guterres said that 8 million people in Yemen didn't know where they were getting their next meal.*

*Yemen is a catastrophe on a scale similar to Syria, but coverage in the United States has been sporadic at best. PBS News Hour did a thorough three-part series, but MSNBC, for instance, has barely mentioned the crisis in a year, during a period when it has done 455 segments on Stormy Daniels (this according to media reporter Adam Johnson).*

*The reason for inattention is obvious: The United States bears real responsibility for the crisis. A quote from a Yemeni doctor found in PBS reporter Jane Ferguson’s piece sums it up: “The missiles that kill us, American-made. The planes that kill us, American-made. The tanks ... American-made. You are saying to me, where is America? America is the whole thing.”*

*Also, our involvement is bipartisan in nature, which takes the usual-suspect cable channels out of the round-the-clock-bleating game (our policies in the region date back to the Obama presidency, and have continued under Trump).*

*Thirdly, covering the story in detail would require digging into our unsavory relationship with the Saudi government, which has an [atrocious human rights record](#).*

My key Take away: I added this article mainly because it has some solid quotes on the Yemen issue being underreported. There is also a solid portion of the article that discusses our sharing of drone technology and the possible ramifications of this. The more military grade drones in the world, the more we allow other states to conduct their own violent strikes within their borders and their neighboring countries.

Additional Articles for more Situational Awareness.

Article: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/key-facts-war-yemen-160607112342462.html>

Article:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-united-states-has-leverage-to-end-the-yemeni-civil-war-use-it/2018/09/11/9bb2bd64-b531-11e8-b79f-f6e31e555258\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.a05481f2eccf](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-united-states-has-leverage-to-end-the-yemeni-civil-war-use-it/2018/09/11/9bb2bd64-b531-11e8-b79f-f6e31e555258_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.a05481f2eccf)

BLUF: We are complicit in the deaths of civilians through our support of Saudi Arabia the UAE. The US is invested in the Yemeni government retaining control of the country due our belief that it is in our best interest. This is a proxy war between the US/Saudi and Iran that also has Al-Qaeda and ISIS also playing a role in the fight for legitimacy from a government standpoint. Ironically, one of the reasons we are involved in the area is to fight terrorism but our actions create the conditions and settings in which terrorism thrives.