

# Who Killed Jamal Khashoggi? Did US Intelligence have Prior Knowledge?

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)  
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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)  
Theme: [Intelligence](#)

*Who ordered the killing of Jamal Khashoggi? "The CIA and the White House are at odds over who's responsible for what happened." (See Stephen Lendman, [GR](#), November 21, 2018).*

*According to media reports, Langley is pointing its finger at Crown Prince **Mohammad bin Salman** (MBS).*

Prior to the official release of the CIA report, the Washington Post (16 November) reported that

**"The CIA has concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the assassination of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul last month"** ([WaPo](#), November 16, 2018, emphasis added).

"In reaching its conclusions, the CIA examined multiple sources of intelligence... **"The accepted position is that there is no way this happened without him [Crown Prince MBS] being aware or involved,"** said a U.S. official familiar with the CIA's conclusions. A spokesman for the CIA declined to comment".

Follow the play of words in the above quotation. The "accepted position" by an unnamed "US official" has not been confirmed by the Agency.

Awareness by Crown Prince MBS does not necessarily imply that MBS had ordered the assassination.

The Khashoggi affair has the features of a carefully designed intelligence operative (with followup propaganda) rather than a "hit and kill" political assassination.

The way the killing was undertaken, its gruesome details were used to highlight the event which from one day to the next was plastered on UK-US news tabloids. And the relentless news coverage of this hideous event is still ongoing.

## JOURNALIST'S BODY FOUND Jamal Khashoggi's 'body parts and disfigured face found in Saudi consul's garden' as his son stares down Crown Prince

Reports say the remains of the writer - feared murdered by assassins inside the consulate - had been 'cut up' and his face 'disfigured'

By Jon Lockett and Gemma Mullin  
23rd October 2018, 2:31 pm | Updated: 25th October 2018, 10:33 am



Sky New TV Screenshot

According to reports, the hit team had a lieutenant-colonel forensic pathologist together with two members of Saudi intelligence (GIP), members of the Saudi Air Forces and Army (see list in annex).

Why the need for such a large team of assassins from the military Saudi intelligence apparatus together with several members of MBS' security detail? (Were they dispatched on the orders of MBS? Their participation had an immediate impact on the media campaign against MBS).

The gruesome details of the operative at Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul were released by Turkish sources, triggering almost immediately an unusual gush of media propaganda. Far-reaching geopolitical implications. What is the ultimate objective of this unfolding propaganda campaign?

Regime change?

Undermine Saudi Arabia's intent to purchase Russia's S400 Air Defense system?

- **During a whirlwind trip through the Middle East last year, President Donald Trump touted a \$110 billion purchase of US arms by Saudi Arabia.**
- **But that blockbuster sale was a lot less definite than it seemed, and Riyadh has reportedly resisted finalizing some of the deals.**
- **That reluctance comes as the Saudis continue talks with Russia over its S-400 air-defense system.**

Screenshot Business Insider, October 8, 2018

The way Khashoggi was killed by a military-intelligence team must have been carefully planned in Riyadh prior to the operatives' arrival at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul? This is a matter to be carefully verified.

Was Saudi intelligence involved in the operation? Two members of Saudi intelligence (GIP) were allegedly part of the hit team.

Was there foreknowledge? According to the WaPo report, Langley was aware of the assassination plot but US intelligence visibly did not act:

**“The United States had also obtained intelligence before Khashoggi’s death that indicated he might be in danger.** But it wasn’t until after he disappeared on Oct. 2 that U.S. intelligence agencies began searching archives of intercepted communications and discovered material indicating that the Saudi royal family had been seeking to lure Khashoggi back to Riyadh.

It should be understood that Saudi Arabia’s General Intelligence Presidency (GIP) and the CIA not only exchange classified information, Saudi intelligence has consistently acted as a de facto subsidiary of the CIA, going back to the onset of the Soviet-Afghan war in 1979. The CIA has its staff in Riyadh operating out of the US Embassy, as well as military-intelligence personnel on location collaborating with their counterparts at Saudi Arabia’s GIP.

According to the Washington Post, the US had prior intelligence that **Khashoggi’s life “might be in danger”**, but at the same time they were **unaware of “this intelligence in advance” of his killing**. Sounds contradictory, read it carefully:

” Two U.S. officials said there has been **no indication that [CIA] officials were aware of this intelligence in advance of Khashoggi’s disappearance or had missed any chance to warn him.** ([WaPo](#), November 16, 2018, emphasis added)

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## ANNEX

The names of several of alleged suspects were released by Turkish media on October 11:

### Killed

**Meshal Saad M Albostani**, A lieutenant in the Saudi Air Forces, reported to have been killed in a mysterious road smash in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

### Forensic Pathologist

**Dr. Salah Muhammad A Tubaigy**, a forensic pathologist, head of the Saudi Scientific Council of Forensics and lieutenant colonel of the Armed forces of Saudi Arabia, also working according to the BBC in the forensic science department of the interior ministry’s General Directorate of Public Security responsible for national security.

## Members of Saudi Intelligence (GIP)

**Badr Lafi M Alotaibi** is a colonel in Saudi Arabia's General Intelligence Presidency.

**Mustafa Mohammed M. Almadani**, a member of Saudi intelligence.

## Members of the Saudi Military

**Mansur Othman M. Abahussain**, a lieutenant colonel in the Royal Saudi army

**Maher Abdulaziz M. Mutreb**, a member of the Saudi Army, with an intelligence background

**Waleed Abdullah M. Alsehri**, military officer of the Saudi Air Forces,

**Meshal Saad M. Albostani**, lieutenant of the Saudi Air Forces,

## Part of Royal Family Security Detail

**Mohammad Saad H. Alzahrani**, Royal Family's security detail.

**Thaar Ghaleb T. Alharbi**, Royal Family security detail

**Naif Hassan S. Alarifi**, Special forces official who works for Saudi Crown Prince

**Khaled Aedh G Altaibi**, Royal family's security detail.

**Abdulaziz Muhammed M Alhawsawi**, member of the security detail who travels with the crown prince.

**Fahad Shabib A Albalawi**, Royal family's security detail.

**Saif Saad Q Alqahtani** works for the crown prince according to the WaPo.

**Turki Musharraf M Alsehri**, no information

Daily Sabah, MenoM3ay, WaPo, Turkish media and other sources. The information is unconfirmed.

The Saudi State prosecutor confirmed that 11 of the suspects "had been indicted over the death of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi and that he requested the death penalty for five of them." ([Business Insider](#)). The official Saudi position is that the Crown Prince "had nothing to do with the killing"

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