



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING
FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN Rights
Registration No. 2795/2012
OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

**ICSFT WELCOMES THE ADOPTION OF RES. 2018/2885(RSP) BY THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT ON THE KILLING OF JOURNALIST JAMAL KHASHOGGI**

ICSFT welcomes the adoption of the resolution on the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul by the European Parliament (2018/2885(RSP)). The resolution is vital as it highlights the ongoing grave human rights abuse and disregard for international laws by the Saudi Arabian regime. ICSFT continues to condemn in the strongest possible terms the senseless killing of Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi operatives, which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has confirmed took place in its consulate in Istanbul as a result of “a kidnapping and interrogation gone wrong”, for reasons related to mere exercising of his right to expression and criticizing the draconian administration of Mohammad Bin Salman.

The killing by Saudi government operatives is deeply disturbing. Many questions remain unanswered. According to Turkish police, on the day of Khashoggi’s disappearance, 2 October 2018, other Saudis, including several officials, arrived in Istanbul on two planes and visited the consulate while he was still inside. All of the identified individuals have left Turkey the same day.

After days of denying to know his whereabouts, Saudi Arabia on Saturday claimed Khashoggi died during a fight inside the consulate.

It is in this context that we welcome the EU resolution that “condemns in the strongest possible terms the torture and killing of Jamal Khashoggi and extends its condolences to his family and friends; urges the Saudi authorities to disclose the whereabouts of his remains; recalls that the systematic practice of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings constitutes a crime against humanity;..”



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The resolution also Calls for “an independent and impartial international investigation into the circumstances of the death of Jamal Khashoggi; calls on those responsible to be identified and brought to justice, following a fair trial to be held in accordance with international standards before an impartial court and with international observers present;..”

Most importantly this landmark resolution urges the “Saudi authorities to fully cooperate with the Turkish authorities and urges the Turkish authorities, for their part, to make all the information available in order to clarify exactly what happened on 2 October 2018, beyond the hypotheses;..”

Additionally this EU resolution on the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi provides an accountability framework in order to hold the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice by adding a clause that urges member states to impose targeted sanctions, including visa bans and asset freezes against Saudi individuals, as well as human rights sanctions against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, once the facts have been established that Saudi agents are responsible for the killing. It further reiterates that any such list should include not only the perpetrators but also the masterminds and inciters of this crime.

Taking not of the ongoing crackdown against dissidents in Saudi Arabia the resolution also “condemns the Saudi authorities’ ongoing harassment of human rights defenders, activist lawyers, journalists, clerics, writers and bloggers both within and outside the country, which undermines the credibility of the reform process in Saudi Arabia; insists that the Saudi authorities take the necessary steps to allow everyone to exercise their rights freely without any judicial harassment or any other reprisals, such as threats to their families; calls on the Saudi authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all human rights defenders and other prisoners of conscience detained and sentenced for merely exercising



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their right to freedom of expression and carrying out their peaceful human rights work.”

As well, in light of the upcoming 3rd cycle UPR of Saudi Arabia on 5 November, in Geneva, the resolution urges the EU and its Member States to take a strong position against such blatant disrespect of international human rights, and reiterates its call for the EU Member States to propose at the UN Human Rights Council the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on human rights in Saudi Arabia. The resolution also tackles the issue of HRC membership by states with deeply questionable human rights records, including Saudi Arabia, and “deplores the vote of several Member States in support of Saudi Arabia’s membership of the Human Rights Council.”

Further the resolution “Calls on the Council to reach a common position in order to impose an EU-wide arms embargo on Saudi Arabia and to respect Common Position 2008/944/CFSP; calls for an embargo on the export of surveillance systems and other dual-use items that may be used in Saudi Arabia for the purposes of repression;”

ICSFT strongly supports this timely resolution and urges EU and HRC member states to ensure its full implementation.

We look forward to the results of the investigation being led by Turkey and we urge Saudi Arabia to implement its undertaking to participate openly and transparently in that investigation.

ICSFT also urges the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on Saudi Arabia until those responsible for the killing of Khashoggi are prosecuted and until political and human rights reforms are introduced in Saudi Arabia.



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In particular, we reiterate our call to states like USA, UK, and France to stop their selective and politicized double standard when it comes to the protection of human rights and stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia.

There is no place for autocratic regimes like Mohamad Bin Salman's Saud Arabia in this modern day and age.

Here is the full text of the resolution, [RC-B8-0498/2018](#)