

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, AND THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are currently waging a brutal war on Yemen, where 14 million people are at risk of starvation and 500,000 people have already died. The Saudis are jailing dissidents at home, and murdered U.S. resident and Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi for criticism of the regime. And the Trump administration has refused to intervene.

TRUMP'S CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Since President Trump took office, the Saudi government has paid for hundreds of nights in Trump hotel rooms. Trump Hotel Chicago experienced a 169% increase in Saudi patrons.¹ The Manhattan Trump hotel experienced a 13% increase in revenue after just one visit from crown prince **Mohammed bin Salman** in 2018.² Trump has welcomed their business. In fact, he made Saudi Arabia a destination of his first trip abroad as President. He's also aware of how much business the Saudis have brought to him over the years. As he said at a campaign rally in 2016, "Saudi Arabia, I get along with all of them. They buy apartments from me. They spend \$40 million, \$50 million. Am I supposed to dislike them?"³

Trump also has a history of business ties with the United Arab Emirates. The Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority was located **in the New York Trump Tower from 2012 to the election**.⁴ The Trump International Golf Club in Dubai, which opened in February 2017, may be joined by a second golf club this year.⁵

And it's not just Trump. Campaign advisor Robert Stryk and other campaign officials worked as lobbyists for Sonoran Policy Group, which received \$5.4 million from the Saudi Ministry of the Interior.⁶ A Trump appointee on the Commission on White House Fellowships was also simultaneously a paid foreign agent for Saudi Arabia, earning \$430,000 for their work. Other Trump advisors have shady ties to Saudi Arabia, such as Tom Barrack, a hedge fund owner and private equity real estate investor who was Trump's inauguration chairman and served as his advisor on the Middle East during the campaign. Barrack tried to buy Westinghouse Electric Corp in a plan for both personal enrichment and aiding Saudi Arabia with nuclear power.⁷

In a blatant conflict of interest, Trump senior advisor and son-in-law Jared Kushner is currently pitching the SoftBank Vision Fund, which is mostly owned and funded by the governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, for a \$100 million investment in his real estate start-up.⁸ No wonder the crown prince reportedly bragged that Kushner is "in his pocket."⁹ Kushner also flew to Riyadh to meet privately with Mohammad bin Salman the day after his brother met with senior Saudi officials about investments in his billion-dollar venture capital firm.¹⁰

SUPPORT FOR AUTHORITARIANISM:

The Trump administration is attempting to aid Saudi Arabia with nuclear technology. **Even after the murder of Khashoggi, new nuclear technology was transferred.**¹¹

In late 2018, the Trump administration **blocked a UN Security Council resolution** that called for aid to Yemen and greater accountability for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. To appease the U.S., the resolution was rewritten with weaker language. This summer, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo refused to place Saudi Arabia on a list of nations that use child soldiers, against his own Department's recommendations.¹²

The Trump Administration's relationship with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates is enabling human rights abuses and costing lives -- while Trump, his family, and aides make millions.

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