

The diplomatic fallout

Accusations, denials and contradictions in the killing of the Saudi journalist

Oct 2

Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi (below, circled), a Washington Post columnist and outspoken critic of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, enters the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul to receive documents for his upcoming marriage.



Oct 3

The Washington Post reports that Khashoggi has not been seen since then. Turkish authorities believe he is still being held there.

Oct 4

Saudi Arabia says Khashoggi disappeared after leaving the building. Turkey's foreign ministry summons the Saudi ambassador.

Oct 5

Prince Mohammed says Khashoggi is not in the consulate, adding that Turkey is welcome to "search our premises".



Oct 12

Saudi delegation arrives in Turkey for talks on Khashoggi's disappearance.



Oct 6 and 7

Government source says Turkish police believe Khashoggi was killed inside the consulate. Turkey seeks permission to search the premises. Riyadh calls the claim "baseless".

Oct 13

Saudi Interior Minister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud, repeats the kingdom's denial, says claims of orders to kill Khashoggi are untrue.



Oct 16 and 17

Pompeo (below left) meets Prince Mohammed (below right) in Riyadh and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu in Ankara. A news report emerges that contains details from a purported recording of Khashoggi being tortured and then decapitated.



Oct 15

Turkish forensic officers enter the consulate. US President Donald Trump says "rogue killers" may have been behind Khashoggi's disappearance. He sends Secretary of State Michael Pompeo to Saudi Arabia to discuss the issue.

Oct 18

Senior ministers from Britain, France and the Netherlands, and US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pull out of a major investment conference in Saudi Arabia.



Oct 20

Saudi Arabia admits that Khashoggi had been killed inside the consulate, claiming he died in a brawl. Trump endorses the Saudi explanation.

Oct 21

Trump backtracks, accuses Saudi Arabia of lies. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir says the operation was not ordered by the Crown Prince, denies knowledge of the location of Khashoggi's (above) body. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vows to reveal the "naked truth" over the death.



Oct 23

Erdogan says that the murder was "planned" days in advance and that the video surveillance system was intentionally deactivated. He demands to know the location of the body and who ordered the killing. Saudi Arabia's Cabinet says it will hold accountable all those behind the murder.