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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-0498/2018**

22.10.2018

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul (2018/2885(RSP))

**Victor Boştinaru, Elena Valenciano, Pier Antonio Panzeri**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul (2018/2885(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Saudi Arabia, in particular that of 11 March 2014 on Saudi Arabia, its relations with the EU and its role in the Middle East and North Africa<sup>1</sup>, that of 12 February 2015 on the case of Raif Badawi<sup>2</sup>, that of 8 October 2015 on the case of Ali Mohammed al-Nimr<sup>3</sup>, that of 31 May 2018 on the situation of women’s rights defenders in Saudi Arabia<sup>4</sup>, and those of 25 February 2016<sup>5</sup> and 30 November 2017<sup>6</sup> on the humanitarian situation in Yemen and 4 October 2018<sup>7</sup> on the situation in Yemen, which call for an EU-wide arms embargo against Saudi Arabia given the serious allegations of Saudi Arabia breaching international humanitarian law in Yemen,
- having regard to the G7 foreign ministers’ statement of 17 October 2018 on the disappearance of the Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi,
- having regard to the remarks of 9 and 15 October 2018 by the Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), Federica Mogherini,
- having regard to the statement by the UN Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, urging Saudi Arabia to reveal all that it knows about the disappearance of Mr Khashoggi on 16 October 2018,
- having regard the statement of 9 October 2018 by UN experts demanding a investigation into the disappearance of Mr Khashoggi in Istanbul,
- having regard to the report of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of 18 October 2018,
- having regard to Saudi Arabia’s membership of the UN Human Rights Council,
- having regard to the EU Human Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR),
- having regard to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 378, 9.11.2017, p. 64.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 310, 25.8.2016, p. 29.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 349, 17.10.2017, p. 34.

<sup>4</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2018)0232.

<sup>5</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2016)0066.

<sup>6</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2017)0473.

<sup>7</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2018)0383.

Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948,
  - having regard to the award of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought and Expression to the Saudi blogger Raif Badawi in 2015,
  - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the prominent Saudi journalist and US resident Jamal Khashoggi entered the consulate of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul on 2 October 2018 to obtain documents necessary for his marriage, and has not been seen or heard from since; whereas Saudi Arabia at first denied involvement in Mr Khashoggi's disappearance, claiming he left the consulate alone shortly after entering, but seventeen days later, following heavy international pressure, said he had died in a fight in the consulate; whereas Saudi Arabia has produced no evidence to support this claim;
- B. whereas the VP/HR and the Member States did not accept the explanations of Saudi Arabia and insisted on the need for a continued thorough, credible and transparent investigation, in order to shed proper light on the circumstances of the killing of Mr Khashoggi and ensuring full accountability of all those responsible;
- C. whereas allegations have been made by the Turkish government and security sources that Mr Khashoggi was tortured, murdered and dismembered inside the consulate, and that a group of 15 Saudi men were 'most certainly involved'; whereas US intelligence officials had reportedly intercepted Saudi communications revealing a plot to capture him;
- D. whereas some of the suspects in the disappearance of Mr Khashoggi have been identified as having close ties with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Al Saud, including his security detail and a forensic doctor who holds a senior position in the Saudi interior ministry; whereas their alleged presence in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on the day of Mr Khashoggi's disappearance on 2 October implicates the Crown Prince personally in his disappearance and possible murder;
- E. whereas the Saudi authorities have described all the allegations as 'baseless' and 'absolutely false'; whereas the CCTV footage was removed from the consulate on 2 October and all Turkish staff were ordered to take a day off; whereas reportedly the Consul-General of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul, Mohammad al-Otaibi, left Turkey on 16 October;
- F. whereas the targeting of Mr Khashoggi by Saudi agents at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul is a flagrant violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963, Article 55.2 of which states that consular premises 'shall not be used in any manner incompatible with the exercise of consular functions'; whereas Article 41 of the same convention states that diplomatic immunity can be annulled in cases of a 'grave crime', on the decision of a competent court;
- G. whereas three prominent UN experts, namely Bernard Duhaime, chair-rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, David Kaye, the UN

special rapporteur on freedom of expression, and Agnes Callamard, the UN special rapporteur on summary executions, have called for an ‘independent and international investigation’ into the Khashoggi affair;

- H. whereas several high-profile speakers, sponsors and media partners have cancelled their participation in the Future Investment Initiative conference to be held later in 2018 in Riyadh, amid outrage over the disappearance of Mr Khashoggi;
  - I. whereas a number of US senators have initiated the procedure to hold the Saudi individuals involved in Mr Khashoggi’s disappearance accountable by updating the Global Magnitsky Act;
  - J. whereas since 2017 Saudi Arabia has arrested dozens of dissidents, including writers, journalists, women’s rights activists and clerics, mostly on charges related to their peacefully expressed opinions or political affiliations; whereas the authorities are seeking the death penalty for several of these activists; whereas Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Al Saud has overseen a far-reaching crackdown on prominent activists, lawyers and human rights defenders, which has intensified since he began consolidating his control over the country’s security institutions;
  - K. whereas the strategy of silencing dissent becomes all the more effective when even apart from internal repression the Saudi authorities are rewarded by the silence of foreign governments, whose acceptance of repression is signalled by failing to stand up to their stated principles;
  - L. whereas the Saudi political and social system remains undemocratic and discriminatory, makes women second-class citizens, allows no freedom of religion and belief, seriously discriminates against the country’s large foreign workforce, and severely represses all voices of dissent;
  - M. whereas in its resolution of 31 May 2018 on the situation of women’s rights defenders in Saudi Arabia, Parliament called on the Council to consider the introduction of targeted measures against individuals responsible for grave human rights violations in Saudi Arabia and the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on human rights in Saudi Arabia in the UN Human Rights Council;
  - N. whereas freedom of opinion and expression of the press and media, both online and offline, are fundamental rights of every human being and are crucial preconditions and catalysts for democratisation and reform and essential checks on power; whereas free, diverse and independent media are essential in any society to promote and protect human rights; whereas journalists’ work in uncovering abuses of power, shining a light on corruption and questioning received opinion, often puts them at specific risk of intimidation and violence;
1. Condemns in the strongest terms the forced disappearance and alleged state-sponsored murder of Jamal Khashoggi in the consulate of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul on 2 October 2018;
  2. Rejects the explanations provided so far by the Saudi authorities on the matter as lacking credibility; notes that the Saudi authorities’ failure to provide any evidence

about Mr Khashoggi's movements in and out of the consulate undermines their claims to be committed to conducting a genuine and effective investigation into the matter;

3. Calls for the immediate launch of an independent and impartial international investigation into the disappearance and possible murder of Mr Khashoggi and for those responsible to be identified and brought to justice;
4. Calls on the VP/HR to propose, on the Commission to elaborate, and on the Council to adopt, a 'Khashoggi list' of Saudi individuals subject to targeted measures, such as travel bans and asset freezes, for their role in the disappearance and alleged murder of Mr Khashoggi, as well as for other grave human rights violations in Saudi Arabia; insists that any such list should include not only the perpetrators but also the masterminds and inciters of this crime;
5. Welcomes the positions taken by some Member States, as well as economic actors and international organisations including the International Monetary Fund, boycotting the Future Investment Initiative conference to be held in Riyadh later in 2018, amid the outrage over the killing of Mr Khashoggi; insists that future engagement should be based on respect for universal values;
6. Strongly supports the initiative to create an EU global human rights sanctions regime against human rights abusers worldwide, which would entail targeting individuals through visa bans and asset freezes; expects concrete deliverables from the conference organised by the Dutch authorities to launch the initiative, scheduled to take place in The Hague in November, and encourages Member States to fully back this proposal;
7. Is concerned that the disappearance of Mr Khashoggi is directly linked to his criticism of Saudi policies in recent years; reiterates its call on the Saudi authorities to open up to fundamental rights, including the right to life and the right to free expression and peaceful dissent;
8. Condemns the ongoing repression of human rights defenders, including women's rights defenders, critical journalists, clerics and other peaceful activists in Saudi Arabia, which undermines the credibility of the reform process in the country; calls on the Government of Saudi Arabia to immediately and unconditionally release all human rights defenders and other prisoners of conscience detained and sentenced for merely exercising their right to freedom of expression and carrying out their peaceful human rights work;
9. Is seriously concerned over the similar cases of enforced disappearance that happened in 2018 to four Qatari citizens, Mohsin Al-Korbi, Abdulaziz Abdullah, Nawaf Al-Rasheed and Ahmed Khalid Meqbel; urges the Government of Saudi Arabia to provide information on their whereabouts and to immediately release them;
10. Calls for the immediate suspension of Saudi Arabia's membership rights on the UN Human Rights Council, by reason of the gross and systematic violations of human rights in which it engages both inside and outside the country; reiterates its call for the EU to propose at the UN Human Rights Council the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on human rights in Saudi Arabia;
11. Urges the EU and its Member States to take a strong position at the next Human Rights

Council meeting in Geneva, at which, on 5 November, Saudi Arabia will present its human rights record under the Universal Periodic Review;

12. Calls on the Saudi authorities to put a stop to any further flogging of Raif Badawi, and to release him immediately and unconditionally, as he is considered to be a prisoner of conscience detained and sentenced solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression; calls for the EU to continue to raise the issue of his case in any high-level contact there may be;
13. Calls on the Saudi authorities to introduce an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a step towards abolition; calls for a review of all death sentences to ensure adherence of the trials to international standards;
14. Calls on the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Commission to actively support civil society groups and individuals defending human rights in Saudi Arabia, including through prison visits, trial monitoring and public statements;
15. Reiterates its readiness to conduct a constructive and critical dialogue with Saudi Arabia on human rights and fundamental freedoms and the role of the country in the region;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy the European External Action Service, the UN Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Al Saud, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Secretary-General of the Centre for National Dialogue of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.