

Saudi crown prince ordered operation against missing journalist: report

Saudi Arabia's crown prince and de facto ruler allegedly ordered an operation targeting journalist and United States (US) resident Jamal Khashoggi, who has been missing for more than a week, The Washington Post reported Wednesday citing US intelligence intercepts.

Khashoggi – a US resident and one of the more outspoken critics of the regime of King Salman and his son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman – disappeared after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, and Turkish officials suspect he was murdered.

The Post, a newspaper to which Khashoggi contributed, cited unnamed US officials as saying that Saudi officials had been heard discussing a plan to lure Khashoggi from the US state of Virginia, where he resided, and detain him.

The paper quoted several of Khashoggi's friends as saying that senior Saudi officials had approached him offering protection, or even a high-level government job, if he returned home – but that Khashoggi was sceptical of the offers.