

# Supporters of Saudi Crown Prince Attack Rights Activist in London

LONDON (Press TV) – A Saudi human rights activist and a critic of the kingdom’s royals who sought refuge in the UK has been assaulted in London by men backing Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

Ghanem al-Dosari, who is known for satirical YouTube videos criticizing the Saudi royal family, was attacked by two men on Brompton Road in London after he posted a Snapchat to his followers that revealed his location where he was having a coffee with a friend.

After al-Dosari and his friend left the café, two men started following them.

“After we walked 100m or so we were approached by two guys from behind,” al-Dosari told The Independent on Sunday.

“They started shouting at me... they were saying ‘who are you to talk about the family of al-Saud?’ I think they knew where I was from Snapchat, they recognized me easily.”



Demonstrators tell MBS ‘hands off Yemen’ at rally against his visit to London.

Viral footage shows a man, wearing jeans and a light shirt, punching al-Dosari in the face as terrified shoppers and families flee the scene while others attempt to separate them.

Another man, wearing a grey suit and a wired earpiece, then follows the activist down the road before

being dragged backwards and restrained.

His friend Alan Bender, a Canadian businessman, said the two men accused al-Dosari of being a “slave of Qatar” – a foe of Saudi Arabia – and threatened to “teach him a lesson”.

“I told them this was not Riyadh,

this is London, and the guy immediately said: ‘F\*\*\* London, their Queen is our slave and their police are our dogs,’ he added.

According to Bender, the pair shouted “how dare you curse Prince Salman, we won’t allow it” and insulted al-Dosari, his mother, sisters and family in bad language.

Bender added that the men only fled when some people shouted that the police were coming.

The attack left al-Dosari bleeding from the mouth and he received treatment at the scene in an ambulance.

He was later transferred to Notting Hill Police station, where he reported the attack although he believed that both men have since returned to the kingdom.

The activist vowed that he will not retreat and will continue his human rights work, which is well-known in his home country because of his sizable social media following.

## Ex-Zionist PM Likens Netanyahu to Romanian Dictator

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Former Zionist prime minister Ehud Barak has censured his successor Benjamin Netanyahu for passing corrupt legislation, comparing him to Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who was overthrown and killed in 1989.

“The moral collapse of Netanyahu has begotten laws whose only purpose is to help the government escape the corruption, bribery and breach of trust affairs it is suspected in,” Barak said at a speech in Tel Aviv.

Barak hinted that Netanyahu would face the same fate of

Ceausescu, who ruled over Romania with an iron grip from 1965 until he was overthrown after mass protests against him. He was executed in the same year along with his wife Elena.

“It’s an expression of moral degradation that is not working for the good of citizens but for submission to a seemingly corrupt leader. This is reminiscent of Elena and Nicolae Ceausescu more than a model society or a light unto the nations,” he said.

Commenting on Barak, Netanyahu’s Likud Party said in a statement that the former prime

minister was “inciting murder” against the premier. “He’s simply lost it,” the statement added.

Netanyahu is currently embroiled in three corruption cases, though he has not been indicted.

A number of laws passed recently have been thought to be attempts to protect him, such as a law that will prevent police from publishing recommendations on whether to charge criminal suspects.

Barak, who is thought to have aspirations of returning to political office, has been a vocal critic

of Netanyahu and urged him to step down in the past over the corruption probes.

In response to Likud’s charge, Barak hinted on Twitter at charges that Netanyahu had engaged in incitement to violence ahead of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin’s assassination in 1995.

Prior to the assassination, Netanyahu, then only the leader of the extremist Likud party, had accused Rabin of being “removed from Jewish tradition... and Jewish values.” Rabin, in turn, had accused Netanyahu of provoking violence.

## Saudi Arabia Reports Cholera Infection in Southern Province

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia has confirmed one cholera infection and three other suspected cases in an area bordering Yemen, where an epidemic has killed more than 2,000 people, state TV reported, citing a health ministry official.

The report said the patients, identified only as non-Saudis, were receiving care at al-Mauwassem General Hospital in Jizan, about 1,000 km (620 miles) southwest of the capital, Riyadh.

It was unclear if the outbreak was linked to Yemen or to last month’s Muslim haj pilgrimage, which draws some 2 million foreigners each year, raising the risk of the spread of infectious disease.

The incubation period for cholera, which spreads through ingestion of fecal matter and causes acute watery diarrhea, is a matter of hours. Once symptoms start, it can kill within hours if the patient does not receive treatment.

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched a devastating military campaign against Yemen in March 2015, with the aim of

bringing the government of Hadi back to power and crushing the country’s Houthi Ansarullah movement.

Some 15,000 Yemenis have been killed and thousands more injured since the onset of the Saudi-led aggression.

More than 2,200 others have died of cholera, and the crisis has triggered what the United Nations has described as the world’s worst humanitarian disaster.

Saudi Arabia has intensified its invasion of Yemen as the United Nations special envoy for the violence-scarred country visits the capital Sana’a in an attempt to cobble together a conflict resolution mechanism.

The WHO has rolled out an emergency treatment program, based on the vestiges of Yemen’s shattered health system, to try to catch new cases early and stop the explosive spread of the disease.

Saudi Health Minister Tawfiq al-Rabeeah said last month that the haj had passed without any outbreak of disease.

## Erdogan Calls for Investigation Into Opposition Role at Isbank

ISTANBUL (Reuters) – Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said authorities should look into members of the opposition who serve on the board of Isbank, Hurriyet newspaper said on Monday, knocking the shares of the country’s largest listed lender.

Erdogan and his aides have previously called for greater scrutiny of the main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) over its 28 percent stake in Isbank, bequeathed to the party by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic.

While the CHP does not receive dividends from the stake - those go to cultural associations, as stipulated by Ataturk’s will - party members do have seats on the bank’s board.

“It owns 28 percent of Isbank shares. It can’t get money from there but it has four board members. What do these four members do? This must be looked into,” Hurriyet quoted Erdogan as telling reporters on his plane returning from Azerbaijan.

Isbank shares tumbled 5.8 percent to 3.9 lira

by 1254 GMT, underperforming a 0.9 percent decline in Istanbul’s benchmark BIST-100 index. The Isbank sell-off weighed on banking stocks as well, with the index of bank shares dropping nearly 3 percent.

Isbank said it was too important to be made a subject of political debate, adding that trust in banks needed to be preserved for the sake of Turkey’s economy.

The bank said there had been times when Ataturk’s 28.09 percent stake had been represented by the CHP and the Treasury, together or separately.

“This does not have any impact on our bank’s activities or the way it does business,” it said.

Since assuming a more powerful executive presidency in July, Erdogan has tightened his grip on the economy and monetary policy, appointing his son-in-law as finance minister and taking charge of the sovereign wealth fund. Fears about growing authoritarianism and the lack of central bank independence have helped send the lira down 40 percent this year.

Erdogan wants to see lower interest rates to spur lending and boost economic growth. He has repeatedly called on listed lenders to extend more credit to the real economy.

Authorities previously seized the assets of Bank Asya, a lender started by followers of U.S.-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, a former Erdogan ally whom the government accuses of masterminding a failed military coup in 2016.

On Monday, the head of the CHP, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, said his party did not interfere in Isbank and was holding the shares out of duty to Ataturk’s legacy. He speculated that Erdogan wanted to transfer the stake to Turkey’s sovereign wealth fund.

“Everyone needs to respect Ataturk’s heritage. None of our colleagues who are part of the Isbank board meddle in its banking affairs, they only carry the honor of representing Ataturk’s shares,” he told reporters.

“Does he want to transfer it to the wealth fund? This needs to be looked at.”

## U.S. Ominous... (Continued From Page One)

Germany, France and the U.K. are working with the European Commission on special-purpose vehicles that would allow its members to swap goods without financial transactions with Iran.

While following a hard line, Trump has also called for negotiations with Iran. On Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi stressed that Iran does not even think about holding talks with the U.S.

“Given the naïve and uncivilized decision of the current U.S. administration in withdrawing from the JCPOA and also the country’s policies against Iran, we do not even think about negotiating with the U.S. let alone talking about the preconditions,” Qasemi told a press conference.

“This issue is not on our agenda. So, there will be no discussion about the preconditions. As I said, we do not think about talks with the U.S.”

Qasemi also said Iran will not negotiate about its defense capabilities. “Our defense policies are right. These policies are beneficial to the region and we do not hold talks about anything related to defense capabilities,” he said.

In a press conference at the White House on July 30, Trump said he would meet with Iran “anytime they want to” and without “preconditions”. However, hours after Trump’s statements, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo appeared on CNBC to set some conditions.

Back in May, Pompeo had set 12 conditions for talks with Iran, which were dismissed by Tehran.

In remarks on August 13, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said there would be no war between Iran and the U.S. and nor would be any negotiation between the two countries.

Qasemi also said Iranian President Hassan Rouhani will attend the annual UN General Assembly scheduled to be held from 18 September to 5 October.

“The president will depart to the United Nations and this is an opportunity that various meetings could be held on the sidelines of the summit at the presidential and foreign ministerial levels,” he stated.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also said Iran and the remaining parties to the nuclear agreement - Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany - may hold talks at the foreign ministerial level on the sidelines of the UN meeting.

Commenting on the talks between Iran and the Europeans to preserve the JCPOA, he said that the talks are on the right path.

The European Union trio – Germany, France and Britain - are expected to present their package of proposals to Iran before the second round of U.S. sanctions, which includes ban on Iran’s oil export, takes effect in early November.

## Iran... (Continued From Page One)

would bring “new hope” to the region. Erdogan earlier said Turkey’s calls for a ceasefire in Idlib were bearing fruit after days of relative calm but more work needed to be done, Hurriyet newspaper reported Monday.

Turkey, with 3.5 million Syrian refugees, has already borne the “political and human burden” of Syria’s seven-year-old conflict and any new refugee flow would head for Turkey, the newspaper quoted Erdogan as telling reporters on a flight back from Azerbaijan at the weekend.

Ankara has established a dozen military observation posts around Idlib, which it has reinforced with troops and equipment in recent weeks according to Turkish and Syrian militant sources.

“We are trying to protect the pure, clean, innocent people there with these observation posts,” Erdogan said.

Turkey has called for measures to target terrorists in Idlib while protecting civilians and avoiding an indiscriminate assault, likely backed by Russian air power.

“Let’s all take steps, measures together against the terror groups among the opposition in Idlib,” Erdogan said. “But let’s not create an excuse and take a step like bombing there.”

Although Iranian President Hasan Rouhani was not be present, Qasemi said Tehran was continuing discussions with both countries as well as Damascus.

Sixty percent of Idlib’s area is controlled by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group, an alliance led by Al-Qaeda’s former Syrian affiliate.

Turkey has meanwhile bolstered its military presence in Idlib, with Ankara aiming to prevent an assault by government forces who have massed around the province in recent weeks.

## Oil... (Continued From Page One)

on Saturday that Saudi Arabia and Russia had taken the oil market “hostage” and accused other producers of turning the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries into “a U.S. tool”.

Iran is the third-largest OPEC producer. A deepening trade war between the United States and China is unsettling commodities and energy markets.

U.S. President Donald Trump is likely to announce new tariffs on about \$200 billion on Chinese imports on Monday, a senior administration official told Reuters.

The trade dispute is raising concerns about the potential for slower growth in oil consumption, offsetting supply concerns stemming from the upcoming U.S. sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program. Also weighing on oil prices, U.S. drillers added two oil rigs in the week to Dec. 1, bringing the total count up to 749, the highest since September, Baker Hughes energy services firm said on Friday.