

U.S. senators say crown prince is guilty in Khashoggi murder



Washington, December 6 (RHC)-- In the United States, CIA Director Gina Haspel briefed a group of senators on the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. After the closed-door meeting, Republican senator and chair of the Foreign Relations Committee Bob Corker told reporters he holds Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman directly responsible.

Senator Corker told reporters: "I have zero question in my mind that the crown prince, MBS, ordered the killing, monitored the killing, knew exactly what was happening, planned it in advance. If he was in front of a jury, he would be convicted in 30 minutes: guilty."

Republican South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham also condemned the crown prince and called out the Trump administration's handling of the case. Sen. Graham said: "MBS, the crown prince, is a wrecking ball. I think he's complicit in the murder of Mr. Khashoggi to the highest level possible. I think the behavior before the Khashoggi murder was beyond disturbing, and I cannot see him being a reliable partner to the United States. ... Secretary Pompeo and Mattis are following the lead of the president. There's not a smoking gun; there's a smoking saw."

The "smoking saw" that Senator Graham referred to is the bone saw that was reportedly used to dismember Khashoggi's body by Saudi hit men in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on October 2nd.

CIA Director Haspel's briefing came a week after the White House reportedly blocked her from providing background to senators. Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate is gearing up for a debate over whether to halt U.S. support for the Saudi-led war on Yemen, after senators voted last week to advance a bipartisan resolution on the issue.

The war has sparked what the U.N. calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis in a half-century, with half of Yemen's 28 million people on the brink of famine.

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