



Media Foundation for West Africa

Fondation pour les Medias en Afrique de
l'Ouest (FMAO)

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November 2, 2018

**Ms. Christine Evans-Clock,
The UN Resident Coordinator
House No. 7 Ring Road East
Accra**

Dear Madam,

Petition

We, the undersigned 16 press freedom organisations in West Africa, seize this solemn occasion of International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI), (November 2, 2018), to call on the United Nations to set up an independent body to investigate the killing of Saudi Arabia journalist, Jamal Khashoggi and ensure justice.

It has been established that Jamal Khashoggi who was last seen at the Saudi Arabia Consulate in Instabul, Turkey on October 2, 2018 was killed and his body dismembered by his killers.

This call for an independent investigation is in line with the views of other key international figures including David Kaye, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression who has also advocated an independent inquiry "whether it's through the Security Council, Human Rights Council, or by persuading the UN Secretary-General to launch such an investigation

Such an initiative by the world body will help unravel all the mystery surrounding the killing and, more importantly, ensure justice for the journalist, his family and the international media fraternity.

Impunity for such a heinous and blatant crime against the journalist can embolden perpetrators across the world including our region.

Indeed, if the world fails to pursue and punish the real perpetrators, it would send a dire message to journalists and dissenting voices in Saudi Arabia and in fledgling democracies such as ours that it is not worth daring to tell the truth which dictators and criminals want suppressed.

We consider the Khashoggi case as a test of world leaders' real commitment to protecting press freedom, freedom of expression and opinion. It is also an opportunity for world leaders to take a decisive action that would send a powerful message to the Saudi government and all repressive regimes across the world that there are severe consequences for crimes against journalists.

We commend Turkey for its role in clarifying the circumstances surrounding Khashoggi's killing, and hope that the authorities in that country will provide invaluable support to an independent investigation team when set up.

We also appeal to the government of Saudi Arabia to cooperate fully with the international community to bring closure to the Khashoggi affair.

Signed:

1. Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), Ghana
2. International Press Centre (IPC), Nigeria
3. Observatoire indépendant nigérien des medias pour l'éthique et la déontologie (ONIMED), Niger
4. Observatoire pour la déontologie et l'éthique dans les medias (ODEM), Benin
5. Observatoire de liberté de la presse, de l'éthique et la déontologie (OLPED), Cote d'Ivoire
6. Association guinéenne des éditeurs de la presse indépendante (AGEPI), Guinée
7. Union des journalistes indépendants du Togo (UJIT), Togo
8. Maison de la Presse (MP), Mali
9. Regroupement de la Presse Mauritanienne (RPM), Mauritania
10. Convention des jeunes reporters du Sénégal (CJRS), Senegal
11. Gambia Press Union (GPU), Gambia
12. Centre national de presse-Norbert Zongo (CNP-NZ), Burkina Faso
13. Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG-SL)-Sierra Leone
14. Sindicato De Jornalistas e Tecnicos De Comunicaçao Social Guinea Bissau (SINJOTECS), Guinee-Bissau
15. Centre for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP), Liberia
16. Associação dos jornalistas de Cabo Verde (AJOC),Cape Verde

**CC: Turkish Embassy, Accra
Saudi Arabia Embassy, Accra**

