



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

January 18, 2022

Morris Tidball-Binz
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary,
or arbitrary executions
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Special Rapporteur:

Please find enclosed the U.S. response to the letter from your predecessor dated 25 February 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

Daniel A. Kronenfeld
Deputy Permanent Representative
Human Rights

Information concerning designation of “Jamal Khashoggi Way”

The United States thanks the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions for the letter expressing support for the adoption of the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021.” We forwarded the letter to relevant local authorities. Additionally, we are pleased to inform you the Council of the District of Columbia unanimously passed the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act” on December 7, 2021.

Individuals should be able to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms without fear of government retribution, retaliation, punishment, or harm. Mr. Jamal Khashoggi paid with his life to express his beliefs. In February 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration submitted an unclassified report to Congress, providing transparency on this horrific killing. Alongside the transmission of that report, the U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, announced the “Khashoggi Ban,” which is a visa restriction policy pursuant to Section 212(a)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The Khashoggi Ban allows the U.S. Department of State (Department) to impose visa restrictions on individuals who, acting on behalf of a foreign government, are believed to have been directly engaged in serious, extraterritorial counter-dissident activities, including those that suppress, harass, surveil, threaten, or harm journalists, activists, or other persons perceived to be dissidents for their work, or who engage in such activities with respect to the families or other close associates of such persons. Specifically, under the Khashoggi Ban, the Department has taken action to impose visa restrictions on 76 Saudi individuals believed to have been engaged in threatening dissidents overseas, including, but not limited to, Mr. Khashoggi. In his February 26, 2021 statement, the Secretary of State also directed the Department to fully report on activities by any government to engage in politically motivated reprisals against individuals located outside its territory in its annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

The United States will continue to shine a light on any government that targets individuals, either domestically or extraterritorially, merely for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Administration has also launched a coordinated effort to prevent and respond to any government targeting journalists, activists, and dissidents beyond its borders through the practice known as transnational repression, bringing together diplomatic, law enforcement, and intelligence tools to deter repressive governments and better protect targeted individuals and groups, including within the United States. We will use every appropriate tool to see to it that journalists, human rights defenders, and other advocates can conduct their important work in safety and security no matter where they are. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with Special Procedures and other UN entities as we undertake these efforts.