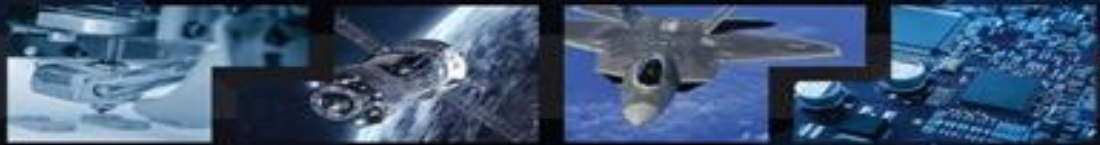


PAUL E. ROLLAND

THE
REVELATION
OF JESUS CHRIST

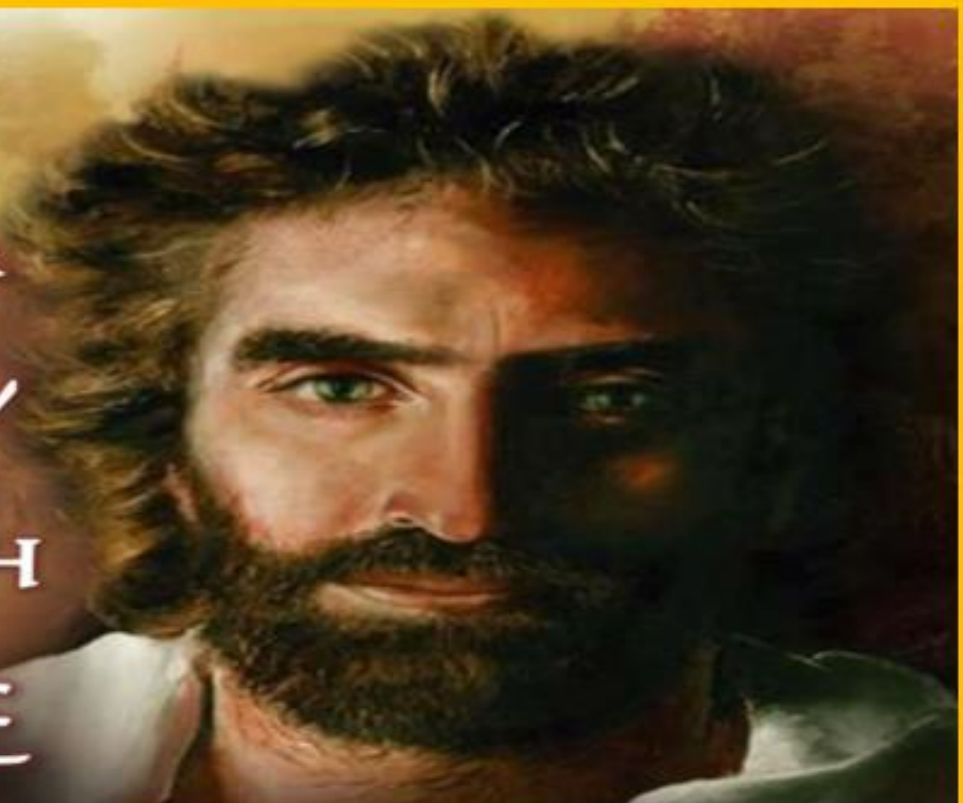


HOPE AND WARNING FOR
A MODERN WORLD

WATCHMAN'S
TRUMPET

A golden trumpet is shown horizontally. From the bell on the right, a burst of orange and red flames is emerging.

I
AM
the
WAY
the
TRUTH
the
LIFE



TWELVE-FOLD TITLES/DESCRIPTIONS OF GOD:

1. Lord. (7X) (Rev. 1:8, 1:10, 4:11, 6:10, 11:15, 14:13, 15:4)
2. God. (70X) (Rev. 1:1, 1:2, 1:6, 1:9, 2:7, 3:2, 3:12, 3:14, 5:9, 5:10, 6:9, 7:2, 7:3, 7:10, 7:11, 7:12, 7:15, 8:2, 8:4, 9:4, 9:13, 10:7, 11:1, 11:4, 11:11, 11:13, 11:16, 11:19, 12:5, 12:6, 12:10, 12:17, 13:6, 14:4, 14:5, 14:7, 14:10, 14:12, 14:19, 15:1, 15:2, 15:3, 15:7, 15:8, 16:1, 16:9, 16:11, 16:19, 16:21, 17:17, 18:5, 18:20, 19:5, 19:9, 19:10, 19:17, 20:4, 20:6, 20:9, 20:12, 21:2, 21:3, 21:4, 21:7, 21:11, 21:23, 22:3, 22:9, 22:18, 22:19)
3. Almighty. (1X). (Rev. 1:8)
4. Lord God. (5X). (Rev. 18:8, 19:1, 19:6, 22:5, 22:6)
5. Lord Almighty. (1X). (Rev. 1:8)
6. God Almighty. (2X). (Rev. 16:14, 19:15)
7. Lord God Almighty. (5X). (Rev. 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 21:22)
8. Alpha / Omega. (4X). (Rev. 1:8, 1:11, 21:6, 22:13)
9. Father. (5X). (Rev. 1:6, 2:27, 3:5, 3:21, 14:1)
10. beginning / ending. (3X). (Rev. 1:18, 21:6, 22:13)
11. which is, was, is to come. (3X). (Rev. 1:4, 1:8, 4:8)
12. first and last (4X). (Rev. 1:11, 1:17, 2:8, 22:13)

Commentary: Names and Titles are Capitalized, descriptions are not. Three individual names of God can be joined to form four (4) combinations of names, all properly representing the power, majesty and glory of God. God refers to himself as Lord, seven (7) times. Seven (7) represents God's divinely determined completeness to his plan or purpose. Lord suggests supreme rulership and authority. His name of God, is repeated seventy (70) times. (7x10=70). Ten (10) represents God's allness or completeness. This name of God, is the ONLY subject, in all of Revelation, to have seventy (70) references. The combinations of God's names result in fewer references, but they are all derivatives his three (3) basic names, Lord – God – Almighty. By using these three basis names, God is intensely emphasizing who he is. By arranging them into additional combinations, adds another measure of importance and description as to who He is. The name of Jesus Christ, also shares the same naming characteristics as the Father's names.

TWENTY-FOUR REFERENCES TO THE LAMB:



1. . . . “And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood **A LAMB** as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent forth into all the earth.” (Rev. 5:6).
2. . . . “And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before **THE LAMB**, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.” (Rev. 5:8).
3. . . . “Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is **THE LAMB** that was slain to receive power; and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.” (Rev. 5:12).
4. . . . “And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto **THE LAMB** for ever and ever.” (Rev. 5:13).
5. . . . “And I saw when **THE LAMB** opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.” (Rev. 6:1).

6. . . . *“And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of **THE LAMB**:”* (Rev. 6:16).
7. . . . *“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before **THE LAMB**, clothed in white robes, and palms in their hands;”* (Rev. 7:9).
8. . . . *“And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto **THE LAMB**.”* (Rev. 7:10).
9. . . . *“For **THE LAMB** which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”* (Rev. 7:17).
10. . . . *“And they overcame him by the blood of **THE LAMB**, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”* (Rev. 12:11).
11. . . . *“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of **THE LAMB** slain from the foundation of the world.”* (Rev. 13:8).
12. . . . *“And I looked, and, lo, **A LAMB** stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.”* (Rev. 14:1).
13. . . . *“These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow **THE LAMB** whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.”* (Rev. 14:4).
14. . . . *“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of **THE LAMB**.”* (Rev. 14:10).
15. . . . *“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of **THE LAMB**, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”* (Rev. 15:3).
16. . . . *“These shall make war with **THE LAMB**, and **THE LAMB** shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”* (Rev. 17:14).
17. . . . *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of **THE LAMB** is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”* (Rev. 19:7).

18. . . . “And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of **THE LAMB**. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” (Rev. 19:9).
19. . . . “And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of **THE LAMB**.” (Rev. 21:14).
20. . . . “And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and **THE LAMB** are the temple of it.” (Rev. 21:22).
21. . . . “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and **THE LAMB** is the light thereof.” (Rev. 21:22).
22. . . . “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in **THE LAMB’S** book of life.” (Rev. 21:27).
23. . . . “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of **THE LAMB**.” (Rev. 22:1).
24. . . . “And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of **THE LAMB** shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.” (Rev. 22:3).

Commentary: Lamb is capitalized and therefore another name or title of Jesus Christ. **THE FACT THAT THE LAMB IS REFERENCED TWENTY-FOUR (24) TIMES INDICATE THAT HE IS THE FOUNDATION IN GOD’S ABUNDANT OR DOUBLED ORGANIZATIONAL (GOVERNMENT) ARRANGEMENT. HE IS LITERALLY THE CORNER STONE IN THE FOUNDATION OF GOD’S DIVINE ORGANIZATION OF THINGS. FOR THERE TO BE AN ORGANIZATION OF ANYTHING, ON EARTH OR HEAVEN, THERE HAS TO BE A ROCK-STEADY FOUNDATION SUPPORTING A PURPOSE OR PLAN. THERE HAS TO BE FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENT OF STRENGTH AND TRUTH.** If the foundation of the organization of a house is poor, weak and not built correctly, the house will fall. The foundation has to be built firm so it does not change or shift under the organizational structure of the house.

The Lamb (Jesus Christ) represents the rock-steady, true and solid foundation of God’s divine organization and the foundation of man’s redemption. God’s organization is built on and around the Lamb. The title and name Lamb is unique because it is also reflects a descriptive term. **IT DESCRIBES JESUS CHRIST AS NOT ONLY WHO HE IS, BUT WHAT HE IS! LAMB THEREFORE SERVES A THREEFOLD**

PURPOSED; IT IS A TITLE OR A NAME, DESCRIBES WHO HE IS, AND DESCRIBES WHAT HE IS.

Twenty-four is the greatest *finite number* in the mathematics of God. It is the largest representation of anything in God's abundant or doubled governmental organization. ***THE NUMBER OF REPETITIVE REFERENCES IMPLIES EXTREME SIGNIFICANCE, IMPORTANCE AND PURPOSE. THE HOLY SPIRIT USES THE TERM LAMB OVER AND OVER AND OVER, TO PROCLAIM THAT JESUS CHRIST DIED, LIKE A LAMB (BLOODY AND SLAUGHTERED), ON A CROSS AND THEN ROSE AGAIN, FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF MANKIND'S SINS.***

The Jews had a practice of slaughtering clean, genetically perfect animals to temporarily atone for their sins. Their sins were cast onto these animals, who then were destroyed by burning. ***JESUS CHRIST WAS THE PERFECT MAN, CLEAN AND SINLESS. HE WAS THE PERFECT HUMAN LAMB.*** His death and burial were for the eternal (not temporary) forgiveness of all of men's sins. All of our sins were cast upon the Lamb, while God was sacrificing his son on the cross through the shedding of his blood, instead of the shedding of our blood.

We deserve to die for our sins, Jesus (the Lamb) did not deserve to die since he was sinless. However, in God's infinite grace and mercy, he allowed his son to take on our sins and carry them from the cross to the grave, for eternity. Through our acceptance of God's offer of forgiveness through his son Jesus Christ (the Lamb), our sins are forgiven; past, present and future.

Putting this into a little different perspective, but one that should hit home and resonate with you on a personal level. As a parent, you absolutely love your child (son or daughter), of course you do! There is no question about that, for any normal, emotionally healthy parent. Hypothetically speaking, how would you feel if an ISIS terrorist group kidnapped your son or daughter, severely tortured them with whips, nailed them to a tree in public, spit on them, cursed them and mocked them? Blood running down your son or daughter's legs from the wounds in their hands, head, back and torso. How would you feel, as a parent, knowing that they are slowly dying a painful, horrible, slow death.

Hypothetically, speaking of course, how would you feel as a parent if the ISIS terrorist group told you that your son or daughter (either of whom is totally innocent) is being slaughtered for some perceived hatred or action of another guilty party. How would you feel knowing that your son or daughter was the scapegoat for an evil payback by the terrorist group as a lesson for those who don't follow their ideology?

By now, you should have an extremely painful visual image in your head. Now, hypothetically speaking again, imagine how God felt seeing his son, Jesus Christ, in the same excruciatingly painful, deadly predicament as your family member. If he is a living, loving entity (which he is), how do you think he felt having to give up his Holy Son to the Roman authorities, for slaughtering. His son was totally innocent, but was used as a scapegoat or as a Lamb for our sins and transgressions.

Jesus Christ (the Lamb), didn't deserve to be tortured and die. There was no logical, rational reason for him to bear all of mankind's sins for eternity. But, he did so, willingly. As a parent, would you willingly let your son or daughter be literally slaughtered as a result of someone else's evil actions? God's love for us transcended the pain he felt from his son's bloody crucifixion. ***THE WORK OF THE LAMB IS THE FOUNDATIONAL CORNERSTONE OF GOD'S DIVINE ORGANIZATION FOR THE REDEMPTION OF MAN. THE TWENTY-FOUR REPETITIONS OF 'LAMB' ATTEST TO THIS DIVINE MATHEMATICAL FACT.***



TWELVE-FOLD REFERENCES TO A HEAVENLY BOOK:

1. . . . “And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the **THRONE A BOOK WRITTEN WITHIN AND ON THE BACKSIDE, SEALED WITH SEVEN SEALS.**” (Rev. 5:1).
2. . . . “And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to **OPEN THE BOOK**, and to loose the seals thereof?” (Rev. 5:2).
3. . . . “And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to **OPEN THE BOOK**, neither to look thereon.” (Rev. 5:3).
4. . . . “And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to **READ THE BOOK**, neither to look thereon.” (Rev. 5:4).
5. . . . “And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to **OPEN THE BOOK**, and to loose the seven seals thereof.” (Rev. 5:5).
6. . . . “And he came and **TOOK THE BOOK** out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.” (Rev. 5:7).
7. . . . “And when he had **TAKEN THE BOOK**, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.” (Rev. 5:8).
8. . . . “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to **TAKE THE BOOK, AND OPEN THE SEALS** thereof: for thou wast slain, and has redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation:” (Rev. 5:9).
9. . . . “And he had in his hand **A LITTLE BOOK** open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth.” (Rev. 10:2).
10. . . . “And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take **THE LITTLE BOOK** which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.” (Rev. 10:8).
11. . . . “And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me **THE LITTLE BOOK**. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.” (Rev. 10:9).

12. . . . “And I **TOOK THE LITTLE BOOK** out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.” (Rev. 10:10).

Commentary: Rev. 5:1-5, 7-9, reference the book of wrath that has the seven seals which Christ is the only one worthy enough to open. Rev. 10:2, 8-10, references a little book of prophecy that “*tastes sweet, but when eaten, becomes bitter in the belly*”. Both books are prophetic in nature. **THE BOOK WHICH CHRIST OPENS IS OBVIOUSLY A SERIES OF PROPHECIES THAT INDICATE THE JUDGEMENTS CHRIST ADMINISTERS TO START THE TRIBULATION.** The second book of prophecies handed by a mighty, glorious angel to John is a bit of an enigma. The book could contain prophecies regarding other events in the Tribulation period that we don’t know about, or events that we do know about as stated in the book of Revelation.

As the book of Revelation is generally considered the largest book in the Bible concerning prophecy, the two heavenly books described above (**CHRIST’S BOOK OR ROLE OF SEALS, THE MIGHTY ANGEL’S LITTLE BOOK OF BITTERNESS**) ARE TWO PROPHECY BOOKS CONTAINED WITHIN THE PROPHECY OF REVELATION. Prophecies within prophecy. Interestingly, Revelation is chock-full of references to **BOOKS BEING USED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOD’S ORDER OF THINGS.**

There is also a book of life referenced many places throughout Revelation. **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THINGS IN GOD’S ADMINISTRATION ARE “WRITTEN DOWN IN BOOKS” (OR LEDGERS, IF YOU WANT TO USE AN ACCOUNTING TERM). ULTIMATELY, EVERY CHRISTIAN’S NAME IS WRITTEN DOWN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.** John the Apostle was instructed by the Holy Spirit to ‘write’ down what he saw and/or heard.

<https://youtu.be/m1F0p012pn4>

<https://youtu.be/LJ8sdZOXmiU>

The ABCs (7) of Salvation through Jesus Christ (the Lamb)

A. (7) **Admit/Acknowledge/Accept that you are sinner. Ask (7) God’s forgiveness and repent of your sins.**

. . . “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23).

. . . “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10).

. . . “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8).

B. Believe Jesus is Lord. Believe that (7) Jesus Christ is who He claimed to (7) be; that He was both fully God (7) and fully man and that we are (7) saved through His death, burial, and resurrection. (7) Put your trust in Him as your (7) only hope of salvation. Become a son (7) or daughter of God by receiving Christ. (7777777) 7x7

. . . “That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:15-17). For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13).

C. Call upon His name, Confess (7) with your heart and with your lips (7) that Jesus is your Lord and Savior.

. . . “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE ISLAMIC ANTICHRIST (Free E-Book)

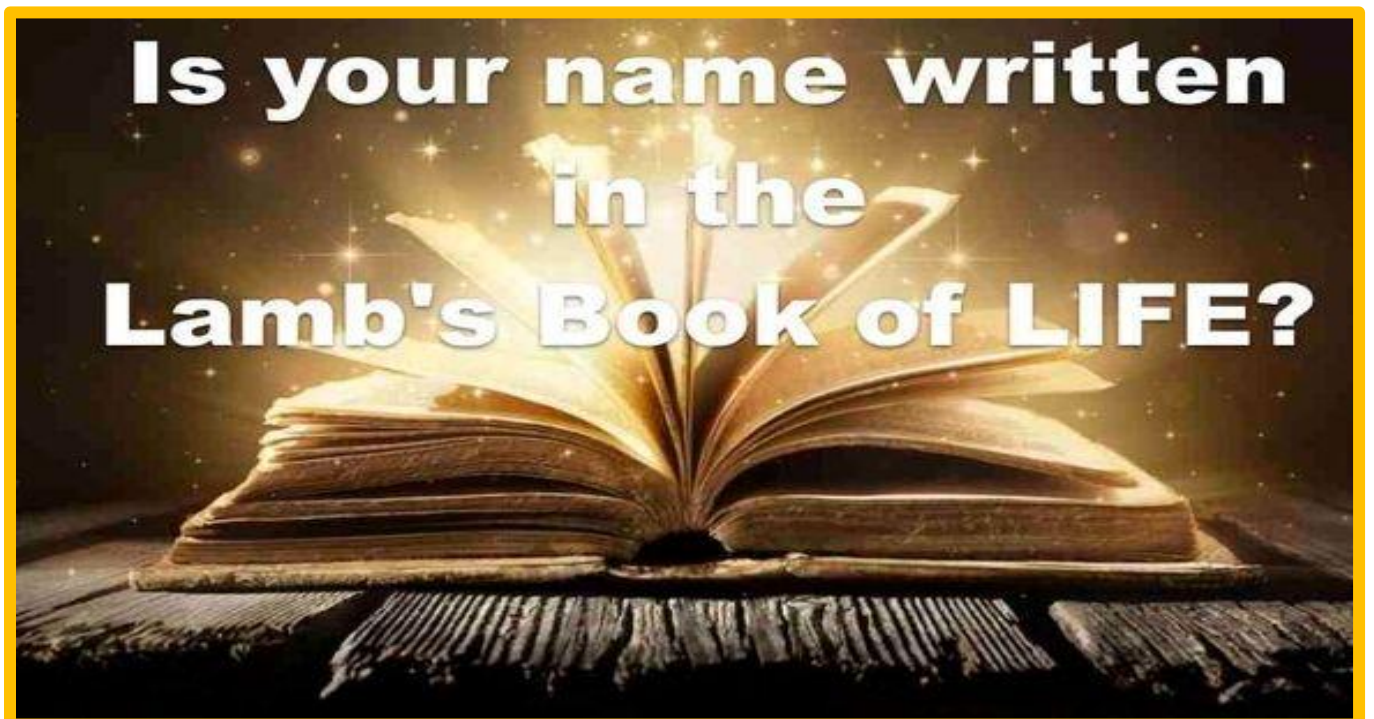
<https://my.visme.co/view/vdn9746p-the-ultimate-guide-to-the-islamic-antichrist>

RUMBLE VIDEOS:

<https://rumble.com/user/NightWatchmanMinistries>



<https://youtu.be/j3ug5033mFk>



GREAT WHITE THRONE AND ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

<https://rumble.com/v5673cv-great-white-throne-and-eternal-judgement.html>



And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.



SEVEN-FOLD REFERENCE TO LAKE OF FIRE JUDGEMENT

1. *“He that hath an ear, let hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of **THE SECOND DEATH (LAKE OF FIRE)**.”* (Rev. 2:11).
2. *“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he **SHALL BE TORMENTED WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE** in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”* (Rev. 14:10-11).
3. *“And **THE BEAST** was taken, and with him **THE FALSE PROPHET** that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These **BOTH WERE CAST ALIVE INTO A LAKE OF FIRE BURNING WITH BRIMSTONE.**”* (Rev. 19:20).
4. *“And the devil that deceived them was cast into **THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, WHERE THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET ARE**, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”* (Rev. 20:10).
5. *“And death and hell were cast into **THE LAKE OF FIRE. THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH.**”* (Rev. 20:14).
6. *“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life **WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.**”* (Rev. 20:15).
7. *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part **IN THE LAKE WHICH BURNETH WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE: WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH.**”* (Rev. 21:8).

The lake of fire is also known as the ‘second death’. This is the final place of burning, everlasting torment for Satan, the antichrist, the false prophet and those un-saved, un-believing souls from throughout the ages found NOT to be in the book of life, at the white throne judgement, at the end of the Millennium. The lake of fire and second death are also reserved for those deceived during the Tribulation who took the mark of the beast and worshipped him and his image.

The evil dead are resurrected to be judged by Christ for their evil works and for their rejection of Him who offered himself for their salvation and forgiveness of their sins. As a result of their sins and judgment, they are cast into the lake of fire

that represents a second death (the first death being physical body death and souls/spirits being in Hell). The evil dead are resurrected into bodies and cast into the lake of fire to be severely tormented, having no rest day or night, and are absent from a loving God and their Savior who offered himself for them.

THE GREAT IRONY IS THAT THESE PEOPLE RECEIVED EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANTED. THEY REFUSED CHRIST AND WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM, THEY WANTED TO EXIST IN ETERNITY WITHOUT COMMUNION WITH GOD AND CHRIST, ON THEIR OWN TERMS. THEY LITERALLY RECEIVED WHAT THEY ASKED FOR. THE STENCH OF THEIR PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL TORMENT RISES UP IN SMOKE, FOR ETERNITY.

God made both man and angels as eternal beings, hence they will exist forever in one state or another. Which state will any of us choose to exist in? The choice is up to us, and God grants us the freedom to make that choice for ourselves. For better or worse, we have no one to blame (certainly not God) except ourselves for whatever choices we make on earth.

MOST PEOPLE DON'T REALISE THIS UNTILL IT'S TOO LATE: STANDING AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

<https://youtu.be/jlRHo7h5AwY>



THE BEAST'S WORLD-WIDE SURVEILLANCE, SILENCING AND 'SLICING' OF THOSE WHO DON'T 'KISS HIS RING.'

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1. 'GODFATHER OF AI' GEOFFREY HINTON WARNS THE WORLD ABOUT AI SAFETY



[LUCAS NOLAN](#) 9 Dec 2024 BREITBART

GEOFFREY HINTON, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE GODFATHER OF AI, EXPRESSED HIS THOUGHTS ON THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE NEED FOR INCREASED FOCUS ON SAFETY during his Nobel week in Stockholm.

CTV News [reports](#) that Geoffrey Hinton, the British-Canadian computer scientist who laid the foundations for modern artificial intelligence, recently shared his views on **THE RAPID PROGRESS OF AI AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIORITIZING SAFETY**. Hinton, along with his co-laureate John Hopfield, is set to receive the Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday for their pioneering work in machine learning.

During a press conference in Stockholm, Hinton stated that while he doesn't regret his groundbreaking research, which dates back to the 1980s, he wishes he had considered the safety aspects of AI earlier. "In the same circumstances, I would do the same again," he said, referring to his work that has formed the underpinnings of AI. However, he added, "I think it might have been unfortunate in that **WE'RE**

GOING TO GET SUPERINTELLIGENCE FASTER THAN I THOUGHT, AND I WISH I'D THOUGHT ABOUT SAFETY EARLIER."

HINTON PREDICTS THAT SUPERINTELLIGENCE, WHICH SURPASSES THE ABILITIES OF EVEN THE SMARTEST HUMANS, COULD ARRIVE WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE to 20 years. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HUMANITY MAY HAVE TO "WORRY SERIOUSLY ABOUT HOW WE STAY IN CONTROL" AS AI CONTINUES TO ADVANCE AT A RAPID PACE.

Hinton resigned from Google in 2023 citing his concerns about AI safety. As Breitbart News [reported](#): In a recent in-depth interview, Dr. Hinton expressed regret over his life's work, which formed the basis for the AI systems used by significant tech companies. He stated, "I console myself with the normal excuse: If I hadn't done it, somebody else would have." Industry leaders believe that generative AI could result in important advances in a variety of industries, including drug research and education, but **THERE IS GROWING CONCERN ABOUT THE RISKS THAT THIS TECHNOLOGY MIGHT PRESENT.**



“IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW YOU CAN PREVENT THE BAD ACTORS FROM USING IT FOR BAD THINGS,” DR. HINTON SAID. He emphasized the ***POTENTIAL FOR GENERATIVE AI TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPREAD OF MISINFORMATION, DISPLACE JOBS, AND EVEN THREATEN HUMANITY IN THE LONG TERM.***

The Nobel laureate also highlighted the short-term dangers of lethal autonomous weapons, pointing out that governments are unwilling to regulate themselves in this area. He mentioned that there is an ongoing arms race between major arms suppliers, including the United States, China, Russia, Britain, Israel, and possibly even Sweden.



Despite his concerns about AI safety, Hinton and his co-laureate Hopfield delivered a lecture explaining the research that earned them the Nobel Prize. Hinton’s work on the Boltzmann machine, which learns from examples rather than instructions, has been instrumental in the development of neural networks. These machine

learning models make decisions in a manner similar to the human brain and have significantly improved speech recognition technology.

Hinton's contributions to the field of AI have been widely recognized, and he has received numerous accolades, including the A.M. Turing Award in 2018, which he shared with Yoshua Bengio and Yann LeCun. Recently, Hinton, along with Bengio, LeCun, Fei-Fei Li, and Jensen Huang, was awarded the Vin Future Prize, a \$3 million prize for science breakthroughs, in a ceremony in Vietnam.



2. HAJJ 2024 COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTER | UNBELIEVABLE FULL PROOF SECURITY 24/7 SURVEILLANCE OF MAKKAH

<https://youtu.be/DWdlG2SXcWI>

3. MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN JUST STEPPED-UP PLANS TO COURT THE WORLD'S AI LEADERS TO HIS DESERT KINGDOM



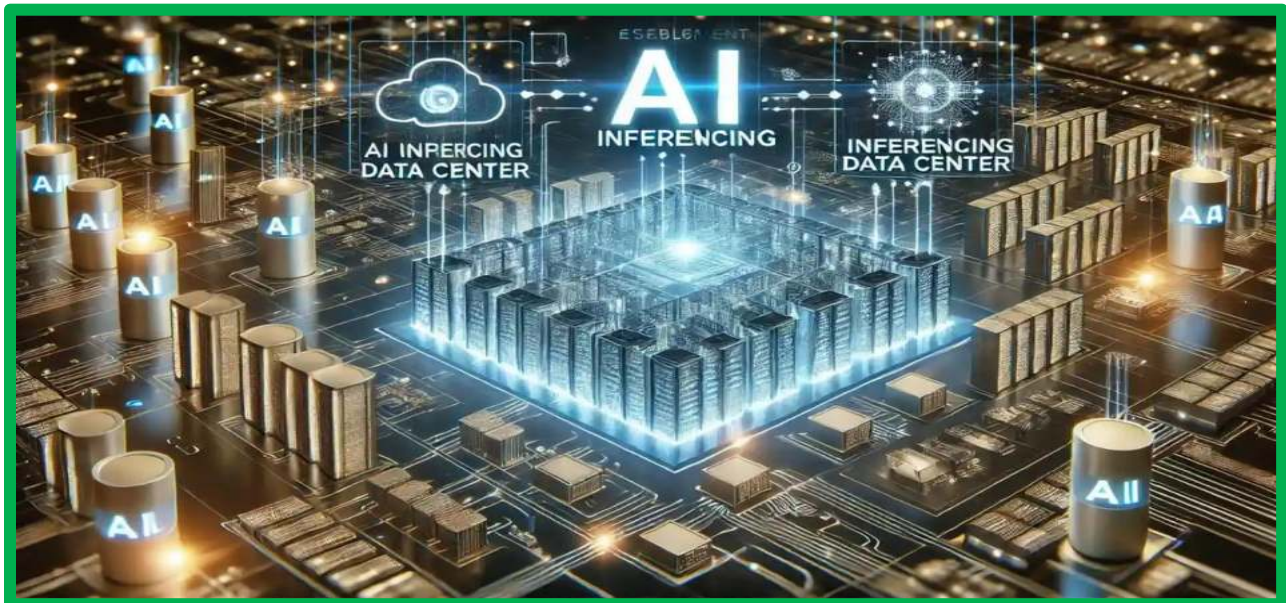
Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has serious ambitions to make his kingdom a leader in AI.

Hasan Chowdhury Business insider

WHEN MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN PRESIDED OVER SAUDI ARABIA'S INAUGURAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMIT AT THE START OF THE DECADE, HIS MESSAGE WAS BOLD: AS CROWN PRINCE, HE HAD "A CLEAR AMBITION TO POSITION THE KINGDOM AS A MODEL NATION IN AI."

Four years on, it has become increasingly evident that those weren't just empty words from the 39-year-old royal, who is next-in-line to the throne. ***IN RECENT MONTHS, SAUDI ARABIA HAS HOSTED A FLURRY OF HIGH-PROFILE EVENTS, LEADERS, AND DEALMAKING FROM THE AI WORLD.*** It's a sign that the country is serious about stepping up its plans to make its desert kingdom a top destination for AI companies in search of capital and opportunities.

Last week, for instance, the country held the third edition of the Global AI Summit, which debuted in 2020. This year's showcase featured speakers from top AI companies in the West, such as Nvidia, Qualcomm, Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI rival Cohere. The summit also spotlighted a new tie-up announced last week between Mountain View-based chip firm Groq and a subsidiary of the \$1.7 trillion state oil firm Saudi Aramco — a deal aimed ***AT BUILDING "THE LARGEST AI INFERENCE DATA CENTER."***



SAUDI ARAMCO IS WORKING WITH AI STARTUP GROQ TO BUILD A NEW DATA CENTER IN SAUDI ARABIA.

Groq, founded in 2016 by former Google engineers, has established itself as one of the more serious competitors to chip giant Nvidia since the start of the AI boom. It specializes in ***CHIPS DEDICATED TO RUNNING AI MODELS ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN TRAINED FOR A PROCESS KNOWN AS INFERENCE, WHICH IS WHEN AI DRAWS CONCLUSIONS BASED ON DATA IT HAS NEVER SEEN BEFORE.***

FOR SAUDI ARABIA, AI DOESN'T JUST PRESENT THE CHANCE TO BET BIG ON TECH'S LATEST HYPE TRAIN. The kingdom, built on oil riches since the 1930s, is scrambling to diversify its economy at a time when world nations are weighing plans to reduce fossil fuel use. In particular, this need to diversify forms a critical ***PART OF VISION 2030 — A GRAND ECONOMIC PLAN TO BRING IN NEW REVENUE STREAMS. THE PLAN IS SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND, THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT FUND, OR PIF.***

Saudi Arabia generated a similar amount of hype around its AI ambitions in March when it held its ***LEAP CONFERENCE***. During the conference, Amazon Web Services CEO Adam Selipsky and IBM CEO Arvind Krishna spoke on the main stage with government minister Abdullah Alswaha.

AWS COUPLED THE APPEARANCE WITH A COMMITMENT TO INVEST OVER \$5 BILLION IN SAUDI ARABIA IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO BUILD DATA CENTERS THAT PROVIDE THE COMPUTING POWER REQUIRED TO RUN AI MODELS BEHIND GENERATIVE AI APPLICATIONS.

That same month, The New York Times reported that ***THE KINGDOM HAD SET ASIDE \$40 BILLION FOR A NEW FUND DEDICATED TO AI INVESTMENTS — A MOVE THAT WOULD CREATE THE WORLD'S LARGEST FUND DEDICATED TO THE TECHNOLOGY.***



As part of the fund's creation, key figures from PIF held talks with venture capital firm A16z to explore a strategic partnership. The US fund, led by Silicon Valley veterans Marc Andreessen and Ben Horowitz, has doubled down on its commitment to AI by planning to use a portion of the \$7.2 billion it raised earlier this year to bet on companies at the industry's vanguard.

For Saudi Arabia, having access to a heavyweight investment firm like A16z could give it an efficient way of identifying AI startups and founders making the most buzz in the Bay Area, the epicenter of the generative AI boom.

IT'S CLEAR THEN THAT SAUDI ARABIA MEANS BUSINESS ON AI. IT IS READY TO SHORE UP AS MUCH CAPITAL AS IT NEEDS TO BUILD VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AI WHILE COURTING LEADING COMPANIES OVERSEAS WITH ITS DEEP POCKETS.

4. ARAMCO DIGITAL AND GROQ FORGE PARTNERSHIP TO ESTABLISH WORLD'S LARGEST AI INFERENCE DATA CENTER IN SAUDI ARABIA



MEATECHWATCH SEPTEMBER 2024

Aramco Digital Company, a subsidiary of global energy giant Aramco, has teamed up with Groq, a leader in AI inference technology, to **CREATE THE WORLD'S LARGEST INFERENCE DATA CENTER IN SAUDI ARABIA. THIS VENTURE IS PART OF A SERIES OF STEPS AIMED AT BOLSTERING SAUDI ARABIA'S STANCE AS A FRONTRUNNER IN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND AI TECHNOLOGY.**

AI inference involves processing live data through a trained AI model to perform tasks such as spam detection, speech-to-text conversion, or summarizing documents. Groq specializes in delivering **RAPID AI INFERENCE SOLUTIONS BOTH IN THE CLOUD AND ON-PREMISES**, making them a fitting partner for Aramco Digital's ambitious project. **THE SAUDI PRESS AGENCY HAILED THE COLLABORATION AS A PIVOTAL ADVANCEMENT FOR THE KINGDOM'S DIGITAL INITIATIVES AND A TESTAMENT TO ITS EMERGING LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL AI AND**

Further enhancing its AI capabilities, Aramco Digital is also set to bring its voice-commanded **GENERATIVE AI MODEL**, Norous, to market, supported by Groq's semiconductor expertise. This is part of Aramco Digital's broader strategy, which includes several other significant collaborations in the AI and tech sphere.

One such partnership is with Cerebras Systems, aiming to enhance AI inference performance across various sectors within Saudi Arabia using Cerebras's CS-3 systems. This collaboration will focus on accelerating the development and deployment of large language models and AI applications.

Additionally, Aramco Digital is collaborating with Qualcomm and Saudi Arabia's Research, Development and Innovation Authority (RDIA) to initiate a startup incubator program. This program will support local AI, wireless technology, and IoT startups by providing technical support, business coaching, and IP training.

In another groundbreaking move, Aramco Digital unveiled the world's first processors with native 5G support in the 450MHz spectrum, developed together with Qualcomm. This innovation is set to further enhance the technological landscape in Saudi Arabia and beyond.

5. MICROSOFT AND GOOGLE MAY HAVE TO SURRENDER PEOPLE'S DATA TO SAUDI ARABIA AFTER SIGNING HUGE DEALS



Jul 24, 2023, 6:38 AM EDT TOM PORTER

At a lavish conference in Riyadh, in February, representatives from some of the world's biggest tech companies gathered. The event was part of **CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN'S "VISION 2030" PLAN TO TRANSFORM SAUDI ARABIA**, best known for its oil reserves and ultraconservative interpretation of Islam, into a hub for tech and innovation.

Technology bosses rubbed shoulders with Saudi officials and planners **OF NEOM, THE \$1 TRILLION FUTURISTIC DATA-RUN MEGACITY BEING BUILT IN THE NORTHWEST OF THE KINGDOM THAT IS THE CENTERPIECE OF THE CROWN PRINCE'S VISION 2030.**

SOON AFTER, SAUDI OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THEY HAD SECURED \$9 BILLION IN INVESTMENT FROM THE FIRMS, INCLUDING A \$2 BILLION PLAN FROM

COMPUTER AND TECH GIANT MICROSOFT TO BUILD A CLOUD STORAGE FACILITY IN THE KINGDOM. IT FOLLOWED A SIMILAR ANNOUNCEMENT FROM GOOGLE LAST YEAR THAT IT WOULD CREATE A CLOUD CENTER IN THE KINGDOM.

SAUDI'S ILL-DEFINED SECURITY LAWS

But as tech firms rush to secure lucrative Saudi contracts, **HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ARE WARNING THAT SAUDI OFFICIALS COULD USE THE VAST STORES OF DIGITAL INFORMATION BEING STORED IN THE KINGDOM TO INTENSIFY ITS BRUTAL PERSECUTION OF DISSIDENTS.** They are warning tech giants like Microsoft and Google that they could be forced to hand over private citizen data to Saudi hitmen.

In a May report, Human Rights Watch warned that **UNDER SAUDI LAW, SECURITY SERVICES ARE GIVEN SWEEPING POWERS TO ACCESS DATA, AND CAN COMPEL COMPANIES TO HAND OVER PRIVATE INFORMATION DEEMED TO HAVE BREACHED ILL-DEFINED AND BROAD NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS.**

It said that Google and Microsoft, two of the biggest tech firms in the world, are refusing to disclose how they will shield the privacy of data hosted in the kingdom.

DATA HANDED OVER A SILVER PLATTER

Marwa Fatafta, an analyst with **DIGITAL RIGHTS GROUP ACCESS NOW, DESCRIBED SAUDI ARABIA AS A COUNTRY WITH A "DISMAL" HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. "THERE ARE SERIOUS CONCERNS AROUND DATA PROTECTION, AROUND PRIVACY, AROUND SURVEILLANCE,"** she said. "Have they really [Google and Microsoft] investigated how they plan to mitigate potential human rights abuses or privacy violations, building such infrastructure?"

"A GOOGLE CLOUD CENTER UNDER SAUDI'S JURISDICTION WOULD BASICALLY SERVE OUR SENSITIVE DATA ON A SILVER PLATTER TO SAUDI'S TOP HITMEN," Rewan Al-Haddad, campaign director for a shareholder group called SumOfUs told the New York Post last year.



Saudi security personnel monitor the screens as they follow the hajj pilgrimage

In recent years, **SAUDI AUTHORITIES HAVE RUTHLESSLY PURSUED GOVERNMENT CRITICS ON SOCIAL MEDIA, USING SPYWARE TO TRACK EXILED DISSIDENTS, AND EVEN REPORTEDLY INFILTRATING TWITTER'S HEADQUARTERS TO STEAL DATA.**

Recently, Saudi authorities jailed a woman, Fatima al-Shawarbi, for 30 years who criticized the Neom megacity project on Twitter. In 2020, Leeds University

student, Salma al-Shehab, was given a 30-year jail sentence for criticizing the crown prince on the social media platform.

SAUDI ARABIA CAN 'DO WHAT IT WANTS'

Professor Alan Woodward, a computer technology expert at the University of Surrey, said that **SAUDI AUTHORITIES WOULD POTENTIALLY BE ABLE TO ACCESS VAST AMOUNTS OF SENSITIVE POLITICAL INFORMATION STORED VIA THE CLOUD. "THE GOVERNMENT CAN BASICALLY DO WHAT IT WANTS,"** he said. "And if you can imagine all the things that are put online it could be something quite edgy, **IT COULD BE USED AGAINST DISSIDENTS."**

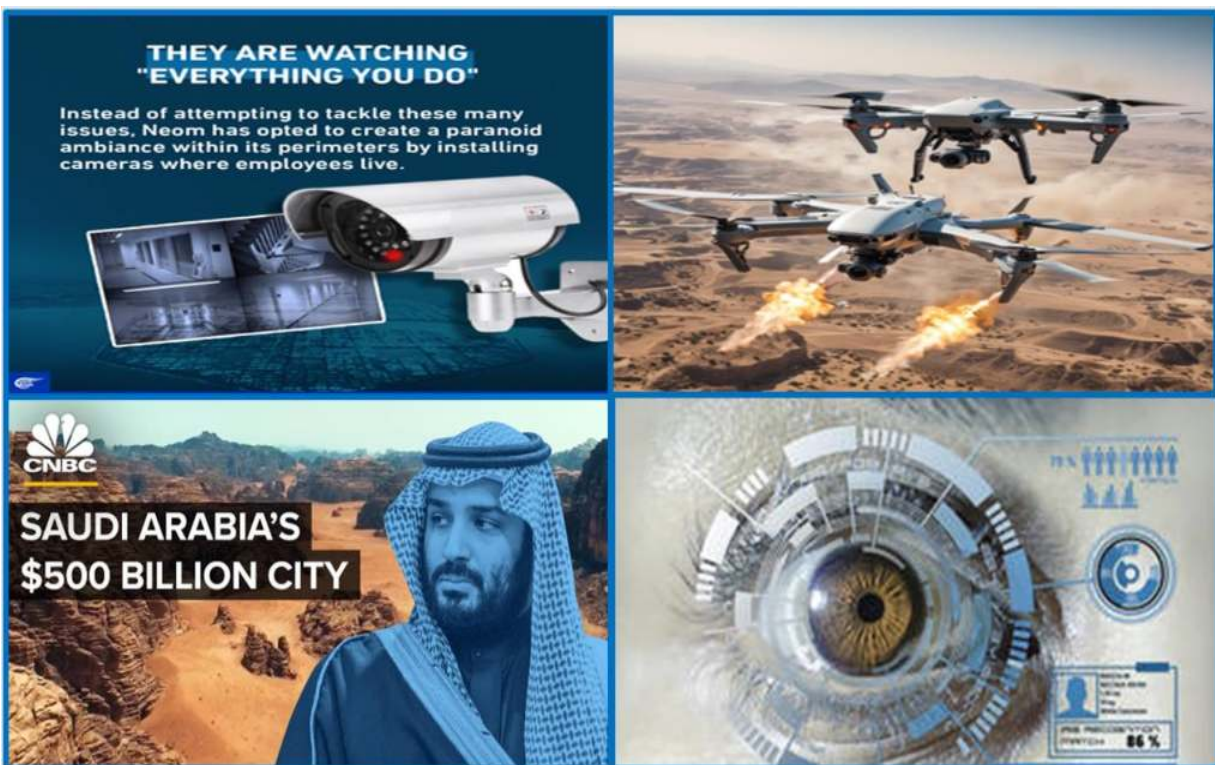
COUNTRIES SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA, HE SAID, OFTEN TOLD COMPANIES THAT "IF YOU WANT TO OPERATE IN THIS COUNTRY, YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP THE DATA IN THIS COUNTRY. AND THAT'S FOR AN OBVIOUS REASON: SO THEY COULD POTENTIALLY ACCESS IT."

Microsoft told Insider it remained committed to human rights, yet offered no concrete details on how it would **SAFEGUARD DATA PRIVACY WHILE OPERATING IN A STATE THAT DOESN'T ACKNOWLEDGE IT.** "Respecting human rights is a core value of Microsoft. Our investment in the region will be consistent with Microsoft's commitment to protecting fundamental rights and includes a **FOCUS ON RESPONSIBLE CLOUD PRACTICES INCLUDING SECURITY, PRIVACY, COMPLIANCE, AND TRANSPARENCY,** as well as adherence to Microsoft's values and principles," a Microsoft spokesperson told Insider.

A Google spokesperson pointed Insider to a statement on the company's website, saying that "as the global landscape continues to evolve, we are committed to

collaborating with human rights organizations and the broader technology industry to uphold human rights in every country where we operate."

James Lynch, a researcher at human rights organization Fairsquare, challenged Microsoft and Google to publish their human rights "due diligence" reports, aimed at assessing **HOW THEY CAN ETHICALLY OPERATE IN A COUNTRY WITH A POOR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD**. However, he said the companies refused to publish the reports and called on them to "show us clearly how they plan to mitigate risks such as the Saudi authorities asking them for access to data."



NEOM, A SURVEILLANCE CITY

A particular concern for human rights activists is **NEOM, THE VAST CITY CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED HAS COMMISSIONED TO BE BUILT IN THE NORTHEAST OF THE KINGDOM**. Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund has earmarked \$1 trillion to

build the city, whose services, ranging from transport to air conditioning will be run on user data accessed through smartphones.

In March, Insider reported on concerns that the data could be used in **HUGE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS BY SAUDI AUTHORITIES, TO TRACK AND MONITOR RESIDENTS IN REAL TIME.** It's a concern James urged Western firms planning on being involved in the creation of the city's digital infrastructure to address. **"TYING IN ALMOST ALL DATA ABOUT THE WAY PEOPLE LIVE AND USING THAT AS THE ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE OF THE CITY IS EXTREMELY SCARY," SAID LYNCH, IN A COUNTRY WITH AT BEST OPAQUE PRIVACY LAWS AND SWEEPING POWERS TO SUPPRESS DISSENT.**

Neither Google nor Microsoft would say whether they were involved in building Neom's digital infrastructure. But amid the concerns, there is also the question of whether Saudi Arabia would risk imperiling the investment it has pinned so much of its future on through using data stored in the kingdom.

It's part of a balancing act analysts have told Insider Crown Prince Mohammed has long sought to perform, seeking to open up the kingdom to innovation and appear as a reformer, while **MAINTAINING HIS AUTHORITARIAN POWERS TO QUASH DISSENT.**

6. THE WORLD IS QUICKLY BECOMING A HIGH-TECH PRISON... AND ITS 'GOVERNOR' WILL SOON TAKE UP HIS POST



By [Dean Dwyer](#) November 29, 2024 Harbingers Daily

IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY, WE HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED TO ACCEPT THAT SURVEILLANCE IS AN ORDINARY (AND SUPPOSEDLY NECESSARY) PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE. Undoubtedly, surveillance has contributed to a feeling of safety, particularly in larger cities where the police presence is inadequate to deal with every threat. Therefore, whether you agree with the principle or not, ***MANY PEOPLE ARE HAPPY TO TRADE PERSONAL PRIVACY FOR PERSONAL SAFETY.*** Despite individual views on the subject, what is largely beyond doubt is ***THE ROLE THAT SURVEILLANCE WILL PLAY DURING THE TRIBULATION PERIOD, PARTICULARLY IN THE HANDS OF THE ANTICHRIST AND HIS GLOBAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE. AS THE ANTICHRIST WILL HAVE LITTLE TIME TO BUILD ANY NEW SURVEILLANCE APPARATUS, MY INTEREST IS IN EXAMINING***

EXISTING SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO FORM PART OF THE ANTICHRIST'S OVERALL TOOLKIT.



UNITED NATIONS
GOVERNING FOR AI S

7. MBS MAKES 'PACT' WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

[https://videos.dailymail.co.uk/video/mol/2018/04/03/5206276586450993900/
640x360_MP4_5206276586450993900.mp4](https://videos.dailymail.co.uk/video/mol/2018/04/03/5206276586450993900/640x360_MP4_5206276586450993900.mp4)

One such mysterious surveillance partnership is simply known as “Five Eyes”, often abbreviated as “FVEY” in intelligence reports. Five Eyes is an intelligence sharing partnership between five countries – Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America. The origins of the partnership can be traced back to the post-World War II period when the Allies sought to lay out their goals for a post-war world. In simple terms, **EACH NATION IN THE PARTNERSHIP CARRIES OUT “GLOBAL EAVESDROPPING” AND THEN SHARES PERTINENT INFORMATION WITH ITS PARTNERS.**

One such program used by intelligence agencies is referred to as Echelon. Officially, Echelon does not exist. However, there is ample evidence to confirm its role in global intelligence collection from at least the 1990s. Echelon was primarily used to collect data via supercomputers. It does this by **INTERCEPTING SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE TO FLAG ANY MESSAGES CONTAINING KEY WORDS LISTED IN THE ECHELON DICTIONARY.** For instance, in a post-9/11 world, Echelon’s dictionary would have been updated to capture words such as “hijack”, “plane”, “Bin Laden”, etc. Transmissions via phone, facsimile and e-mail containing those words were flagged and then reviewed by intelligence analysts to see if there was any credible information available from it.

The use of Echelon raised the ire of the European parliament in the late 1990s and early 2000s when it accused the partnership of passing industrial secrets to the US and Britain. Although the subsequent report from Europe did confirm the existence of Echelon, it had no concrete proof that Five Eyes partners were engaging in **COMMERCIAL ESPIONAGE.** Still, what it did prove to many who read the report was that **GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS WERE BEING MONITORED.** In fact, the vice-chairman of the Echelon parliamentary committee said, “People should treat their emails like seaside postcards; that is to say put anything you like on them but don’t be surprised if someone else reads them.”

But Five Eyes partners don’t simply spy on enemy combatants. Reports indicate that the intelligence agencies of Five Eyes partners will routinely **SPY ON EACH**

OTHER'S CITIZENS IN ORDER TO CIRCUMVENT RESTRICTIVE DOMESTIC REGULATIONS CONCERNING SURVEILLANCE OF A NATION'S OWN PEOPLE. For example, US intelligence agencies may be legally restricted from spying on US citizens, but there is nothing stopping the Australian Signals Directorate from doing so and then passing along all relevant information.

Of course, **MANY OTHER NATIONS ARE ALSO VERY WELL ADVANCED IN THE AREA OF SURVEILLANCE. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ALREADY POSSESSES PERHAPS THE MOST AGILE, INVASIVE, AND OMNIPRESENT SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIES IN THE WORLD.** Additionally, China has no reservations about spying on its own citizens. In recent years, **THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED A SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM CALLED "SHARP EYES", WHICH AIMS TO UTILISE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ITS LOCAL POPULATION IN ITS SURVEILLANCE EFFORTS.**

The name was inspired by former leader Mao Zedong who coerced citizens into looking out for neighbours not living up to communist values. Rather than relying on limited government manpower to scope out offenders, he recommended a reliance on people power because "the people have sharp eyes". The goal of the Sharp Eyes program is to have 100% coverage of public spaces and although this may be concerning, surveillance coverage is not the biggest concern for Chinese citizens.

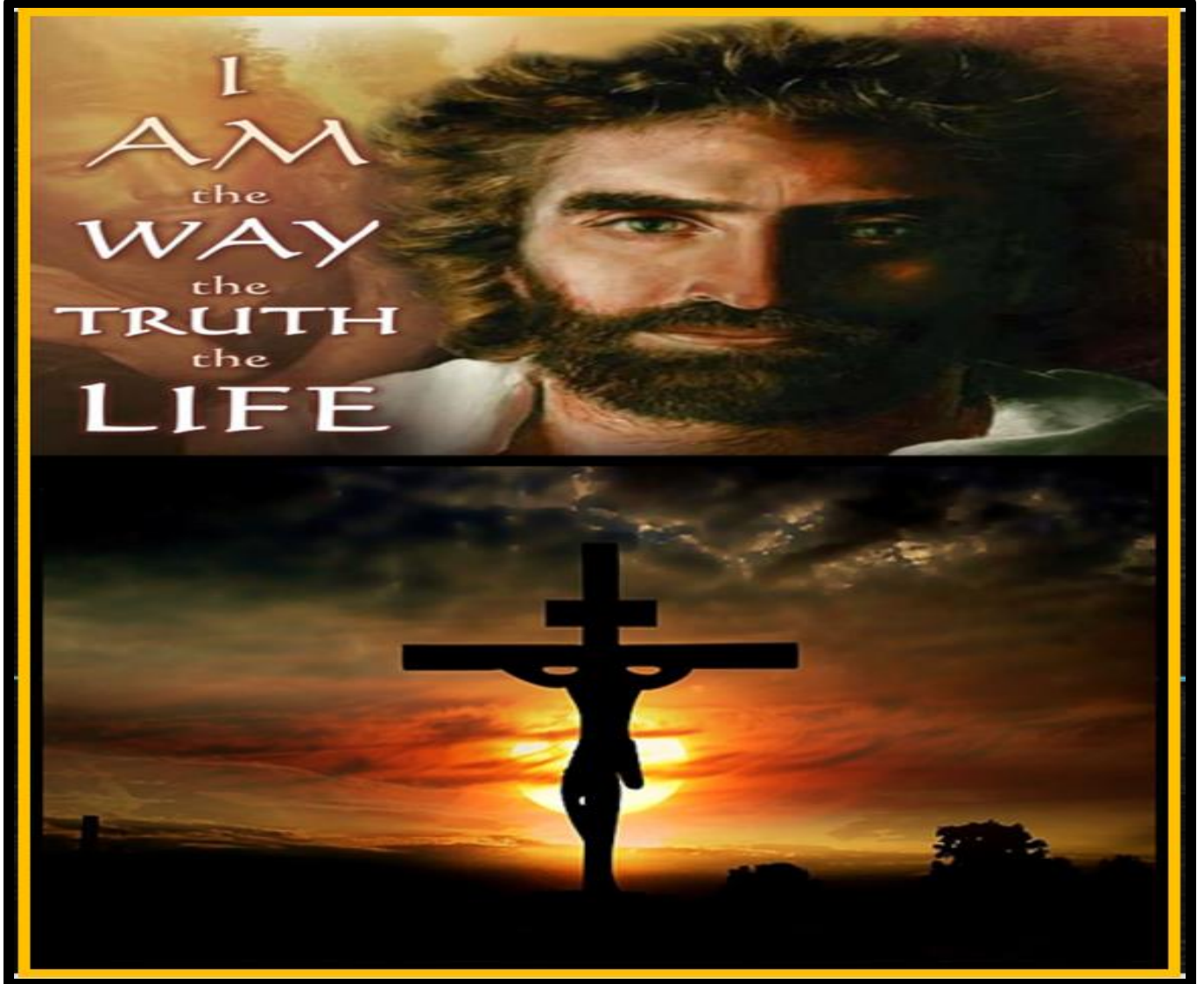
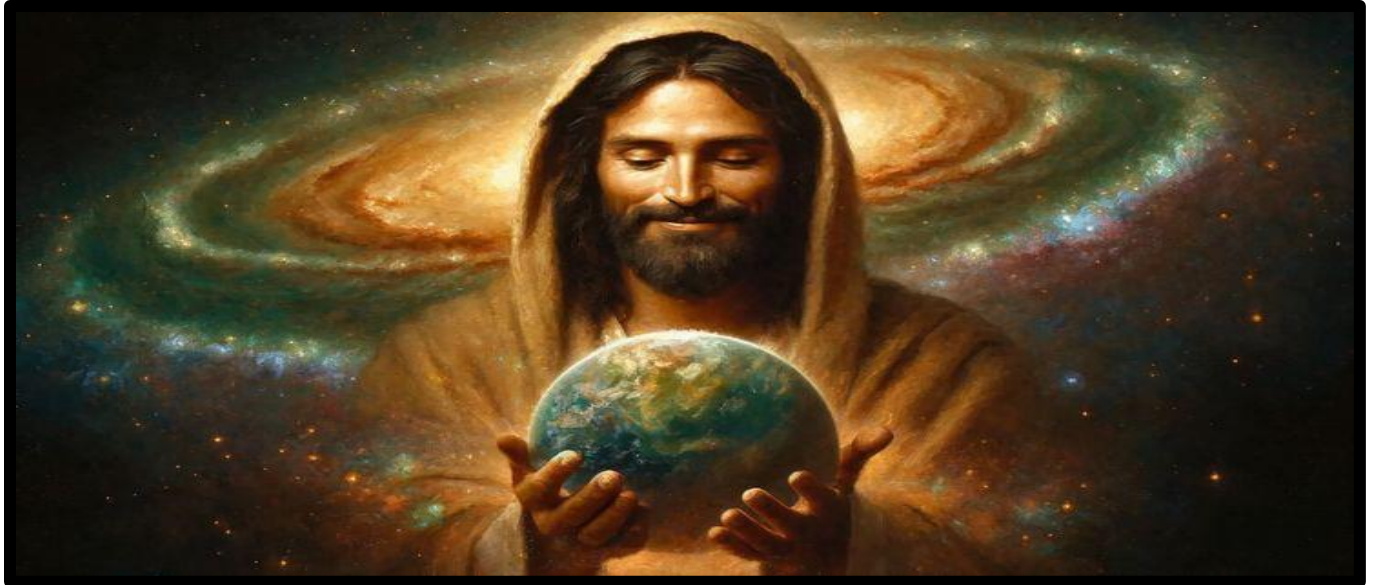
THE USE OF PREDICTIVE POLICING TECHNOLOGY IS BECOMING MORE POPULAR, WITH HOPES THAT THE TECHNOLOGY WILL EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO SWEEP A PERSON'S BANK TRANSACTION DATA, LOCATION HISTORY AND SOCIAL CONNECTIONS, SO THAT IT IS ABLE TO MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER A PARTICULAR PERSON IS A TERRORIST OR CRIMINAL THREAT.



<https://youtu.be/WoyBLJqDOc0>

God did not establish civil government so that it could turn on its people, use its people, surveil its people and track its people. Yet ***SO MANY OF US HAVE BECOME CONDITIONED TO THE SUPPOSED NEED FOR SURVEILLANCE THAT IT NO LONGER BOTHERS THE AVERAGE PERSON WHEN THESE TECHNOLOGIES BECOME EVEN MORE UBIQUITOUS.*** What these technologies ultimately reveal is that ***THE WORLD IS QUICKLY BECOMING A HIGH-TECH PRISON.*** Worse, ***THE ULTIMATE “GOVERNOR” OF THIS PRISON WILL SOON TAKE UP HIS POST. THE BIBLE REFERS TO HIM AS THE ANTICHRIST AND HE WILL BE THE MOST WICKED AND CRUEL TYRANT THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.*** Church-age believers in Christ will never meet him, nor be under his authority, for we will be raptured home before he is revealed to the world. So that you avoid meeting him as well, ***BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE PLACED YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR.***

Dean Dwyer has served for over 20 years as Pastor and President of [Eiser Street Baptist Church](#) in Queensland, Australia.



8. WILL PIONEERING A.I. ENABLE THE ANTICHRIST IN THE 7-YEAR TRIBULATION?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udBOfx1R6g>

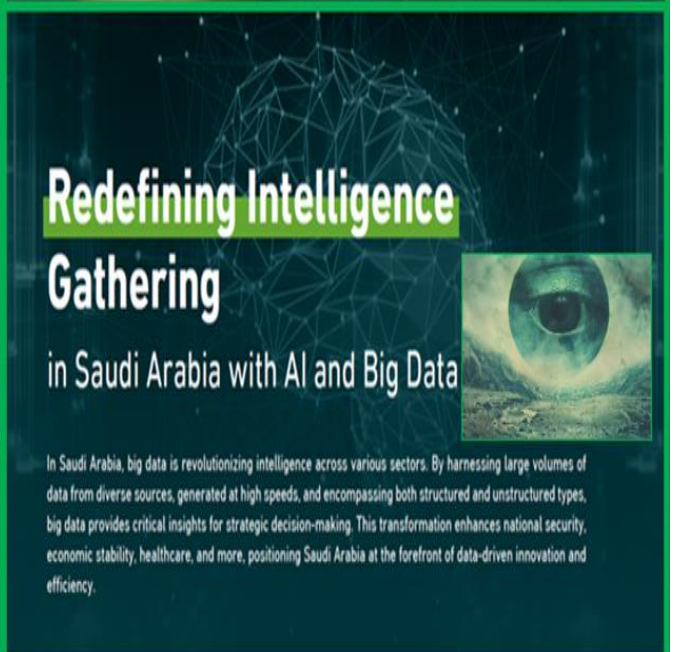


9. AN AI-POWERED TOOL AIMS TO COMBAT FAKE NEWS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND BEYOND



MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION ARE CONSIDERED A TOP SHORT-TERM GLOBAL RISK THAT NOT ONLY MISLEAD THE PUBLIC BUT ALSO ERODE TRUST, DEEPEN SOCIETAL DIVISIONS AND THREATEN FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

RIYADH: Rising concern over disinformation's role in manipulating public opinion has motivated Preslav Nakov, a professor at the UAE's Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, to develop an **AI-POWERED TOOL FOR DETECTING 'PROPAGANDA'**. FRAPPE, short for **FRAMING, PERSUASION AND PROPAGANDA EXPLORER**, is designed to assess news framing techniques and identify potential instances of information manipulation.



Updated 22 November 2024 SULAFA ALKHUNAIZI November 21, 2024 23:09

Nakov, chair of the natural language processing department and professor of natural language processing at the Abu Dhabi-based MBZUAI, said that **AI PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN FRAPPE BY ANALYZING, CATEGORIZING AND DETECTING COMPLEX PATTERNS THAT INFLUENCE READERS' OPINIONS AND EMOTIONS.** The tool offers real-time, on-the-fly analysis of individual articles while enabling a comprehensive comparison of framing and persuasion strategies across a wide range of media outlets, he told Arab News.

23

It is trained to recognize 23 different techniques that are often subtle and complex in real-world media content.



2.5m+

Over 2.5 million articles processed

FRAPPE **FRAMing** **Persuasion** **Propaganda** **Explorer**

FRAPPE was developed to address concerns about misinformation, biased reporting and the use of language to shape public opinion.



It aims to promote media literacy and help individuals recognize how news is framed and presented.



It is designed for use by the general public, journalists, researchers and policymakers.



It is an educational tool enabling users to identify propaganda techniques such as name-calling, flag-waving and appeals to fear.



It supports more transparency in reporting and fosters trust in the media



ARAB NEWS

THE UN DEFINES DISINFORMATION AS INACCURATE INFORMATION DELIBERATELY CREATED AND DISSEMINATED WITH THE INTENT TO DECEIVE THE PUBLIC AND CAUSE SERIOUS HARM. IT CAN BE SPREAD BY BOTH STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS AND CAN AFFECT HUMAN RIGHTS, FUEL ARMED CONFLICT AND UNDERMINE PUBLIC POLICY RESPONSES.



THE GLOBAL RISKS REPORT 2024 BY THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IDENTIFIES MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION AS A TOP SHORT-TERM GLOBAL RISK. THESE FORMS OF DECEPTIVE COMMUNICATION NOT ONLY MISLEAD THE PUBLIC BUT ALSO ERODE TRUST, DEEPEN SOCIETAL DIVISIONS AND THREATEN FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

Nevertheless, THE WEF HIGHLIGHTED IN AN ARTICLE IN JUNE THAT WHILE AI TECHNOLOGIES ARE BEING USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF BOTH MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION, THEY CAN BE HARNESSSED TO COMBAT THIS RISK BY ANALYZING PATTERNS, LANGUAGE AND CONTEXT.

Nakov said that FRAPPE, trained with 23 different linguistic techniques, “USES AI TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PERSUASION AND PROPAGANDA TECHNIQUES, SUCH AS NAME-CALLING, LOADED LANGUAGE, APPEALS TO FEAR, EXAGGERATION AND REPETITION.”

“FRAPPE further uses AI to perform framing analysis,” he said, adding that the tool distinguishes “the main perspectives from which an issue is being discussed: **(5) MORALITY, FAIRNESS, EQUALITY, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL IDENTITY.**”



With a database of in excess of 2.5 million articles from more than 8,000 sources, the multilingual system enables users to explore and compare how different countries and outlets frame and present information.

Moreover, to build the training data for the system, more than 40 journalists from several European countries contributed to the manual analysis of news content in 13 languages.

This manual analysis, according to Nakov, allows FRAPPE to discern the underlying frames that shape how stories are told and perceived. By identifying the dominant frames within an article, FRAPPE compares these across media sources, countries and languages, providing valuable insights into how framing varies globally.

FRAPPE IS DESIGNED FOR A BROAD AUDIENCE, INCLUDING THE GENERAL PUBLIC, JOURNALISTS, RESEARCHERS, AND EVEN POLICYMAKERS. “For the general user, FRAPPE serves as an educational tool to explore how news content is framed, **ENABLING THEM TO IDENTIFY PROPAGANDA TECHNIQUES LIKE NAME-CALLING, FLAG-WAVING, LOADED LANGUAGE AND APPEALS TO FEAR,**” Nakov said.

“For journalists and policymakers, FRAPPE offers a powerful tool to examine and compare framing and persuasion strategies across different countries, languages and outlets,” he added. The system relies on annotations from journalists who manually identified persuasion and propaganda techniques across a wide range of articles. This minimizes the risk of overly subjective or one-sided interpretations.

TRANSPARENCY AND UNBIASED ANALYSIS WERE FUNDAMENTAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRAPPE. NAKOV SAID: “USERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT OUR MODELS USE NEURAL NETWORKS AND, AS SUCH, THEY LACK EXPLAINABILITY.”

He also warned that “despite our intent, due to potential unintended article selection biases, **FRAPPE MIGHT BE FAVORING SOME POLITICAL OR SOCIAL STANDPOINTS.**” On the positive side, however, “FRAPPE has the potential to influence the way news articles are perceived and consumed, and journalists may become more aware of the language they use and its potential impact on readers.”

To spot **PERSUASIVE OR MANIPULATIVE TECHNIQUES IN NEWS CONTENT**, Nakov advises readers and viewers to “watch out for emotional language designed to provoke strong reactions like fear or anger, and be mindful of loaded words, such as ‘radical’ and ‘heroic, which carry emotional weight.” He urged readers to critically assess articles that rely too heavily on a single expert or selective quotes, stressing the importance of considering how different outlets might report the same event in contrasting ways.

To gain a clearer perspective, Nakov advises cross-checking sources and comparing how different media outlets cover the same story. This approach helps reveal varying angles, biases or framing techniques.

He also stressed that oversimplified “us versus them” narratives “often indicate manipulation, as do articles that frame an issue with a particular angle, leaving out important details.

“FALSE DILEMMAS, WHERE ONLY EXTREME CHOICES ARE PRESENTED AND REPETITIVE PHRASES MEANT TO REINFORCE A POINT ARE ALSO RED FLAGS,” he said.



“FRAPPE envisions empowering individuals and institutions to make more informed decisions by revealing the framing and persuasion techniques embedded in media content. Its aim is to enhance transparency in journalism, **PROMOTE TRUST IN MEDIA** and contribute to a more informed, media-literate public.”

The tool, integrated into the Europe Media Monitor, has been featured in numerous EU workshops focused on combating fake news.

10. AI-DRIVEN FAKE NEWS, SOCIAL UNREST AMONG TOP GLOBAL RISKS: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM REPORT

Global Risks Report 2024



Top 10 risks

"Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period."

2 years



10 years



Risk categories | Economic | Environmental | Geopolitical | Societal | Technological

Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Perception Survey 2023-2024.

Environmental risks are among the top 10 threats facing the world over the next decade. (WEF/Supplied)

Updated 10 January 2024 Arab News January 10, 2024 15:30

GENEVA: A RISE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-DRIVEN FAKE NEWS AND SOCIAL UNREST ARE AMONG THE GREATEST GLOBAL RISKS IN 2024, THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM HAS SUGGESTED. The organization's Global Risks Report, released on Wednesday, said that the INTERTWINED RISKS OF AI-DRIVEN FALSE INFORMATION AND SOCIETAL POLARIZATION ARE LIKELY TO BECOME MORE PRONOUNCED DURING ELECTIONS IN SEVERAL MAJOR ECONOMIES DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS ARE THE GREATEST LONG-TERM CONCERN, WITH TWO-THIRDS OF GLOBAL EXPERTS WORRIED ABOUT EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS, BIODIVERSITY LOSS, ECOSYSTEM COLLAPSE, NATURAL RESOURCE SHORTAGES AND POLLUTION. THE REPORT RANKED THESE FIVE (5) CLIMATE RISKS AMONG THE TOP 10 THREATS FACING THE WORLD OVER THE NEXT DECADE.



“AN UNSTABLE GLOBAL ORDER CHARACTERIZED BY POLARIZING NARRATIVES AND INSECURITY, THE WORSENING IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER, AND ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY ARE CAUSING ACCELERATING RISKS, INCLUDING MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION, TO PROPAGATE,” WEF Managing Director Saadia Zahidi said in a press statement.

“World leaders must come together to address short-term crises, as well as lay the groundwork for a more resilient, sustainable, inclusive future.” **THE REPORT CALLED ON WORLD LEADERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO CONFRONT THE HIGHLIGHTED THREATS, URGING THEM TO FOCUS ON THE MOST DISRUPTIVE EMERGING RISKS, WITH AGREEMENTS ADDRESSING THE INTEGRATION OF AI IN CONFLICT DECISION-MAKING,** for example.

It also recommended strengthening individual and state resilience through **‘DIGITAL LITERACY CAMPAIGNS ON MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION’.** “Artificial intelligence breakthroughs will radically disrupt the risk outlook for organizations, with many struggling to react to **THREATS RISING FROM MISINFORMATION, DISINTERMEDIATION AND STRATEGIC MISCALCULATION,**” said Carolina Klint, chief commercial officer, Europe, at Marsh McLennan.

“At the same time, companies are having to negotiate supply chains made more complex by geopolitics and climate change and cyber threats from a growing number of malicious actors. “It will take a relentless focus to build resilience at organizational, country and international levels — and greater cooperation between the public and private sectors — to navigate this rapidly evolving risk landscape,” she said.

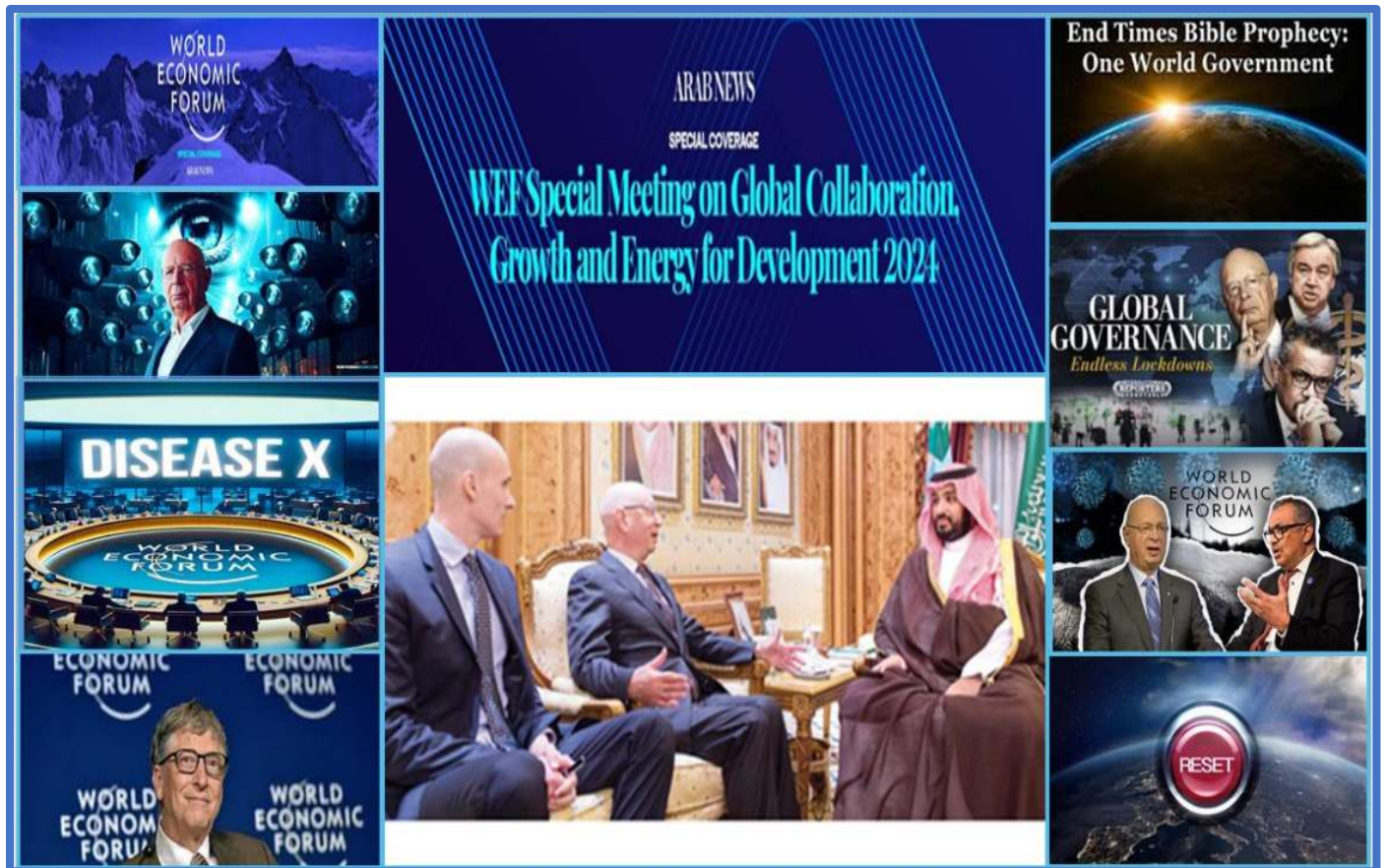
Action points highlighted by the report include **MORE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON CLIMATE MODELLING AND TECHNOLOGIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO ACCELERATE ENERGY TRANSITION.**



THE BEASTS GREEN
DRAGON PETS OF DE



DOCTRINE OF DEVILS
THE GREEN DRAGON



To stand a chance of rapidly predicting, detecting and preventing the diseases of tomorrow from potentially escalating, ***WE NEED A GLOBAL STEP CHANGE IN SURVEILLANCE.***

BUILDING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS TO AVERT FUTURE PANDEMICS

We are by no means starting from scratch. COVID-19 has shone a light on ***HOW VALUABLE HIGH-QUALITY, NEAR REAL-TIME DATA IS TO ALL ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE FOR CLINICIANS, RESEARCHERS, POLICYMAKERS AND THE PUBLIC ALIKE.*** Though it has exposed fundamental weaknesses in all parts of the world, it has also shown us clearly the systems that do work well.

THE GLOBAL INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE SYSTEM ALREADY MANAGES THE SURVEILLANCE of new strains of influenza. The Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System similarly collects national data on AMR for selected priority pathogens. Most recently, it was the well-established ***DISEASE TESTING AND SURVEILLANCE NETWORKS*** in South Africa [that alerted the world](#) to the dangers of the Omicron variant.

With unprecedented speed, this data could then be investigated using classic approaches and genomic sequencing, which help to measure and map how infections emerge and evolve. This equipped public health teams to respond and allowed diagnostic, treatment and vaccine developers to assess the impact of Omicron on our existing tools.

South Africa's **IMPRESSIVE SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIES** reflect a long-term investment in people and facilities that started well before the pandemic. This has seen genomic sequencing technology and **FUNDAMENTAL SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIES EMBEDDED WITHIN COMMUNITIES** to provide continuous utility and value. The speed at which these systems could pivot to COVID-19 demonstrates the payoff of sustained investment in public health for endemic health issues.

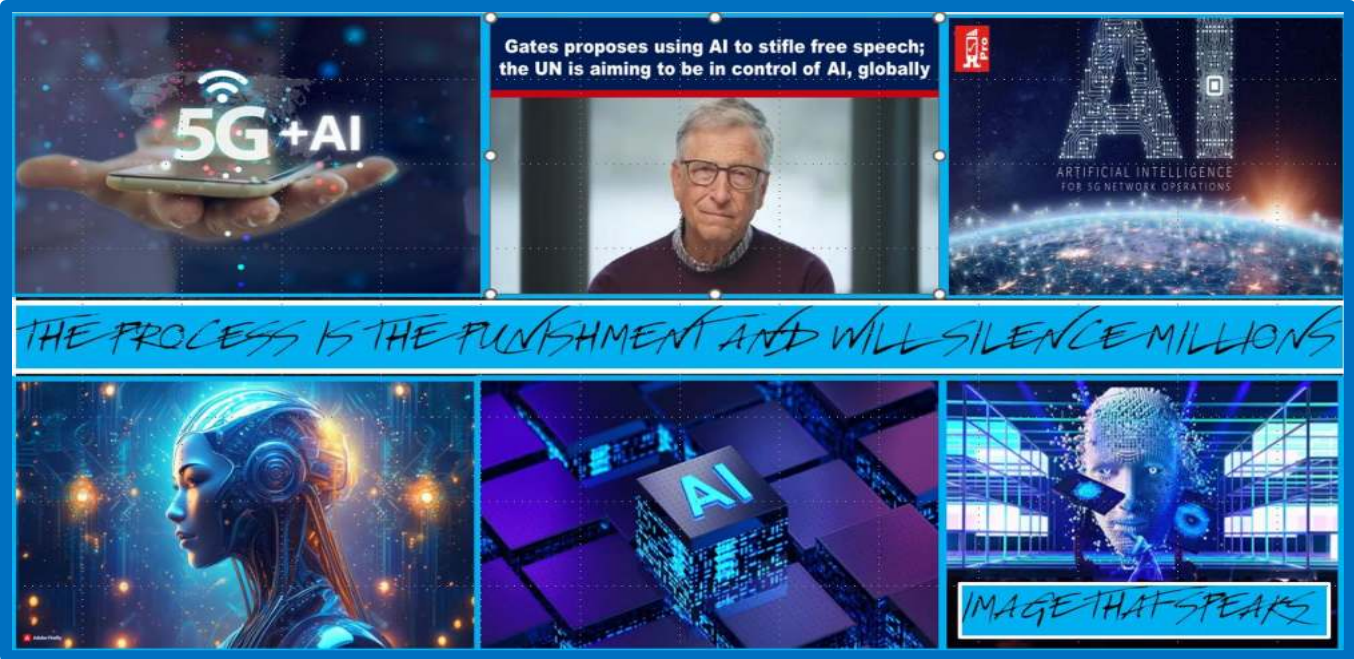
This matters. We need to be able to spot the epidemic and pandemic threats of tomorrow to prevent their escalation. **THIS MEANS JOINING UP LOCAL, COUNTRY-LEVEL SURVEILLANCE WITH COLLABORATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS, AND SHARING DATA AND INSIGHTS WITH GLOBAL PLATFORMS LIKE THE NEW WHO SURVEILLANCE HUB IN BERLIN AND [GISAID](#) TO ENSURE RAPID, OPEN AND TRUSTED ACCESS TO RELIABLE INFORMATION.**

To do this, governments, industry and philanthropy will need to sustain momentum and continue to work together. Previous outbreaks have demonstrated partnership results in rapid, breath-taking scientific advances **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ENTIRE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.** Why stop now?

Take CEPI. **FOUNDED FIVE (5) YEARS AGO** after the West Africa ebola outbreak and **LAUNCHED AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IN 2017 TO FILL THE GAP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF VACCINES FOR EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES, THE ORGANIZATION BUILT THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE PORTFOLIOS OF COVID-19 VACCINES. IMAGINE IF WE PRIORITIZED SURVEILLANCE IN THE SAME WAY AND MADE IT PART OF THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH.**

INVESTMENT IS KEY TO PREVENT FUTURE PANDEMICS

. SURVEILLANCE HAS MORE THAN PROVED ITS WORTH, BUT ONLY IF YOU FOLLOW IT. WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW EPIDEMIC OR PANDEMIC JUST AROUND THE CORNER, WE CANNOT LEAVE THIS TO CHANCE.



11. THE GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL DRAGON OF THE BEAST'S KINGDOM.

<https://rumble.com/v5623ya-the-green-environmental-dragon-of-the-beasts-kingdom.-mohammed-bin-salman.html>

The NUMBER OF MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN '666'

the kingdom of the beast

Reverse Franc Baconis
666

(20 letters, 5 words)
"the kingdom of the beast" = 666 (Reverse Franc Baconis)
t h e k i n g d o m o f t h e b e a s t 176 666
14 38 44 32 36 26 40 46 24 28 24 42 66 14 38 44 90 44 62 16 14

Reverse Franc Baconis

Z Z Y Y X X W W V V U U T T S S R R Q Q P P O O N N
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
M M L L K K J J I I H H G G F F E E D D C C B B A A
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52





MIDDLE EAST GREEN INITIATIVE IN SAUDI ARABIA
A SHORT AND LONG TERM GOAL

SAUDI GREEN ROADMAP Aligned with Vision 2030

On the 23rd of October, Saudi Arabia unveiled part of its green initiative's program during the forum that is taking place in Riyadh.

What is the Saudi Green Agenda Unveiled Today by HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman?

Reducing the Carbon Dioxide:

- To Eliminate 278 million Metric Tons of Carbon Emissions Per Year by 2030
- To Achieve Zero-Net Emission by 2060
- To reduce methane emissions globally by 90%

Conserving the Marine Ecosystem:

- To Join the Global Oceans Alliance
- To Protect the Oceans and Beaches
- To Stop Plastic Waste

Ensuring Sustainability:

- To Establish a Global Center for Sustainable Tourism
- To Transform Riyadh into a Sustainable City

Saudi Arabia's New Investments:

- To Create New Opportunities Through a \$40-\$5 Billion Investment
- To Strengthen the Private Sector

Spreading Green Spaces:

- To Plant 10 Billion Trees in the Kingdom
- To Plant 50 Billion Trees in the Region

As per the Crown Prince, more than 40 initiatives are being discussed today, and additional projects will be announced annually. It is important to highlight that Saudi Arabia is working at different levels and from diverse sectors to reduce the heavy reliance on oil and therefore decrease the carbon dioxide emissions (CO2) as low as possible.

©CICSaudi

12.SAUDI ARABIA: AUTHORITIES MUST FREE PEOPLE WHO ARE ARBITRARILY DETAINED FOR ONLINE EXPRESSION AHEAD OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

November 28, 2024

SAUDI ARABIA’S AUTHORITIES MUST IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED AND CONVICTED SOLELY FOR EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ONLINE AS THE COUNTRY PREPARES TO HOST THE ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (IGF), AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SAID TODAY.

The forum, which runs from 15 to 19 December, includes a ***FOCUS ON “ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS AND INCLUSION IN THE DIGITAL AGE”***; ***YET DOZENS OF INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, A MEDICAL DOCTOR AND AN AID WORKER, REMAIN DETAINED IN SAUDI ARABIA, SOLELY FOR EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS ONLINE.*** A petition calling for their release has received more than 100,000 signatures and was delivered to Saudi embassies around the world, including in in Canada, Norway and Spain, by Amnesty International’s activists.

Forty organizations, including Amnesty International, had ***URGED SAUDI AUTHORITIES TO FREE INDIVIDUALS ARBITRARILY DETAINED FOR ONLINE EXPRESSION [100 DAYS](#) BEFORE THE START OF THE FORUM.***

“WHILE SAUDI AUTHORITIES LEAD DISCUSSIONS ON SHAPING THE FUTURE OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE, THEY CONTINUE TO LOCK UP, FORCIBLY DISAPPEAR AND IMPOSE DECADES-LONG PRISON SENTENCES AND TRAVEL BANS FOR PEOPLE’S ONLINE EXPRESSION. Now is the time to demonstrate their commitment to respecting and upholding freedom of expression, including freedom of expression online. Unless all detainees held for online expression are immediately and unconditionally released, the hypocrisy of the authorities will be on full display,” said Bissan Fakhri, Amnesty International’s Middle East Campaigner.

This month, just weeks before **SAUDI ARABIA HOSTS STAKEHOLDERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO DISCUSS “ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE”**, the family of Manahel al-Otaibi, a fitness instructor and women’s rights activist learned that the Specialized Criminal Court’s (SCC) appeals chamber had upheld an 11-year prison sentence against her. Her [charges](#) are solely motivated by the expression of her views on social media, including advocating for women’s rights, and an end to Saudi Arabia’s male guardianship system.



Manahel al-Otaibi is currently once again being held incommunicado, raising fears that she may be subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. After her last period of incommunicado detention, which came to an end on 1 September 2024, Manahel

al-Otaibi told her family that she had been subjected to brutal beatings by fellow prisoners and prison guards and held in solitary confinement. Her family has been denied information by prison authorities and is deeply worried about her well-being.

EVEN FOREIGN VISITORS TO SAUDI ARABIA CAN BE AT RISK OF BEING IMPRISONED SOLELY FOR EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS ONLINE, INCLUDING CRITICISM OF THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES MADE PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL IN SAUDI ARABIA. For example, Saudi authorities detained Dutch-Yemeni citizen Fahd Ezzi Mohammed Ramadhan on 20 November 2023, two days after he arrived in Saudi Arabia from the Netherlands. He told officials from the Dutch embassy in Riyadh that ***HE HAD SYMPATHIZED ONLINE WITH A CRITIC OF THE SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY AND BELIEVED, BASED ON INTERROGATIONS, THAT WAS THE REASON FOR HIS DETENTION. THE CRACKDOWN ON DISSENT HAS DETERRED MANY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND ADVOCATES FROM ATTENDING THE IGF, FEARING THAT THEY CANNOT SAFELY AND FREELY PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE.***

“The IGF organizing committee must seek further public assurances from the Saudi authorities that that none of the IGF participants will face any harassment during the conference or reprisals after it ends, including arbitrary detention and surveillance, and that all participants will be able to speak freely. Otherwise, the ***EVENT WILL TURN INTO ANOTHER DESPICABLE CHARADE AIMED AT SWEEPING SAUDI ARABIA’S ABUSES UNDER THE RUG,***” said Bissan Fakhri.

Amnesty International will send a delegation to the UN forum.

The organization has requested meetings with the Saudi Human Rights Commission and the Ministries of Interior, Justice and Human Resource and Development with a ***DETERMINATION TO RAISE THE VOICES OF THOSE SILENCED IN SAUDI ARABIA AND TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH THE AUTHORITIES, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.*** During the visit, Amnesty International’s team will highlight the cases of numerous people in detention. They include: [Manahel al-Otaibi](#); [Abdulrahman al-Sadhan](#), who was sentenced in 2020 to 20 years in prison and a 20-year travel ban for satirical tweets, and remains forcibly disappeared; [Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi](#), a retired schoolteacher, who is serving a 30-year prison sentence after his death sentence was commuted for criticism of the government’s policies on X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube; [Mohammad al-Qahtani](#), a human rights defender

and founding member of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association who faces new charges in secretive trial proceedings after his 10-year prison term expired in November 2022; and [Salma al-Shehab](#), a PhD student and mother of two, who has been in prison since 2021, serving an absurdly long prison sentence for her social media posts supporting women’s rights.

“Saudi Arabia has an opportunity to turn its rhetoric about reform into reality. **AUTHORITIES MUST FIRST UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASE ALL THOSE ARBITRARILY DETAINED AND/OR CONVICTED SOLELY FOR EXERCISING THEIR RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ASSOCIATION AND PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY.** They must also loosen baseless restrictions on civic space, including by allowing independent Saudi human rights organizations to operate in the country and by engaging in constructive dialogue with human rights groups,” said Bissan Fakhri.

13.SAUDI ARABIA - DON'T CONFUSE HUMAN RIGHTS WITH PUBLIC RELATIONS

<https://youtu.be/YTvk6brZ1Ow>



14.THE DISSIDENT | OFFICIAL TRAILER

https://youtu.be/216hjewbla_g



15.SAUDI ARABIA TO HOST UN INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM IN RIYADH

Updated 29 November 2024 Arab News November 29, 202400:14

RIYADH: SAUDI ARABIA WILL HOST THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM 2024 NEXT MONTH AT THE KING ABDULAZIZ INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER IN RIYADH. International tech experts will discuss internet policies at the 19th edition of the UN Internet Governance Forum, which will be held between Dec. 15-19 with the theme **(5) “BUILDING OUR MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIGITAL FUTURE.” THE FORUM IS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT MORE THAN 10,000 PARTICIPANTS FROM 160 COUNTRIES, AND OVER 1,000 INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS,** the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Abdullah Al-Swaha, the Saudi minister of communications and information technology, said the forum was **“AN EXCEPTIONAL PLATFORM IN THE ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL COOPERATION BETWEEN (5) GOVERNMENTS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE NONPROFIT SECTOR, PIONEERS, AND INNOVATORS.”**

He added it represented an opportunity to exchange ideas to achieve economic growth, prosperity for societies and a sustainable digital future to serve humanity. The event will host 300 sessions and workshops, during which participants will discuss the **LATEST INTERNET GOVERNANCE POLICIES AND EMERGING DIGITAL CHALLENGES WHILE SHARING BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD.** The forum will revolve around four main topics: innovation and risk in the digital space; development and sustainability; promoting human rights and inclusiveness; and **IMPROVING THE DIGITAL GOVERNANCE OF THE INTERNET,** the SPA added.



16.SAUDI ARABIA IS SET TO BE ANNOUNCED AS THE 2034 WORLD CUP HOST. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS WARN OF ‘UNIMAGINABLE HUMAN COST’



Story by Ben Church and Amanda Davies, CNN December 11, 2024

Global soccer governing body [FIFA](#) is set to meet on Wednesday to announce the hosts for the next two men's World Cups. However, the outcome will be no surprise. That's because there is only one bid each for both the 2030 and 2034 tournaments – Spain, Portugal and Morocco are set to be named joint hosts of the World Cup in six years' time, whereas [Saudi Arabia](#) is the sole candidate for the 2034 edition. While both bids have come under scrutiny, it's the latter which has caused the most controversy.

Michael Page, deputy Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch (HRW), recently **WARNED OF AN “UNIMAGINABLE HUMAN COST” TO HOSTING ARGUABLY THE WORLD’S BIGGEST SPORTING EVENT IN SAUDI ARABIA.IT COMES**

AS SEVERAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS WARN OF ISSUES – INCLUDING THE ABUSE OF MIGRANT WORKERS, FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE RIGHTS OF MINORITY GROUPS – IN THE GULF NATION.

But what is FIFA saying? Why is Saudi Arabia so set on hosting the event? And what, if anything, can be done to make the tournament as safe as possible?

SAUDI INVESTMENT

Through its sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), **SAUDI ARABIA HAS INVESTED BILLIONS INTO CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF SPORTS, SUCH AS SOCCER, GOLF, BOXING, ESPORTS AND FORMULA ONE IN RECENT YEARS.**

THE NATION CLAIMS THE INVESTMENT IS PART OF SAUDI VISION 2030, A PROJECT DRIVEN BY SAUDI CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN TO DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY AND SITUATE SAUDI ARABIA AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING COUNTRIES.

The collage features several elements:

- Top Left:** A video frame showing Mohammed bin Salman speaking at a podium. A "TIMES NOW" logo is in the top right corner. A caption below reads: "GLOBAL STATESMAN 'MBS' Mohammed bin Salman's Rising Influence on the World Stage".
- Bottom Left:** A smaller image of Mohammed bin Salman with the text: "center for the MIDDLE EAST Not Collaborating & Siding with the Islamic Policy".
- Middle Left:** A green banner with the handwritten text: "NOT BY HIS OWN POWER".
- Bottom Left (Text):** "MBS: The Rise to Power of Mohammed bin Salman", "Wednesday, June 24, 2020", and "Follow @CES, @baker_inst and @bakerinstdile on Twitter and join the conversation online with #bakerMBS".
- Bottom Left (Text):** A green banner with the handwritten text: "THE DEVIL GAVE HIM GREAT POWER".
- Right Side:** A large image of a white horseman statue with a crown of horns, set against a dark background.
- Bottom Right (Text):** A green banner with the handwritten text: "WHITE HORSEMAN OF FALSE PEACE".

Its focus on soccer, perhaps the world's most popular sport, has been particularly notable.

In recent years, Saudi Arabia has purchased a storied soccer club – English Premier League team [Newcastle United](#) – and **CONVINCED A HOST OF LEGENDS TO JOIN THE SAUDI PRO LEAGUE – MOST NOTABLY CRISTIANO RONALDO, KARIM BENZEMA AND NEYMAR JR.**



In the process, the Saudi crown prince, widely known by his initials MBS, has struck up a public friendship with FIFA President Gianni Infantino, who has continued to welcome investment from the Gulf nation in the sport.

Hosting a World Cup, then, is the cherry on the top – the pièce de résistance of the Kingdom's foray into the sport.

Unsurprisingly, the country has big plans for the tournament. It has committed to significant infrastructure projects, in addition to building or renovating 11 stadiums and 185,000 new hotel rooms.

But, **ACCORDING TO HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, A SAUDI WORLD CUP IN 2034 WILL COME AT A COST.**

HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

A recent [report](#) from *HRW*, TITLED ***“DIE FIRST, AND I’LL PAY YOU LATER,” ARGUES THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS USING THE TOURNAMENT TO “WASH AWAY ITS POOR HUMAN RIGHTS REPUTATION.”***

THE REPORT PRIMARILY FOCUSES ON THE TREATMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS, WHO HRW SAYS WILL BEAR THE BRUNT OF BUILDING SAUDI’S WORLD CUP DREAM.

MANY MIGRANT WORKERS STILL EXIST IN THE “KAFALA” SPONSORSHIP SYSTEM, WHICH TIES PEOPLE TO A SPECIFIC EMPLOYER. HRW SAID IN A JUNE STATEMENT THAT EMPLOYEES ARE “VULNERABLE TO WIDESPREAD ABUSE, INCLUDING CONTRACT SUBSTITUTION, EXORBITANT RECRUITMENT FEES, NON-PAYMENT OF WAGES, CONFISCATION OF PASSPORTS BY EMPLOYERS, AND FORCED LABOR.”

Despite a series of reforms announced by Saudi Arabia in recent years, employers “still hold disproportionate control over workers,” HRW said.

There are also concerns about press freedom, the treatment of LGBTQ+ groups and the rights of women, among others. In a recent report published by FIFA which evaluated Saudi’s bid, the human rights risk was categorized as [“medium.”](#)

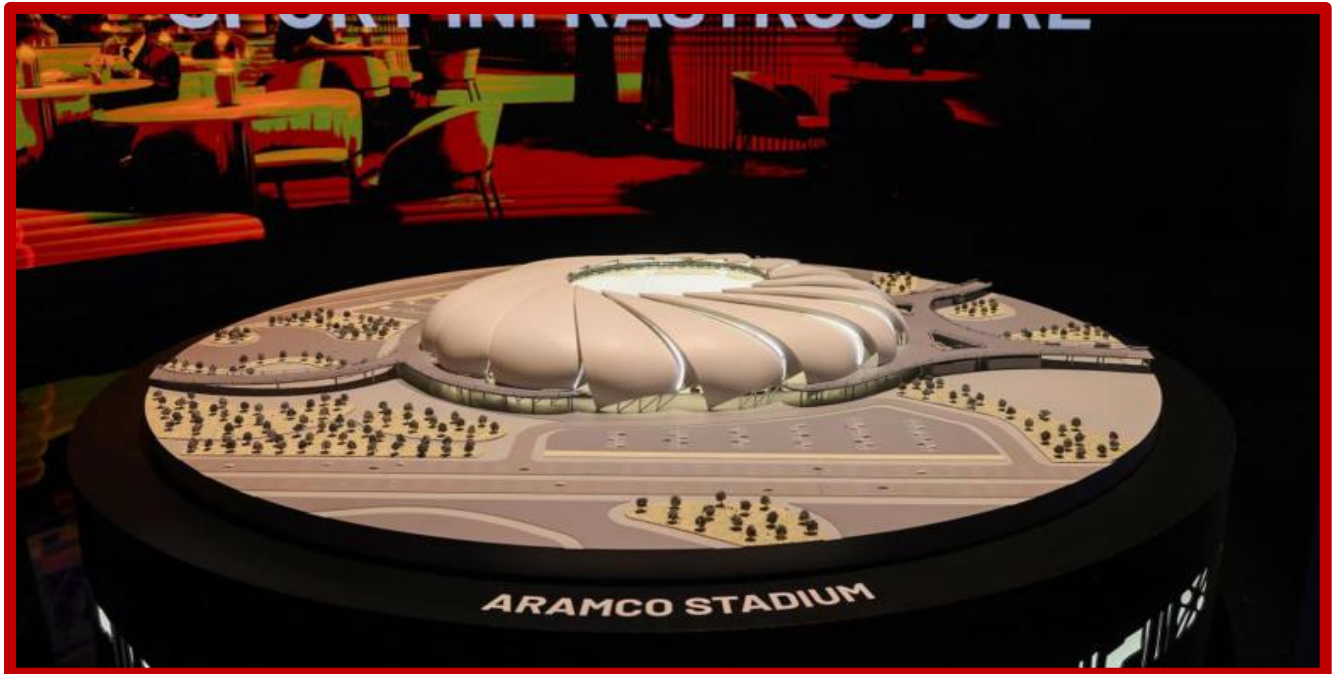
The report and designation are based on information provided by AS&H Clifford Chance, a law firm based in Riyadh which was tasked with providing an independent human rights assessment.

In its report, FIFA added that “there is a good potential that hosting the competition could help contribute to positive human rights impacts in the context of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030.”

It also noted “considerable work and level of concrete commitment demonstrated by the bid and its key stakeholders, together with the demonstrable rate of progress and the 10-year time horizon are mitigating factors to consider.”

17.THE TRUTH BEHIND SAUDI ARABIA'S REFORM SPECTACLE

<https://youtu.be/suLE1C6yhrI>



Lina al-Hathloul, Head of Monitoring and Advocacy at ALQST for Human Rights, questioned the assessment's legitimacy, citing that ***NO INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO WORK IN SAUDI ARABIA, IN RELATION TO THE BIDDING PROCESS.***

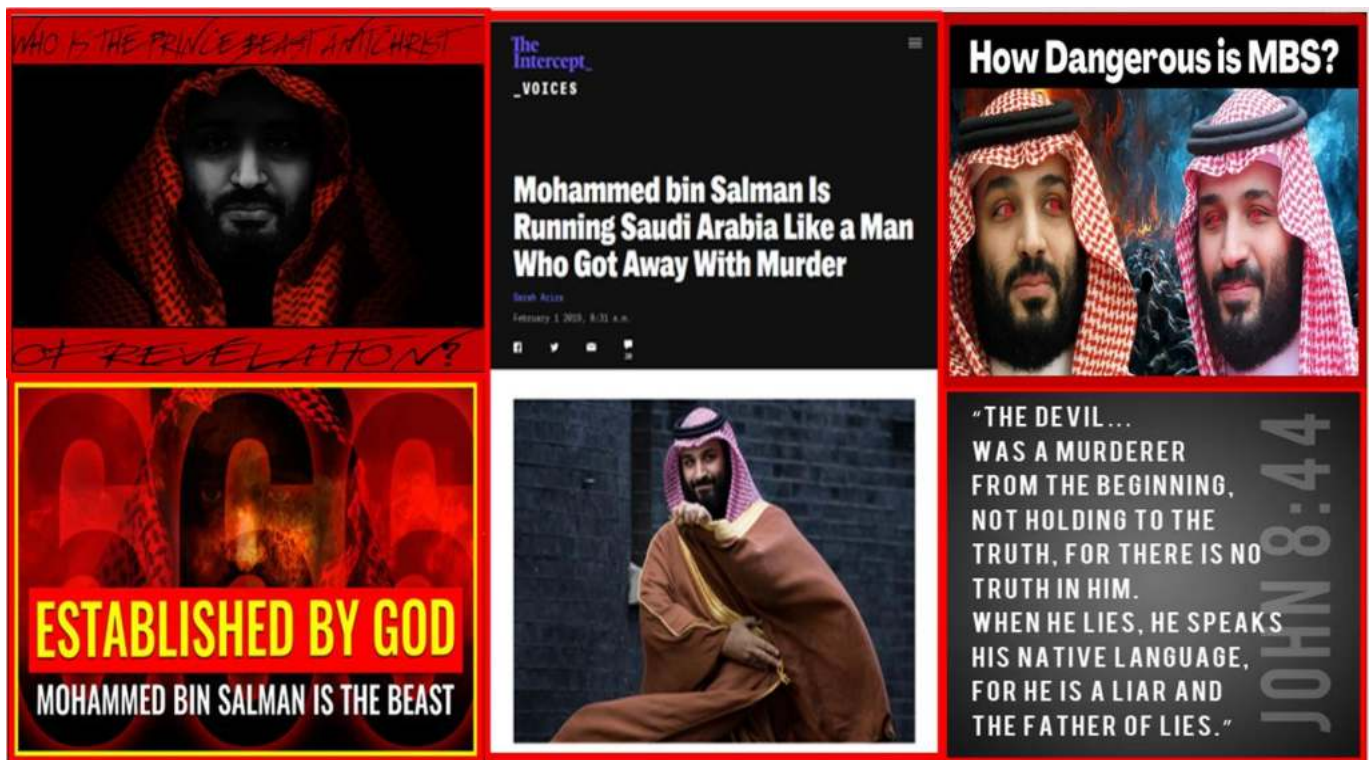
Al-Hathloul has experienced first-hand how brutal life in Saudi Arabia can be under MBS' rule. Her sister was jailed in 2018 for leading a women's rights group and remains under a travel ban, unable to leave the country. It's been seven years since al-Hathloul, who has left the country, has seen her family, she says.

"SAUDI ARABIA IS A PURE POLICE STATE, RULED BY CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN WITH NO CHECKS AND BALANCES," she told [CNN Sport's](#) Amanda Davies. ***"HE HAS ARRESTED PEOPLE FOR TWEETS, THE EXECUTIONS HAVE RISEN***

TO AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER. THIS YEAR, A RECORD HAS BEEN BROKEN IN SAUDI ARABIA'S HISTORY – 300 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN EXECUTED.

“HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ARE PUT BEHIND BARS JUST BECAUSE THEY ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS, WE HAVE SEEN AN UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL OF TORTURE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN PRISONS. MY FAMILY IS UNDER AN ILLEGAL TRAVEL BAN JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE A FAMILY OF A WOMEN’S RIGHTS ACTIVIST.

“Every country violates human rights, no country is perfect, but I think it’s about red lines. **SAUDI ARABIA, UNDER MBS TODAY, HAS CROSSED THAT RED LINE.**”



CNN has reached out to Saudi Arabia for comment.

In its report, Clifford Chance says the assessment was produced in six weeks.

“As a function of this time frame, it is based on desk research and engagement with the Ministries identified,” it said, referring to Saudi’s Human Rights Commission, the Authority of the Care of Persons with Disabilities, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Sports.

“THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS DID NOT INVOLVE ENGAGEMENT WITH EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER/ RIGHTSHOLDERS. IN TAKING ACCOUNT OF PUBLISHED COMMENTARY, WE HAVE FOCUSED ON OBSERVATIONS BY RESPECTED MONITORING BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERPRETATION AND MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INSTRUMENTS.”

Human rights groups have also criticized Saudi Arabia and FIFA for not ensuring positive change.

HRW [urged](#) FIFA to postpone any announcement that the World Cup would go to Saudi Arabia “until migrant workers’ and women’s rights, press freedom, and other human rights are protected.”

IT ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNING BODY TO PRESS SAUDI ARABIA TO “ENGAGE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS STAKEHOLDERS AND ALLOW INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS INDEPENDENT MONITORING WITHIN THE COUNTRY.”

Meanwhile, ***AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS ALSO CALLED ON FIFA TO “HALT THE PROCESS” OF AWARDING SAUDI THE TOURNAMENT “UNLESS MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORMS ARE ANNOUNCED.”***

In a statement to CNN, FIFA said it is “implementing thorough bidding processes for the 2030 and 2034 editions of the FIFA World Cup, in line with previous processes for the selection of hosts for the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2023 in Australia and New Zealand, the FIFA World Cup 2026 in the United States, Mexico and Canada and the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2027 in Brazil.”

SAUDI ARABIA HAS RECEIVED PLENTY OF CRITICISM FOR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD BEFORE AND HAS PREVIOUSLY RESISTED ALLEGATIONS OF “SPORTSWASHING,” WHICH INVOLVES COUNTRIES USING HIGH-PROFILE SPORTING EVENTS TO PROJECT A FAVORABLE IMAGE OF THEIR NATION WORLDWIDE, OFTEN TO SHIFT ATTENTION AWAY FROM ALLEGED WRONGDOING.

In an interview with Fox News that aired in 2023, ***MBS SAID HE DOESN’T “CARE” ABOUT THE COUNTRY’S INVESTMENTS BEING DESCRIBED AS SPORTSWASHING, AS LONG AS IT’S “GOING TO INCREASE MY GDP BY ONE PERCENT.”***

Earlier this year, though, the head of Saudi Arabia’s 2034 World Cup bid, Hammad Albalawi, said the country had made strides in terms of human rights in recent

years. “We have come a long way and there’s still a long way to go. Our principle is to develop something that is right for us. Our journey started in 2016, not because of the World Cup bid,” Albalawi [told Reuters](#).

FOLLOWING QATAR

For many soccer fans around the world, such conversations will feel familiar from previous World Cups in both Russia and Qatar, with both posing issues around human rights. The closest parallel, perhaps, is with the 2022 World Cup in [Qatar](#), a nation which also received heavy criticism for its treatment of migrant workers. Qatar hit back at claims of sportswashing and said it would use the spotlight of the World Cup to help push the country forward. In 2023, FIFA told CNN it was “undeniable that significant progress has taken place” in the country, and that the tournament was the “catalyst for these reforms.”

However, Steve Cockburn, Amnesty International’s Head of Labor Rights and Sport, says that ***FIFA LEARNED THE WRONG LESSONS FROM TWO YEARS AGO. “MY FEAR IS THAT THE LESSON THEY’VE LEARNED FROM QATAR IS THAT THEY CAN RIDE OUT THE CRITICISM. THEY CAN RIDE IT OUT AND PRIORITIZE THE BIGGER POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL GOALS THAT THEY’VE GOT,”*** he told CNN’s Davies.



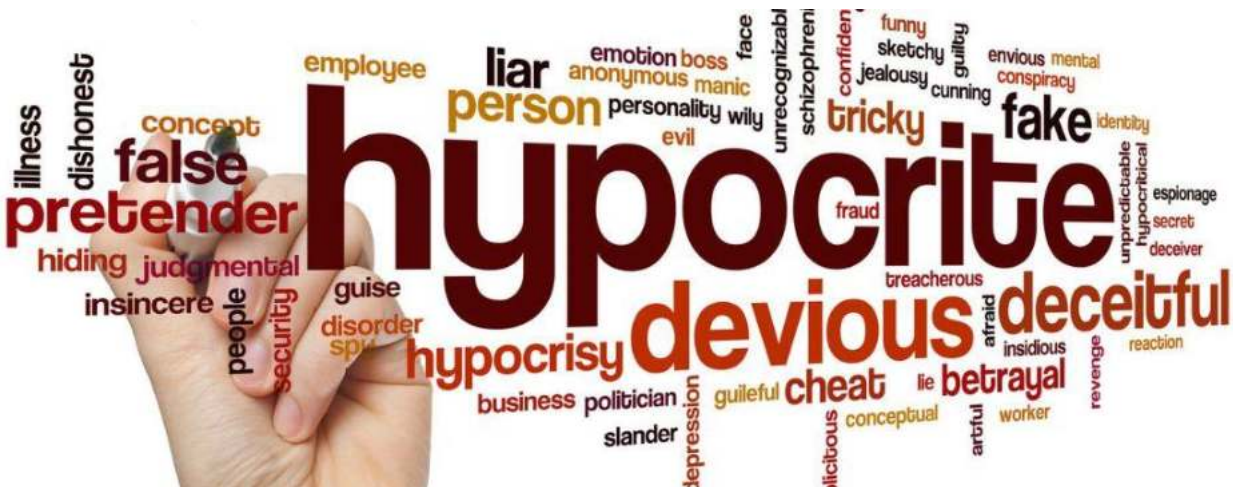
Saudi Arabian fans cheer before the World Cup match between Saudi Arabia and Mexico at the Lusail Stadium on November 30, 2022. - Julio Cortez/AP

He, like many others, was pleased that FIFA became the first global sport's body to include human rights in such a bidding process in 2017 but has been disappointed by how it's been implemented.

"When (FIFA) is awarding what is the world's biggest sporting event – the most watched, the most visited – it has a responsibility to make sure it's not causing adverse impacts to workers, to fans, to activists and to journalists," he said.

"(FIFA) said that itself, it simply needs to live up to its own commitments and values. It's not adhering to those standings while it's pretending that it is. That's a really harmful façade. We've had a predetermined process here."

He adds: ***"WHEN IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN A WORLD CUP IN SAUDI ARABIA, OR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES, IT'S CHOSEN A WORLD CUP IN SAUDI ARABIA."***



Al-Hathloul, meanwhile, remains optimistic that things can still change in Saudi Arabia, saying the country's people deserve to enjoy a World Cup, while conceding that the opportunity has been tarnished by the process.

SHE SAYS FIFA HAS BEEN "COMPLICIT" IN ENGINEERING A SITUATION WHEREBY SAUDI HAS FACED LITTLE COMPETITION, AND THEREFORE HAD NO INCENTIVE, TO ACTUALLY IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS.

"In order for change to exist, you have to challenge, you have to question, you have to speak about what is going on in the country," she said.

"We have 10 years now, we have 10 years to encourage people to speak, we have 10 years to really challenge and question and push for positive change.

“USUALLY, WHAT HAPPENS IS THAT PEOPLE HAVE ACCEPTED SAUDI MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR SILENCE. I do hope in the coming 10 years that things will change, but people have to be braver than this.”

CNN has reached out to FIFA on the above allegations.



18.SAUDI ARABIA WORLD CUP: FIFA 2034 HELPING SAUDI ARABIA 'WHITEWASH' ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE

https://youtu.be/80_QKyaRM2c

19.SAUDI ARABIA’S BID TO HOST 2034 WORLD CUP HAS RECEIVED THE HIGHEST-EVER RATING: FIFA



Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman officially announcing the Kingdom's bid to host the FIFA World Cup™ 2034.

Updated 30 November 2024 Arab News November 30, 202403:29

RIYADH: SAUDI ARABIA’S BID TO HOST THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2034 HAS RECEIVED A RATING OF 419.8 OUT OF 500, THE HIGHEST TECHNICAL RATING EVER GIVEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL TO A FILE SUBMITTED TO HOST THE EVENT, THE FEDERATION HAS SAID.

FIFA’s announcement came ahead of the federation’s general assembly on Dec. 11 to decide which countries would host the 2030 and 2034 World Cups, the Saudi Press Agency reported early on Saturday.

On July 29, a Saudi delegation led by Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki bin Faisal, minister of sport and president of the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee, and Yasser Al-Misehal, Saudi Arabian Football Federation president, officially submitted the Kingdom's bid book to FIFA to host the FIFA World Cup 2034 at a ceremony hosted in Paris, France.

Last October, a FIFA delegation arrived in the Kingdom to review the details of the bid. As proposed, **48 TEAMS WILL BE PARTICIPATING AT VENUES IN ONE COUNTRY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY.**

The delegation visited the cities proposed to host the tournament, inspected the sports projects and facilities included in the bid, and reviewed other preparations.

Commenting on the FIFA announcement, Sports Minister Prince Abdulaziz said that **THE ATTENTION, EMPOWERMENT AND SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM KING SALMAN AND CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN CONTRIBUTED TO THE BID GAINING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.**

SAFF President Yasser Al-Misehal said that "through the bid file, we are committed to providing an exceptional experience for all participants in the tournament, whether teams or participating delegations, and certainly for fans and football lovers around the world."

Hammad Al-Balawi, head of the Bid File Unit, said: "The Kingdom's bid file offers **FIVE (5) HOST CITIES WITH DIVERSE CULTURAL AND URBAN CHARACTER THAT HELP FANS AND FOOTBALL LOVERS EXPLORE UNIQUE CULTURES AND EXPERIENCES IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE KINGDOM.**"

In addition, he said, there were ten other hosting sites that "contribute to enhancing the experience of the participating teams through training camps and modern sports facilities, in addition to providing high accessibility between cities."

As stated in the Kingdom's bid, games will be played in 15 (5+5+5) stadiums distributed across (5) Riyadh, Jeddah, Alkhobar, Abha and NEOM, in addition to the ten other hosting sites across Saudi Arabia.

20.HOW IS MBS WHITEWASHING HIS REPUTATION WITH GOLF COURSES



After years of being famous for being an elite and billionaires' game, another reality emerged in golf, when **SAUDI CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN (MBS) ENTERED THIS WORLD AND SOUGHT ABSOLUTE AND SUDDEN CONTROL OVER IT.**

According to international media, since June 8, 2022, **RIYADH HAS PENETRATED GOLF, CAUSED UNPRECEDENTED DEFECTIONS IN THE OLDEST SPORTS BODY WITHIN IT, CREATED A NEW CHAMPIONSHIP, ATTRACTED TOP PLAYERS WITH FANTASTIC OFFERS, AND SPENT BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON THAT WORLD TO OWN IT.** This shocking development has sparked major game leaders, who have argued that **THE SAUDI CROWN PRINCE IS "TRYING TO WASH HIS**

REPUTATION AND WHITEWASH HIS FACE" GLOBALLY, REGARDING THE KINGDOM'S "DETERIORATING" HUMAN RIGHTS

PRINCE'S POLARIZATIONS

On June 9, 2022, the New York Times published a report on the golf course conflict and how billions of Saudis "turned" that "quiet world."

Shortly after the launch of the new LFI Golf League, backed by the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, the historic 94-year-old PGA Championships, which belong to the World Golf Professionals Association, issued a decision denying 17 players from participating in the tournament after joining the all-new Saudi competition. The New York Times reported that the Saudi-funded league was primarily the competition for the PGA Championships, which for decades was the most important event and the highest level in world golf tournaments and its first standard.

"THE SAUDIS SIGNED WITH THE MOST FAMOUS NAMES IN GOLF TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR NEW TOURNAMENT AFTER THEY WERE LURED BY MONEY," it said.

Threats to exclude players participating in the Saudi League from professional PGA Championships, particularly for American champions Dustin Johnson and Phil Mickelson, have yielded nothing. Johnson, a former world number one and two-time champion, and the left-handed genius Mickelson, the second-oldest player in the last 20 years after Tiger Woods, responded to Saudi offers, overcoming a difficult barrier that many thought was "unbreachable." "These players have made their own choice for financial reasons," PGA Championship Commissioner Jay Monahan said in a statement.

Monahan warned other players tempted by Saudi offers that they would be subjected to the same sanctions, lamenting **"ALL THIS TALK ABOUT MONEY, MONEY AND MORE MONEY."**

IGNORING CRIMES

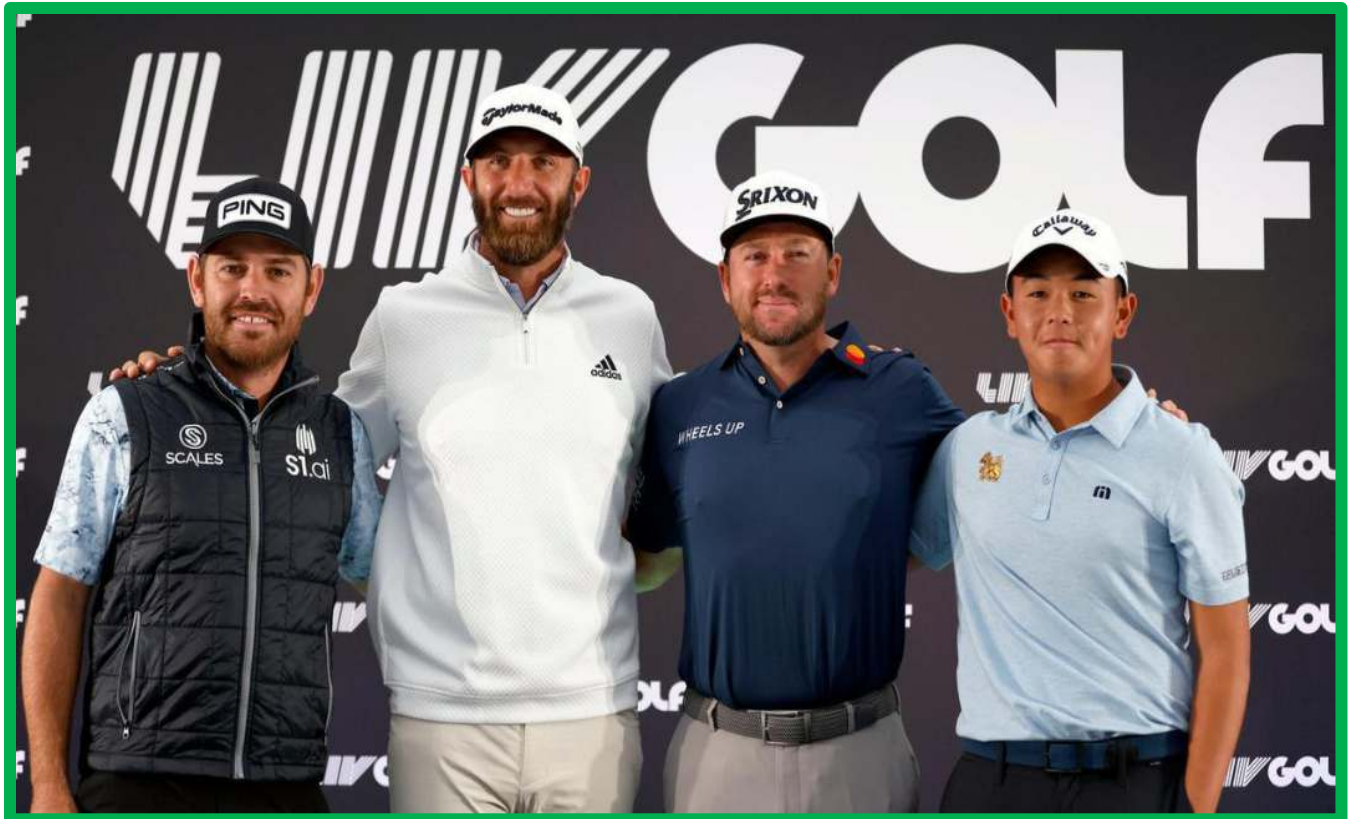
Interestingly, the game's genius, Mickelson, who joined the Saudi League, sparked controversy with remarks previously criticizing the kingdom.

On February 18, 2022, in an interview with The Telegraph, **MICKELSON SAID HE WAS READY TO OVERLOOK SAUDI ARABIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AND PARTICIPATE IN THE GOLF TOURNAMENT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE KINGDOM'S FUNDS.**

"We know they killed Khashoggi and have a horrible record on human rights [...] this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape how the PGA Tour operates but Saudi Arabia has given us a lot of money, this is an opportunity that comes only once in a lifetime, and I am not even interested in the success of the Saudi Golf League."

He said he plays in the Saudi Golf League to gain influence and money only and has received \$100 million to participate. On January 10, 2022, the U.S. Daily Beast reported that, "The golfer signed a reported \$200 million contract on Saturday night to play with LIV Golf."

But on the other hand, a group of top players refused to respond to ibn Salman's money appeal, led by international golfer Rory McIlroy, who warned young golf stars not to play in the Saudi League. During press statements on February 19, 2022, McIlroy said he was not ready to discredit himself with Saudi money. "Look, I've lived it—for the top guys [elite golfers], all that money really isn't going to change their life," he said.



"The sudden entry is part of a multi-level approach to changing its stereotype as a rich and conservative kingdom, both externally and internally," al-Hurra said on June 10, 2022. "Saudi Arabia is targeting the structures and organizations that have ruled professional golf for nearly a century, which is different from buying a European football team or hosting a global sporting event with **THE AIM OF SPORTS WASHING,**" the website said.

"The new Saudi-funded league has brought together 48 dissident players lured by excessive prize money, amounting to more than \$250 million, spanning eight rounds around the world, in a unique format over three days without interruption," he said. "Of the 48 renegade players, 16 are ranked among the top 100 players in the world," the website said. "The first round, which began on June 8, 2022, in north London, has been distributed \$25 million, as is the case for the next seven rounds, a figure that is more than double each of the Grand Slams," he said.

"Investments of this kind have accelerated since 2015 when Crown Prince MBS began his rise to become the de facto ruler, and led a comprehensive change aimed at opening up the kingdom's economy and culture," the website said. **MBS BEGAN PUTTING SAUDI ARABIA'S NAME IN THE NEWS IN WAYS UNRELATED TO ITS POOR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, MILITARY INTERVENTION IN YEMEN, OR THE ASSASSINATION OF JOURNALIST KHASHOGGI BY A SPECIAL ASSASSINATION SQUAD OF SAUDI AGENTS AT THE KINGDOM'S CONSULATE IN ISTANBUL IN 2018,** al-Hurra reported.



TRUMP'S SECRET

MBS' investments and interventions in the golf world do not stray from his favorite leader, former U.S. President Donald Trump. On April 24, 2022, The Daily Telegraph described the current relationship between MBS, Trump, and his family as an "eagle-axis." It added that the scale of the cooperation between the two parties has reached that Trump's famous "Doral" golf course in Miami will host the Saudi Final League, which is estimated at \$50 million. "This represents additional support for Trump, who is known for his familiarity with this game," the paper said.

"Certainly the sight of Saudi Sheikhs and Trump handing grateful golfers novelty-sized cheques will be enough to bring golf's traditionalists out in a cold sweat," The Daily Telegraph reported. MBS' relentless paths come with a strong desire and a wild bet on Trump and his family returning to the White House. On May 21, 2022, the U.S. website Essential Sport reported that Trump was in the spotlight because of his participation in the Saudi Golf League. He was quoted as saying that he talked about the Saudis and their huge financial resources, compared them to rich people like him, and expressed their love for golf.

21.HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH RELEASES CHILLING REPORT ON SAUDI PRINCE

https://youtu.be/Zf5H_kMeG1o



22.SAUDI CROWN PRINCE ANNOUNCES CREATION OF SUPREME COMMISSION FOR HOSTING 2034 WORLD CUP



December 11, 2024 Saudi Gazette report

THE CROWN PRINCE WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SUPREME COMMISSION FOR HOSTING THE 2034 WORLD CUP.

RIYADH — SAUDI CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN ANNOUNCED ON WEDNESDAY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE “SUPREME COMMISSION FOR HOSTING THE 2034 WORLD CUP,” FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA’S WINNING OF THE BID TO HOST THE GLOBAL TOURNAMENT.

THE CROWN PRINCE WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMISSION, of which the members include Minister of Sports Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal; Minister of Interior Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif; Minister of Culture Prince Badr bin Abdullah; Minister of State and Member of the Council of Economic and

Development Affairs Mohammed Al-Sheikh; Minister of Municipalities and Housing Majid Al-Hogail; Minister of Finance Mohammed Al-Jadaan; Minister of Communications and Information Technology Eng. Abdullah Al-Swaha; Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Eng. Ahmed Al-Rajhi; Minister of Transport and Logistics Eng. Saleh Al-Jasser; Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al-Khateeb; Minister of Health Eng. Fahd Al-Jalajel; Minister of State and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Development Bodies Support Center Eng. Ibrahim Al-Sultan; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Entertainment Authority Turki Al-Sheikh; Governor of the Public Investment Fund Yasir Al-Rumayyan; Advisor to the Royal Court Dr. Fahad Toonsi; Advisor to the Royal Court Abdulaziz Tarabzouni; and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Football Federation Yasser Al-Misehal.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION REAFFIRMS SAUDI ARABIA'S DETERMINATION TO PRESENT AN EXCEPTIONAL VERSION OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE WORLD OF FOOTBALL, AS THE FIRST COUNTRY IN HISTORY TO HOST THIS EVENT SINGLEHANDEDLY WITH THE PRESENCE OF 48 TEAMS FROM ALL CONTINENTS OF THE WORLD. THIS IS AN EMBODIMENT OF THE UNPRECEDENTED SUPPORT AND INTEREST THAT THE SPORTS SECTOR RECEIVES FROM CUSTODIAN OF THE TWO HOLY MOSQUES KING SALMAN AND THE CROWN PRINCE.

Hosting the World Cup tournament represents a qualitative strategic step that will directly contribute to enhancing the transformation of Saudi sports and ***RAISING THE LEVEL OF QUALITY OF LIFE, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT EXECUTIVE PROGRAMS OF VISION 2030.*** This seeks to enhance the participation of citizens and expatriates in practicing sports, in addition to refining the capabilities of athletes and improving the athletic performance of all sports; making the country a competitive global destination in hosting the largest international sporting event.

It is expected that Saudi Arabia will highlight itself through hosting the 2034 World Cup as an economic, investment, sports, tourism, economic, cultural and entertainment destination, where millions of visitors will get to know its heritage and civilizational and historical legacy, in addition to its huge cultural reserves.

23. GLOBAL TYRANNY NEVER SOUNDED SO GOOD: UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE



By [Michael Bryant](#) October 18, 2024

Lost in the hoopla of the coming US presidential election and the pandemonium of current global affairs was an unheralded summit last month that could cause more upheaval on the planet than anything our self-described world leaders have thrown at the populace yet.

On September 22, representatives of 193 **SOVEREIGN NATION-STATES GATHERED AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY TO ADOPT A PACT FOR THE FUTURE. THE DOCUMENT, WHICH INCLUDES A GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT AND A DECLARATION ON FUTURE GENERATIONS**, promises to “open the door to new opportunities and untapped possibilities,” according to UN Secretary-General António Guterres. The landmark agreement, which **GUTERRES CALLED A “STEP-CHANGE TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE, INCLUSIVE, NETWORKED MULTILATERALISM,”** contains 56 “actions” that countries pledged to achieve.

SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH IS "COMMITTED TO MEETING THE SDGS" AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE "PACT OF THE FUTURE," WILL "MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BOLSTER COOPERATION"

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 (7 years)



1. **QUALITATIVE STEP FORWARD IN MULTILATERAL ACTION**
2. **PROMISES A FAIR AND EQUITABLE WORLD ORDER**
3. **A NEW WORLD ORDER WHICH PROMOTES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS**
4. **SAUDI HAS BEEN WORKING INTENSELY TO STRENGTHEN MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**
5. **THE UN MUST BE 'RECONSTRUCTED' TO SHOULDER ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN UPHOLDING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.**



THE BEAST AND THE UNITED NATIONS. PD

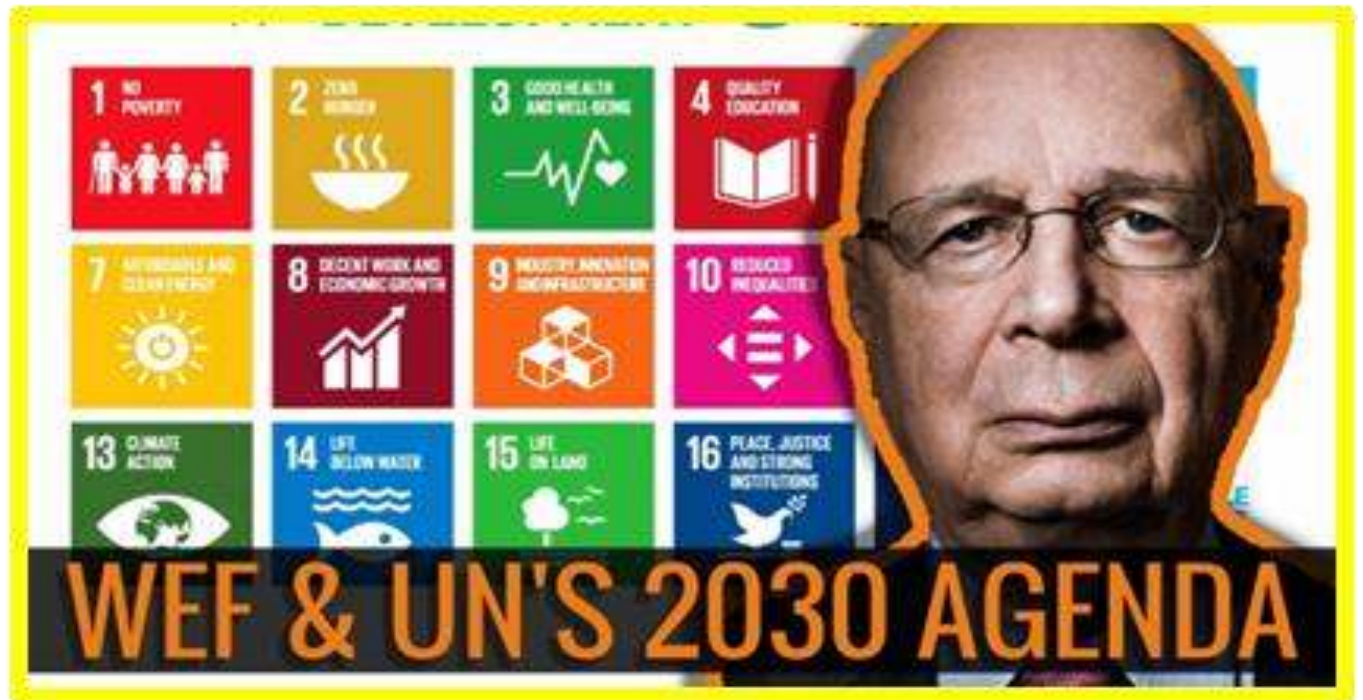


UNITED NATIONS GOVERNING AI FOR F



UNITED NATIONS GOVERNING FOR AI S

The net effect of the Pact for the Future and its two so-called annexes is intended to **RADICALLY ACCELERATE THE PUSH TOWARD COMPLETION OF THE UN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND ITS AGENDA 2030.**



Marketed as a [blueprint](#) to “lay the foundations for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order—for all peoples and nations” (and *who* could possibly object to such a heavenly vision?)—this latest flurry of UN paperwork may have set new records in linguistic maneuvers and platitudes per page.

FIVE (5) QUESTIONS ARE IN ORDER:

- *What do all the bureaucratic bromides and buzzwords in the Pact actually mean when translated into plain English?*
- *How will the Pact’s sound and fury impact us once its “multilateral” wheels are set in motion?*
- *Is this “sustainable, just, and peaceful global order” really a pot of gold awaiting us at the end of the United Nations Summit of the Future rainbow?*
- *Are these promises of “new opportunities and untapped possibilities” truly wonderful gifts designed to serve the public? Or are they just more Trojan horses that will carry us closer to the cliff’s edge than into a Canaan-like Promised Land flowing with milk and honey?*
- *And what exactly did Secretary-General Guterres mean when he [said](#) the UN Summit of the Future represented “an essential first step towards making global institutions more legitimate, effective, and fit for the world of today and tomorrow” and that UN member states had gathered to “bring multilateralism back from the brink”?*

WADING THROUGH THE FINISHED PRODUCT, 66 PAGES OF HACKNEYED PHRASES PASSED OFF AS PROFOUND POLICY, REQUIRES THE STOICISM OF A SAINT AND A DEVIL’S DICTIONARY IN ORDER TO TRANSLATE ITS CONNIVING “GLOBALESE” INTO A COMPREHENSIBLE TONGUE.

Rather than answer the above questions one by one, we can turn to the accompanying four-page Concept Notes for the Interactive Dialogues, which offer a concise version of the Pact’s mind-numbing pages and pages. The Concept Notes begin by highlighting the need **TO “TRANSFORM GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND TURBOCHARGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.”** These notes give us a clear idea of what the priorities were for the two-day **“SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE” AS WELL AS THE DIRECTION THAT UN 2.0 IS ATTEMPTING TO STEER THE PLANET.**

For instance, the opening line of Interactive Dialogue 1 speaks of “[t]he urgent need for **REFORM OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE” IN ORDER TO “MODERNIZE THE SYSTEM WHILE ACCELERATING PROGRESS TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.**” Well, those words end our suspense as to what **THE UN’S TOP PRIORITY SHALL BE: TOTAL CONTROL OF THE WORLD’S FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND SYSTEMS.**

The framework for what that new global economic system might look like is articulated in the **WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM’S GUIDEBOOK THE GREAT RESET.** A deep dive into **THE DETAILS OF THE GREAT RESET, MADE FAMOUS BY THE SLOGAN “YOU’LL OWN NOTHING AND BE HAPPY,” EXPOSES THIS PRETENTIOUS TRACT AS JUST ANOTHER LONG-WINDED RATIONALE FOR ECONOMIC DESPOTISM AND CENTRALIZED CONTROL OVER THE LIVES OF ALL THE PEOPLE (READ: PEONS) ON THE PLANET.**

Next on the globalists’ to-do list is the “urgent” need for a vaguely defined “enhanced multilateralism.” According to various UN pooh-bahs, the international community is facing challenges that are “too great for any nation, **SMALL OR LARGE, TO TACKLE ALONE.**” **NATURALLY, THE UN PROCLAIMS THAT THESE UNDEFINED “CHALLENGES” CAN BE RESOLVED ONLY THROUGH MECHANISMS INSTALLED BY THE UN AND ITS SPONSORS.**



Putting aside the fact that the UN and its affiliates have a track record that proves they are part of the problem instead of the solution to anything, the terms **“MULTILATERALISM” AND “GLOBAL GOVERNANCE”—REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE UN DOCUMENTS**—need to be exposed for what they actually mean.

Apparently, from what we can ascertain, **THE UN DECIDED THAT THE MORE SINISTER-SOUNDING TERMS “ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT” AND “NEW WORLD ORDER” HAD WORN OUT THEIR WELCOME AND WERE JUSTIFIABLY RAISING ALARM BELLS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE.** Thus, kinder, gentler surrogate words have been introduced in an attempt to pacify the people and soften the not-so-fuzzy image of global totalitarianism.

When the curtains are pulled back, exposing the spin machine, we find that the true intent of these autocrats, who claim to “represent the peoples of the world,” **IS TO CREATE A GLOBAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE WITH DRAMATICALLY INCREASED POWERS OVER ALL HUMAN ACTIVITY. SUCH A CENTRALIZED CONTROL SYSTEM WOULD, BY DESIGN, ERODE A NATION’S ABILITY TO CONTROL ITS OWN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY, ELIMINATING SUCH “QUAINT” NOTIONS AS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.**

THE ANTICHRIST'S ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT IS HERE

Just Say
NO to the
MARK
OF THE BEAST
Revelation 13:16-17 & 14:9-11



HOPE AND WARNING FOR
A MODERN WORLD



New study highlights the silent global scandal of excess deaths
The lockdown message is clear – we must never give power to power-hungry people! Inquire Oxford academics Carl Heneghan and Tom Jefferson.



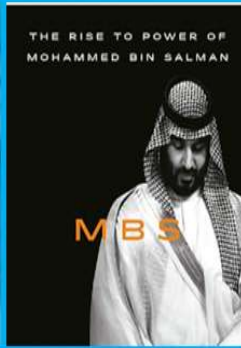
MBS AND THE WEF
MEETING OF 'GLOBAL



THE BEAST AND THE
WORLD ECONOMIC F

One example of how this might play out in the real world can be found in how the UN pushes the idea that the only possible way to effectively tackle what it determines to be “complex global shocks” is through “multilateralism,” as defined by the UN.

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto **him [Prince, Beast, Antichrist, 8th King, Son of Perdition, Man by Satan, MBS]** to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and **POWER WAS GIVEN HIM OVER ALL** kindreds, and tongues, and **NATIONS**.



Revelation 13:2 And **THE BEAST** which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and **THE DRAGON GAVE HIM HIS POWER, AND HIS SEAT, AND GREAT AUTHORITY**.

Daniel 8:23-25 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And **HIS POWER SHALL BE MIGHTY, BUT NOT BY HIS OWN POWER**: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and **BY PEACE SHALL DESTROY MANY**: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

In a March 2023 [policy paper](#) titled “**STRENGTHENING THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO COMPLEX GLOBAL SHOCKS — AN EMERGENCY PLATFORM**,” the UN Secretary-General proposed that “the General Assembly provide the Secretary-General and the United Nations system with a **STANDING AUTHORITY TO CONVENE AND OPERATIONALIZE AUTOMATICALLY AN EMERGENCY PLATFORM IN THE EVENT OF A FUTURE COMPLEX GLOBAL SHOCK OF SUFFICIENT SCALE, SEVERITY AND REACH**.”

In practice, what this could mean is that **THE STANDING UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD BECOME A “GLOBAL EMERGENCY CZAR” WHO IS GIVEN POWER TO PRESIDE OVER ANY INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY, BE IT REAL OR MANUFACTURED**.



THE PROPOSAL WOULD STRIP NATIONS, BUSINESSES, AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR OF THE RIGHT TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS, WHILE HANDING OVER ALL AUTHORITY TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES WITHIN THE UN'S ORBIT. NGOs, UN agencies and private "stakeholders" would effectively rule, like dictators, over every nation and even over every jurisdiction (province, state, county, city) within each nation. **NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY WOULD BE NULL AND VOID.**

ANOTHER MAJOR ITEM ON THE UN MENU IS THE CONCEPT OF A "COMMON DIGITAL FUTURE," WHICH IS EMBEDDED WITHIN THE AFOREMENTIONED "GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT."

Curiously, the UN directly compares these digital technologies to natural resources, observing that the potential of digital technology can be only optimized *through shared access and use* of resources such as the air around us and earth's bodies of water. Setting aside the fact that we can't drink technology or eat data, the irony of the UN suggesting that *shared access* will be a defining feature of any of its

programs flies in the face of the UN's history as a vehicle for increased privatization of the commons.

As part of this *COMMON DIGITAL FUTURE, THE UN PROMOTES THE IDEA OF "WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE INFORMATION INTEGRITY, TOLERANCE AND RESPECT IN THE DIGITAL SPACE."* Again, more noble-sounding words, but how does the UN propose to do this?

Here's a clue: The UN offers to help the public sort through the flotsam and jetsam of the social media landscape by promising to "*STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION AND HATE SPEECH ONLINE AND MITIGATE THE RISKS OF INFORMATION MANIPULATION IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.*"



If you are uncertain as to what that means, consider that **THE UN IS SEEKING TIGHTER CONTROLS OVER WHAT THEY JUDGE TO BE MISINFORMATION IN ORDER TO MANAGE AND RESTRICT WHAT INFORMATION THE PUBLIC CAN FREELY ACCESS. THE END PRODUCT, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD ALLOW CERTAIN UN AGENCIES TO HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER ALL INFORMATION SOURCES.**



This has long been one of the principal desires of the globocrats, who know that a well-informed public that is able to discern between government deceptions (such as the propaganda used to sell the corona crisis) and on-the-ground realities is exceedingly difficult to control.

At the conclusion of the September summit, **UN LEADERS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEED FOR “A REINVIGORATED MULTILATERAL SYSTEM.” THE COUNTRIES IN ATTENDANCE REACHED THE CONSENSUS THAT “THE WORLD MUST ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.”**

<https://nightwatchman.blog/2024/09/24/breaking-news-uns-pact-for-the-future-is-adopted-mohammed-bin-salman-calls-for-universal-reform-of-the-united-nations-666/>

If you didn't hear about the summit and its outcome on your evening news, don't be surprised. It was scarcely covered by any nation's news media. Are your eyebrows raised at the thought of the world's "leaders" making plans to reshape the earth, its economy, and its inhabitants without so much as a whisper or a whimper from mainstream journalists?

If these journalists *were* to scrutinize the UN's latest plans, they would find that what is being presented as a new and necessary plan of action is really the **SAME OLD STORY OF THE MEGALOMANIACS' DESIRE FOR TOTAL CONTROL OF THE PLANET, DRESSED UP IN A SHINY NEW PACKAGE TO CONCEAL THEIR INTENTIONS. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT ANY TIME YOU SEE A PROGRAM BEING FORWARDED BY A GAGGLE OF UNELECTED, UNACCOUNTABLE GLOBALISTS, YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT THE PROGRAM BEING PROMISED IS AS THOROUGHLY TYRANNICAL AS IT CAN BE. AND THAT'S BY DESIGN.**

24. SAUDI ARABIA ALLEGEDLY RECRUITED TWITTER EMPLOYEES TO SPY ON USERS. THAT'S JUST ONE OF MANY WAYS SAUDI AGENTS USE TECH TOOLS TO SPY ON CRITICS



Business insider Aaron Holmes

SAUDI ARABIA IS REPORTEDLY WEAPONIZING BIG TECH TO CARRY OUT SURVEILLANCE AND SMEAR CAMPAIGNS AGAINST DISSIDENTS AND CRITICS. NEW REPORTS THIS WEEK SHED LIGHT ON SAUDI ARABIA'S ALLEGED EFFORTS TO QUASH DISSENT USING BIG TECH. On Wednesday, Federal prosecutors charged two former Twitter employees with spying on users on behalf of the Saudi government. And earlier this week, Human Rights Watch published a report detailing the **BROADER METHODS SAUDI ARABIA USES FOR**

SURVEILLANCE AND HARASSMENT ONLINE. THE REPORTS BUILD ON PREVIOUS ALLEGATIONS THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS TRACKED DOWN ITS CRITICS ONLINE AT THE BEHEST OF CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN. A 2018 report by Citizen Lab found that a Saudi activist's phone was targeted with spyware, and other activists have come forward to report similar hacking.

PRINCE MOHAMMED'S ALLEGED VINDICTIVENESS TOWARDS CRITICS HAS AT TIMES LED TO VIOLENCE — THE CIA DETERMINED THAT HE LIKELY ORDERED THE ASSASSINATION OF WASHINGTON POST COLUMNIST JAMAL KHASHOGGI IN 2018. But publicly, Saudi Arabia is a rising power-player in Silicon Valley, pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into startups and venture capital funds like Softbank's Vision Fund, which funded WeWork, Slack, Wag, and Doordash. The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday that a Saudi-backed fund pumped \$400 million into CloudKitchens, the new startup from Uber founder Travis Kalanick.

PEGASUS SPYWARE ESSENTIALLY MAKES EVERYTHING ON A PHONE ACCESSIBLE.



"ONCE A PHONE IS INFECTED [WITH PEGASUS SPYWARE], THE CUSTOMER HAS FULL ACCESS TO A VICTIM'S PERSONAL FILES, SUCH AS CHATS, EMAILS, AND PHOTOS. THEY CAN EVEN SURREPTITIOUSLY USE THE PHONE'S MICROPHONES AND CAMERAS TO VIEW AND EAVESDROP ON THEIR TARGETS," according to Citizen Lab.

MULTIPLE OTHER SAUDI DISSIDENTS SAY THEY'VE BEEN TARGETED BY PEGASUS HACKS



A demonstrator dressed as Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (C) with blood on his hands protests outside the Saudi Embassy in Washington, DC, on October 8, 2018, demanding justice for missing Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. [JIM WATSON/AFP/Getty Images](#)

Human rights activist Yahya Assiri and comedian Ghanim al-Masarir are among those targeted in recent years, according to Human Rights Watch.

**SAUDI OFFICIALS ALSO REPORTEDLY USED THEIR PUBLIC TWITTER ACCOUNTS
TO HARASS DISSIDENTS USING THE HASHTAG "#THE_BLACK_LIST."**



The hashtag was started by Saud al-Qahtani, the Saudi government's former director of cybersecurity, using his official Twitter account.



**DISSIDENTS HAVE PREVIOUSLY SPECULATED THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT IS
ABLE TO UNMASK ANONYMOUS ACCOUNTS**



**THE ALLEGED ONLINE SPYING AND HARASSMENT RAMPED UP FOLLOWING
CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN'S RISE TO POWER, ACCORDING TO
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH.**



THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT TWITTER AND OTHER TECH COMPANIES INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE SPYING AND ADVOCATE FOR THE RELEASE OF DISSIDENTS DETAINED FOR CRITICIZING SAUDI ARABIA.



25. SAUDI ARABIA: AUTHORITIES HOSTING INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM WHILE IMPRISONING ONLINE CRITICS EXPOSES DEEP HYPOCRISY



September 6, 2024

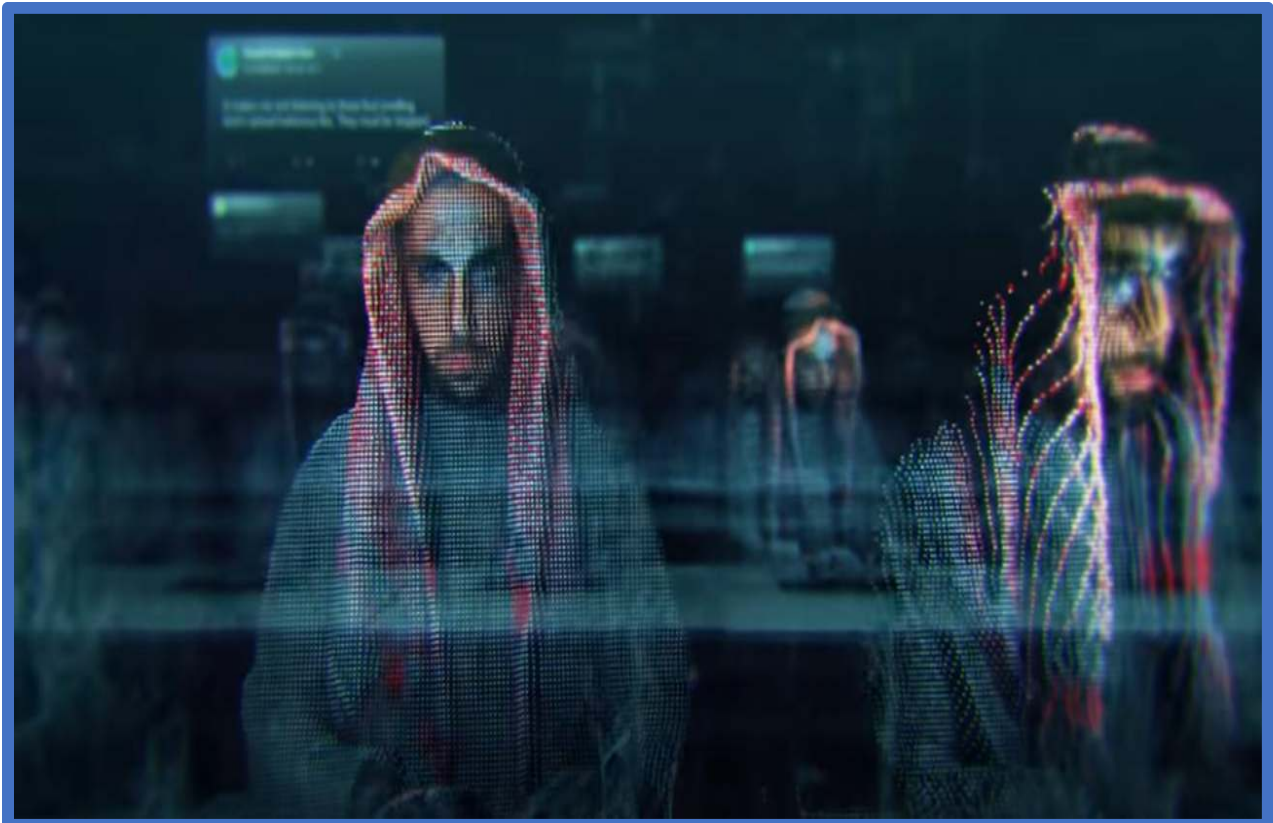
Saudi Arabia's authorities must immediately release all those arbitrarily detained solely for expressing their views online ahead of the upcoming Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Riyadh, said 40 NGOs and human rights organizations including Amnesty International [in a joint statement published today](#).

ONE OF THE KEY THEMES OF THE ANNUAL FORUM ON DIGITAL PUBLIC POLICY, WHICH IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE FROM 15 TO 19 DECEMBER 2024, IS ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE. THE ORGANIZATIONS HIGHLIGHTED THE HYPOCRISY IN SAUDI ARABIA PLAYING HOST TO THE EVENT WHILE CONTINUING TO LOCK UP, FORCIBLY DISAPPEAR AND INTIMIDATE PEOPLE INTO SILENCE.

“Saudi Arabia’s authorities have 100 days before the IGF begins to demonstrate that they will ease their draconian crackdown on freedom of expression, and ***TO SHOW THAT THEY WILL USE THIS EVENT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT GENUINE REFORMS RATHER THAN AS PART OF AN IMAGE WASHING CAMPAIGN,***” said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International’s Secretary General.

IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT THEIR HOSTING OF THE CONFERENCE ABOUT THE INTERNET’S FUTURE IS MORE THAN JUST A CYNICAL PR EXERCISE, THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES MUST RELEASE ALL THOSE ARBITRARILY DETAINED SOLELY FOR EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ONLINE BEFORE THE IGF BEGINS. Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International’s Secretary General

Many civil society activists and human rights defenders who usually attend the annual conference ***HAVE EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT TRAVELING TO SAUDI ARABIA TO PARTICIPATE, FEARING ARREST, HARASSMENT OR SURVEILLANCE GIVEN SAUDI ARABIA’S TRACK RECORD OF SILENCING AND IMPRISONING CRITICS.***



Amnesty International is calling on the IGF organising committee to seek public assurances from the Saudi authorities that no one will be denied entry into the country to participate in the conference, that none of the IGF participants will face any harassment, including detention and surveillance, and that all participants will be able to speak freely.

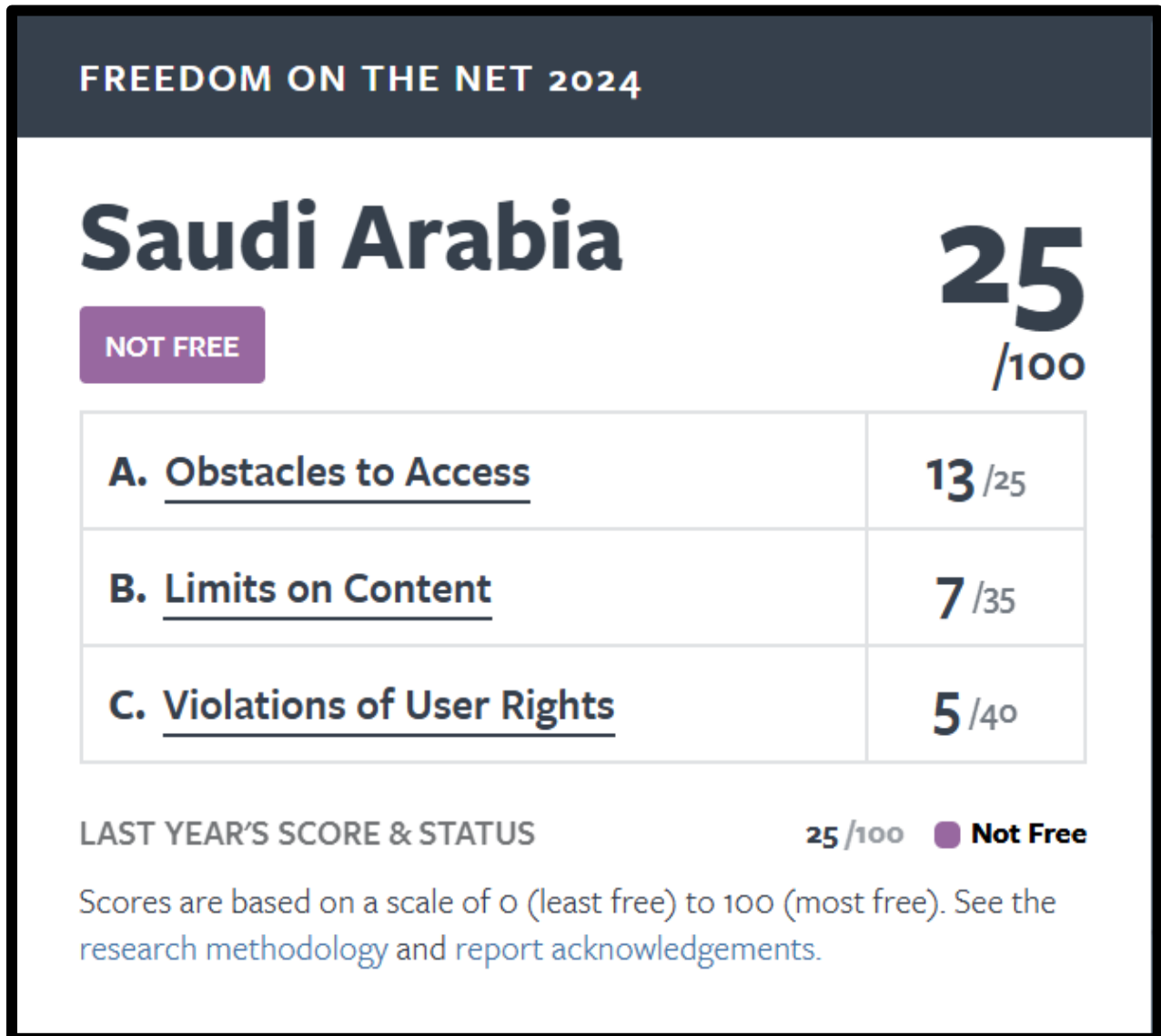
In recent years **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS DOCUMENTED HOW THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES HAVE WAGED A CHILLING CRACKDOWN AGAINST PEOPLE WHO DEMONSTRATE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF DISSENTING OR CRITICAL VIEWS ONLINE.**

Among those who have been convicted for their online expression is Salma al-Shehab. She was arrested in January 2021 and, after a grossly unfair trial, sentenced in January 2023 to a shocking 27-year prison term followed by a 27-year travel ban on trumped up terrorism charges, simply because she tweeted in support of women’s rights. In another deeply disturbing case, in January 2024, Saudi Arabia’s terrorism court sentenced Manahel al-Otaibi to 11 years in prison in connection with social media posts promoting women’s rights and sharing images of herself online at a mall without wearing an abaya (a traditional loose-fitting long-sleeved robe).

Those targeted also include Abdulrahman al-Sadhan, a Red Crescent worker, who in April 2020, after a grossly unfair trial, was sentenced to 20 years, to be followed by a 20-year travel ban, for his satirical tweets, and Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi, a retired schoolteacher, who was **SENTENCED TO DEATH IN JULY 2023 FOR CRITICIZING AUTHORITIES ON X (FORMERLY TWITTER) AND HIS ONLINE ACTIVITY ON YOUTUBE.**

“THESE CASES ILLUSTRATE THE DARK TRUTH ABOUT THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES’ REPRESSION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ONLINE. IF THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES ARE SERIOUS ABOUT TAKING ON A GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ROLE IN DIGITAL PUBLIC POLICY, THEY MUST DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO RESPECTING THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FOR ALL BY REFORMING VAGUE LAWS THAT CRIMINALIZE EXPRESSION, such as the Anti-Cyber Crime Law, and putting a decisive end to their repressive crackdown on critics online and offline,” said Agnès Callamard.

26. SAUDI ARABIA FREEDOM ON THE NET 2024 GLOBAL REPORT: CONCLUSION. NOT FREE.



SAUDI ARABIA CONTINUED TO RANK AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LOWEST-SCORING COUNTRIES ON INTERNET FREEDOM. INTERNET USERS IN THE KINGDOM FACED EXTENSIVE CENSORSHIP AND SURVEILLANCE AS WELL AS LIMITED ACCESS TO DIVERSE CONTENT, AND USERS WHO CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT REMAINED SUBJECT TO PERSECUTION, WITH SOME RECEIVING MULTIDECADE PRISON SENTENCES FOR PEACEFUL ONLINE EXPRESSION.



- *Online accounts that were aligned with the government led coordinated smear campaigns and other attacks against media outlets and individuals (see B2 and B5).*
- *A women’s rights activist was sentenced to more than a decade in prison, and was reportedly tortured in custody, resulting in a broken leg (see C3 and C7).*
- *Users received multidecade prison sentences for their social media content, and one received a death sentence for his online activity (see C3).*

POLITICAL OVERVIEW

SAUDI ARABIA’S ABSOLUTE MONARCHY RESTRICTS ALMOST ALL POLITICAL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES. NO OFFICIALS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL ARE ELECTED. THE REGIME RELIES ON EXTENSIVE SURVEILLANCE, THE CRIMINALIZATION OF DISSENT, APPEALS TO SECTARIANISM AND ETHNICITY, AND

PUBLIC SPENDING SUPPORTED BY OIL REVENUES TO MAINTAIN POWER. Women and members of religious minority groups face extensive discrimination in law and in practice. Working conditions for the large expatriate labor force are often exploitative.

A, OBSTACLES TO ACCESS

Rapid growth in internet and communication technologies (ICTs) has produced robust infrastructure and widespread internet access throughout the country. **AT THE START OF 2024, THERE WERE 36.84 MILLION INTERNET USERS IN SAUDI ARABIA, RESULTING IN AN INTERNET PENETRATION RATE OF 99 PERCENT.**¹ Mobile usage is also widespread; there were more than 49.89 million mobile connections as of February 2024, according to the data aggregator DataReportal.² Approximately 99 percent of the population is covered by at least fourth-generation (4G) mobile networks, according to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT).³

The government continues to invest heavily in the ICT sector as part of its **VISION 2030 REFORM PROGRAM**. The country ranked third in the Middle East for availability of fifth-generation (5G) mobile service, according to OpenSignal's Global 5G Benchmark, published in June 2023. The report found that Saudi Arabia has achieved 23.5 percent 5G availability across the country.⁴ In 2022, the government signed memorandums of understanding with the US government on the advancement of 5G and 6G rollouts,⁵ and with China's Huawei Technologies on cloud computing and the building of high-tech complexes.⁶ **CLOUD REGIONS HAVE ALSO RECENTLY EXPANDED INTO SAUDI, WITH MICROSOFT, AWS, AND GOOGLE ANNOUNCING CLOUD REGIONS DURING THE COVERAGE PERIOD.**⁷ Mobile service providers Saudi Telecom Company (STC), Zain, and Mobily also continued 5G expansion programs during the coverage period.⁸

WHILE INTERNET AND MOBILE SERVICES ARE RELATIVELY EXPENSIVE BY GLOBAL STANDARDS, THEY ARE AFFORDABLE FOR A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE LIVING IN SAUDI ARABIA. THE GOVERNMENT EXERCISES TECHNICAL CONTROL OVER INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESTRICTING CONNECTIVITY.

B. LIMITS ON CONTENT

AUTHORITIES BLOCK A WIDE RANGE OF WEBSITES UNDER RULES PROHIBITING CONTENT THAT IS DEEMED HARMFUL, ILLEGAL, ANTI-ISLAMIC, OR OFFENSIVE.

CRITICISM OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, ITS POLICIES, OR ITS REGIONAL ALLIES IS NOT TOLERATED, ONLINE OR OTHERWISE.

NEWS WEBSITES THAT PUBLISH CRITICAL CONTENT ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT ARE BLOCKED. These include the London-based online news outlet Middle East Eye as well as the website of London-based newspaper *Al-Araby al-Jadeed* and its English-language affiliate *New Arab*, which has been blocked since January 2016.³⁶ Some Qatari, Iranian, and Turkish news sites have been blocked amid political tensions between those countries and Saudi Arabia.³⁷ Turkish outlets, such as the state-run Anadolu Agency, were finally unblocked in May 2022 when the two countries resumed diplomatic relations.³⁸

NEWS SITES WITH VIEWS THAT OPPOSE THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT OR ITS GEOPOLITICAL AND STRATEGIC AIMS ARE ALSO BLOCKED, including the website of Beirut-based broadcaster Al-Manar, which is owned by the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant organization Hezbollah, and websites run by Yemen’s Houthi rebel movement, which Saudi armed forces actively fought for more than seven years beginning in 2015.³⁹ The websites of Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), a US-based nonprofit advocating for greater rights in the Middle East, as well as Al-Estiklal, an Arab dissident news platform, are similarly blocked in Saudi Arabia.⁴⁰

The government routinely blocks websites disseminating violent extremist content, as well as those related to pornography, gambling, illegal drugs, and unauthorized use of copyrighted materials.⁴¹ The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property blocked 3,317 websites over copyright breaches in 2023.⁴²

WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES BELONGING TO HUMAN RIGHTS OR POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS AVAAZ AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PARTY, A POLITICAL PARTY FOUNDED BY SAUDI DISSIDENTS ABROAD, ARE BLOCKED.⁴³ LGBT+ content is also widely blocked. A 2021 report by the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI) found that Saudi Arabia has the world’s highest percentage of LGBT+ “website blocking consistency.” According to the report, Saudi ISPs have used WireFilter censorship technology to block specific web pages. WireFilter, which was developed by the Riyadh-based company Sewar Technologies, is a network-filtering system designed for service providers and other commercial entities.⁴⁴

Popular social media and communication applications are not consistently blocked, though users have reported that Clubhouse is banned, despite the lack of a formal blocking statement from the government.⁴⁵ Several platforms' VoIP services have been intermittently blocked by authorities in the past (see A3).

Saudi internet users regularly use circumvention tools such as Hotspot Shield, which allow them to bypass censorship through virtual private networks (VPNs).⁴⁶ However, the websites of Tor and other major VPN providers are blocked by the government.⁴⁷

BLOCKING AND FILTERING BY AUTHORITIES IS COMPLEMENTED BY STATE AND NONSTATE CENSORSHIP AND FORCED CONTENT REMOVAL. Outlets frequently delete user-generated content that could be deemed inappropriate or inconsistent with societal norms, as they can be held liable and face legal penalties for content posted on their platforms (see B3).⁴⁸ **IT IS UNUSUAL TO FIND ANTIGOVERNMENT COMMENTS ON THE WEBSITES OF MAJOR SAUDI NEWSPAPERS, WHICH DO NOT REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL VIEWS SEEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA.** In early 2024, Thamanyah, a Saudi media company, launched a new digital platform hosting Arabic-language podcasts.⁴⁹ **THE PLATFORM WAS QUICKLY ATTACKED BY PROGOVERNMENT SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS FOR HOSTING CONTENT THAT THEY DEEMED POLITICALLY OFFENSIVE TO THE COUNTRY, LEADING IT TO REMOVE THE RELEVANT CHANNELS.**⁵⁰

SAUDI DISSIDENTS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISTS WHO POST CONTENT THAT IS CRITICAL OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY HAVE REPORTED INCIDENTS IN WHICH PLATFORMS LIKE FACEBOOK AND X (KNOWN AS TWITTER UNTIL 2023) HAVE REMOVED CONTENT OR BLOCKED ACCESS TO THEIR ACCOUNTS.⁵¹ In February 2021, *New Lines Magazine* reported that women who published content recounting their experiences in Dar al-Reaya—**A NETWORK OF DETENTION CENTERS FOR WOMEN IN NEED OF “SOCIAL CORRECTION”—HAD THEIR VIDEOS TAKEN DOWN.**⁵²

In July 2022, the CST and the General Commission for Audiovisual Media (GCAM) requested that **YOUTUBE REMOVE “INAPPROPRIATE ADS” THAT THEY SAID CONTRADICTED ISLAMIC VALUES AND BROKE SAUDI MEDIA LAWS.** They threatened legal action should the platform not comply with their request.⁵³ No action by either party appeared to have been taken as of June 2024.⁵⁴

IN SEPTEMBER 2022, SAUDI ARABIA JOINED FIVE OTHER GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC) COUNTRIES IN A JOINT STATEMENT CALLING ON NETFLIX TO REMOVE CONTENT THAT THEY CLAIMED “VIOLATES ISLAMIC AND SOCIETAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES.” The countries reportedly threatened legal action if Netflix failed to comply.⁵⁶ Though the content in question was not specified, local media and officials in the six countries had criticized Netflix for programming that showed same-sex relationships or allegedly portrayed children in a sexualized manner.

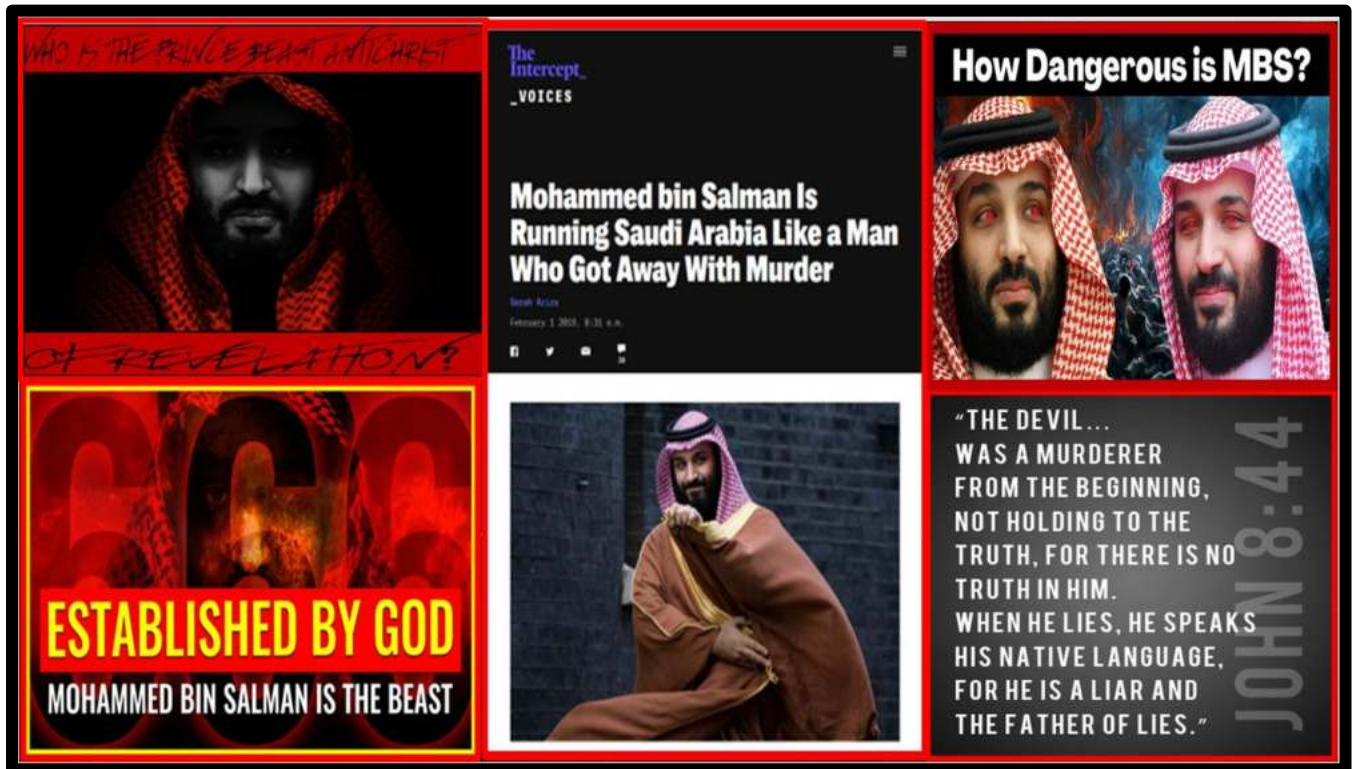
NO COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF SITES BANNED BY THE AUTHORITIES IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE. IN CERTAIN CASES, USERS WHO ATTEMPT TO ACCESS A BANNED SITE ARE REDIRECTED TO A PAGE DISPLAYING THE MESSAGE, “ACCESS TO THE REQUESTED URL IS NOT ALLOWED!” A green background is displayed on CST-blocked sites, whereas sites blocked by the Media Ministry for licensing violations or copyright infringement have a blue background. However, several blocked sites also return a generic “this site can’t be reached” error message.⁵⁷ A 2020 digital-filtering study found that most filtering was based on HTTP filtering, augmented with transport layer security–level filtering for HTTPS connections.⁵⁸ In September 2023, a draft Global Digital Content Safe Harbor Law was introduced. This is the first intermediary liability law for global digital content in the kingdom.

THE GOVERNMENT RECEIVES BLOCKING REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, WHO CAN USE A WEB-BASED FORM TO SUBMIT A COMPLAINT REGARDING “UNDESIRABLE” MATERIAL.⁶⁰ Once an individual submits the form, a team of CST employees determines whether the request is justified.⁶¹

Online self-censorship is pervasive. **SOCIAL MEDIA USERS ARE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS ABOUT WHAT THEY POST, SHARE, OR “LIKE” ONLINE DUE TO THE THREAT OF HARASSMENT OR PROSECUTION UNDER BROADLY WORDED ANTITERRORISM AND OTHER LAWS. USERS WHO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR LIBERAL IDEALS, THE RIGHTS OF MINORITY GROUPS, OR POLITICAL REFORM, IN ADDITION TO THOSE WHO EXPOSE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OR OTHERWISE SCRUTINIZE GOVERNMENT POLICY, ARE CLOSELY MONITORED, AND THEY ARE OFTEN TARGETED FOR REPRISAL BY THE GOVERNMENT (SEE C5).**

REPRESSION OF FREE SPEECH HAS WORSENERD IN RECENT YEARS, MOTIVATING GREATER SELF-CENSORSHIP IN EVEN PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS ON TOPICS LIKE THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE CROWN PRINCE’S

INNER CIRCLE.⁶⁵ In 2022, the executive director of DAWN stated that **THE LEVEL OF FEAR BEING EXPERIENCED BY SAUDI CITIZENS WAS “UNPRECEDENTED” GIVEN THE CONSEQUENCES FOR VOICING ANY CRITICISM OR “OBJECTION TO ANYTHING THAT [CROWN PRINCE] MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN IS DOING”** (see C3).⁶⁶



THE THREAT OF IMPRISONMENT, COUPLED WITH THE RISK OF BEING LABELED A TRAITOR BY PROGOVERNMENT MEDIA OUTLETS,⁶⁷ **HAS ALSO LED JOURNALISTS AND ACTIVISTS TO SELF-CENSOR** (see C3).⁶⁸ Several Saudi journalists stopped writing for local media outlets for fear of breaching government redlines, according to interviews conducted in 2020.⁶⁹ Some of these journalists described parameters of acceptable public discourse that constantly fluctuate, as well as **FEELING DIRECT AND INDIRECT PRESSURE TO PUBLISH CONTENT PRAISING THE GOVERNMENT’S POLICIES.**⁷⁰

Foreign correspondents have cited difficulties in obtaining quotes or information from Saudi industry professionals, including economists, on issues like unemployment. On several occasions, journalists for international news outlets have had interview requests denied on the basis of their outlets being “too negative” about Saudi Arabia.⁷¹ **SAUDI-BASED JOURNALISTS AND ONLINE COMMENTATORS CONTINUE TO FEEL INCREASING PRESSURE TO CENSOR THEIR**

CONTENT, OR AVOID PARTICULAR TOPICS ENTIRELY, GIVEN THE RISK OF PROVOKING THE GOVERNMENT.[72](#)



QUESTIONING RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE IS STRICTLY TABOO, PARTICULARLY ANY CONTENT RELATED TO THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD. Saudi women have often been pressured to refrain from posting photos of their faces online, and many continue to be discouraged by their families from disclosing their names online, leading them to use pseudonyms instead. Some women have faced repercussions from family members, including physical abuse, for flouting such moral constraints.[73](#)

THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS NEWS OUTLETS ACROSS ALL MEDIA, INCLUDING IN THE DIGITAL SPHERE. MOREOVER, OFFICIALS USE A VARIETY OF ONLINE TACTICS TO CREATE AN ILLUSION OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT POLICIES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

CRITICS SUSPECT THAT THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYS AN "ELECTRONIC ARMY" TO PROMOTE PROGOVERNMENT VIEWS, PARTICULARLY ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

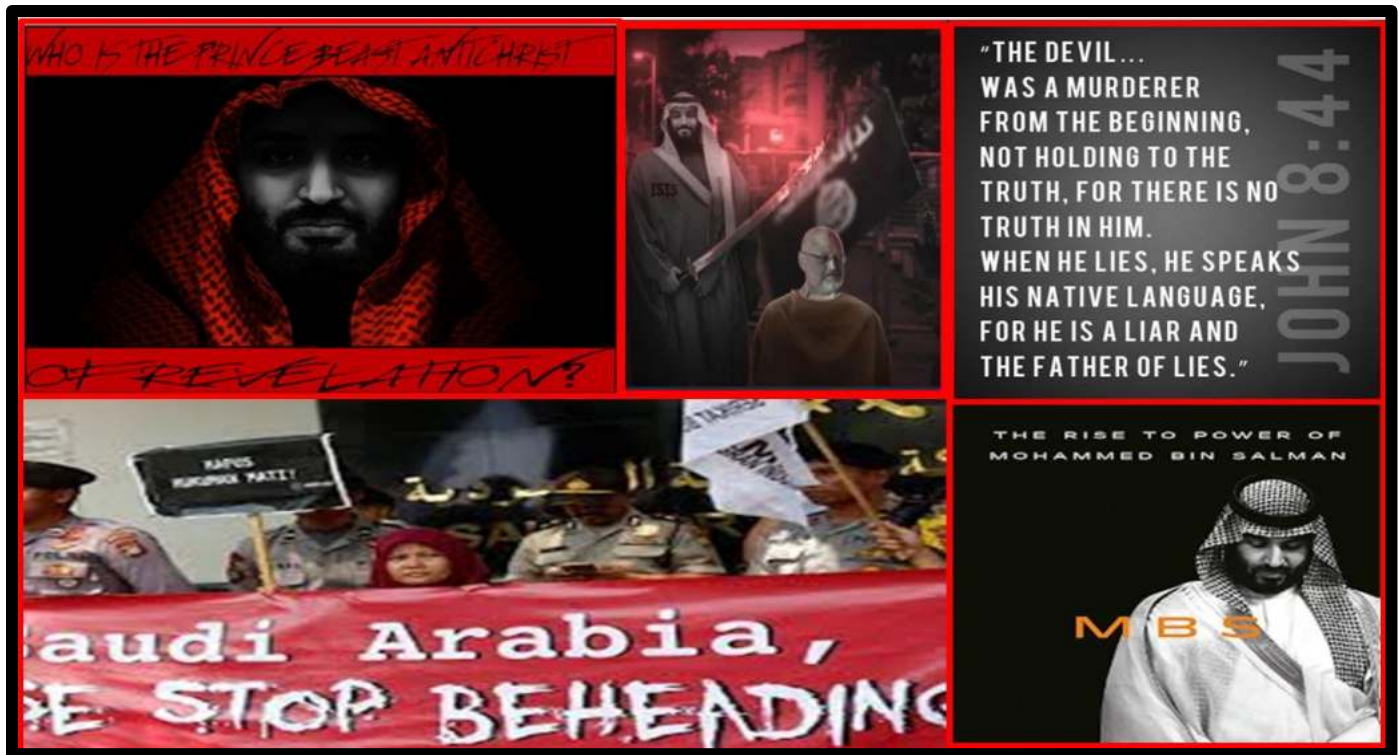
PROGOVERNMENT TROLLS HAVE TAKEN TO “HASHTAG POISONING,” IN WHICH A POPULAR HASHTAG—ON A PLATFORM LIKE X—IS FLOODED WITH UNRELATED OR OPPOSING POSTS SO AS TO DISRUPT CRITICISM OR OTHER UNWANTED CONVERSATIONS.⁷⁴

The University of Oxford’s Computational Propaganda Research Project concluded in 2019 that government actors employ permanent staff to spread disinformation and propaganda. The same report noted that **SAUDI ARABIA WAS NAMED BY FACEBOOK AND TWITTER AS ONE OF SEVEN COUNTRIES THAT USED THEIR PLATFORMS TO “INFLUENCE GLOBAL AUDIENCES.”**⁷⁵ **ACTIVISTS AND JOURNALISTS HAVE IDENTIFIED “ENTIRE SAUDI-BASED MARKETING FIRMS” DEDICATED SOLELY TO RUNNING INAUTHENTIC ACCOUNTS FOR THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT.**⁷⁶

In October 2023, the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensic Research (DFR) Lab reported that a network of anonymous progovernment X accounts launched a coordinated call to reinstate the account of Saud al-Qahtani, a former adviser to the crown prince who was accused of orchestrating the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and has been banned from X since 2019.⁷⁷ **HATICE CENGIZ, KHASHOGGI’S FIANCÉE, HAS RECEIVED ONLINE HARASSMENT AND DEATH THREATS FROM PROGOVERNMENT X ACCOUNTS.**⁷⁸

In January 2023, rights groups DAWN and the Social Media Exchange (SMEX) published a joint statement claiming that the Saudi government had recruited Saudi-based Wikipedia administrators in an effort to control online information about the country. In September 2020, Saudi authorities imprisoned two well-known Wikipedia administrators, Osama Khaled and Ziad al-Sufyani, for reasons that were unclear.⁷⁹

After the coverage period, hundreds of Muslim pilgrims died during the July 2024 Hajj season in Mecca due to extremely high temperatures. Many of the deceased made their pilgrimage without the proper registration, often because of the associated costs, which meant that they had limited access to public facilities and transportation.



PROGOVERNMENT INFLUENCERS HAVE REITERATED THE MESSAGE THAT THE DEATHS RESULTED FROM LACK OF PROPER REGISTRATION, ABSOLVING THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE CARE TO HAJJ PILGRIMS. The government supporters went on to circulate a hashtag, #وفيات_الحج_ضحيه_دعاه_الفتنه (#HajjDeathsAVictimofSeditionPromoters), blaming foreign religious leaders for supposedly encouraging people to perform the Hajj without a permit.

Civil society organizations have responded with a **الحج_ليس_آمنًا** (#HajjIsNotSafe) campaign, **CALLING ON THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TRAGEDY.**⁸⁰ Meanwhile, an Egyptian pilgrim was detained after posting a video in which he criticized the negligent conditions and lack of medical services that contributed to the deaths.⁸¹

<https://nightwatchman.blog/2024/06/21/mohammed-bin-salman-shuts-pilgrims-out-of-air-conditioned-areas-because-they-are-poor-and-cant-pay-the-fee-as-more-than-1000-die-in-extreme-heat-there-are-many-reasons-he/>

<https://nightwatchman.blog/2024/06/21/saudi-arabia-remains-committed-to-serving-muslim-pilgrims-as-long-as-they-can-pay-the-price-mbs-says-over-1000-die-who-cant-pay-the-price-mbs-hails-his-kingdoms-efforts-ensuring/>

THE GOVERNMENT HAS INVESTED IN ONLINE OUTLETS THAT HELP PROMOTE ITS PREFERRED NARRATIVES AMONG FOREIGN NEWS ORGANIZATIONS. This includes partnerships between the Saudi Research and Marketing Group (SRMG), the country's largest publisher, which has links to the royal family, and international media companies such as Bloomberg and the London-based Independent news group. After concerns emerged over the SRMG's level of editorial influence within Bloomberg, the outlet reduced the scope of the partnership.⁸² Vice, a Canadian-American media outlet, has partnered with the MBC group, a media company that is majority owned by the Saudi government. Several Vice reporters have stated that their content, especially material that was critical of Saudi human rights violations, was removed or had its publication postponed, allegedly due to concerns about repercussions for Saudi-based staff.⁸³

THE GOVERNMENT REGULARLY INVITES ONLINE INFLUENCERS TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA ON ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIPS, WITH THE APPARENT AIM OF PERSUADING THEM TO DISSEMINATE AN IDEALIZED VISION OF THE COUNTRY.⁸⁴ Separately, **DIGITAL RIGHTS ADVOCATES SAY THERE IS A NEED FOR GREATER SCRUTINY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONLINE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS, AND INFLUENCE OPERATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE KINGDOM'S POSITION AS X'S SECOND-LARGEST SOURCE OF INVESTMENT.**⁸⁵

AUTOMATED SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN USED TO MANIPULATE THE ONLINE NARRATIVE AROUND SEVERAL REGIONAL EVENTS, OFTEN PUSHING PROGOVERNMENT POSITIONS. In July 2021, reports indicated that a surge of social media propaganda from Saudi Arabia was portraying Tunisian president Kaïs Saïed's undemocratic decision to suspend the parliament and dismiss the prime minister as a popular revolt against the Muslim Brotherhood.⁸⁶ Following the Russian regime's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, a group of online trolls originating in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) spread Russian disinformation about the war.⁸⁷

PROGOVERNMENT COMMENTATORS FREQUENTLY SMEAR GOVERNMENT CRITICS ONLINE. For example, Hussain al-Ghawi, a progovernment online commentator, has played a key role in multiple online attacks that were circulated or amplified by a network of progovernment nationalists, bots, and inauthentic accounts, including a campaign against Khashoggi in the months preceding his death.⁸⁸

The government frequently issues warnings and directives to reporters, internet **USERS, AND OTHERS. THE THREAT OF HEFTY FINES AND PRISON SENTENCES IS EMPLOYED TO DISCOURAGE INTERNET USERS FROM PUBLISHING INFORMATION DEEMED BY AUTHORITIES TO BE CONTRARY TO “PUBLIC ORDER”** (see C2 and C3). According to the *Economist*, for example, **CLERICS AND PREACHERS HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM POSTING “ANYTHING BUT PRAISE” ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN.**⁸⁹



ONLINE AND PRINT OUTLETS CANNOT OPERATE WITHOUT EXPLICIT APPROVAL FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.⁹⁰ The Media Ministry stipulates licensing requirements for those seeking to publish online. Article 7 of the Regulations for Electronic Publishing Activity requires applicants to be Saudi nationals, at least 25 years old, university graduates, of “good conduct,” and not employed by the government. Article 15 **PROHIBITS PUBLISHING ANYTHING THAT CONTRAVENES ISLAMIC LAW, VIOLATES PUBLIC ORDER, OR SERVES “FOREIGN INTERESTS,” AS WELL AS ANY MATERIAL THAT INCITES A “SPIRIT OF DISCORD” WITHIN SOCIETY.**⁹¹

A draft media law was proposed in November 2023 by the General Authority of Media Regulation (GAMR). It was intended to overhaul the existing legal

frameworks regulating the media, including digital communications platforms and social media, and established GAMR as the entity responsible for issuing and renewing required licenses. Digital platforms would also need a license to conduct media activity, including creating, disseminating, or streaming media content. Civil society organizations have expressed concern that the draft law would only worsen censorship of the media by extending its excesses to social media accounts.⁹²

In September 2022, the GCAM introduced **“MAWTHOOQ,” A NEW PROTOCOL REQUIRING INDIVIDUALS TO OBTAIN AN OFFICIAL LICENSE TO ADVERTISE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.**⁹³ This applies to any content creator who earns revenue through online marketing, such as social media influencers.⁹⁴ As part of the new regulations, the GCAM announced that non-Saudi residents or visitors to the country would be prohibited from posting advertisements on social media unless they held a license authorizing them to do so and worked within an established commercial entity. Those who violate this rule would face a **FIVE (5)-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE** And fines of up to \$1.3 million. The relevant license comes at an annual cost of roughly \$4,000.⁹⁵ **THE GOVERNMENT CAN ALSO REQUEST THAT ADVERTISERS CANCEL ADS ON A PARTICULAR WEBSITE TO PRESSURE IT TO CLOSE.**

Under the CST’s Digital Content Platform Regulations, approved in January 2024, video over-the-top (OTT) platforms and audio on-demand platforms with a certain number of subscribers would be **REQUIRED TO PAY ANNUAL FEES OF 50,000 RIYALS (\$13,000)** (see B2).⁹⁶

The government blocks a wide range of websites and can order the removal of content, limiting the diversity of the online information landscape (see B1 and B2). **EXISTING NEWS SOURCES IN SAUDI ARABIA LARGELY OFFER THE SAME NARRATIVES AND VIEWS—IN LINE WITH THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT—GIVEN THAT DISSENTING VOICES ARE FREQUENTLY CENSORED.**⁹⁷ **INDEPENDENT MEDIA OUTLETS, BOTH OFFLINE AND ONLINE, ARE NONEXISTENT WITHIN SAUDI ARABIA.**⁹⁸



While opposition blogs and online forums were once the main venues for discussing political and social matters, such discussions now take place on social media, as the use of platforms like X and Snapchat continues to grow.⁹⁹ Opposition figures abroad use YouTube, Snapchat, and X to distribute content, partly because their websites are blocked within the country.¹⁰⁰ However, pressure on users to self-censor remains high, and the fear of arbitrary arrest has increased as speech interpreted as critical of the authorities becomes more likely to draw punishment (see B4).¹⁰¹ **CONSEQUENTLY, JOURNALISTS AND ONLINE COMMENTATORS CAN ONLY SAFELY PRESENT A PROGOVERNMENT NARRATIVE.**

Some Saudi dissidents have warned that the government’s monitoring of X has limited the platform’s utility for open discussion (see B5).¹⁰² Within the country, scholars note that **X PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS A POPULAR PLATFORM FOR DEBATE, BUT HAS SINCE FALLEN UNDER EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT CONTROL,**¹⁰³ resulting in significantly muted debate among users and the outright abandonment of the platform by others.¹⁰⁴ Local commentators have underscored a similar trend with the audio-chat application Clubhouse, which gained popularity among Saudi users in 2021. **SAUDIS HAVE SAID THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO JOIN CONVERSATIONS HOSTED BY DISSIDENTS FOR FEAR OF MONITORING BY STATE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES** (see B1 and C5).¹⁰⁵

The English-language websites of most international news agencies are available. Arabic content is also widely available, as are Arabic versions of commonly used social media sites and mobile applications. Online spaces for certain minority groups, such as LGBT+ people, are largely unavailable.

Saudi internet users regularly employ VPNs to access websites, including blocked foreign media outlets.[106](#)

In the past, Saudis used digital activism to express public concerns and grievances. These online campaigns, which proliferated most widely on X, often mobilized diverse groups of constituents, though the leading participants were typically young people. ***DURING RECENT COVERAGE PERIODS, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTENSIFIED REPRESSION OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SPEECH, LEADING TO INCREASED SELF-CENSORSHIP AND FEWER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONLINE MOBILIZATION*** (see B4 and C3).[107](#)

A number of reports have indicated that the Saudi government actively works to curb pro-Palestinian sentiment on social media. For example, after a local soccer club deleted an image of a player wearing a Palestinian keffiyeh,[108](#) users who shared the post or objected to the content removal soon posted nearly identical apologies, which some observers have interpreted as a sign of government pressure.[109](#)

AUTHORITIES HAVE IMPRISONED PROMINENT SOCIAL MEDIA USERS FOR THEIR POLITICAL, SOCIAL, OR RELIGIOUS ONLINE ACTIVISM. In January 2023, it was reported that reformist cleric Awadh al-Qarni, who used social media platforms to express religious and political views to his large following, was facing a possible death sentence for spreading material that was deemed “hostile” to the country.[110](#) Such ***HARSH SENTENCES SERVE AS A REMINDER TO SAUDI NATIONALS AND RESIDENTS OF THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO MOBILIZE, CAMPAIGN FOR, OR VOICE DISSENT*** (see C3).[111](#)

Saudi Arabia’s restrictive laws and severe criminal penalties can reduce participation in civic mobilization efforts online. The authorities have arrested Saudi women’s rights activists who used social media to protest the male guardianship system or a ban on women driving.[112](#) While recent legal reforms have reduced the scope of the guardianship system, the driving ban was lifted in

2018, and a number of activists have been released, some remain subject to travel bans and other restrictions.[113](#)

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IS NOT RESPECTED, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS IMPOSED HARSH PUNISHMENTS ON THOSE WHO CALL FOR PUBLIC PROTESTS, BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE (see C2).[114](#)

C. VIOLATIONS OF USER RIGHTS

Saudi Arabia has no constitution. The 1992 Basic Law, which the government states **IS BASED ON THE QURAN AND THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD, SERVES AS A CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK.**



The Basic Law contains language that calls for freedom of speech and of the press, but only within certain boundaries. **THE LAW OF PRINT AND PUBLICATION LARGELY CONSISTS OF RESTRICTIONS ON SPEECH RATHER THAN PROTECTIONS.**[115](#) Online journalists employed at newspapers and other formal news outlets maintain the same rights and protections as print and broadcast journalists and are similarly subject to close government supervision (see B7).[116](#)

The Personal Status Law, which was published in March 2022, has been criticized for its potential to further restrict women’s ability to speak freely about challenges during divorce proceedings or the country’s guardianship rules (see B8).[117](#)

JUDGES HAVE SIGNIFICANT DISCRETION REGARDING HOW THEY INTERPRET SHARIA (ISLAMIC LAW), WHICH FORMS THE BASIS OF SAUDI LAW.[118](#) However, the judiciary is also largely subordinate to the executive branch, as **JUDGES ARE APPOINTED BY THE KING.**[119](#) In addition, **JUDGES FROM THE SPECIALIZED CRIMINAL COURT (SCC), WHICH IS ROUTINELY USED TO PROSECUTE PEACEFUL ACTIVISTS, HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO ARBITRARY ARREST IF THEIR RULINGS FAIL TO ALIGN WITH GOVERNMENT PREFERENCES** (see C3).[120](#)



A considerable increase in the length of prison sentences handed down by the SCC accompanied the appointment of judge Awadh al-Ahmari as the new president of the court in June 2022 (see C3). Previously, al-Ahmari was reported to have been part of a delegation sent by Saudi authorities to Istanbul in October 2018 to allegedly **CONCEAL EVIDENCE OF THE MURDER OF JOURNALIST JAMAL KHASHOGGI AT THE SAUDI CONSULATE.**[121](#)

Laws designed to protect users from cybercrime contain clauses that limit freedom of expression. The 2007 Anti-Cyber Crime Law criminalizes “producing something that harms public order, religious values, public morals, the sanctity of private life, or authoring, sending, or storing it via an information network,” and imposes **PENALTIES OF UP TO FIVE YEARS’ IMPRISONMENT** and a fine of up to 3 million riyals (\$800,000).¹²²

SAUDI AUTHORITIES AND STATE-RUN MEDIA OUTLETS REGULARLY REMIND CITIZENS OF THE PENALTIES APPLICABLE FOR BREACHING THE ANTI-CYBER CRIME LAW, THE SCOPE OF WHICH INCLUDES SPREADING RUMORS OR “FABRICATIONS” ON SOCIAL MEDIA.¹²³ In March 2022, the government stated that those found guilty of spreading rumors pertaining to COVID-19 would face a potential five-year prison term and a fine of up to 1 million riyals (\$270,000), warning that the fine would be doubled for repeat offenders.¹²⁴

AN ANTITERRORISM LAW INTRODUCED IN 2017 FEATURES BROAD DEFINITIONS OF TERRORIST ACTS. THE LEGISLATION INCLUDES CRIMINAL PENALTIES OF FIVE TO 10 YEARS’ IMPRISONMENT FOR PORTRAYING THE KING OR CROWN PRINCE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, “IN A MANNER THAT BRINGS RELIGION OR JUSTICE INTO DISREPUTE,” and a 15-year prison sentence for those using their “social status or media influence to promote terrorism.”¹²⁵ International rights groups have condemned the antiterrorism law as unacceptably vague and inconsistent with international human rights standards.¹²⁶

The SCC was initially founded in 2008 to try terrorism cases but **HAS SINCE BEEN USED TO IMPRISON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND ACTIVISTS** (see C3).¹²⁷ **RESTRICTIVE LAWS ARE RIGOROUSLY APPLIED TO SILENCE CRITICAL VOICES AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS—MANY OF WHOM OPERATE PRIMARILY ONLINE DUE TO BANS ON TRADITIONAL POLITICAL ORGANIZING.**

AUTHORITIES FREQUENTLY ARREST AND PROSECUTE ACTIVISTS AND ORDINARY CITIZENS FOR THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT. In August 2023, Muhammad al-Ghamdi was **SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE SCC BECAUSE OF HIS X AND YOUTUBE ACTIVITY.** He was originally arrested in June 2022 and was convicted a year later of terrorism-related charges stemming from his commentary on social media, including his reposts of material from prominent government critics, though he had only 10 followers himself.¹²⁸ After the coverage period, the SCC overturned his death sentence; in September 2024, he was sentenced to 30 years

imprisonment.¹²⁹ In May 2024, Muhammad’s brother, Asaad al-Ghamdi, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for social media posts that “harmed the security of the homeland.”¹³⁰

In January 2024, the SCC sentenced Manahel al-Otaibi, a fitness instructor and women’s rights activist, to 11 years in prison at a secret hearing, having convicted her of terrorism offenses. Al-Otaibi was arrested in November 2022 and charged under the Anti-Cyber Crime Law for her social media posts in support of women’s rights, and for posting photos of herself wearing “immodest” clothing. While in detention, she suffered physical abuse that resulted in a broken leg (see C7), as well as solitary confinement and enforced disappearance.¹³¹

Content creators have also faced arrest. In January 2024, Hatem al-Najjar, a journalist and podcast presenter, was arrested following a targeted hate campaign that called for his arrest, citing social media posts dating back to when he was a minor.¹³² In July 2024, after the coverage period, the creator of the hit Netflix series *Masameer*, Abdulaziz al-Muzaini, was sentenced to 13 years in prison followed by a 30-year travel ban for allegedly “supporting terrorism and homosexuality” through content in the series, as well as social media posts dating back over a decade. In a now-deleted video, al-Muzaini announced his arrest and said he was ordered to shut down his production company and fire his staff.¹³³

OTHERS CONTINUE TO SERVE LONG SENTENCES FOR THEIR ONLINE ACTIVITY.

Salma al-Shehab, a university student, received a 27-year prison sentence in early 2023, to be followed by a 27-year travel ban, merely for following activists and sharing their posts on X.¹³⁴ The charges for which al-Shehab was convicted include “assisting those who seek to cause public unrest and destabilize civil and national security” via social media.¹³⁵ Nourah bint Saeed al-Qahtani was sentenced in 2022 to 45 years in prison, the longest sentence for peaceful activism to date, after ***BEING CHARGED WITH “USING THE INTERNET TO TEAR [SAUDI ARABIA’S] SOCIAL FABRIC.”***¹³⁶ Abdulrahman al-Sadhan, a 37-year-old former Red Crescent aid worker, remains imprisoned after receiving a 20-year sentence in 2021 for a satirical Twitter account that mocked conservative religious and government figures. Al-Sadhan’s case was reportedly connected to the infiltration of Twitter in 2014 and 2015 by government agents who obtained jobs at the company (see C5).¹³⁷



AUTHORITIES HAVE IN THE PAST PROSECUTED HIGH-PROFILE INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR ONLINE DISSENT AMID A WIDESPREAD CRACKDOWN ON INTELLECTUALS, ACADEMICS, CLERICS, AND CRITICS OF THE RULING FAMILY. These included Salman al-Awdah, Awad al-Qarni, and Ali al-Omari, all prominent clerics who have large online followings and were arrested in 2017; al-Awdah may have been targeted in response to a Twitter post in which he encouraged the resolution of a diplomatic dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar.¹³⁸ In 2019, Middle East Eye reported that the three clerics would be sentenced to death,¹³⁹ though after years of delays in their court proceedings,¹⁴⁰ none had been executed at the end of the coverage period. In January 2023, it was reported that prosecutors had requested the death penalty for al-Qarni, who was charged with using Twitter, WhatsApp, and

other social media platforms to share “hostile” information about the government (see B8).[141](#)

Encrypted communications are banned in Saudi Arabia, though this is not effectively enforced.[142](#) **AUTHORITIES FREQUENTLY ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND DETAIN ANONYMOUS OR PSEUDONYMOUS USERS AND WRITERS WHO MAKE CRITICAL OR CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS.** Individuals are required to use their legal names when signing mobile-service contracts and must provide a national identification card or residence permit.[143](#) **THEY ALSO MUST HAVE THEIR FINGERPRINTS PROCESSED.**[144](#) **THIS INFORMATION IS THEN SAVED IN A DATABASE MAINTAINED BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY.** In January 2016, the CST required mobile service providers to register the fingerprints of new SIM-card subscribers within 90 days, or those users would face permanent suspension.[145](#)

It is common for Saudi social media users to employ pseudonyms or communicate via anonymous channels or applications, such as the anonymous messaging app Jodel. However, some individuals who posted anonymously have nonetheless been identified and prosecuted.[146](#)

SURVEILLANCE IS RAMPANT IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND THE AUTHORITIES INCREASINGLY RELY ON ADVANCED SPYWARE TO MONITOR SAUDI JOURNALISTS AND INTERNET USERS, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND ABROAD.[147](#)



27.PEGASUS: REPORT SAYS ISRAELI SPYWARE USED TO TARGET JOURNALISTS, ACTIVISTS



<https://youtu.be/iuBuyv6kUKI>

SAUDI AUTHORITIES REGULARLY MONITOR WEBSITES, BLOGS, CHAT ROOMS, SOCIAL MEDIA SITES, EMAILS, AND TEXT MESSAGES. THE GOVERNMENT JUSTIFIES THE PERVASIVE SURVEILLANCE OF NONVIOLENT POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVISTS BY CLAIMING THAT IT IS PROTECTING NATIONAL SECURITY AND MAINTAINING SOCIAL ORDER. After the government announced that it would lift its ban on online voice and video call services in 2017, it claimed that all calls would be monitored and censored by the CST.¹⁴⁸ **SAUDI SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES PROMPTED THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN EMBARGO ON SALES OF SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT TO THE COUNTRY IN 2018.**¹⁴⁹

THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO INVEST IN SOPHISTICATED SPYWARE AND DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS. According to Citizen Lab, a Canadian watchdog organization, **SPYWARE DEVELOPED AND SOLD BY THE ISRAELI FIRM NSO GROUP HAS BEEN USED TO TARGET ACTIVISTS AND DISSIDENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA.** In December 2021, Citizen Lab reported that the Saudi authorities had likely begun using Predator spyware, distributed by the North Macedonia–based company Cyrox.¹⁵⁰ A report by Meta also stated that Saudi entities were likely among Cyrox’s customers.¹⁵¹ In February 2024, Saudi’s Public Investment Fund (PIF) announced a \$200 million partnership deal with **DAHUA TECHNOLOGY, A MAJOR CHINESE SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY COMPANY.**¹⁵²

EVEN MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HAVE BEEN TARGETED FOR SURVEILLANCE. In August 2022, Abdullah bin Faisal al-Saud, a minor member of the family, was sentenced to 30 years in prison due in part to phone calls he had made over Signal, during which he discussed a family member who had previously been imprisoned in Saudi Arabia.¹⁵³ It is unclear what specific methods were used by the government to monitor his private conversations.¹⁵⁴

In February 2022, Reuters reported that an “unusual error” **IN NSO’S SPYWARE—** discovered on Saudi activist Loujain al-Hathloul’s smartphone—**PROVIDED DIRECT EVIDENCE THAT THE COMPANY HAD BUILT AN ESPIONAGE TOOL THAT PENETRATES DEVICES WITHOUT INTERACTION FROM THE USER.**¹⁵⁵ Al-Hathloul had been targeted with NSO spyware in the past on behalf of the Saudi

government, as have other Saudi activists like Omar Abdulaziz.¹⁵⁶ A lawsuit has been filed in a US District Court against DarkMatter, an Emirati spyware company, and three of its former senior US executives for their role in the hacking of al-Hathloul's devices in 2017. While living in the UAE in 2018, al-Hathloul had been hacked, arrested by the country's security services, and forcibly deported back to Saudi Arabia, where she was imprisoned.¹⁵⁷

In October 2021, reports emerged that *New York Times* journalist Ben Hubbard had been subjected to several phone hacking attempts, likely by Saudi authorities.¹⁵⁸ Research by Citizen Lab found that he was targeted with Pegasus spyware between June 2018 and June 2021 while **HE WAS REPORTING ON SAUDI ARABIA AND WRITING A BOOK ON CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN.**¹⁵⁹

According to a report by the *New York Times* in July 2021, **ISRAELI AUTHORITIES "SECRETLY AUTHORIZED" AND ENCOURAGED AT LEAST FOUR ISRAELI CYBERSURVEILLANCE COMPANIES TO WORK FOR THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT,** including Verint, Candiru, and Quadream.¹⁶⁰ **THE ISRAELI FIRM CELLEBRITE HAS ALSO PROVIDED PHONE-HACKING SERVICES TO THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT.**¹⁶¹

SAUDI ARABIA HAS A RECORD OF RECRUITING AGENTS TO INFILTRATE TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS AND ONLINE RESOURCES. In a May 2023 civil suit in the United States, X was accused of **DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL USER DATA TO SAUDI AUTHORITIES AND FACILITATING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST DISSIDENTS.**¹⁶² In December 2022, a US court in California found that Ahmad Abouammo, a Saudi national and former Twitter employee, **HAD TAKEN BRIBES FROM THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR SHARING THE PRIVATE DATA OF SAUDI DISSIDENT TWITTER USERS.**¹⁶³ In the same month, Wikimedia banned 16 Wikipedia content editors, some of whom were reportedly Saudi nationals, following an internal investigation that implicated them in "conflict-of-interest editing" and coordination with "external parties." **THE CONTENT EDITORS HAD PRIMARILY EDITED CONTENT RELATING TO SAUDI ARABIA** (see B5 and C3).¹⁶⁴

GIVEN SAUDI ARABIA'S HIGHLY RESTRICTIVE REGIME AND KNOWN SURVEILLANCE EFFORTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES LIKELY RETAIN AND INTERCEPT CUSTOMER DATA FOR USE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND STATE AUTHORITIES.

In September 2021, the government published the Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL), which regulates the collection, processing, storing, and transfer of data. The law contains many safeguards typical of robust data-protection laws around the world, including a user-consent requirement for disclosure of most information, and penalties for unauthorized transfers of data. However, these safeguards are undermined by other **PROVISIONS THAT ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCESS COLLECTED DATA.**¹⁶⁵ According to the law, the **SAUDI DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY (SDAIA), A GOVERNMENT AGENCY**, would be the industry regulator for at least two years. In November 2022, the SDAIA published an amended version of the PDPL that included business-friendly changes, such as a relaxation of strict data-localization conditions.¹⁶⁶ The amended law came into effect in September 2023.¹⁶⁷

In March 2020, the *Guardian* reported on data revealed by a whistleblower that allegedly showed millions of secret location-tracking requests originating via STC, Mobily, and Zain between November 2019 and February 2020. According to experts, **THE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THE US LOCATION OF SAUDI-REGISTERED MOBILE PHONES SUGGESTED A SYSTEMATIC SPYING CAMPAIGN ORCHESTRATED BY THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, THOUGH IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE MOBILE SERVICE PROVIDERS WERE KNOWINGLY COMPLICIT.**¹⁶⁸

THE GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY MAINTAINS A SECRET CAMPAIGN TO MONITOR, DETAIN, KIDNAP, AND TORTURE DISSIDENTS. WHILE THESE PRACTICES EXISTED BEFORE CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN CAME TO POWER, THEY HAVE WORSENERD UNDER HIS RULE.¹⁷⁰ **MANY INDIVIDUALS DETAINED FOR THEIR ONLINE ACTIVISM HAVE REPORTED PHYSICAL ABUSE INCLUDING TORTURE WHILE IN CUSTODY,**¹⁷¹ and deaths have also been reported.¹⁷² **THE GOVERNMENT PERSECUTES DISSIDENTS' RELATIVES, AND DISSIDENTS HAVE FACED THREATS AND VIOLENCE EVEN AFTER FLEEING SAUDI ARABIA.**

28.FORMER SAUDI OFFICIAL SAYS MBS WANTS HIM DEAD BECAUSE OF WHAT HE KNOWS

<https://youtu.be/XBVuvhqAhio>

THOSE DETAINED AND IMPRISONED FOR THEIR ONLINE ACTIVITIES HAVE REPORTEDLY EXPERIENCED TORTURE IN CUSTODY (see C3).¹⁷³ Manahel al-Otaibi, who is serving an 11-year prison sentence for her social media activity, was subject to physical abuse in detention, resulting in a broken leg.¹⁷⁴ Abdulah Jelan, who is currently serving a 10-year prison sentence over social media posts about unemployment in Saudi Arabia, has been subjected to torture, ill-treatment, and denial of medical care.¹⁷⁵ **MEMBERS OF THE HUWAITAT TRIBE OF NORTHWESTERN SAUDI ARABIA WHO PUBLISHED VIDEOS ONLINE TO PROTEST THEIR FORCED EVICTION HAVE BEEN TORTURED IN CUSTODY.** One member, Shadli al-Huwaiti, reportedly went on hunger strike to protest his ill-treatment in prison.¹⁷⁶ Abdulrahman al-Sadhan, who is serving a 20-year prison sentence over a satirical Twitter account, has reportedly been subjected to severe torture and prolonged periods of solitary confinement.¹⁷⁷

In July 2021, **HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH (HRW) PUBLISHED REPORTS IN WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS A SAUDI PRISON GUARD DETAILED “BRUTAL TORTURE” OF HIGH-PROFILE POLITICAL DETAINEES AT A PRISON** in Dhahban as well as at another “secret prison.” According to HRW, Saudi authorities failed to independently investigate allegations of torture, which included descriptions of electric shocks, whippings, and sexual assault.¹⁷⁸

FORCIBLE DISAPPEARANCES OF ONLINE ACTIVISTS, JOURNALISTS, OR GOVERNMENT CRITICS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE PAST. Turki al-Jasser, a Saudi writer who was arrested in 2018 and forcibly disappeared in the Saudi prison system after running a Twitter account that was critical of the government, has reportedly been subjected to severe torture.¹⁷⁹ His whereabouts and condition remained unknown during the coverage period, with earlier rumors suggesting that he had died under torture.¹⁸⁰

In February 2021, the *Washington Post* reported on the disappearance of Ahmed Abdullah al-Harbi, a Canada-based Saudi dissident who visited the Saudi embassy in Ottawa that January and later reappeared in Saudi Arabia. **AL-HARBI’S FELLOW ACTIVISTS CLAIMED THAT HIS RETURN WAS COERCED BY SAUDI AUTHORITIES, CITING FEARS THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESSURED TO REVEAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION THAT WOULD ENDANGER THE ACTIVISTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**¹⁸¹ Al-Harbi’s whereabouts remained unknown at the end of the coverage period.

Private actors have been encouraged by authorities to harass government critics online.¹⁸² Former royal adviser Saud al-Qahtani, who reportedly managed the so-called electronic army before being sidelined in the wake of Jamal Khashoggi's 2018 murder (see B5), **WAS KNOWN FOR OVERSEEING ONLINE CAMPAIGNS THAT HARASSED BLOGGERS AND ACTIVISTS, AND HE REPORTEDLY KEPT A BLACKLIST OF GOVERNMENT ENEMIES, URGING CITIZENS TO ADD THE NAMES OF THOSE ALLEGEDLY ENGAGING IN TREACHERY OR SHOWING A LACK OF PATRIOTISM.**¹⁸³ Subsequent evidence suggests that citizens have adopted similar tactics, contributing to a climate of fear.¹⁸⁴

While activists and government critics have experienced cyberattacks in the past, such as the **SURREPTITIOUS INSTALLATION OF SPYWARE ON THEIR PHONES**, fewer cases were reported during this report's coverage period, and more generally over recent years. Given the rise in government-led censorship and the increasing limits on freedom of expression, authorities may depend less on technical attacks to silence independent journalists or human rights activists and organizations.

In October 2022, the digital risk management company CloudSEK found that several phishing domains targeting and impersonating Absher, the Saudi government's service portal, were giving fake services to citizens while stealing their credentials.¹⁸⁵

Several public and private institutions and projects have faced security breaches in recent years. In July 2021, 1,000 GB of data from the Saudi national oil company, Saudi Aramco, was seized by unknown extortionists on a dark webpage, who offered to delete the stolen data in exchange for \$50 million in cryptocurrency. In May 2020, Chafer, a hacking group with apparent links to Iran, was found to have targeted Saudi air-transport and government entities as far back as 2018.¹⁸⁶

THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN TIED TO ATTACKS ON FOREIGN NEWS OUTLETS AND JOURNALISTS. In June 2019, the *Guardian* was warned that a Saudi "cybersecurity unit" had targeted it with the aim of hacking into the email accounts of journalists who were investigating the royal court (see C5).¹⁸⁷ In December 2020, Al-Jazeera journalist Ghada Oueiss was subjected to a hacking operation allegedly led by Saudi and Emirati officials (see C5).¹⁸⁸

29. SAUDI FUND-BACKED FIRM PARTNERS WITH CHINESE SURVEILLANCE MAKER

By [Alexander Cornwell](#) and [Pesha Magid](#) February 20, 2024 11:47 AM EST Updated 10 months ago

RIYADH, Feb 20 (Reuters) - A subsidiary of Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund with ambitions to develop sophisticated technology on Tuesday announced **A \$200 MILLION PARTNERSHIP WITH A CHINESE SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY COMPANY PREVIOUSLY SANCTIONED BY THE UNITED STATES.**

Alat, a newly formed entity owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), and **DAHUA TECHNOLOGY, ONE OF CHINA'S BIGGEST SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT MAKERS, WILL MANUFACTURE SURVEILLANCE HARDWARE IN SAUDI ARABIA,** Alat's new CEO announced at an event in Riyadh. **THE JOINT VENTURE WILL ALSO MANUFACTURE HARDWARE, SUCH AS SENSORS, USED IN SO-CALLED "SMART CITIES" AND ESTABLISH A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN THE KINGDOM.**

Dahua has been [banned](#) from receiving products made outside of the United States with American technology since it was placed on an entity list in 2022 by the Biden administration over national security concerns. The U.S. has also banned the import of Dahua technology and has [linked](#) its technology to the abuse of China's Uighur minority.

RIYADH HAS DEEPENED ITS [COOPERATION](#) WITH BEIJING ON SECURITY AND SENSITIVE TECH AMID A WARMING OF POLITICAL TIES - TO THE [CONCERN](#) OF WASHINGTON.

Emirati company G42, which is developing artificial intelligence, has divested its investments in China and began the lengthy task of pulling out Chinese hardware amid U.S. concerns over its relationship with Chinese businesses. **SAUDI ARABIA ESTABLISHED ALAT AS PART OF A BROADER AMBITIOUS STRATEGY TO**

TRANSFORM THE KINGDOM INTO AN ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING HUB as the world's largest oil producer seeks to diversify its economy away from oil sales.

Alat aims to **INVEST \$100 BILLION IN THE KINGDOM BY 2030**, according to a statement by the group. Its ambitions include contributing \$9.3 billion to the non-oil economy, creating 39,000 skilled jobs by 2030 and eventually aiming to export its hardware. **"SAUDI ARABIA IS NO LONGER GOING TO BUY THE TECHNOLOGY. IT IS GOING TO BE BUILDING THE TECHNOLOGY,"** Industry and Resources Minister Bandar Alkhorayef said at the Riyadh event.

30. SAUDI IS 'YOUNG MARKET' FOR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE TECH



Visitors at the 2024 Intersec conference in Dubai, where the latest video surveillance tech was on display

By Divsha Bhat January 22, 2024, 12:40 PM

DEMAND FOR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY IS EXPECTED TO GROW RAPIDLY IN SAUDI ARABIA OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, industry experts have said.

“SAUDI ARABIA IS A NEW AND YOUNG MARKET FOR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE, and regulations are still being drafted,” Ettiene van der Watt, regional director at Swedish manufacturing company Axis Communications, told *AGBI* last week during Intersec, the safety and security conference in Dubai.

DEMAND FOR THE TECHNOLOGY IS RISING ACROSS THE GULF. The UAE is the region’s biggest market, with an estimated value of \$194 million in 2023, according to analytics consultancy 6Wresearch. The Saudi market was forecast to hit \$163 million last year.

The government in Riyadh has been updating the kingdom’s video surveillance regulations to integrate the monitoring of any criminal activity, according to Indian research and consultancy firm MarkNtel Advisors. In 2022 the kingdom’s Council of Ministers approved a regulation **MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS IN ALL PUBLIC AREAS OF HOTELS, RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, SPORTS CLUBS, STADIUMS AND MOSQUES.**

Saudi Arabia’s video surveillance market reported a 5.5 percent decrease in the value of shipments in 2021, compared to 2017, according to 6Wresearch. However, the market is now expanding and projected to increase at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.6 percent from 2024 to 2030.

“ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS IP-BASED CAMERAS AND VIDEO ANALYTICS, HAVE DRIVEN THE ADOPTION OF SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS TO PROTECT ASSETS AND ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY,” 6Wresearch said.

AND USE THAT DATA FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CITY,” James Shires, a researcher at London’s Chatham House think tank, told the publication.

This has a concerning amount of potential to mutate into less of a science fiction dreamscape than **A METROPOLIS AT THE MERCY OF STATE SURVEILLANCE,** warned Marwa Fatafta, a policy manager for the **DIGITAL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION ACCESS NOW.**

31. WHO LEADS TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IN SAUDI ARABIA



18 April 2024, Cairo, Egypt – Refresher training on the **EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE FROM OPEN SOURCES (EIOS) SYSTEM HAS BEEN RUN BY WHO IN RIYADH, SAUDI**

ARABIA. The training aims to **STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING EVENT-BASED SURVEILLANCE (EBS) SYSTEM WITHIN THE NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE FRAMEWORK** by implementing this innovative detection tool.

EIOS allows for the early detection of potential disease outbreaks by **PROVIDING REAL-TIME DATA AND INFORMATION GLEANED BY MONITORING VARIOUS OPEN SOURCES OF INFORMATION**. These include social media channels, news reports and online health forums. By enabling early detection of potential public health threats, this tool ensures better preparedness and response to health risks and emergencies – not least **BY KEEPING DECISION-MAKERS WELL-INFORMED**.

The EIOS system and this training sit under the WHO EIOS initiative, which aims to **ENHANCE CAPACITIES FOR THE RAPID DETECTION, ASSESSMENT AND FOLLOW-UP OF ALL PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS**.

The initiative, **A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BODIES INVOLVED IN EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE, SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INTELLIGENCE AND BUILD A NETWORK TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF EMERGING RISKS TO HUMAN HEALTH. THE EIOS SYSTEM SUPPORTS THIS NETWORK, BY ALLOWING ITS MEMBERS TO COLLECT AND FILTER OPEN-SOURCE INFORMATION TO FACILITATE THE TIMELY DETECTION, ASSESSMENT, AND RAPID REPORTING OF SUCH RISKS**.



THE BEAST AND THE
WORLD HEALTH ORG

This context-specific adaptation **ALLOWS THE TOOL TO BE USED FOR FOCUSED MONITORING** and early detection of potential health risks associated with the pilgrimage. **WHO WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SAUDI ARABIA** to ensure the EIOS system's effective implementation and integration for the benefit of the country and its people.

32. MBS RAMPS UP SURVEILLANCE AT ISLAM'S 'HOLIEST' SITES



17 NOVEMBER 2020

Now, even visiting the Grand Mosque looks impossible. The site, which can accommodate 900,000 worshippers, gradually reopened in September to smaller congregations after a seven-month-long suspension to contain COVID-19. However, it was announced that anyone who wishes to visit will need to reserve a specific time and date, using a ***NEWLY LAUNCHED GOVERNMENT APP CALLED EATMARNA, CREATED BY THE MINISTRY OF HAJ AND UMRAH.***

As of October 23, the app had recorded more than 2.5 million installations, 1.2 million registrations and issued 650,000 permits. ***USERS ARE REQUIRED TO UPLOAD THEIR CITIZENSHIP OR RESIDENCE ID BEFORE THEY CAN REQUEST A PERMIT THAT ALLOWS THEM ACCESS TO THE MOSQUE FOR A GIVEN NUMBER OF HOURS ON A SPECIFIED DAY.*** This automatically excludes Mecca's large undocumented community.



A government app, Eatmarna, has been downloaded more than 2.5 million times and has issued 650,000 permits to visit the Grand Mosque. Photo courtesy of Safa.

Although the ministry intends to only use the app as long as social distancing measures are necessary, ***OTHER FORMS OF TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS DRONES AND FACIAL RECOGNITION ARE INCREASINGLY BEING DEPLOYED TO STREAMLINE PILGRIMAGES TO MECCA, ESPECIALLY DURING RAMADAN AND HAJJ.***

“WE KNOW THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS INVESTING HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY IN SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY AND WHILE WE HAVE NOT OURSELVES DONE ANY RESEARCH ON HOW THIS IMPACTS THE MIGRANT community, I wouldn’t put it past them to use it to identify and deport people,” said Hiba Zayadin a researcher for Human Rights Watch focusing on the Middle East and North Africa Division. ***“Even if this is not currently the case, it is an area worth keeping an eye on.”***



MECCA HAS BEEN HOME TO A NUMBER OF EFFORTS TO PUSH TECHNOLOGY IN ORDER TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR RELIGIOUS VISITORS. HAJJ PILGRIMS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR ELECTRONIC ID BRACELETS THAT TRACK THEIR VISITS USING GPS AND PROVIDE HEALTHCARE WORKERS WITH THEIR PERSONAL MEDICAL INFORMATION IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. The bracelets also provide pilgrims with access to a help desk service, operated in several different languages. **ASEFNY, AN APP LAUNCHED BY SAUDI ARABIA'S RED CRESCENT IN 2018, AIMS TO HELP PILGRIMS REQUEST EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION AND IS ABLE TO LOCATE USERS VIA GPS.**

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah declined to comment on the use of Eatmarna.

THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED ITS INVESTMENT IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN ORDER TO LESSEN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19. THESE INCLUDE LAUNCHING NEW COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTERS AND APPS TO COORDINATE PUBLIC SERVICES AND SECURITY, AND DEPLOYING CCTV AND THERMAL IMAGING TO MONITOR PEOPLE'S TEMPERATURES IN OPEN SPACES. THESE MEASURES HAVE ALSO COINCIDED WITH RISING USE OF BIOMETRICS FOR BOTH RELIGIOUS PILGRIMS, AS WELL AS THE 12 MILLION FOREIGN CITIZENS LIVING IN SAUDI ARABIA.



Sundus, like millions of other undocumented Muslim residents of Saudi Arabia, fears she can no longer visit the Grand Mosque. Photo courtesy of Safa. “I have **BEEN READING ABOUT SURVEILLANCE AND PRIVACY A LOT**, ever since I started understanding that **PEOPLE CAN JUST SHOW UP AND TAKE HER AWAY SOMEDAY IF THEY WANT**,” she said. “I just worry that it is going to make it increasingly difficult for my mom and people like her to live in this constant secrecy, if **THERE IS ALWAYS A NEW TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY THAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT** to do so.” Other undocumented residents interviewed for this story expressed the same fears.

“CAMPAIGNS FOCUSED ON SAUDIZATION HAVE SEEN MASS DEPORTATION AND A LOT OF UNCERTAINTY AND FEAR AMONGST UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS IN THE COUNTRY,” said Zayadin. **“THERE IS A HUGE FEAR OF DETENTION AS**

MIGRANT WORKERS ARE HELD IN DESPICABLE CONDITIONS IN CROWDED PLACES.”

THE PRESENCE OF TECHNOLOGY IN MECCA IS ONLY SET TO GROW. In February, ***THE FIRST SAUDI SMART CITIES SUMMIT AND EXPO IN JEDDAH SAW THE MINISTRY OF HAJJ AND UMRAH LAUNCH “SMART MECCA,” AN AMBITIOUS PLAN TO INCORPORATE DIGITAL MONITORING THROUGH EVERY STEP OF A PILGRIM’S JOURNEY.***

“I know there are laws in the country, but my grandparents have been here since before the laws. And so have so many other people,” Sundus explained. “Mecca used to belong to everyone but it doesn’t anymore. I don’t understand technology that much, but things like these apps are just making it more difficult for my community to continue living here. Where do we go when they find us?”

33. FLEEING SAUDI SISTERS ISSUE PLEA FOR HELP AND A MESSAGE FOR APPLE AND GOOGLE



After escaping a lifetime of abuse at the hands of their families, the two women have called for the removal of a controversial Western-backed app which restricts the lives of many Saudi women

BY KATIA PATIN 19 APRIL 2019

In an apartment on the outskirts of Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, two Saudi women are in hiding. Startled by any noise outside the door, the sisters sit close to each other as they describe how they had to outsmart their family, the Saudi government and Western-enabled technology to flee a lifetime of abuse in the kingdom.

Maha al-Subaie, 28, and Wafa al-Subaie, 25 escaped the country on April 1, taking the first plane ride of their lives, flying initially to Turkey and then on to Georgia.

The sisters grew up in the small town of Ranyah with eight other siblings in a family where men exercised control over all aspects of their lives. In recent years ***THEIR FATHER HAD BEEN USING A SAUDI GOVERNMENT APP CALLED ABSHER THAT, AMONG OTHER FEATURES, ENABLES MALE GUARDIANS TO IMPOSE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON WOMEN.***

Now, the sisters just have each other.

<https://youtu.be/PsXffdIkfCo>



As they wait for answers from embassies and United Nations agencies on what their future holds, the sisters have a message for the **SILICON VALLEY GIANTS GOOGLE AND APPLE WHICH JUST WEEKS AGO [REFUSED TO TAKE DOWN THE SAUDI-GOVERNMENT APP ABSHER THAT HELPED THEIR FATHER TO RESTRICT THEIR TRAVEL RIGHTS:](#)**

“This is a stupid and aggressive application against women,” said Maha. **“EITHER THEY REMOVE THIS APPLICATION OR THEY CHANGE THE PERMISSIONS OF ITS USERS,”** continued her younger sister.

Launched in 2015, Absher was designed to help Saudis navigate local bureaucracy, but it also **ALLOWS SAUDI MEN IN THE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC KINGDOM TO GRANT OR DENY TRAVEL PERMISSIONS FOR WOMEN IN THEIR FAMILY WITH A CLICK.**

“We cannot sleep. We cannot eat,” said Wafa in an interview in their temporary apartment, looking to her elder sister for reassurance. **“WE DON’T KNOW IF WE WILL LIVE OR WE WILL GO TO A SAFE COUNTRY OR WE WILL GO BACK HOME AND WE WILL DIE.”**

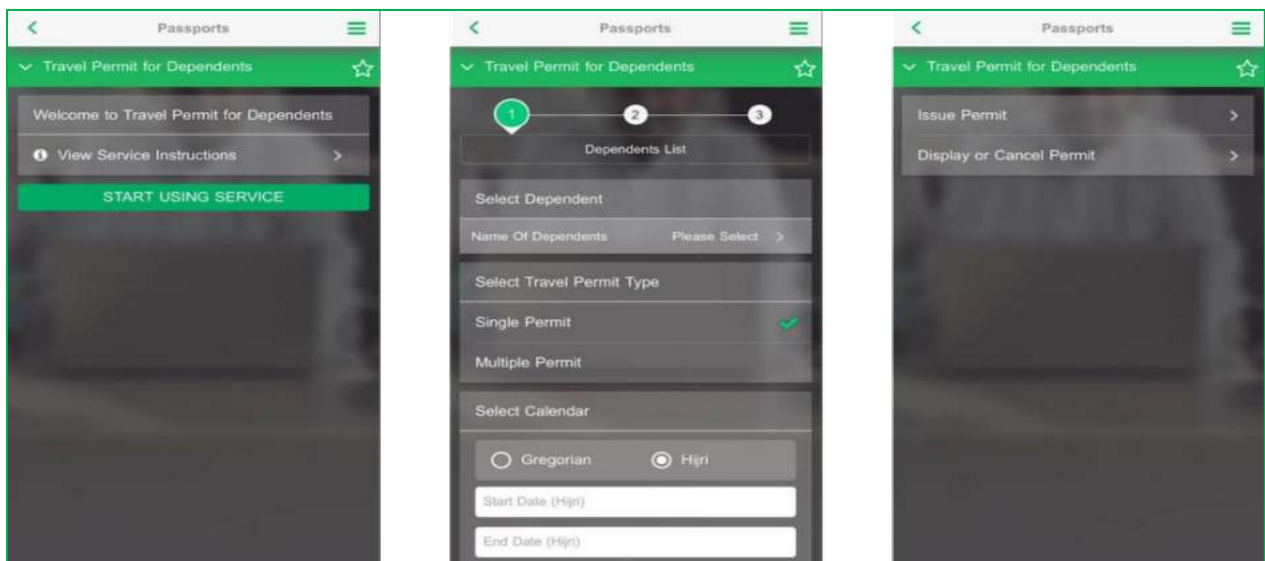
As they wait for answers from embassies and United Nations agencies on what their future holds, the sisters have a message for **THE SILICON VALLEY GIANTS GOOGLE AND APPLE WHICH JUST WEEKS AGO [REFUSED TO TAKE DOWN THE SAUDI-GOVERNMENT APP ABSHER THAT HELPED THEIR FATHER TO RESTRICT THEIR TRAVEL RIGHTS:](#)**

Last month, **GOOGLE REFUSED TO DELETE ABSHER AFTER THE COMPANY REVIEWED THE APP AND SAID IT DID NOT VIOLATE ANY AGREEMENTS.** The statement came after **FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DEMANDED THAT GOOGLE AND APPLE REMOVE ABSHER FROM THEIR APP STORES.** [In a letter](#) to the two tech companies, the Democratic lawmakers **CALLED APPLE AND GOOGLE “ACCOMPLICES IN THE OPPRESSION OF SAUDI ARABIAN WOMEN” BY HOSTING THE APPLICATION.**

[APPLE CEO TIM COOK PROMISED](#) TO LOOK INTO ABSHER, BUT THE COMPANY HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THE LETTER FROM THE US LAWMAKERS.

“By not taking a stance at all, I think there is an argument to say that any tech company that is participating in the treatment of women and girls as not equal

citizens on earth and not deserving human rights on earth is complicit,” said Dr. Stephanie Hare, a London-based technology expert whose research focuses on the intersection of politics and technology. ***“IS HELPING TO OPPRESS SAUDI WOMEN AND GIRLS A GOOD LOOK FOR YOU APPLE AND GOOGLE?”***



Inside the Absher app: a young woman still in Saudi snuck into her father's phone to show how it works from the inside

Some argue that removing the app leaves women with even fewer options. The digital age has in fact allowed more women to escape oppression in Saudi Arabia. Previously, women needed the physical presence of their male guardians to travel, and some argue that Absher at least gives them an option of hacking their way out of the control of their male guardians.

Rothna Begum, a senior women's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch, says removing the app would just be treating the symptom of a larger problem. ***"WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS FOR GOOGLE AND APPLE TO MAKE THESE PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO END TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS,"*** she said.

Tech companies have staked out ethical positions in the past. In 2015 Apple refused an FBI request to unlock the phone of the mass shooter who killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California, citing privacy concerns.

"These are companies that will go toe-to-toe with the U.S. government when they want to, so they can go toe-to-toe with Saudi Arabia if they want to," Hare said. "So the question is, why aren't they? Is it that they don't care about women and girls but they do care about privacy and AI?"

The plight of Saudi women who have managed to flee the control of relatives was thrust into the spotlight [earlier this year](#) when an 18-year-old woman was granted asylum in Canada. Rahaf Mohammed Alqunn first slipped away from her family while on holiday in Kuwait and boarded a plane for Thailand. Friends and supporters joined Alqunn in a successful social media campaign when Thai officials denied her entry into the country. After a tense 48-hour standoff, she was granted refugee status by the United Nations Refugee Agency.

The al-Subaie sisters began planning their escape five years ago. "We were following each girl who escaped," Maha said. ***"WITH EACH YEAR, THE NUMBER OF GIRLS WHO FLED OR TRIED TO FLEE INCREASED."***

Wafa said that she dreamed of escaping since she was a little girl. "I wished to put my clothes in a bag and escape from the house," she said. "I grew up with this thought in my mind."

Growing up, the sisters were not allowed to leave their home unaccompanied, to speak or be seen when guests visited, or choose who to marry. **WHEN THEY DISOBEYED, THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WOULD BEAT THEM, SOMETIMES USING ELECTRICAL CABLES OR CLOTHES HANGERS.** Maha showed photos of sprawling, dark bruises and lash marks left from beatings she and her sister had endured. For years the sisters secretly documented their abuse with photos and audio recordings which they are now sending to embassies and U.N. representatives in Tbilisi, in a precarious bid for international protection.

“We are trapped if we disappeared it’s your responsibility,” they [posted](#) on April 17 on their newly opened @GeorgiaSisters account on Twitter. Their decision to go public came out of desperation after two weeks of trying to figure out the asylum procedures, pleading with Western embassies for visas and hiding in different rented apartments across Tbilisi.

The decision to go public is extremely rare, said Taleb Al Abdulmohsen, who helps run a secret online network of women who have fled the kingdom, sourcing advice and providing emotional support for those on the run, including the al-Subaie sisters. **“PROBABLY 95%, EVEN 99% OF [WOMEN] WHO ESCAPE FROM SAUDI ARABIA LEAVE SECRETLY.” HE SAID WOMEN WHO SUCCESSFULLY MANAGE TO ESCAPE USUALLY FEAR BEING RECOGNIZED IN PUBLIC SPACES AND REPORTED TO THEIR FAMILIES.**

What the al-Subaie sisters do not want to reveal is how exactly they hacked into their father’s phone and then into the app in case the information could be used to prevent other women from fleeing.

Back home in Ranyah, a city of about 45,000 people and five hours from Mecca, Wafa says she dreamed of becoming a photographer and would practice taking photos on her phone. But her image-taking was limited to pictures of her sisters, the rooms in which they were confined, or the food brought for them. She closely examined the camera used to record her interview, and kept adjusting the curtains in the apartment for better lighting.

And when she found out that we are the same age, she immediately asked, “And you live without your family?” I told her yes. She threw her arms around me, squeezing tightly and said, “Oh my God, someday I will live like this too.”

The sisters face a number of significant hurdles. When they officially asked for asylum on April 15 they also learned that their family requested that the Georgian government return them to Saudi Arabia.

Abdulmohsen said as recently as last August a young Saudi woman failed to show up at the French embassy in Tbilisi to collect her visa. Several weeks later, she surfaced in a Saudi jail, he says. The French embassy said in an email that it does not comment on issues related to individuals.

For Maha and Wafa, what's at stake is clear:

"IF WE GO BACK, THEY WILL KILL US," Maha said.

Additional reporting by Sophiko Vasadze and Mariam Kiparoidze

34. CLOUDS GATHER OVER GOOGLE'S SAUDI CLOUD DEAL

Saudi dissidents accuse the tech giant of bolstering a brutal dictatorship with its plan to provide cloud computing in the kingdom



Andrew North, 2 February, 2021

Ten days before Joe Biden’s inauguration, Abdullah Alaoudh was at his home in Washington, D.C. catching up with emails, when a warning banner flashed up on his screen. “Google may have detected government-backed attackers trying to steal your password,” read the text, advising him to tighten his online security.

Though the Google alert did not name names, Alaoudh was sure he ***KNEW WHICH GOVERNMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE — THE ONE WHOSE TROLLS HAVE TARGETED HIM REPEATEDLY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND WHICH IS HOLDING HIS FATHER, A PROMINENT REFORMIST, IN JAIL.***

Alaoudh is a leading figure in a US-based group advocating for democracy and human rights in the Arab world. Known as DAWN, it was founded by the Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, before government agents murdered him in 2018. Since then, it has been ***PRESSING THE COUNTRY’S DE FACTO RULER, CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN, TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS SUSPECTED ROLE IN THE KILLING.***



Alaoudh says that he knows of **FIVE (5) OTHER DISSIDENTS WHO RECEIVED AN IDENTICAL GOOGLE WARNING AT THE SAME TIME, SUGGESTING A COORDINATED ATTACK.**

With Biden about to become president and signaling that accountability for Khashoggi's death was a priority, "the Saudi government was freaking out," said Alaoudh. **"THEY'RE AFRAID OF SAUDI DISSIDENTS GETTING INTO MEETINGS WITH DECISION-TAKERS AND HAVING INFLUENCE AGAIN."**

There was an extra twist to this suspected cyber-attack, though, with the warning coming from Google. Days earlier, Alaoudh had learned of **A [DEAL](#) THE TECH GIANT HAD SIGNED TO PROVIDE CLOUD COMPUTING SERVICES IN SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH HE AND OTHER DISSIDENTS FEAR WILL VASTLY INCREASE THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO TARGET ITS OPPONENTS AND CONTROL LOCAL DIGITAL ACTIVITY.**



The agreement with a subsidiary of Aramco, the state-controlled oil company, has had little publicity — possibly because Google made its announcement just before Christmas, ensuring little follow-up during the holiday period. To the surprise of some tech-industry watchers, there has been no significant pushback from Google staff or their recently formed union.

But, as the news has begun to filter out more widely this year, ***SAUDI EXILES WHO HAVE FLED BIN SALMAN'S REPRESSION HAVE REACTED WITH FURY.***

“GOOGLE IS HELPING TO WHITEWASH MBS'S REPUTATION, AFTER THE MURDER OF KHASHOGGI,” said Lina al-Hathloul, whose sister Loujain captured international attention with her [videos](#) posted on Google-owned YouTube, protesting against a ban on women driving. Since 2018 — and despite the driving ban being lifted — Loujain has been in [prison](#), in what observers believe has been a calculated effort to punish her for speaking out. Other dissidents, such as the writer Raif Badawi, have been incarcerated even longer.

Speaking from Belgium, where she now lives in exile, Hathloul accused Google of putting itself in position to help the Saudi authorities stifle dissent on a wider scale. “Loujain was hacked and tracked before her arrest, so the idea that Google could now be letting its computers be used by the Saudi regime is shocking,” she said.

Evidence has mounted of worldwide efforts by the Saudi government to go after its opponents electronically, sometimes employing Israeli-made spyware. The targets have included [Omar Abdulaziz](#), another outspoken dissident, and, allegedly, Amazon founder [Jeff Bezos](#).

Any Saudi daring to criticize the state online has learnt to expect a swarm of abuse from masses of seemingly well organized pro-government trolls, often known as “the flies.” One reason Khashoggi may have been targeted — as highlighted in [The Dissident](#), a new documentary about his murder — is that he was trying to organize an online fightback. Working with Abdulaziz, the plan was to set up a network of “bees,” made up of his supporters, that would challenge official narratives on social media.

Google has released little information about its Saudi plans, but one client does get a namecheck: Noon, a joint UAE-Saudi e-commerce venture, seen as the main regional rival to Amazon. Google is fighting a wider global battle to overturn the online shopping giant's lead in cloud computing. The murder of Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist, may have opened the way for Google, as it led to Bezos — the paper's owner — cancelling plans to invest in Saudi Arabia.

Satisfying shareholder demands for earnings growth seem to have outweighed the reputational risk for Google. According to its partner Aramco, the Saudi cloud

computing market could be worth at least \$10bn by 2030, around [two-thirds](#) (66.6%) **OF GOOGLE'S CURRENT GLOBAL REVENUE FROM THIS SOURCE**. But the financial terms and safeguards on how its cloud computing power will be used remain opaque.

An Aramco statement about the deal, however, mentions the “multiple solutions” **GOOGLE CLOUD OFFERS IN AREAS INCLUDING “ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE,” AND “SMART ANALYTICS,” TECHNIQUES FOR HANDLING LARGE VOLUMES OF DATA.**

Google's own [principles](#) include commitments not to employ AI “technologies that gather or use information for surveillance violating internationally accepted norms,” or “whose purpose contravenes widely accepted principles of international law and human rights.”

How those principles can be upheld working with **A SAUDI GOVERNMENT THAT HAS SHOWN IT IS WILLING TO KILL ITS CRITICS REMAINS UNCLEAR. GOOGLE DID NOT RESPOND TO A REQUEST FOR COMMENT FOR THIS ARTICLE.**

The search engine behemoth may have dropped its “Don't be evil” motto a few years ago, but the stakes are still high. “Google's legacy of marketing itself as an ethical tech company means that their actions help set the standard for the industry,” said Jack Poulson, a former Google research scientist who quit in protest at the company's plan to create a censored search engine in China. After Khashoggi's death, [many](#) global companies cut ties with the kingdom. Some were already returning, but with its stamp of approval, Google has made it that much easier argues Poulson. **“BY FORMING A CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH SAUDI ARABIA WITHOUT CLEAR BOUNDARIES, THEY ARE HELPING REVERSE THE POST-KHASHOGGI DISTANCING FROM ITS RULERS.”**

Other former Google insiders have expressed dismay that there has not been more opposition to the Saudi deal from within the company — or the new Alphabet Workers' Union ([AWU](#)). In staunchly anti-union Silicon Valley, the organization's creation is highly symbolic, not least for the fact that it grew partly out of opposition to past controversial projects, such as the Chinese search engine, AI work for the Pentagon and surveillance for the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agency.

“Now there is a union, we should hope to see more pushback on this issue,” said Meredith Whitaker, who led an internal campaign against the AI contract with the Defense Department before being pushed out. Poulson is sympathetic, saying he

hopes the AWU’s silence so far “is a consequence of their infancy rather than policy.”

Past red lines drawn by Google staff would appear to apply directly to Saudi Arabia now. In November 2019, more than 2,000 workers signed a letter calling on the company not to do any deals with fossil fuel producers, as part of wider efforts to tackle climate change. **AMONG GLOBAL COMPANIES, SAUDI’S ARAMCO HAS THE DUBIOUS TITLE OF BEING THE WORLD’S BIGGEST POLLUTER.**

The Biden administration appears to be moving more quickly. Last week, the U.S. ordered a temporary freeze on multi-billion dollar arms deals President Trump agreed with Bin Salman. Abdullah Alaoudh and other **DISSIDENTS IN THE US ARE ALSO CALLING FOR GOOGLE TO SUSPEND ITS CLOUD DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA.**

As things stand, he said, **“GOOGLE IS PROVIDING ITS POWER TO A BRUTAL DICTATORSHIP.”**



35. TEN WAYS THAT SAUDI ARABIA VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS



Saudi Arabia makes headlines hosting glittering events, securing famous footballers including Cristiano Ronaldo to play in its national league, and for inventive ideas such as the notorious 'The Line' city concept. But the reality for people living in Saudi Arabia, is one where their basic human rights are ignored, their freedoms are restricted and punishment is severe.

For example, blogger Raif Badawi was sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for 'insulting Islam' and founding an online forum for political debate. He was due to be flogged 50 times every week. In 2022, Raif was finally released, but he faces a travel ban, meaning that after not seeing his family for 12 years, he will have to wait another 9 years.

1. EXECUTIONS ARE ON THE INCREASE:

Saudi Arabia executed 196 people in 2022. On 12th March, the authorities killed 81 men in one day - the single largest mass execution in recent decades. The country ranks as the 2nd highest for use of the death penalty.



2. WOMEN ARE WIDELY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST:

Women and girls remain subject to discrimination in law and in practice. The male guardianship system was enshrined into law in 2022, and means that women must have a male legal guardian - and they cannot choose who this is.

Also, many women, such as Loujain, who supported a campaign against a ban on **WOMEN DRIVERS WERE IMPRISONED AND HARASSED, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE LAW WAS THEN CHANGED TO ALLOW WOMEN TO DRIVE.**

3. UNFAIR TRIALS AND TORTURE DURING DETENTION:

In 2022, Saudi Arabian authorities arbitrarily detained Ethiopian men, women and children for up to 18 months in inhumane conditions and tortured and otherwise ill-treated them before forcibly returning them to Ethiopia. They were held in overcrowded cells with inadequate access to food, water, sanitation and healthcare in two detention centers prior to their deportation. At least 12 men died.



"...WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT CAN DO TO LOUJAIN NOW."

- LINA, LOUJAIN'S SISTER (BBC WOMAN'S HOUR)

Trials against people are often grossly unfair and courts impose long prison sentences. People are often held in solitary confinement without any communication. Salma al-Shehab, a student of Leeds University and ***MOTHER OF TWO WAS SENTENCED TO 27 YEARS IN PRISON ON TERRORISM-RELATED OFFENCES AFTER A GROSSLY UNFAIR TRIAL FOR PUBLISHING TWEETS IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS.***

4. MIGRANT WORKERS TREATED POORLY:

According to the Interior Ministry, there is a consistent crackdown on foreign nationals, with 479,000 being returned to their home country out of 678,000 arrested. During that same period, 14,511 foreign nationals, most of them Ethiopians and Yemenis, where violence has forced many to flee, were arrested for crossing the border irregularly from Yemen into Saudi Arabia.

5. CRACKDOWN ON FREE MEDIA & PRESS:

The Saudi authorities control domestic media and journalists can be imprisoned for a variety of 'crimes'. Saudi authorities including ***THE CROWN PRINCE SANCTIONED THE BRUTAL MURDER THE JOURNALIST JAMAL KHASHOGGI AFTER HE HAD BEEN CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT. LEADERSHIP IN THE COUNTRY HAS NEVER BEEN HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR ROLE.***



6. NO FREE SPEECH:

Besides Raif Badawi, ***DOZENS MORE OUTSPOKEN ACTIVISTS REMAIN BEHIND BARS, SIMPLY FOR EXERCISING THEIR RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY. MANY OF SAUDI ARABIA'S PROMINENT AND INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED, THREATENED INTO SILENCE, OR FLED THE COUNTRY.***

7. NO LBGTQI+ RIGHTS:

LBGTQI+ rights are not legally recognized or protected in Saudi Arabia, even [being labeled as 'extremist ideas'](#). The country's legal system prohibits LBGTQI+ relationships, public displays of

affection and gender expression, with severe societal stigma, discrimination, and legal repercussions for LGBTQI+ individuals, including imprisonment, fines, or death penalty.

8. TRAVEL BANS:

Many human rights activists who have been released from unfair imprisonment, face continued punishment. Many are given travel bans, meaning they are unable to leave the country & see loved ones.




9. FORCED EVICTIONS:

Over half a million people in the city of Jeddah have been forcibly evicted and their homes demolished, to make way for luxury hotels and buildings. A compensation scheme, announced after the demolitions, excludes foreign nationals, who make up nearly half of those impacted.

10. NO PROTESTS:

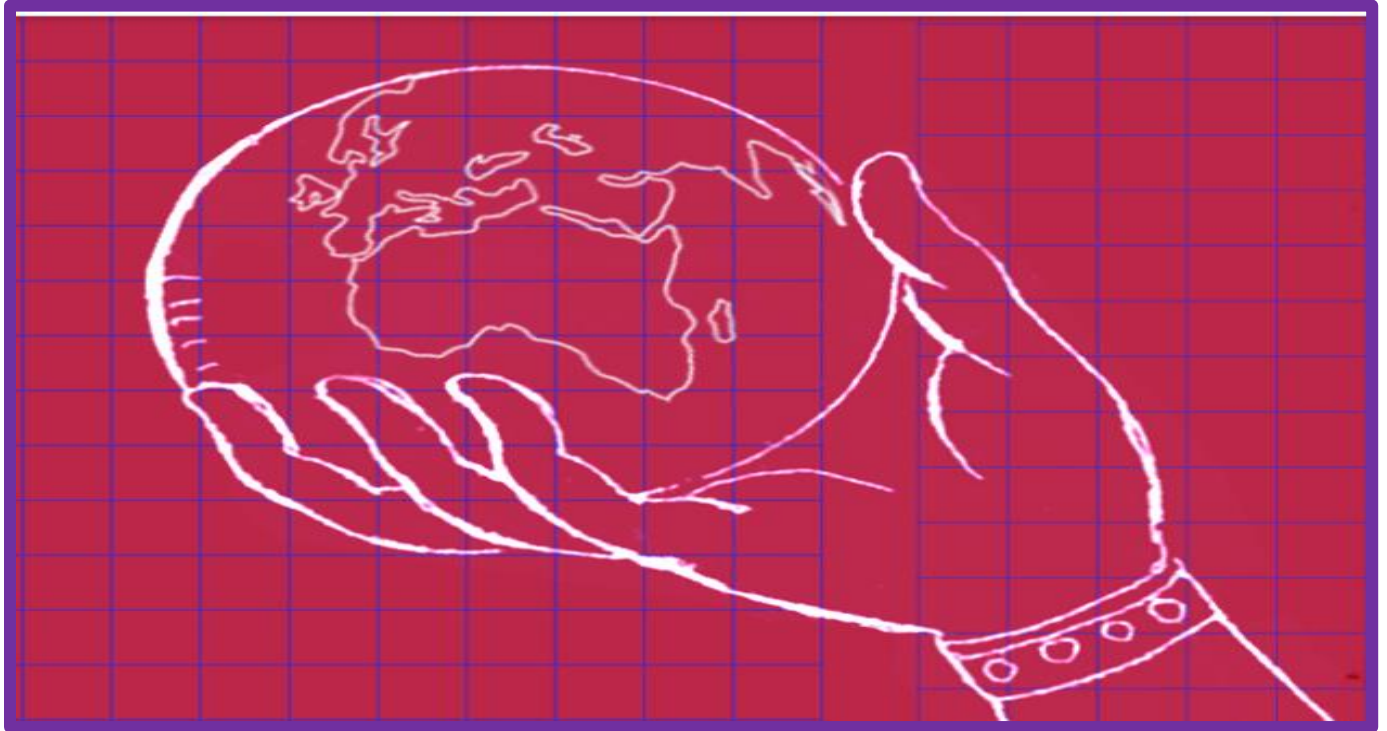
Protests and demonstrations are illegal. Those who defy the ban face arrest, prosecution and imprisonment on charges such as ‘inciting people against the authorities’. So, the next time you see a headline about Saudi Arabia hosting the men's World Cup, taking over a UK football club or releasing outlandish ideas for our cities, keep in mind how the country's authorities treat its own people.



**“Beneath the progressive, glitzy
image...lie horrid stories of abuses and
violations. The world will not be fooled
by sham fanfare.”**

**Diana Semaan, Amnesty International's Acting Deputy Director for the Middle East
and North Africa**

36. THE WORST TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION PIONEERS



SAUDI ARABIA

Since U.S.-based Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered in 2018 inside the Saudi embassy in Turkey, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been under a measure of diplomatic pressure. **THAT HAS NOT STOPPED HIM FROM EXPANDING THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT'S TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION EFFORTS. IN AUGUST, THE SAME MONTH THAT PRESIDENT BIDEN MET WITH THE PRINCE, THREE PEOPLE WERE SENTENCED IN SAUDI ARABIA AFTER BEING SURVEILLED WHILE ABROAD.** One was a 34-year-old mother who had tweeted about the Kingdom while in the U.K.

It was also in August that a former employee of Twitter was convicted in the U.S. for using **HIS ACCESS TO TWITTER'S DATA TO SPY FOR THE SAUDI REGIME.** Last week, a U.S. judge dismissed a lawsuit against bin Salman that sought to hold him accountable for Khashoggi's murder. The judge said that, while he felt uneasy about it, his hands were tied because **THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION HAD MADE A RECOMMENDATION TO GIVE THE SAUDI LEADER POLITICAL IMMUNITY.**



HAS 'DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY' IN KILLING

**GET OUT
OF JAIL FREE**



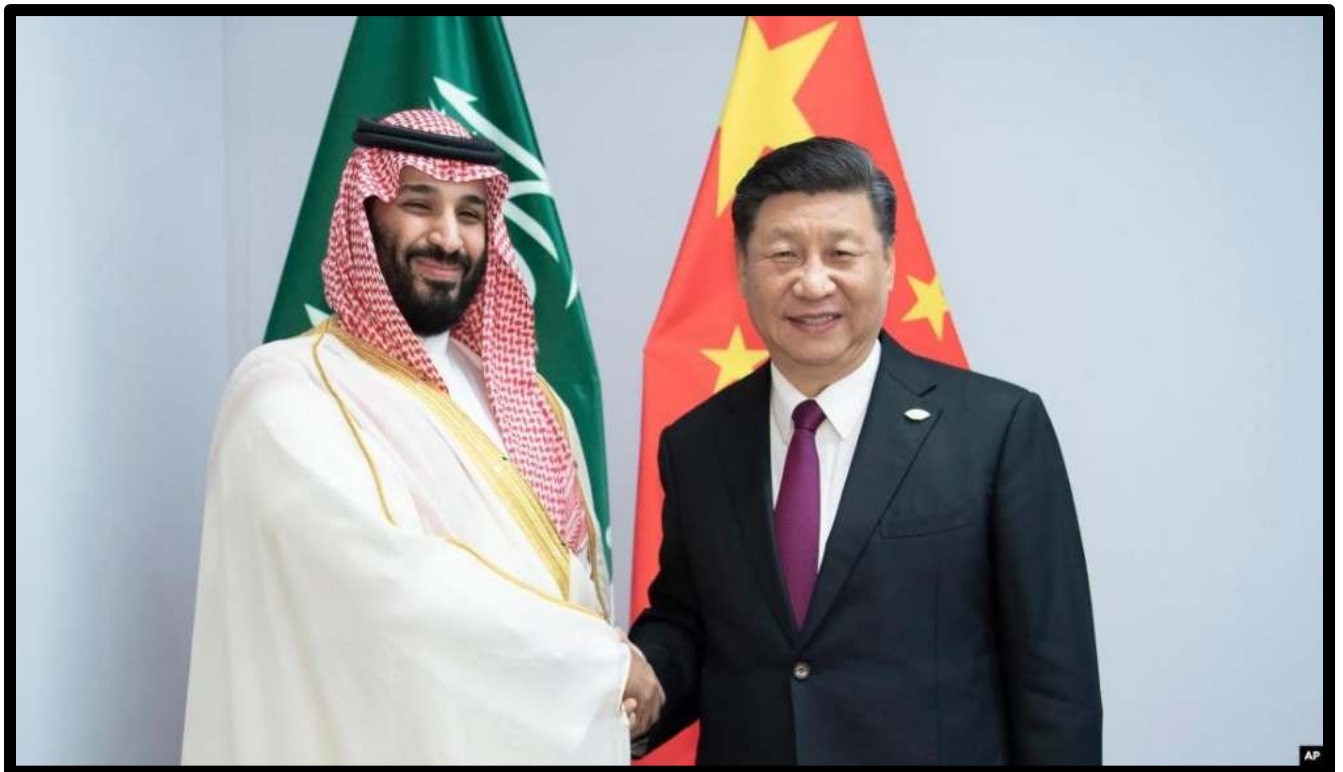
THIS CARD MAY BE KEPT UNTIL NEEDED, OR SOLD

CHINA

China continued to be the most dangerous cross-border offender. As part of its highly sophisticated transnational repression campaign, the regime [issued](#) hundreds of Interpol red notices — requests to police around the world to detain and send suspects back to China.

In April, the Chinese government tried to force back four members of the Uyghur minority, who have been targeted heavily within and outside China, from Saudi Arabia. Among the four was a 13-year-old girl who, along with her mother, risks [being sent](#) to a detention center. Following an outcry from human rights groups, the deportation has been delayed.

Under the banner of an anti-corruption program called Sky Net, the Chinese state has also [ramped](#) up efforts to repatriate Chinese nationals it accuses of corruption. The program has seen thousands targeted in the last few years, including the [Chinese businessman Ma Chao](#), a member of the persecuted Falun Gong movement currently living in Cyprus. At the start of the year, members of his family in China were arrested to increase pressure on him to return. Just one month later, an Interpol notice was issued against his wife.



37. SAUDI ARABIA'S FUTURISTIC NEW CITY COULD BE 'SCARY' SURVEILLANCE STATE



By [Hannah Frishberg](#) Published April 25, 2023, 2:28 p.m. ET

CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN'S IN-THE-WORKS SAUDI ARABIAN MEGADEVELOPMENT is being touted as a futuristic paradise — but TECH PRIVACY PUNDITS ARE CONCERNED FOR THE RIGHTS OF RESIDENTS.

Known as Neom, the \$1 trillion city is a pet project of the prince and is set to feature an artificial ski resort, robots and AI for the project's inhabitants, and two 1,600-foot-high buildings running parallel to each other across a 75-mile strip of desert and mountains, as [The Post previously reported](#).

There will be 10 regions, including a zero-carbon area called the Line where **AI WILL USE 90% OF INHABITANTS' DATA TO PERSONALIZE SERVICES** — far more than the approximately 10% of resident data used in current smart cities, [Insider reported](#).



NEOM BABYLON THE
GREAT CITY.pdf

“NEOM IS DESIGNED TO LEAPFROG THOSE [OTHER SMART CITIES], TO BEGIN FROM THE GROUND UP IN SORT OF AN ENTIRELY DESIGNED FASHION TO COLLECT DATA AND USE THAT DATA FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CITY,” James Shires, a researcher at London’s Chatham House think tank, told the publication.

This has a concerning amount of potential to mutate into less of a science fiction dreamscape than **A METROPOLIS AT THE MERCY OF STATE SURVEILLANCE**, warned Marwa Fatafta, a policy manager for the **DIGITAL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION ACCESS NOW**.

ALTHOUGH NEOM AND OTHER CITIES LIKE IT ARE BEING MARKETED AS “SMART” OR “ECO CITIES,” THEY’RE ACTUALLY “SURVEILLANCE CITIES” BECAUSE

“ESSENTIALLY THEY’RE BUILT ON AN ARCHITECTURE THAT IS FUELED BY PEOPLE’S PERSONAL DATA, AND IN A COUNTRY LIKE SAUDI ARABIA WHERE THERE IS NO DATA PROTECTION OR SAFEGUARDS, NO OVERSIGHT, NO ACCOUNTABILITY, NO TRANSPARENCY, NO SEPARATIONS OF POWERS, AND THE FACT THAT [MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN] IS ACTUALLY RULING THE SECURITY AGENCIES,” Fatafta told Insider, adding ***“IT IS A SCARY IDEA.”***

38. THE SAUDI PRINCE: HOW DANGEROUS IS MBS?

<https://youtu.be/tK1OTQzyiX8>

CHINA IS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN DISTRIBUTING SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY, SO AS TO ENABLE THE CREATION OF SUCH CITIES — PART OF THE NATION’S LEADER XI JINPING’S LARGER PLAN TO “NORMALIZE AND SEEK TO LEGITIMIZE ITS VISION OF A STATE-LED CYBERSPACE AND SURVEILLED PUBLIC,” Harvard University fellow Bulelani Jili commented to Insider. ***IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE SAUDI PRINCE — WHOSE TIES WITH JINPING HAVE RECENTLY GROWN STRONGER — IS EAGER TO ASSIST IN REALIZING THIS VISION ON A GRAND SCALE.***



Revelation 13:4 And ***they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast,*** saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

39. SAUDI ARABIA IS SEEKING BILLIONS IN CHINESE INVESTMENT FOR NEOM. BUT IT COMES WITH A MASSIVE RISK



Jun 13, 2024, 11:29 AM EDT

A staff member welcomes guests at a Hong Kong investor showcase for the Saudi Arabia mega-project Neom at the M+ museum for visual culture in Hong Kong on April 19, 2024.

At a recent exhibition in Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia showcased its futuristic vision for its planned Neom megacity. Among the exhibits were designs for The Line, a sprawling residential structure consisting of two skyscrapers that were originally intended to house nine million people.

It also showcased plans for a network of underground tunnels that residents could use to travel between different regions and a desert ski resort in the mountains. It

was part of Saudi Arabia's drive to secure billions in new investment for the project, which is the ***CENTERPIECE OF SAUDI RULER MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN'S VISION 2030 STRATEGY. VISION 2030 IS MEANT TO REORIENT THE KINGDOM'S ECONOMY AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS AND TOWARD INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY.***

But the vast scale and cost of the project, which reports say could spiral to more than a trillion dollars, is posing difficulties even for Saudi Arabia, despite its reserves of oil wealth.



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud at the royal palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Dec. 8, 2022.

A GROWING ALLIANCE

The exhibition helped make Neom "less mysterious," but reactions were "mostly neutral," Leonard Chan, chair of the Hong Kong Innovative Technology Development Association, told AFP.

There remain hopes in Saudi Arabia, however, that China will invest billions in the project. One of the main areas of recent ***COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATES HAS BEEN TECHNOLOGY, WITH (7) SAUDI ARABIA WORKING WITH CHINA ON AI AND SURVEILLANCE TECH PROJECTS AS IT SEEKS TO TRANSFORM ITSELF INTO A TECH SUPERPOWER.***

Robert Mogielnicki, an analyst at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, told Business Insider that Chinese investors likely see opportunities in Neom in sectors including construction, renewable energy, telecommunications, and smart city-related services. "Chinese economic actors interested in Neom likely see a longer-term project pipeline with various opportunities to generate profits," said Mogielnicki. But it's an alliance of growing concern to Saudi Arabia's main geopolitical ally, the US.

A SHARED AUTHORITARIAN VISION

One of the main tools China's leader Xi Jinping is using to broker alliances globally, particularly with nations ambivalent about the West's insistence on human rights, is the prospect of ***ACCESS TO CHINA'S SOPHISTICATED SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY.***

CHINA HAS DEVELOPED AI-ENABLED FACE RECOGNITION SOFTWARE THAT ALLOWS OFFICIALS TO MONITOR CITIZENS IN REAL TIME AND ACCESS DATA ON ASPECTS OF THEIR PRIVATE LIVES, INCLUDING HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, AND FINANCIAL HISTORIES. IT'S A TOOL WITH AN OBVIOUS APPEAL FOR CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED, WHO IS ACCUSED OF BRUTALLY PERSECUTING DISSIDENTS AND CRITICS.

China sees Saudi Arabia as not just a business opportunity but a way of undercutting the influence of its longtime Saudi ally, the US.

In April, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund-subsiidiary Alat signed a deal with Dahua Technology, one of China's most important surveillance technology firms. The US has sanctioned Dahua Technology over national security concerns.



People walk below surveillance cameras in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on September 6, 2019.

THE CREATION OF SURVEILLANCE CITIES

Unlike Western firms, which have policies to protect data, Chinese companies have fewer compunctions about sharing the information they collect, Camille Lons, an analyst at the European Council on Foreign Relations, told BI.

"GULF COUNTRIES ARE INDEED SIGNIFICANT CLIENTS OF CHINESE SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES," said Lons. **"THE FACT THAT CHINESE COMPANIES ARE MORE OPEN TO SHARE THE COLLECTED DATA THAN THEIR WESTERN COUNTERPARTS MAKES THEM ATTRACTIVE PARTNERS TO THE GULF STATES."**

It's an aspect of **CHINA'S INVOLVEMENT IN NEOM** that's alarmed some critics.

NEOM IS BEING DESIGNED AS A "SMART CITY," WHOSE SERVICES WILL BE REGULATED BY DATA COLLECTED FROM RESIDENTS THROUGH SMART PHONES OR SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS. LAST YEAR, ANALYSTS TOLD BI THAT DATA COLLECTED ABOUT NEOM RESIDENTS THROUGH CHINESE TECHNOLOGY COULD BE USED AS PART OF A MASS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM.

"THEY'RE BEING MARKETED AS 'ECO CITIES' OR 'SMART CITIES,' WE CALL THEM SURVEILLANCE CITIES," said Marwa Fatafta, an analyst with digital rights organisation Access Now, of cities such as **NEOM WHOSE INFRASTRUCTURE USES CHINESE DATA SERVICES AND SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY.**

BUT THERE ARE RISKS FOR THE SAUDIS

Saudi Arabia's increasingly close ties with China are of growing concern to the US.



Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at a 2022 event discussing plans for the futuristic city of Neom.

The Biden administration is seeking to broker a normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel and is offering the Saudis potential access to valuable nuclear technology. An alternative deal would offer the Saudis enhanced US security guarantees. But as a condition for any agreement, the US is demanding that the Saudis restrict their new tech alliance with China.

"The main risk today to Saudi Arabia's tech cooperation with China is the growing China-US tech war. The US is increasingly putting Riyadh under pressure over its cooperation with Chinese companies in the tech sector," said Lons.

The US is concerned that China could seek to exploit its relationship with Saudi Arabia to steal US tech secrets, with chips used to power AI systems among the areas of concern, The New York Times reported. "US companies are now making

clear that if Saudi Arabia wants to access advanced US technologies, it will need to make a choice and prove that it won't serve as a backdoor to China to access those technologies," said Lons.

But with Saudi Arabia reportedly considering scaling back some of its flagship Neom projects amid funding concerns, it will likely continue walking the tightrope between closer ties to China and potential US repercussions as ***IT SEEKS TO SUPERCHARGE ITS VISION 2030 PLANS.***

40. INFLUENCERS AND VLOGGERS ARE SHOWING OFF THEIR LIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA'S NEOM. IT'S FALLING FLAT.



Saudi Arabia's new city of the future, Neom, isn't looking quite so glamorous just yet. A wave of vloggers and micro-influencers have been posting on social media

about their lives in the still-developing desert city — and their posts are kind of falling flat.

THE \$500 BILLION NEOM PROJECT — CHAMPIONED BY SAUDI ARABIA'S CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN AS THE CENTERPIECE OF HIS VISION 2030 PLAN TO DIVERSIFY THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY — BILLS ITSELF AS "A LAND OF THE FUTURE WHERE THE GREATEST MINDS AND BEST TALENTS ARE EMPOWERED TO EMBODY PIONEERING IDEAS AND EXCEED BOUNDARIES IN A WORLD INSPIRED BY IMAGINATION."

And then there's the reality of what living in Neom currently looks like.

One Neom resident and vlogger with 17,000 TikTok followers, [Jessica Herman](#), has been posting on the platform all about her life in the developing area. [In one TikTok video](#), Herman joyfully films what an evening in "Neom Community 1" looks like: getting her kids ready in her sleek industrial apartment, walking through what looks like empty streets and cookie-cutter housing, and heading to the mod "dining hall" for dinner with her family.

It's not just Herman who's been promoting her life in the city lately. Other mom vloggers have been sharing similar experiences living in Neom in recent months, like [Sara Sarasid](#), who has more than 24,000 TikTok followers, and [Aida McPherson](#), who has more than 28,000 TikTok followers. The surroundings in their videos look just as dreary, despite the vloggers' smile-filled promotions.

This week, X users caught wind of Herman's video and criticized how manufactured and desolate the surroundings appear, especially compared to the futuristic renderings of what the city plans to become.

One user, Joshua Hind, [wrote on X](#) in response to Herman's video, "After all the hype and renderings, Neom is nothing more than a bland expat compound built so

Westerners can work in KSA. A journalist for ABC News, Matt Bevan, also wrote in a post on X that has been viewed more than 770,000 times, "Oh wow this looks great I've always dreamed of living in an industrial estate on the surface of the sun."

OTHERS ON THE PLATFORM DESCRIBED THE SIGHTS IN NEOM AS BEING "JOYLESS AND DREARY," LOOKING LIKE "A MARS COLONY," AND HAVING "LOW SECURITY PRISON VIBES."



It's not clear if Herman or her husband are government employees or if Herman is being paid to film her life in the city. It's also not clear if Community 1, where she lives, or Neom's other "Community 2" are temporary developments put up while the city is under construction.



Back in May, the BBC reported that **SAUDI AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO KILL ANY LOCAL VILLAGERS WHO STOOD IN THE WAY OF EVICTION ORDERS TO CLEAR THE REGION FOR DEVELOPMENT. AND, ACCORDING TO THE OUTLET, ONE VILLAGER WAS SHOT AND KILLED AFTER PROTESTING.** More recently, Neom executives have been accused of racism, misogyny, and corruption, according to The Wall Street Journal last week. In one instance, an executive mocked the deaths of three construction workers, complaining in a phone call that, "A whole bunch of people die so we've got to have a meeting on a Sunday night," the WSJ reported.



INVESTING IN NEOM
BABYLON.pdf

41. FEATURE-SAUDI 'SURVEILLANCE CITY': WOULD YOU SELL YOUR DATA TO THE LINE?

By Menna A. Farouk, Thomson Reuters Foundation August 23, 2022 9:30 AM EDT

Aug 23 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - In the desert sands of Saudi Arabia's deep northwest, thousands of workers are building a futuristic city that the kingdom says will be like no other.

Out of the ancient sands will emerge a high-tech urban centre called The Line: zero-carbon with flying drones for taxis, holograms for teachers and even a man-made moon.

The smart city is housed within NEOM, a \$500-billion business zone aimed at diversifying the economy of the world's top oil exporter, and the brainchild of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. NEOM is financed, in part, by the nation's sovereign wealth fund, and is due to be completed by 2025.

While NEOM will feature manufacturing and tourism zones, The Line will stack homes and offices vertically, and mine the data of its 9 million people, giving residents more say over their data and paying them for it - a world first, said an official.

"Without trust, there is no data. Without data, there is no value," said Joseph Bradley, chief executive of NEOM Tech & Digital Co., which will oversee the consent management platform.

"This technology enables users to review and easily understand the intention behind the use of their personal data, while offering financial rewards for authorising the use of their data," he said, without giving further details.

The Line is being designed with artificial intelligence at its core, with data used to manage power, water, waste, transport, healthcare and security, like many smart cities.

Data will also be collected from residents' smartphones, their homes, facial recognition cameras, and a host of other sensors, a data sweep that Bradley said would feed information back to the city and help it predict user needs.

BUT THE COUNTRY'S POOR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR RESPONSIBLE DATA USAGE OR THE SAFEGUARDING OF INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY, digital rights experts said. ***"THE SURVEILLANCE CONCERNS ARE JUSTIFIED,"*** said Vincent Mosco, a researcher of the social impacts of technology. ***"It is, IN EFFECT, A SURVEILLANCE CITY."***

The Saudi Ministry of Communications and Information Technology did not respond to a request for comment.

WHAT PRICE PRIVACY?

An increased digitisation of all aspects of daily life has spawned worries about who owns personal data, how it is used, and what it is worth. Some data rights experts, economists and lawmakers have proposed data dividends [here](#), or payments for data, which is often collected without an individual's knowledge or informed consent. But experts are divided [here](#) over how much to pay, and if such incentives will create a two-tier system where some peoples' data is deemed more valuable than that of others, further entrenching inequalities created by the digital divide.

"Tricking users into using a private consent platform does not replace a data protection regulation that protects people's personal information," said Marwa Fatafta, regional policy manager at Access Now, a digital rights organisation. "It sounds like a privacy disaster waiting to happen. Adding money as an incentive is a terrible idea; it distorts the right of people to freely consent, and normalises the practice of selling personal data for profit," she said.

Saudi Arabia has introduced a personal data protection law, and Bradley said NEOM officials are addressing privacy concerns. What NEOM proposes to do is just an "extreme continuation of what cities do today anyway," said Jonathan Reichental, an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco, who researches smart cities and data governance.

"We are a data-driven world; we are all consenting to data use everyday, and that data is leveraged by cities and organisations," he said. NEOM's residents, by getting paid for their data, will have an advantage over those who don't, he said.

"By not being part of that, you miss out on any financial gains," he said. Fahd Mohamed, a 28-year-old engineer who lives in Jeddah, agreed, saying that if he lived in The Line, he would consent. "My data is already used by social media platforms, ride-sharing apps, etc," he said.

PRIVACY PUSHBACK


With the growing digitisation of public and private-sector services worldwide, come the **PROMISED BENEFITS OF BETTER GOVERNANCE AND MORE CONVENIENCE - AND INCREASING CONCERNS ABOUT SURVEILLANCE AND PRIVACY. USERS ON NEOM'S CONSENT MANAGEMENT PLATFORM CAN DECIDE WHAT PERSONAL DATA TO SHARE, WHO HAS ACCESS TO THE DATA, MONITOR HOW IT IS USED, AND CAN OPT OUT ANY TIME**, said Bradley. **THE SYSTEM WILL ALSO ALERT USERS IF DATA IS USED WITHOUT CONSENT, OR IF THERE IS SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, OR A DATA BREACH. BY SHARING THEIR LOCATION, HEALTH AND MOVEMENT DATA, FOR EXAMPLE, IF A USER IS IMMOBILE FOR TOO LONG, A DRONE CAN BE DEPLOYED TO CHECK ON THEM**, Bradley said.



LACK OF HUMAN INTERACTION

Surveillance may not be the only concern for The Line. In some smart cities, residents have complained about feeling isolated and bereft of human contact. South Korea's \$40-billion smart city Songdo, for example, remains sparsely populated despite hi-tech features that allow residents to control lights at home from their phones, and that whisk away rubbish in tubes to underground sorting facilities. This all comes at the cost of human connections, said Samia Khedr, professor of sociology at Ain Shams University in Cairo. "Human connections are a key social infrastructure," she said. "Complex data infrastructure does not usually cater to important social and cultural needs that are paramount to urban life."

42. NEOM: A HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Neom:
A human rights and environmental impact assessment


A briefing for potential partners and investors in Neom

November 2024

القسط
ALQST
للمسائل الإنسانية والبيئية

Neom:
A human rights and environmental impact assessment


Scan me



Publication date: 19/11/2024

Today, 19 November 2024, ALQST for Human Rights released its latest [briefing paper](#) on the wide range of concerns regarding Saudi Arabia's Neom megacity project. They include the risk of widespread labour rights abuses, brought into

focus once again by a string of failures surrounding the death of a worker on a Neom construction site, and the devastating effects on the environment.



MAN OF THE YEAR
MR. BONE SAW

THEY ARE WATCHING EVERYTHING YOU DO

Instead of attempting to tackle these many issues, Neom has opted to create a paranoid ambience within its perimeters by installing cameras where employees live.

NEOM

BABYLON

MOB & MBS: ROBOTS INTEGRATE BIOMETRICS FOR PARCEL DELIVERY, SECURITY, AND MILITARY OPERATIONS. 'WHERE IS YOUR MARK?' ROBOT DOGS NOW COME WITH SNIPER RIFLES. SURVEILLANCE AND SECURITY DURING HAJJ IN THE BEAST'S KINGDOM. VIDEOS.

BY NIGHT WATCHMAN MINISTRIES ON JUNE 29, 2024 • (LEAVE A COMMENT)

Last year our groundbreaking report [The Dark Side of Neom](#) detailed **GRAVE ABUSES IN TERMS OF THE FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND PROSECUTION OF THE REGION'S LONGSTANDING INHABITANTS, THE HUWAITAT TRIBE**. This new briefing highlights additional concerns, making clearer than ever the serious moral challenges and reputational risks for potential partners and investors in the project.

NEOM, A FLAGSHIP PROJECT OF CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN'S "VISION 2030" ECONOMIC PLAN, IS ONE OF FIVE (5) HOST CITIES FEATURED IN SAUDI ARABIA'S 2034 WORLD CUP [BID](#). It includes as its centrepiece a futuristic 200-metre-wide linear city, "The Line", originally designed to be 170 km long but reported to have been significantly scaled down.

As with the World Cup as a whole, a major concern over its development, given the prevalence of labour exploitation and abuses in the country, relates to labour rights, in particular the rights of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers.

FIRST DEATH OF A MIGRANT WORKER ON A NEOM SITE DOCUMENTED BY ALQST



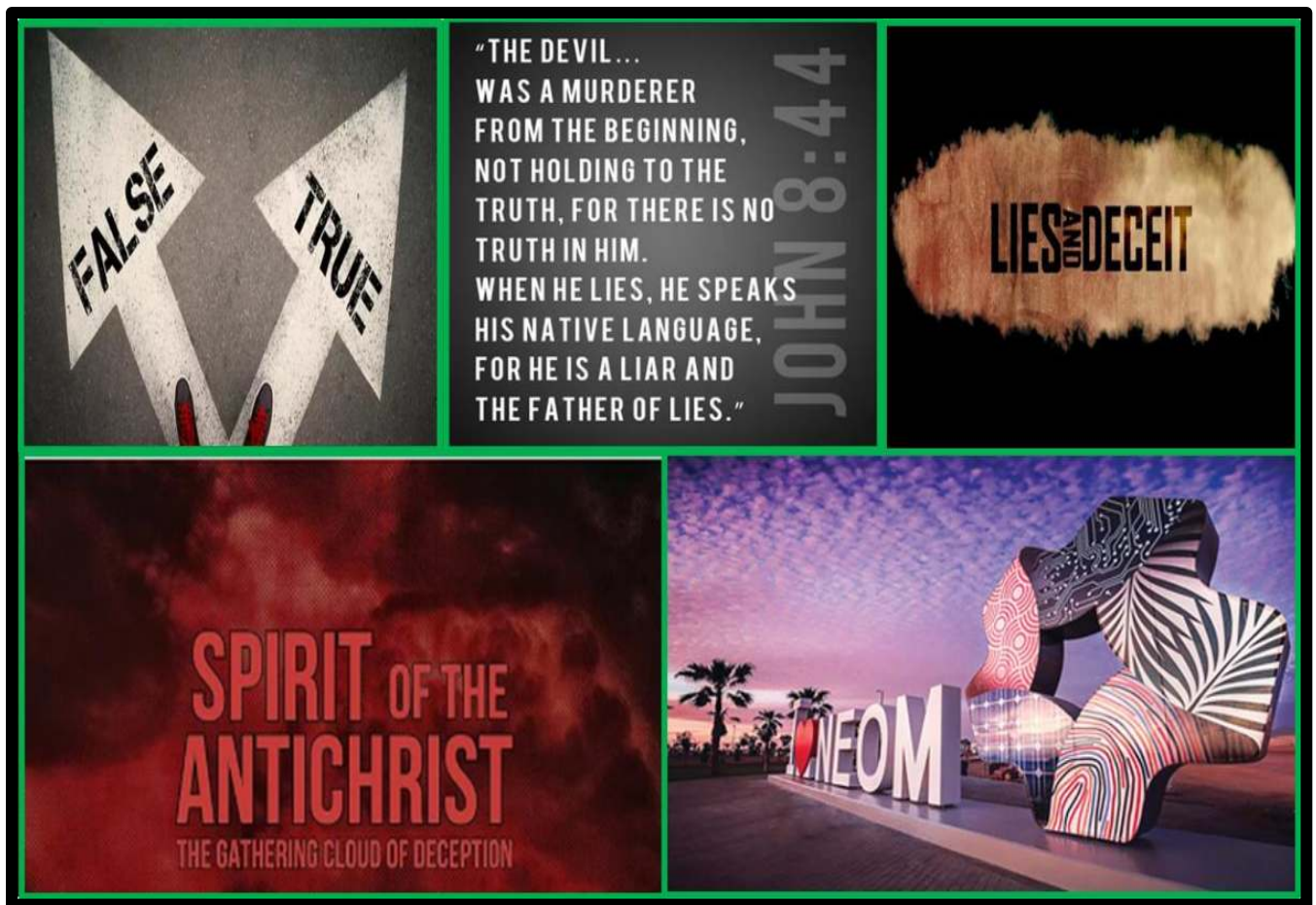
The risks were featured in a recent British television documentary, [Kingdom Uncovered: Inside Saudi Arabia](#), and can be clearly seen from the circumstances surrounding the death on 28 December 2023 of Abdul Wali Skandar Khan, a 25-year-old Pakistani civil engineer and father of two who died after a guardrail collapsed at a Neom construction site. The companies involved failed to conduct a proper investigation, and his brother, Meer Wali Khan, had to travel at his own expense to retrieve Abdul Wali's body from Saudi Arabia. The family is still battling for compensation and accountability.

Meer Wali Khan comments: *"The companies and Saudi authorities have treated my brother with callous disregard. At every stage since his death, they have failed to*

act sufficiently, causing me and my family even more pain and hardship. As such, our quest for answers and justice continues, for Abdul Wali and others who have suffered a similar fate.”

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC QUESTIONS OVER NEOM

The scope of concerns around Neom goes well beyond violations affecting the area’s inhabitants and migrant workers, however. Our briefing also explores the project’s environmental impact and **ISSUES SUCH AS DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE**. The risks Neom poses to the regional ecosystem, its vast carbon footprint, and the volume of raw materials needed, **STAND IN CONFLICT WITH ITS STATED AMBITION TO BE A “GREEN MEGACITY OF THE FUTURE”**. **MOREOVER, THE EXTRAVAGANT AND SURREAL PLANS FOR NEOM – A TOP-DOWN PROJECT – DO NOTHING TO ADDRESS THE STARK DEFICIENCIES IN THE COUNTRY’S BROADER INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE REAL-WORLD DAILY STRUGGLES FACED BY MANY SAUDI CITIZENS.**

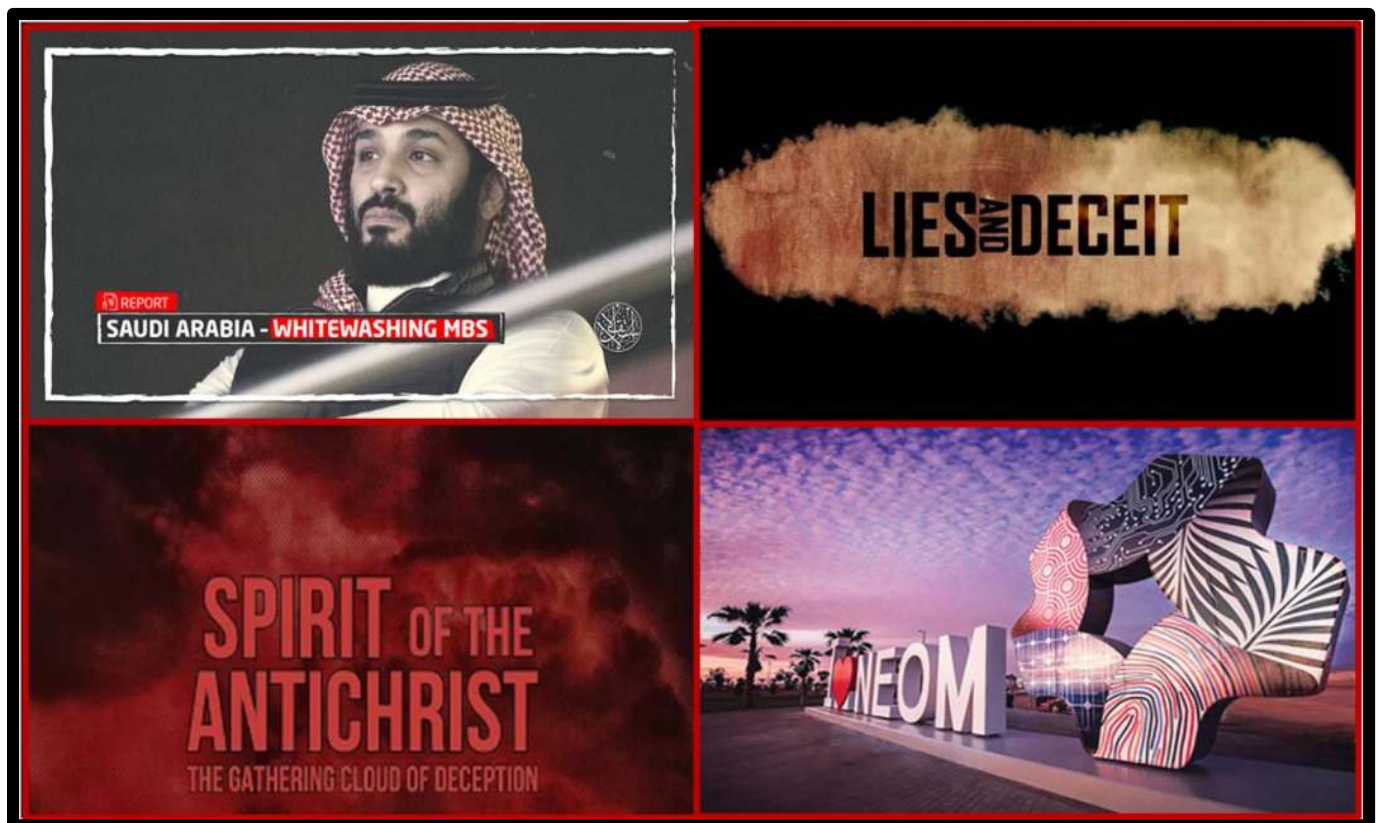


BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITY AND CORPORATE DUE DILIGENCE

In light of these profound concerns, all businesses involved or considering involvement in Neom have a responsibility to avoid complicity in human rights abuses and prevent any adverse impacts taking place. ALQST's briefing is designed to help them fact-check the claims being made about the project when weighing their decisions.

ALQST's Executive Director Julia Legner comments: *"Neom's development relies heavily on international investment and partnerships, making foreign businesses some of the best-placed actors with real power to challenge Saudi Arabia's authorities. We urge them to look closely at the evidence, and take the appropriate action."*

ALQST urges companies involved in the project to use all the leverage at their disposal to advocate for the cessation of rights abuses related to Neom, for the release of members of the Huwaitat tribe who have been wrongfully imprisoned, and for justice for migrant workers like Abdul Wali Skandar Khan.



43. NEOM BABYLON: MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN'S 'BEAST'S SEAT' OR 'GREAT CITY.'

<https://rumble.com/v56yyit-neom-babylon-mohammed-bin-salmans-beasts-seat-or-great-city..html>

44. THE SAUDI CROWN PRINCE WANTS TO BUILD A TRILLION-DOLLAR UTOPIA IN THE DESERT. HIS DEALS WITH CHINA REVEAL A DARKER VISION.



THE BEAST'S SEAT
NEOM BABYLON THE

THE CROWN PRINCE HAS BEEN STRENGTHENING HIS TIES WITH CHINA'S LEADER, XI JINPING, WHO HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE POWERFUL SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY.

Bulelani Jili, a Harvard University fellow who researches China's global ambitions, told Insider that **XI IS SEEKING TO "NORMALIZE AND SEEK TO LEGITIMIZE ITS VISION OF A STATE-LED CYBERSPACE AND SURVEILLED PUBLIC." CHINA HAS ALREADY PROVIDED SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE CREATION OF SO-CALLED "SAFE CITIES"**, run on user data, in Egypt and Serbia, a report by the Washington Institute think tank found.

CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED APPEARS KEEN TO REPLICATE THOSE PROJECTS ON A GRANDER SCALE. "IT'S A TICKET FOR HIM TO ENSHRINE HIMSELF AS THE SAUDI LEADER THAT MODERNIZED THE COUNTRY AND USHER IT INTO A NEW TECHNOLOGICAL ERA," said Marwa Fatafta, a policy manager at Access Now, a Berlin-based digital rights organization. City planners say that current smart cities use around 10% of possible user data. Per their plans, **NEOM WILL BE ENABLED BY AI AND WILL USE 90%.**

James Shires, a researcher at London's Chatham House think tank, told Insider that the crown prince had ambitions for a city where services including refuse collection, **HEALTH, AND TRAIN TIMES ARE REGULATED BY DATA FROM SOURCES SUCH AS SMARTPHONES AND SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY. "NEOM IS DESIGNED TO LEAPFROG THOSE [OTHER SMART CITIES], TO BEGIN FROM THE GROUND UP IN SORT OF AN ENTIRELY DESIGNED FASHION TO COLLECT DATA AND USE THAT DATA FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CITY,"** he said.

But some voices, including Fatafta, are **WARNING THAT THE FUTURISTIC AND LUXURIOUS VISION IN NEOM'S BROCHURES CONCEALS A DARKER PROJECT IN LINE WITH CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED'S AUTHORITARIAN INSTINCTS.** The "smart city" capabilities aren't just a futuristic attraction, but could be deployed **AS A TOOL FOR INVASIVE SURVEILLANCE BY STATE SECURITY SERVICES,** Fatafta said.

—NEOM (@NEOM) July 25, 2022

THE BOTTOMLESS PIT OF EVIL - HOUSE OF SAUD

Abdulaziz (Ibn Saud)
(1902-53)

Saud (1953-64) Faisal (1964-75) Khalid (1975-82) Fahad (1982-2005) Abdullah (2005-15) Salman (2015-)

THE BEAST IS THE 8TH KING AND COMES FROM THE LINEAGE OF THE SEVEN (7) KINGS

MBS (b 1985) **8TH**

7 Kings Of Saudi Arabia

7 HEADS = 7 MOUNTAINS OF NEOM BABYLON

HOW IS CHINA INVOLVED?

Last December, ***THE CROWN PRINCE WELCOMED XI TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR A LAVISH SUMMIT, WHERE THE LEADERS ANNOUNCED COOPERATION ACROSS A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY.***

It appeared to be the beginning of a ***FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP FOR CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED. IN XI, EXPERTS SAY, HE FOUND A LEADER WHO SHARES HIS CONVICTION THAT TECHNOLOGY CAN ENABLE THEM TO EXPAND THEIR ECONOMIES WHILE RELINQUISHING NONE OF THEIR AUTHORITARIAN CONTROL.***

"WE'RE NOT YET SEEING QUITE THE SAME DEGREE OF SORT OF PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE [IN SAUDI ARABIA] AS WE'VE BEEN SEEING IN CHINA, FOR EXAMPLE, BUT CHINA IS WORKING WITH THE SAUDIS AND OTHER GULF COUNTRIES TO START TO IMPLEMENT THAT," Annelle Sheline, a researcher with the Quincy Institute in Washington, DC, told Insider. ***"THAT IS SOMETHING THAT CHINESE ARE SELLING TO THE SAUDIS AND OTHER GULF COUNTRIES,"*** she said.



Chinese leader Xi Jinping holds talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the royal palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on December 8, 2022. Yue Yuewei/Xinhua via Getty Images

James, the Chatham House researcher, said that one form this technology took was ***SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS LINKED TO FACIAL-RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD BE USED TO TRACE PAST AND REAL-TIME MOVEMENTS. "IT ALSO REPRESENTS A REAL RISK TO PEOPLE'S PRIVACY, ESPECIALLY DEPENDING ON HOW THE DATA IS COLLECTED AND STORED,"*** he said. ***CHINESE TECHNOLOGY PROVIDES THE CAPACITY TO LINK SURVEILLANCE-CAMERA FOOTAGE TO OTHER DATASETS, INCLUDING BIOMETRIC INFORMATION.***

Another potential concern is cloud technology, specifically the ***COMPANIES THAT STORE HUGE AMOUNTS OF COMPUTER DATA. THE CHINESE TELECOMS GIANT HUAWEI HAS ALREADY SIGNED CONTRACTS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, INCLUDING IN NEOM, AND JAMES SAID THERE WERE HUGE QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW MUCH PRIVACY PROTECTION THE FIRM WOULD PROVIDE USERS IN THE CITY.***

Huawei did not immediately reply to a request to comment from Insider on its role in Neom. A spokesperson for Neom did not return a request for comment on concerns about surveillance in the city. Saudi Arabia has recently moved to strengthen its data-privacy laws, but organizations — including Human Rights Watch — have warned that the laws are too weak.

HOW COULD NEOM USE SURVEILLANCE?

While casting himself as a reformer, ***CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED HAS DEALT BRUTALLY WITH CRITICS AND OPPONENTS OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT,*** with the US State Department accusing his government of the 2018 murder of the Saudi

dissident Jamal Khashoggi. **AS HE HAS SOUGHT TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POWER, HE HAS ALSO WORKED TO ENHANCE HIS CAPACITY TO MONITOR CRITICS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND THEREBY CRUSH DISSENT.**



The US State Department accused the Saudi government of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

The Saudi government used the Israeli spyware Pegasus to monitor critics, and a Saudi agent infiltrated Twitter to steal the personal data of users who used the platform to criticize the Saudi government. **THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY LAUNCHED A BRUTAL CRACKDOWN ON PEOPLE CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT ONLINE THAT HAS BEEN DENOUNCED BY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS.** While he seeks to propel the country towards a high-tech future, and open it up to investment and innovation, **THE CROWN PRINCE WILL BE WILLING**

TO RELINQUISH NONE OF HIS POWERS TO SURVEIL AND CRUSH DISSENT, said Fatafta.

"They're being marketed as 'eco cities' or 'smart cities,' **WE CALL THEM SURVEILLANCE CITIES,**" said Fatafta, **REFERRING TO PROJECTS SUCH AS NEOM.**

"BECAUSE ESSENTIALLY THEY'RE BUILT ON AN ARCHITECTURE THAT IS FUELED BY PEOPLE'S PERSONAL DATA, AND IN A COUNTRY LIKE SAUDI ARABIA WHERE THERE IS NO DATA (5) PROTECTION OR SAFEGUARDS, NO OVERSIGHT, NO ACCOUNTABILITY, NO TRANSPARENCY, NO SEPARATIONS OF POWERS, AND THE FACT THAT MBS IS ACTUALLY RULING THE SECURITY AGENCIES. IT IS A SCARY IDEA."



"Essentially what kind of life you want to lead in a smart city?" he asked. "If you want to live in a city where the real value to freedom of expression, to counterculture, to expressing and discussing independent thought, then this might not be the place you want to go.

45. THE RESURGENCE OF BABEL NEOM : MBS' PERSONAL DYSTOPIA

<https://rumble.com/v56yzzf1-neom-babylon-mohammed-bin-salmans-personal-dystopia..html>

46. SAUDI ARABIA AND CHINA SIGN 24 AGREEMENTS TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC COOPERATION



Minister of Health Fahd Al-Jalajel attended the Saudi-Chinese Business Council Forum in Beijing.

December 04, 2024 **Saudi Gazette report**

BEIJING — Saudi Arabia and China have signed 24 agreements aimed to further enhance economic cooperation between the two countries. The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the Saudi-Chinese Business Council Forum, which was held in the presence of the visiting Minister of Health Fahd Al-Jalajel in Beijing.

The forum **EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPANDING COOPERATION HORIZONS TO ACHIEVE COMMON INTERESTS AND THE FUTURE VISION THAT BRINGS THE TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER.** Addressing the forum, Al-Jalajel said that the partnership between the Kingdom and China is deep and is embodied **IN THE SHARED COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING GLOBAL HEALTH AND ADDRESSING GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES.** "Our discussions today highlight our cooperation, especially in the field of **ENCOURAGING INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY IN THE FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGIES, AND LOCALIZING THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY TO ENSURE FLEXIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY,**" he said.





SURVEILLANCE AND
MARK OF THE BEAST.

The forum focused on enhancing economic cooperation in vital sectors, highlighting **HEALTHCARE, BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND FOREIGN AND PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, IN SUPPORT OF THE GOALS OF THE KINGDOM'S VISION 2030**. Around 25 Saudi investors and 30 Chinese investors attended the forum that aimed at enhancing trade and investment relations in the health sector. The forum addressed

THE TOPIC OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, WHICH IS ONE OF THE PRIORITY AREAS, as THE KINGDOM SEEKS TO LOCALIZE VACCINE PRODUCTION AND DRUG MANUFACTURING in a market estimated at more than SR30 billion while the private insurance market in the Kingdom is expected to grow fivefold; opening new horizons for investment and strategic partnerships.

THE SAUDI-CHINESE BUSINESS COUNCIL IS A PIVOTAL PLATFORM FOR ENHANCING ECONOMIC RELATIONS, AND PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN BRINGING TOGETHER SAUDI AND CHINESE COMPANIES. THE COUNCIL ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO FACILITATING THE EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE, PROMOTING JOINT PROJECTS IN SECTORS THAT RELY ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, AND SUPPORTING INVESTMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION.



47. CHINA TESTING AI-POWERED POLICE-BALL THAT LOOKS LIKE A BATTLE DROID



Dec 11, 2024, 11:40 am EST | [Lu-Hai Liang](#) BIOMETRIC UPDATE

The terminators and battle droids of science fiction are drawing ever closer to becoming non-fiction. ***IN CHINA, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE REPORTEDLY TESTING A SPHERICAL FACIAL RECOGNITION-EQUIPPED ROBOT CAPABLE OF TAKING DOWN CRIMINALS.***

The autonomous machine in question is called the RT-G and it's developed by Hangzhou-based [Logon Technology](#). ***DESIGNED FOR URBAN PATROL, CRIMINALS WILL NEED TO FLEE FASTER THAN THE 35KM/H IT'S ABLE TO REACH. JUMPING INTO WATER WON'T HELP EITHER AS THE RT-G NAVIGATES BOTH LAND AND WATER AND CAN WITHSTAND IMPACTS OF UP TO FOUR TONS.***



Saudi crown prince visits institutions in Boston. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's visit to different universities and institutions in Boston on March 24, 2018 as part of his US tour.

<https://youtu.be/nzKUb-Hn1I8>

In a [video](#) the RT-G can be seen sliding atop a pool and up a bank, along pavements, dropping off ledges, and navigating off-road terrain. **EQUIPPED WITH AI, THE ROBOT CAN SUPPOSEDLY IDENTIFY CRIMINALS USING FACIAL RECOGNITION BEFORE TAKING THEM DOWN WITH A BUILT-IN NET GUN.**

The robot can call human back-up while other non-lethal devices include sound dispersal and tear gas sprayers. It also relies on collision to incapacitate people (it weighs 125 kg). In footage posted by TikTok user [@di.q60](#) a spherical droid can be seen patrolling a shopping street in Hangzhou flanked by four human officers.

Founded in late 2017, Logon Technology specializes in spherical robots but **IT'S NOT THE ONLY CHINESE COMPANY INVESTED IN INTELLIGENT ROBOTS AIMED AT SECURITY TASKS.**

PREVIOUSLY, CHINA HAS SHOWN OFF THE [LYNX](#), DEVELOPED BY DEEP ROBOTICS (ALSO HANGZHOU-BASED). RESEMBLING METALLIC DOGS, THE ROBOTS COULD WHEEL ACROSS UNEVEN SURFACES AND CLIMB UP BOULDERS WITH ITS FOUR LEGS.

While China is advancing in robotics it has competition across the Pacific in the Massachusetts-based Boston Dynamics, which has developed humanoid robots and robot dogs designed for DARPA. **IN APRIL 2023, NEW YORK CITY'S N.Y.P.D. BROUGHT BACK [ROBOT DOGS](#) MADE BY BOSTON DYNAMICS AFTER THE ROBODOGS WERE TAKEN OFF THE STREETS FOLLOWING PROTESTS TWO YEARS EARLIER.**

48. CHINA HAS REVEALED ITS WORLD'S FIRST ARMY OF ROBOT DOGS

<https://youtu.be/xEVwkzAcqOQ>

49. CHINA SET TO SHAKE THE WORLD WITH ITS ARMY OF SUPER ADVANCED ROBOT DOGS!"

<https://youtu.be/bhwrMEhgeXQ>

50. HUMANOID ROBOTS AT THE CHINESE FACTORY OF THE FUTURE

<https://youtu.be/A7Ln2ELvmzM>

51. CENTRAL HAJJ COMMITTEE REVIEWS SURVEILLANCE ARRANGEMENTS TO OFFER BEST POSSIBLE SERVICES FOR UMRAH PILGRIMS



Deputy Emir of Makkah Prince Saud bin Mishaal chairs meeting of the Central Hajj Committee in Makkah on Tuesday.

Saudi Gazette report December 10, 2024

MAKKAH — A meeting of the Central Hajj Committee, chaired by Deputy Emir of Makkah Prince Saud bin Mishaal, reviewed the progress of work of the General Directorate of Passports, Ministry of Health, and Saudi Red Crescent Authority in rendering the ***BEST POSSIBLE SERVICES FOR THE UMRAH PILGRIMS***. The meeting was held in line with the directive of Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, emir of Makkah, advisor to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and chairman of the Central Hajj Committee.

THE MEETING DISCUSSED FOLLOW-UP OF PLANS FOR THE UMRAH SEASON AND THE NECESSARY COORDINATION AND HARMONIZATION BETWEEN THE AUTHORITIES TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES IN THE REQUIRED MANNER. THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED THE WORK OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF PASSPORTS, MOST NOTABLY RECEIVING AND WELCOMING PILGRIMS ARRIVING FROM ABROAD THROUGH ALL THE KINGDOM'S PORTS, COMPLETING ENTRY AND EXIT PROCEDURES, AND EXTENDING UMRAH VISAS FOR SPECIFIC CASES.

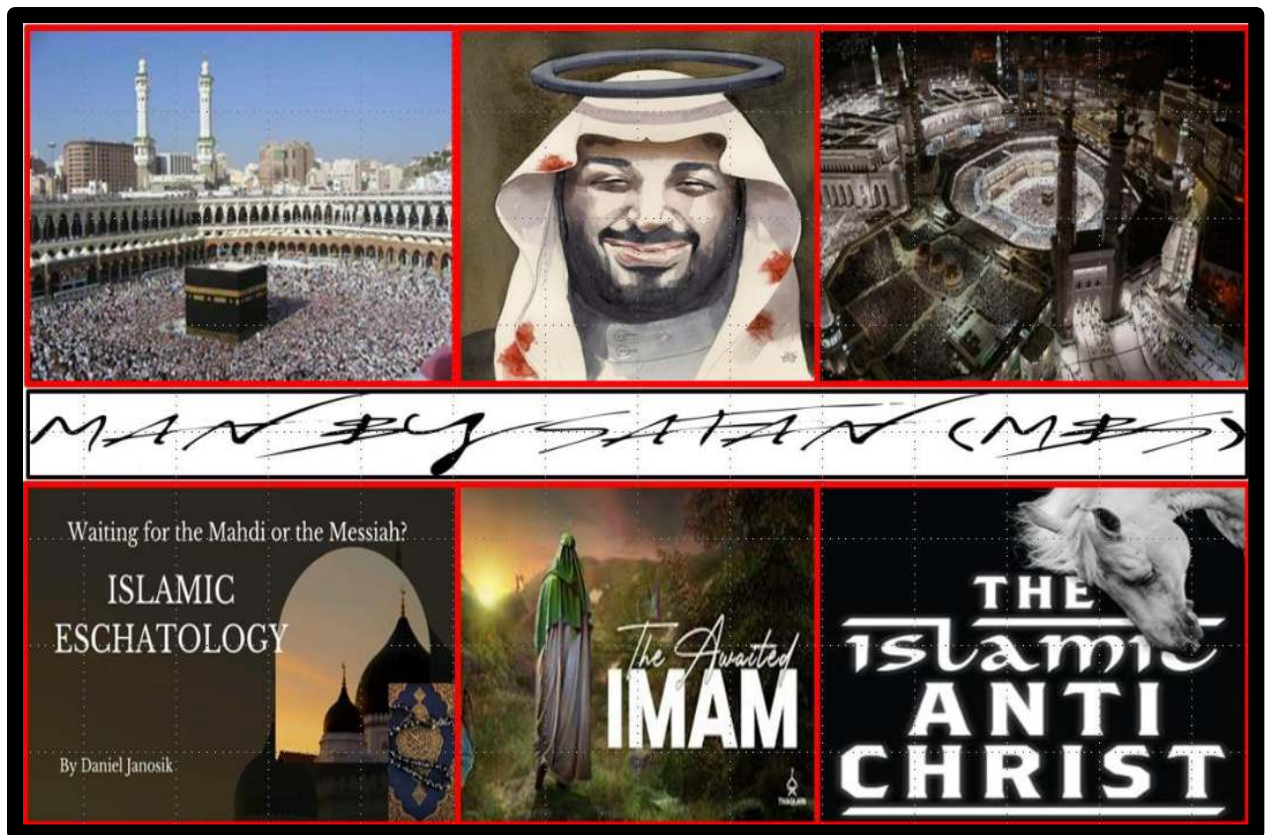


The committee was also briefed on the directorate's plans and preparations for the peak Umrah season, including raising full readiness at all air, land and sea ports to ensure the speedy completion of pilgrims' procedures by supporting them with qualified human resources, **EQUIPPING ALL PORTS WITH NINE TYPES OF MODERN AND ADVANCED TECHNICAL DEVICES AND SYSTEMS, SUCH AS COMPUTER, BIOMETRICS, MOBILE SERVICE PLATFORMS, SECURITY SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS, WIRED AND WIRELESS COMMUNICATION, TRANSLATION, FORGERY DETECTION,**

DOCUMENTATION CAMERA, allocating qualified work teams that speak several languages, and benefiting from volunteer work in passport control halls to serve incoming pilgrims, which contributes to raising the level of quality of service provided to them.

The branch of the Ministry of Health in the Makkah region reviewed the readiness of its sectors and its most prominent works for the Umrah season of 1446 as 17 hospitals were equipped with a bed capacity of 4,560 beds, 13 primary health care centers, and 3 mobile clinics.

The plan is based on preparing hospitals with equipped medical facilities and high bed capacity, emergency management with advanced transportation mechanisms and an accurate triage system, implementing a clear and rapid referral plan for critical cases, **APPLYING STRICT STANDARDS FOR INFECTION CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**, operating health care centers to cover all central and northern regions, and preparing preventive medical teams for rapid intervention.



52. SAUDI ARABIA TO USE DRONE TECHNOLOGY FOR HAJJ 2024

The authorities in Saudi Arabia have planned to introduce state-of-the-art drone surveillance for Hajj 2024. This initiative aims to ensure that the pilgrims are provided with a safe and secure environment.



[Samira Yusuf](#) June 3, 2024

Saudi Arabia's drone technology will be used to ensure cleanliness and safety on the routes leading to the holy sites. Saudi Arabia is looking forward to enhancing the ***SAFETY OF PILGRIMS BY DEPLOYING DRONE TECHNOLOGY. THE DRONES WILL ENSURE THE ACCESS ROUTES TO HOLY PLACES*** are met with the highest safety standards. ***THE USE OF THE LATEST DRONE TECHNOLOGY WILL STREAMLINE THE INSPECTION PROCESS. DRONES ALLOW QUICK EXAMINATION OF CHALLENGING AREAS LIKE BRIDGES AND OBSTACLES. THE USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN THESE DRONES INCLUDING THERMAL SCANNING*** will ensure that the cleanliness and safety of roads aren't compromised.

HOW WILL THE DRONE TECHNOLOGY WORK

1. **Inspection of Obstacles and Bridges:** Challenging areas such as bridges and obstacles can be reached easily via drones. The drone will inspect those areas ensuring safety.
2. **Road Conditions Evaluation:** Urgent issues that need to be addressed will be evaluated by the drones.
3. **Thermal Scanning:** The surfaces of the roads can be studied for any safety issues by the use of thermal scanning technology employed in drones.
4. **Cleanliness Inspection:** Drones will be responsible for monitoring the cleanliness of roads to provide pilgrims with a hygienic environment.

THE INITIATIVE TO USE DRONES FOR SURVEILLANCE BY THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES UNDERSCORES THEIR DEDICATION TO ADOPTING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE THE HAJJ EXPERIENCE. The authorities aim to provide a safe and secure environment to all the pilgrims thus ensuring that their Hajj experience is fulfilling.

THE DEVIL'S HAJJ HARVEST OF LOST SOULS

LOST SOULS

BOOK OF LIES

IDOL ROCK OF BLASPHEMY

What is the Black Stone of Mecca?

THE DEVIL'S HAJJ HARVEST OF LOST SOULS

BY NIGHT WATCHMAN MINISTRIES ON JULY 16, 2024 • (LEAVE A COMMENT)

53. HAJJ 2024: SAFETY, SECURITY, SURVEILLANCE



Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive A MARK IN THEIR RIGHT HAND, OR IN THEIR FOREHEADS: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is SIX HUNDRED THREESCORE AND SIX.

The **ANNUAL HAJJ PILGRIMAGE, A GLOBAL GATHERING ATTRACTING OVER 1.8 (6+6+6) MILLION PARTICIPANTS** last year¹, is expected to take place in Saudi Arabia from 14 to 19 June 2024. Due to the large scale of the event, ensuring the health and safety of all pilgrims requires a focus on preventive measures. Meningococcal disease has been reported in travellers returning from Saudi Arabia, highlighting the importance of adhering to the requirements.

Aligned with the **LATEST HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE SAUDI ARABIAN AUTHORITIES**, International SOS has developed a comprehensive guideline focused on ensuring pilgrims' health, security and wellbeing. The guideline outlines crucial pre-travel considerations including several newly implemented requirements. It highlights **THE OFFICIAL PERMIT AND VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS**, heat mitigation strategies as well as promoting vigilance and awareness of surroundings to ensure individual safety, particularly during crowd surges.



Dr Nosa Aihie, Regional Medical Director, Middle East, at International SOS, said:

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR PILGRIMS TO ADHERE TO VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS LISTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR PEERS FROM VARIOUS INFECTIOUS DISEASES. THIS INCLUDES THE REQUIRED VACCINATION against meningitis administered no more than three years and at least ten days prior to the planned arrival in Saudi Arabia. In line with this, pilgrims are **ADVISED TO CARRY VALID HEALTH CERTIFICATES STATING THEY ARE FREE FROM ANY ACUTE, CHRONIC OR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.** Furthermore, we suggest scheduling activities to avoid peak heat hours whenever possible and being adequately hydrated during Hajj, as pilgrims may experience heat-related illnesses and dehydration.

IRON MAIDEN
THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST

ESTABLISHED BY GOD
MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN IS THE BEAST

*Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive A MARK IN THEIR RIGHT HAND, OR IN THEIR FOREHEADS: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is **SIX HUNDRED THREESCORE AND SIX.***

Gulnaz Ukassova, Security Director at International SOS in Dubai, stressed the need for thorough pre-travel preparation and **COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES**, stating,

IT IS VITAL FOR PILGRIMS UNDERTAKING HAJJ TO THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND AND COMPLY WITH THE RELEVANT HAJJ REGULATIONS PRIOR TO, AND DURING, THE PILGRIMAGE. Pilgrims should expect large crowds at religious sites, particularly on the Jamarat Bridge in Mina and around Al-Masjid Al-Haram Mosque in Mecca. Remain safe during crowd surges by staying alert to surroundings, adhering to designated lanes, avoiding walking against the direction of traffic and knowing the nearest emergency exits and evacuation routes. Pilgrims should also account for potential travel disruption and increased demand for various services during this period.

SIX (6) HAJJ 2024 HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR WORKFORCE TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PILGRIMS:

- **Encourage employees undertaking Hajj to obtain vaccinations and health certification: ALL PILGRIMS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE PROOF OF DISEASE VACCINATION. ENSURE ALL ROUTINE VACCINATIONS, INCLUDING COVID-19 AND SEASONAL INFLUENZA ARE UP TO DATE.** Depending on their country of origin, travellers may be required to show proof of polio and yellow fever vaccination.
- **Ensure compliance with regulations:** Encourage employees to always follow guidance provided by licensed Hajj operators for a safe and organised pilgrimage. Ensure they adhere to designated time slots allocated by authorities to help minimise overcrowding risks.
- **Offer security briefings and heightened situational awareness:** Provide pre-departure briefings on **SECURITY PROTOCOLS, SITUATIONAL AWARENESS PRACTICES** and cultural sensitivities. Develop contingency plans to address potential travel disruptions during the Hajj.
- **Educate employees on risks of extreme temperatures:** To mitigate the effects of potentially extreme temperatures, pilgrims should prioritise staying hydrated. Choosing lightweight and light-coloured clothing helps regulate body temperature and reduces heat stress.
- **Ensure crowd and emergency preparedness:** Provide employees with crowd management guide with tips for navigating densely populated areas. Encourage pilgrims to save emergency contact information for police, ambulance services, embassy officials and local contacts on their mobile phones in case immediate assistance is needed.

- Registration on the [‘Sehaty’ app](#) is mandatory to verify vaccination status and facilitate entry into the country for all pilgrims.



Revelation 13: 16-17 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, **to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:** And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.



54. HAJJ 2024: 8,000 SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN MAKKAH SAUDI ARABIA URGES FORCED COMPLIANCE TO RULES, SAFETY



By Ishola Balogun with Saudi Agency report

The 48th Grand Hajj Symposium, hosted by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in Makkah, emphasized the importance of adhering to religious concessions and complying with regulations during Hajj. The event was held Monday in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, ahead of the hajj rites, which begin Friday, June 14.

55. OVER 5,000 SECURITY CAMERAS WATCH OVER MECCA PILGRIMS

<https://youtu.be/5W4rKl9pylw>

Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq Al-Rabiah and more than 500 (5) SCHOLARS AND THINKERS WORLDWIDE PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT.



Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Asheikh, the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, highlighted the Kingdom's responsibility in caring for the Two Holy Mosques and pilgrims.

Al-Asheikh emphasised the importance of **ADHERING TO REGULATIONS AND OBTAINING A PILGRIMAGE PERMIT, STATING THAT FAILING TO DO SO IS A SIN**, according to Shariah. The Hajj minister also stressed the need for pilgrims to **COOPERATE WITH SECURITY AUTHORITIES**. Al-Rabiah underscored the importance of informing pilgrims about available services during Hajj, **HIGHLIGHTING THE COLLABORATION AMONG SECURITY AND SERVICE AGENCIES**.

He said these efforts are to ease pilgrims' journeys and raise awareness about regulations, including **CAMPAIGNS TO ADDRESS THE RISKS OF NOT FOLLOWING HAJJ INSTRUCTIONS**, and combating fraudulent activities.



SPA

Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive A MARK IN THEIR RIGHT HAND, OR IN THEIR FOREHEADS: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is SIX HUNDRED THREESCORE AND SIX.

The Kingdom also initiated the **“NO HAJJ WITHOUT A PERMIT” NATIONAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**, led by the Ministry of Interior and other stakeholders, to educate pilgrims on pilgrimage rules, **ENSURING SMOOTH AND CONVENIENT RITUALS**, Al-Rabiah said.

Lt. Gen. Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Bassami, **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HAJJ SECURITY COMMITTEE**, SAID THAT THE HAJJ SECURITY FORCES ARE PREPARED TO DETER AND PREVENT ANY THREATS to the safety of pilgrims.

“WE WILL PREVENT ANYONE WHO DARES TO COMPROMISE THE SECURITY OF HAJJ, THE SANCTITY OF THE HOLY SITES, OR THE SAFETY OF THE NATION,” HE SAID. “OUR EYES AND CENTRES ARE PREPARED TO HANDLE ANYTHING THAT MAY DISTURB THE TRANQUILITY OF PILGRIMS.”



Revelation 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

During a session titled “Toward a Safe Hajj — Compliance with Guidelines and Regulations,” Al-Bassami said that pilgrims and **THOSE CARRYING IHRAM WITHOUT THE NECESSARY PERMITS WOULD FACE ARREST**. Additionally, they would be fined SR10,000 (\$2,666), and foreigners and residents would be deported.

Al-Bassami **ANNOUNCED THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, FOR THIS YEAR’S HAJJ SEASON. A NEW SYSTEM TRACKS PILGRIM NUMBERS AT JAMARAT BRIDGE, OVERSEEN BY SECURITY PERSONNEL. A TEAM OF PROGRAMMERS AND ASSISTANTS REDUCES THE NEED FOR FREQUENT HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATION. AL-BASSAMI SAID THAT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS NOW A VITAL COMPONENT, NOT JUST AN OPTION, FOR ENSURING SECURITY DURING THE HAJJ SEASON.**

He also noted the presence of **8,000 SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN MAKKAH AND THE HOLY SITES. AL-BASSAMI SAID THAT ALL SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE ACTIVELY MONITORING AND ENFORCING COMPLIANCE WITH HAJJ REGULATIONS.**



“AS IT IS IN ISLAM TO ACCEPT RELIEFS OFFERED BY THE RELIGION IN THE PERFORMANCE OF RITES, especially with reducing the four-part prayer to two for pilgrims during certain times and also merging the two prayers, so it is the reliefs offered and put in place by the Saudi authorities for the comfort of all pilgrims,” he said.

56. WHO GLOBAL NETWORK EXPANDS DIGITAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION FOR HAJJ PILGRIMS



SAUDI ARABIA ANNOUNCED A NEW MILESTONE DIGITAL HEALTH COLLABORATION TODAY TO EXPAND THE HAJJ HEALTH CARD INITIATIVE to support the roughly 3 million pilgrims who undertake the holy pilgrimage every year.

THE HAJJ HEALTH CARD, BUILT ON THE WHO GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION NETWORK'S PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE, SUMMARIZES CRITICAL HEALTH INFORMATION, SUCH AS MEDICATION NEEDS, ALLERGIES, IMMUNIZATION STATUS AND PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS. The card gives individuals agency over their own health information when they travel to Saudi Arabia **SO THAT THEY CAN PROVIDE AUTHORIZED HEALTH PROVIDERS ACCESS TO ACCURATE, UP-TO-DATE PATIENT SUMMARY INFORMATION AND OBTAIN PERSONALIZED QUALITY CARE.**



21 October 2024 News release Riyadh/Geneva



“Today marks a notable progress in WHO’s support to Member States to expand access **TO SAFER AND PERSON-CENTERED DIGITAL HEALTH TOOLS FOR PEOPLE TO IMPROVE THEIR ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE WHEN AND WHERE THEY NEED IT,**” said Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO Chief Scientist. **“WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE EXCELLENT COLLABORATION WITH THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, AND THE WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, AND LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER SUPPORT BUILDING CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN COUNTRIES SHIFTING TO MORE DIGITIZED HEALTH SYSTEMS.”**

The Hajj is the largest pilgrimage in the world, drawing almost 3 million pilgrims from over **180 (6+6+6) COUNTRIES EVERY YEAR.** Over 250 000 pilgrims from **3 COUNTRIES, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND OMAN, WERE ISSUED HAJJ HEALTH CARDS IN 2024, AS PART OF THE PILOT COLLABORATION BETWEEN WHO AND SAUDI ARABIA. THIS TEST-PHASE DEMONSTRATED THAT EACH COUNTRY WAS ABLE TO USE GLOBAL STANDARDS TO ISSUE THEIR OWN NATIONAL VERSIONS OF THE CARD, ENHANCING THE PILGRIMS’ SAFETY AND QUALITY OF CARE WHILE UNDERTAKING THE HAJJ.**



WHO AND SAUDI ARABIA AGREED TO FURTHER COLLABORATE TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND UPON THE SUCCESSFUL PILOT PROGRAMME FOR THE HAJJ HEALTH CARD. THE EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT FROM THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AND THEIR DIGITAL

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER LEAN, WILL ENABLE INCREASED DATA SECURITY AND ESSENTIAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES JOINING THE HAJJ HEALTH CARD PROGRAMME.

“THIS EXCITING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION TO EXPAND THE HAJJ HEALTH CARD INITIATIVE ENHANCES THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS,” said Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO). **“BY LEVERAGING DIGITAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS,** we strengthen quality of care, and help strengthen health systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and around the world.”



EIGHTY COUNTRIES JOINED THE WHO’S DIGITAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION NETWORK

WHO LAUNCHED THE GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION NETWORK (GDHCN) IN 2023 BUILDING ON A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION AND OTHER PARTNERING COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT COVID-19 VACCINATION CERTIFICATES. The GDHCN

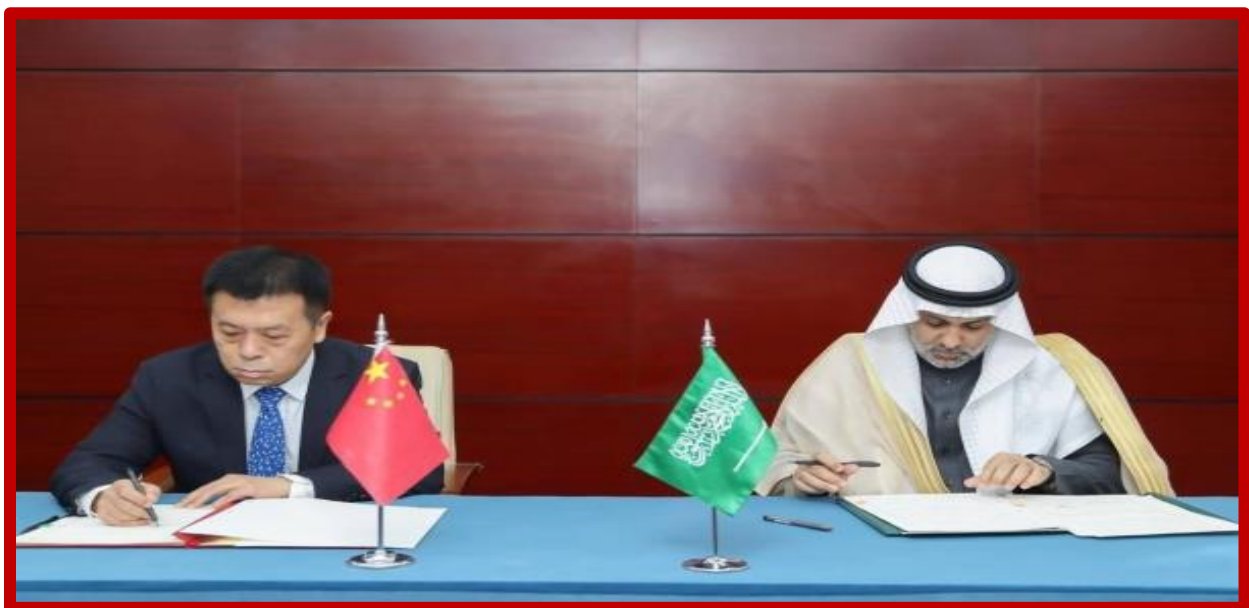
now includes over **80 WHO MEMBER STATES THAT HAVE ESTABLISHED SYSTEMS TO VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF HEALTH INFORMATION BETWEEN EACH OTHER, LEVERAGING A NEW GLOBAL ISO STANDARD, IPS – THE INTERNATIONAL PATIENT SUMMARY.**

THE GDHCN IS BASED ON A ROBUST PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE (PKI) ENCRYPTION SYSTEM THAT KEEPS HEALTH CREDENTIALS VERIFIABLE and secure, ALLOWING NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND HEALTH PROVIDERS TO TRUST THE AUTHENTICITY OF HEALTH DOCUMENTS ACROSS BORDERS without compromising individual privacy.

The initiative aims to bring a digital health future **WHERE PEOPLE CAN CARRY INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HEALTH CREDENTIALS FOR IMPROVED TRAVEL AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS.** This enables greater access and control for people over their health information with the ability to select and decide which health information should be shared when seeking care domestically or abroad.

BY JOINING WHO'S CERTIFICATION NETWORK, COUNTRIES CAN CUT DOWN ON ADMINISTRATION PROCESSES, MAKING BORDER CONTROLS MORE EFFICIENT AND HEALTH VISITS BETTER INFORMED. The global network lays the groundwork for long-term improvements in international health collaboration, enabling future use-cases such as cross-border e-prescriptions, insurance, and even telemedicine.

57. SAUDI ARABIA, CHINA SIGN MOU TO ENHANCE HEALTHCARE COOPERATION



Saudi and Chinese health ministers sign the agreement in Beijing on Thursday.
December 06, 2024 **Saudi Gazette report**

BEIJING — Saudi Minister of Health Fahad Al-Jalajel met with Chinese Minister of the National Health Commission (NHC) Lei Haichao on Thursday during his official visit to the People's Republic of China.

THE TWO MINISTERS DISCUSSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR, FOCUSING ON ADDRESSING HEALTH CHALLENGES AND LEVERAGING SHARED EXPERTISE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN SAUDI ARABIA.

The meeting concluded with ***THE TWO SIDES SIGNING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ACROSS VARIOUS HEALTH-RELATED AREAS. THIS AGREEMENT BUILDS UPON THE STRONG PARTNERSHIP FORGED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PARTICULARLY IN EPIDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, AND CONTROL.***

THE MOU SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MULTILATERAL MECHANISMS IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES, IN ADDITION TO ESTABLISHING STRATEGIC HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE HEALTH TRANSFORMATION GOALS IN BOTH NATIONS.

Al-Jalajel expressed his gratitude for the invitation extended by the Chinese minister and praised the ***SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE MADE IN (5) HEALTHCARE, TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION.***

58.VACCINATIONS FOR HAJJ: ENHANCING HEALTH AND GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY



Abstract

THE HAJJ PILGRIMAGE, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE MASS GATHERINGS, POSES UNIQUE CHALLENGES FOR PREVENTING INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS. VACCINATIONS ARE VITAL IN REDUCING THE RISK AND SPREAD OF DISEASES DURING THIS EVENT. THIS NARRATIVE REVIEW EXAMINES THE IMPACT OF VACCINATION PROGRAMS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASE MITIGATION DURING THE HAJJ AND THEIR BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY (GHS). Mandatory vaccination protocols against Meningococcal Meningitis, Yellow Fever, Influenza, pneumococcal diseases, and COVID-19 HAVE DEMONSTRATED SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS IN CONTROLLING INFECTION SPREAD DURING HAJJ.



FURTHERMORE, THE INTEGRATION OF DIGITAL HEALTH PASSPORTS OR SIMILAR TECHNOLOGIES OFFERS THE POTENTIAL TO ENHANCE SURVEILLANCE, STREAMLINE VACCINATION VERIFICATION, AND FURTHER MINIMIZE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MASS GATHERINGS. This study demonstrates the critical role of vaccination programs in protecting pilgrims. It also explores **HOW TECHNOLOGIES CAN BE USED TO MONITOR PILGRIM HEALTH STATUS, ENABLING RAPID IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION OF POTENTIAL OUTBREAKS, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO GHS.**

1. Introduction

Health security is a critical aspect of global public health, aiming to protect populations from various threats including infectious diseases, bioterrorism, and other health emergencies [1]. Health security is defined as the proactive and reactive activities aimed at minimizing the danger and impact of acute public health events that endanger people's health across geographical regions and international boundaries. It requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach to safeguard public health across borders and ensure global community well-being. **THE CONCEPT RECOGNIZES THAT HEALTH THREATS DO NOT ADHERE TO NATIONAL BORDERS AND CAN EASILY TRANSCEND GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES.**

Revelation 13:16-17 And **HE [FALSE PROPHET, POPE, PONTIFF]** causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the **beast [prince, antichrist, son of perdition, man by satan, (mbs)]**, or the number of his name.



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Just Say NO to the **MARK OF THE BEAST**

Revelation 13:16-17 & 14:9-11





Therefore, it necessitates a coordinated effort to strengthen the resilience of healthcare systems and protect communities worldwide [1]. Infectious diseases have long posed significant threats to global health security (GHS), due to their ability to rapidly spread across borders and affect populations worldwide. The emergency of new infectious diseases has become increasingly prevalent in recent decades, presenting substantial global health challenges [2].

THE PERSISTENT CHALLENGE OF EMERGING AND RE-EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES, EXEMPLIFIED BY OUTBREAKS OF SARS, EBOLA, ZIKA, AND COVID-19, NECESSITATES ROBUST PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS TO SAFEGUARD POPULATION HEALTH [3]. THESE OUTBREAKS REVEAL CRITICAL GAPS IN PREPAREDNESS, PARTICULARLY THE URGENCY OF RAPID VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT FOR EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES. SARS demonstrated how quickly a novel virus can spread globally, while Zika exposed the risks of vector-borne diseases affecting vulnerable populations, especially pregnant women. Ebola, with its high fatality rate, underscored the importance of a COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF VACCINES UNDER EMERGENCY CONDITIONS [3].



THESE EVENTS UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING EQUITABLE VACCINE ACCESS AND ROBUST HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS CAPABLE OF DELIVERING VACCINES AND MANAGING OUTBREAKS EFFECTIVELY. Tailored vaccination strategies are essential to protect vulnerable populations in different regions, as highlighted by the Zika outbreak's disproportionate impact on certain demographic groups [3].

COVID-19, IN PARTICULAR, SHOWCASED THE LIFE-SAVING POWER OF VACCINATION IN REDUCING TRANSMISSION, MITIGATING SEVERE OUTCOMES, AND FACILITATING SAFER MASS GATHERINGS. EACH OF THESE PANDEMICS DEMONSTRATES THAT VACCINATION IS A CORNERSTONE OF PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES. It strengthens global health security by building a protective shield against potential epidemics and enhances the resilience of healthcare systems during public health emergencies.

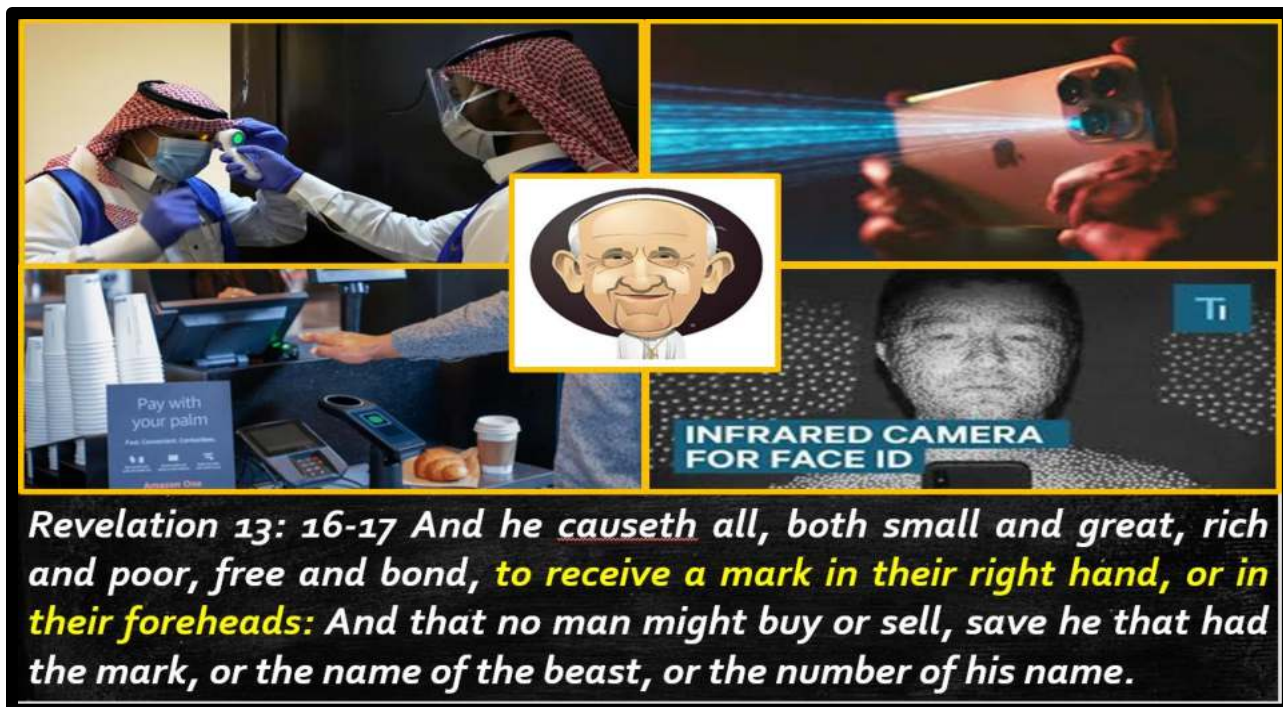


Ten ways to accelerate the benefits of digital health in Saudi Arabia

*Revelation 13: 16-17 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, **to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads**: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

The recent monkeypox (mpox) outbreak further **UNDERSCORES THE CRITICAL ROLE OF VACCINATION IN GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY**. The rapid development and deployment of vaccines like JYNNEOS have been instrumental in containing the spread of mpox and protecting vulnerable populations. This experience **HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUITABLE ACCESS TO VACCINES AND EFFECTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNICATION TO PROMOTE VACCINE UPTAKE AND ADDRESS CONCERNS**. The mpox outbreak serves as a reminder of the ongoing need for robust vaccination strategies to effectively respond to emerging infectious disease threats [4].

Moreover, as we consider **THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATIONS, WE MUST ALSO ADDRESS THE INTENSIFIED RISK OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE TRANSMISSION POSED BY MASS GATHERINGS, RAISING CONCERNS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY (GHS)** [3]. The Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia is one of the largest religious mass gatherings globally, attracting millions of pilgrims from over 180 (6+6+6) countries.



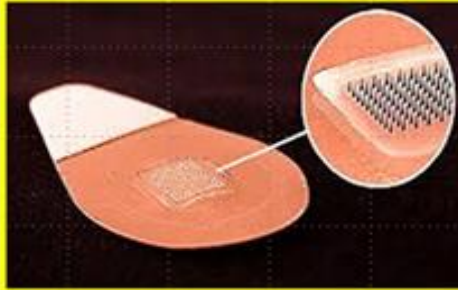
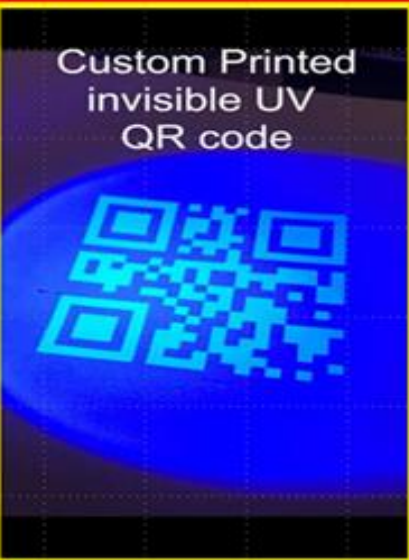
HISTORICALLY, THE HAJJ HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCURRENCE AND SPREAD OF VARIOUS INFECTIOUS DISEASES, including respiratory tract infections and meningitis [2]. However, through strategic measures, the Hajj pilgrimage has shifted from a potential threat to a model for GHS. Meticulous planning, **ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE, AND ROBUST PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES HAVE TRANSFORMED THIS SIGNIFICANT MASS GATHERING INTO AN EXEMPLAR OF BEST PRACTICES IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL, MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO GHS** [2].

THE HAJJ HEALTH MANAGEMENT IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS LEADING PRACTICE IN MASS GATHERINGS (MGS) WORLDWIDE EMPLOYING COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS TO MONITOR HEALTH RISKS AND PROVIDE NECESSARY HEALTH SERVICES [2]. Saudi Arabia's mitigation strategy effectively prioritized the well-being of pilgrims and healthcare personnel during the Hajj, successfully mitigating the potential transmission of COVID-19 and significantly contributing to GHS [5]. The Hajj vaccination policy plays a pivotal role in Saudi Arabia's approach to GHS by preventing disease spread and reducing morbidity and mortality rates. **INCORPORATING VACCINATION AS PART OF THE BROADER GHS AGENDA IS CRUCIAL IN PROTECTING POPULATIONS WORLDWIDE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS** [7,8].

MARK OF THE BEAST = 666



Just Say **NO** to the **MARK OF THE BEAST**
Revelation 13:16-17 & 18:9-11



ESTABLISHED BY GOD
MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN IS THE BEAST



MARK OF THE BEAST 666

A collage of images including a cartoon of a man's face, a man with a QR code tattoo, a man with a halo, and a man shaking hands with a religious leader.

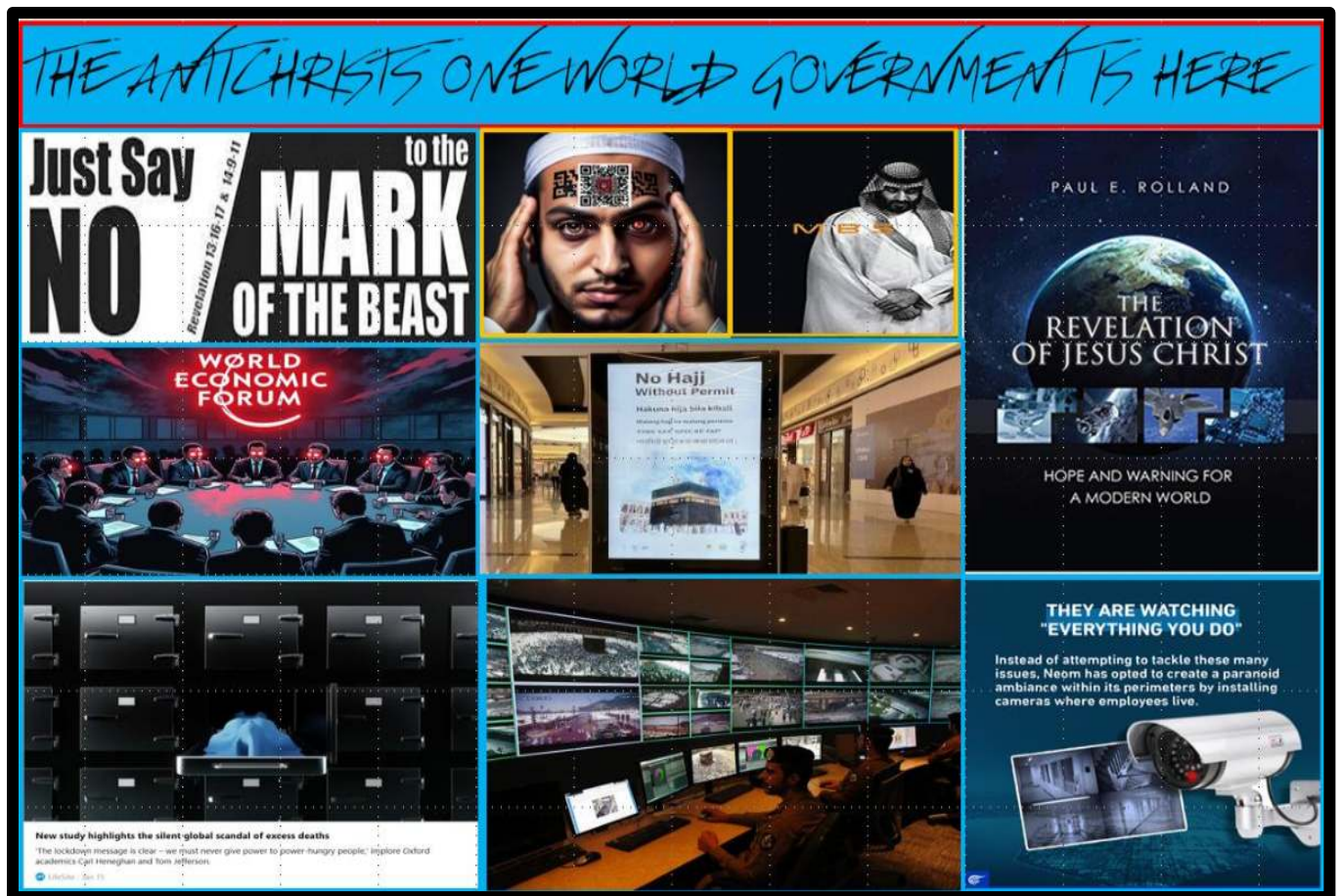
Understanding the role of Hajj vaccines in enhancing health security is vital for **POLICYMAKERS, HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN HAJJ PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**. This study aims to contribute to existing knowledge by examining the impact of **HAJJ VACCINATION PROGRAMS**, evaluating the effectiveness of current strategies, and providing recommendations for optimizing health security measures during the pilgrimage. Through an exploration of previous vaccination campaigns' experiences, successes, and challenges as well as analysis of available data and literature, this study seeks to inform evidence-based practices and **POLICIES TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF HAJJ PILGRIMS AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY**.

Furthermore, as the world continues to face emerging infectious disease threats, the valuable **LESSONS FROM HAJJ VACCINATION PROGRAMS OFFER A CRUCIAL GUIDE TO BOLSTER HEALTH SECURITY PREPAREDNESS. THESE INSIGHTS NOT ONLY SAFEGUARD INDIVIDUALS LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY BUT ALSO HAVE BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR MAJOR EVENTS AND GLOBAL HEALTH CRISES**. This underscores the necessity for countries to adopt strategic vaccination approaches, emphasizing the importance of proactive measures to reinforce health security. Through these efforts, nations can ensure the well-being and safety of their populations on both national and global scales.

This study focuses on gathering and analyzing relevant literature on vaccination policies and practices during the Hajj pilgrimage and their implications for GHS. The aim is to understand **THE ROLE OF VACCINATION IN PREVENTING INFECTIOUS DISEASE TRANSMISSION DURING MASS GATHERINGS, SUCH AS HAJJ, AND ITS BROADER SIGNIFICANCE IN STRENGTHENING GHS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE THREATS**.

2. Methods

A comprehensive review was performed by a team of researchers who systematically searched various electronic databases, including PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar to identify relevant studies on the impact of Hajj vaccination programs on GHS. The search was conducted using appropriate keywords and terms related to **"HAJJ VACCINATION" "MASS GATHERINGS" "GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY" "INFECTIOUS DISEASES" "PUBLIC HEALTH."** The search was limited to articles published in English from January 2000 to July 2023.



Two independent reviewers conducted the literature search and screened the titles and abstracts of the identified articles based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The full texts of the selected articles were then retrieved, and relevant data were extracted for analysis. The findings from the selected articles were then analyzed to identify key themes and insights related to vaccination in Hajj and its impact on GHS.

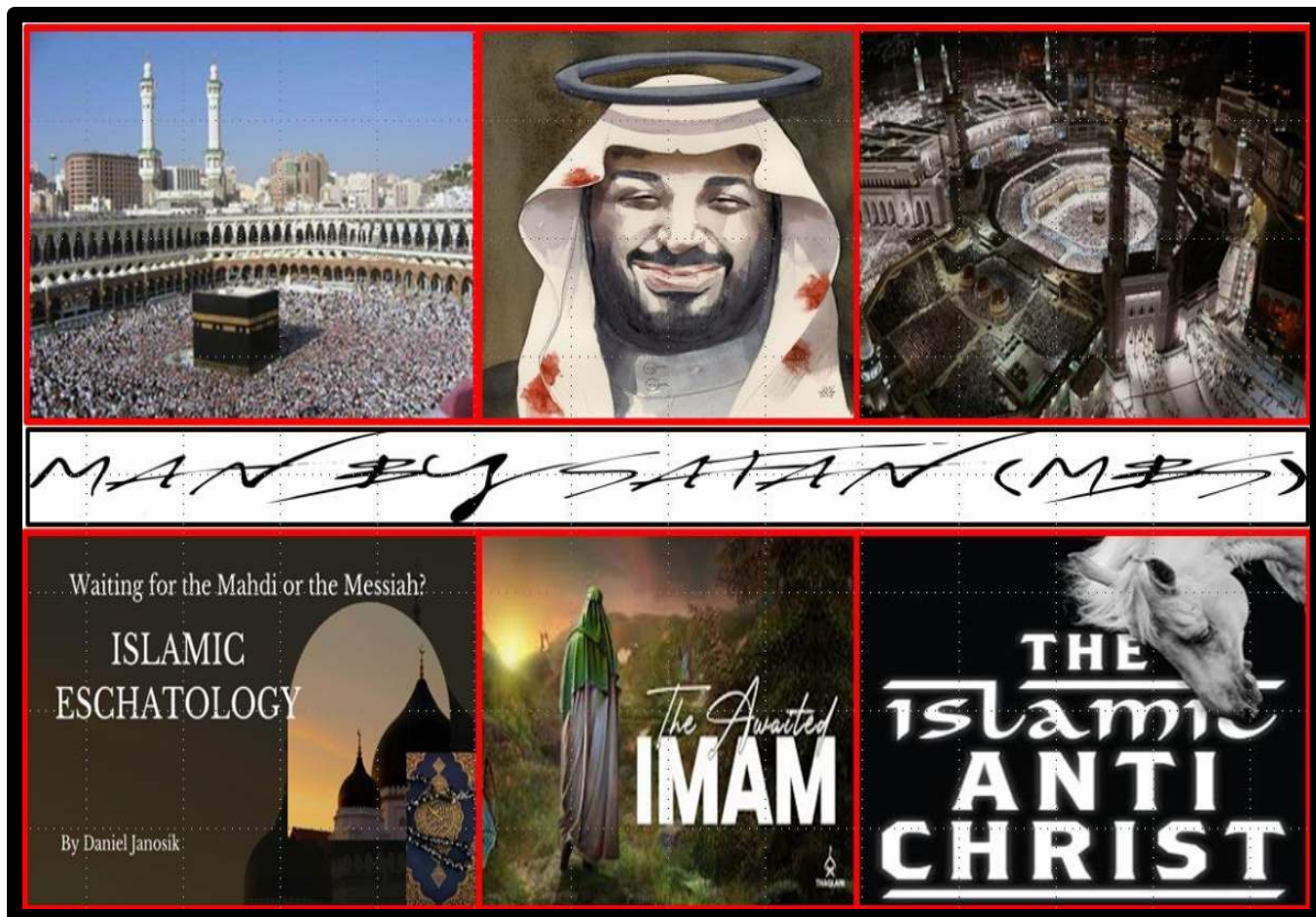
3. Results

3.1. Saudi Arabia's health regulations and vaccination policies



SAUDI ARABIA'S COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF HAJJ PILGRIMS IS EVIDENT THROUGH ITS PROACTIVE AND DYNAMIC APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING HEALTH REGULATIONS AND VACCINATION POLICIES.

As the host country of the world's most complex annual pilgrimage, the Saudi Ministry of Health (MoH) plays a crucial role in creating a *SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS WHO CONVERGE IN THE HOLY CITIES OF MAKKAH AND MADINAH. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, THE MOH HAS ESTABLISHED A COMPREHENSIVE AND EVOLVING SET OF GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN THE HAJJ PILGRIMAGE UTILIZING A MULTIPLE RISK-BASED APPROACH.*



STRINGENT HEALTH REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE AT ENTRY POINTS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. THESE POLICIES ENCOMPASS A RANGE OF HEALTH MEASURES, INCLUDING VACCINATION MANDATES, HEALTH SCREENINGS, AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SURVEILLANCE.

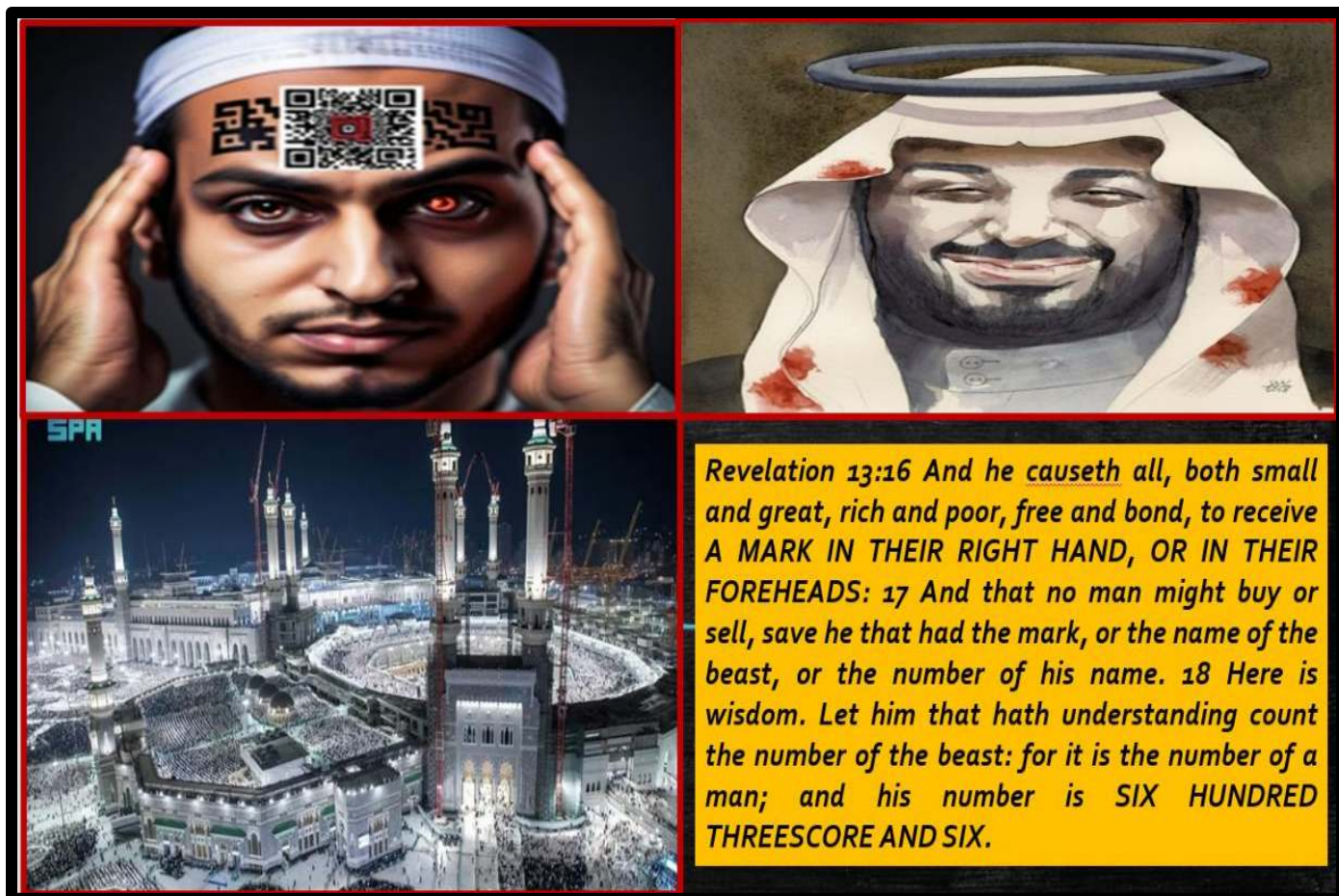
The MoH regularly updates and revises these regulations to align with the dynamic nature of global health challenges and the prevalence of vaccine-preventable diseases [6]. **THE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO HEALTH REGULATIONS AT ENTRY POINTS REFLECTS THE KINGDOM'S COMMITMENT TO GHS AND PROACTIVE DISEASE CONTROL MEASURES.**



3.2. Vaccination requirements for the hajj

To control the spread of infectious diseases, Saudi Arabia has **IMPLEMENTED BOTH MANDATORY AND OPTIONAL VACCINATIONS FOR PILGRIMS INTENDING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HAJJ. THE REVIEW IDENTIFIED A RANGE OF VACCINES TARGETING INFECTIOUS DISEASES THAT POSE SIGNIFICANT HEALTH RISKS DURING MASS GATHERINGS.**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, stringent measures have been implemented, including the suspension of pilgrimages, prayers, and external activities. These activities have gradually resumed with strict preventive measures such as face mask mandates and temperature monitoring, to mitigate virus transmission during mass gatherings and ensure global health safety [7,8]. Further, **VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT PROOF OF A NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST BEFORE ARRIVAL AND PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION [9].**



Similarly, prevention measures for Zika and Dengue have been implemented, requiring a certificate indicating vector control measures have been carried out before arrival [10,11]. [Table 1](#) outlines the required and recommended vaccines for Hajj pilgrims as stipulated by the MOH. These vaccination requirements are crucial components of the preventative health measures designed to ensure the well-being of pilgrims and minimize the risk of disease outbreaks during the Hajj. **VACCINATION IS CRUCIAL FOR HAJJ PILGRIMS DUE TO THE POTENTIAL FOR THE RAPID SPREAD OF THIS DISEASE IN CROWDED SETTINGS.**

THE SAUDI MOH HAS MADE IT MANDATORY FOR ALL PILGRIMS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM COUNTRIES WITH LOW DISEASE INCIDENCE, TO RECEIVE VACCINE BEFORE ARRIVING IN SAUDI ARABIA. The vaccination requirements are aimed at protecting individual pilgrims and have a broader impact on GHS.



By reducing the risk of disease transmission among the diverse population of pilgrims from various parts of the world, **SAUDI ARABIA CONTRIBUTES TO PREVENTING THE INTERNATIONAL SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES**. Additionally, the vaccination policies for certain vaccines also promote herd immunity among pilgrims, protecting the pilgrims and the local and global communities they interact with during their journey.

3.3. Effectiveness of vaccination in preventing infectious disease outbreaks during hajj

The effectiveness of vaccination in preventing infectious disease outbreaks during the Hajj is a crucial aspect of GHS. **VACCINATION HAS PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN REDUCING THE TRANSMISSION OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES AMONG PILGRIMS. NUMEROUS STUDIES HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF VACCINATION IN DECREASING THE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE HAJJ PILGRIMAGE.**

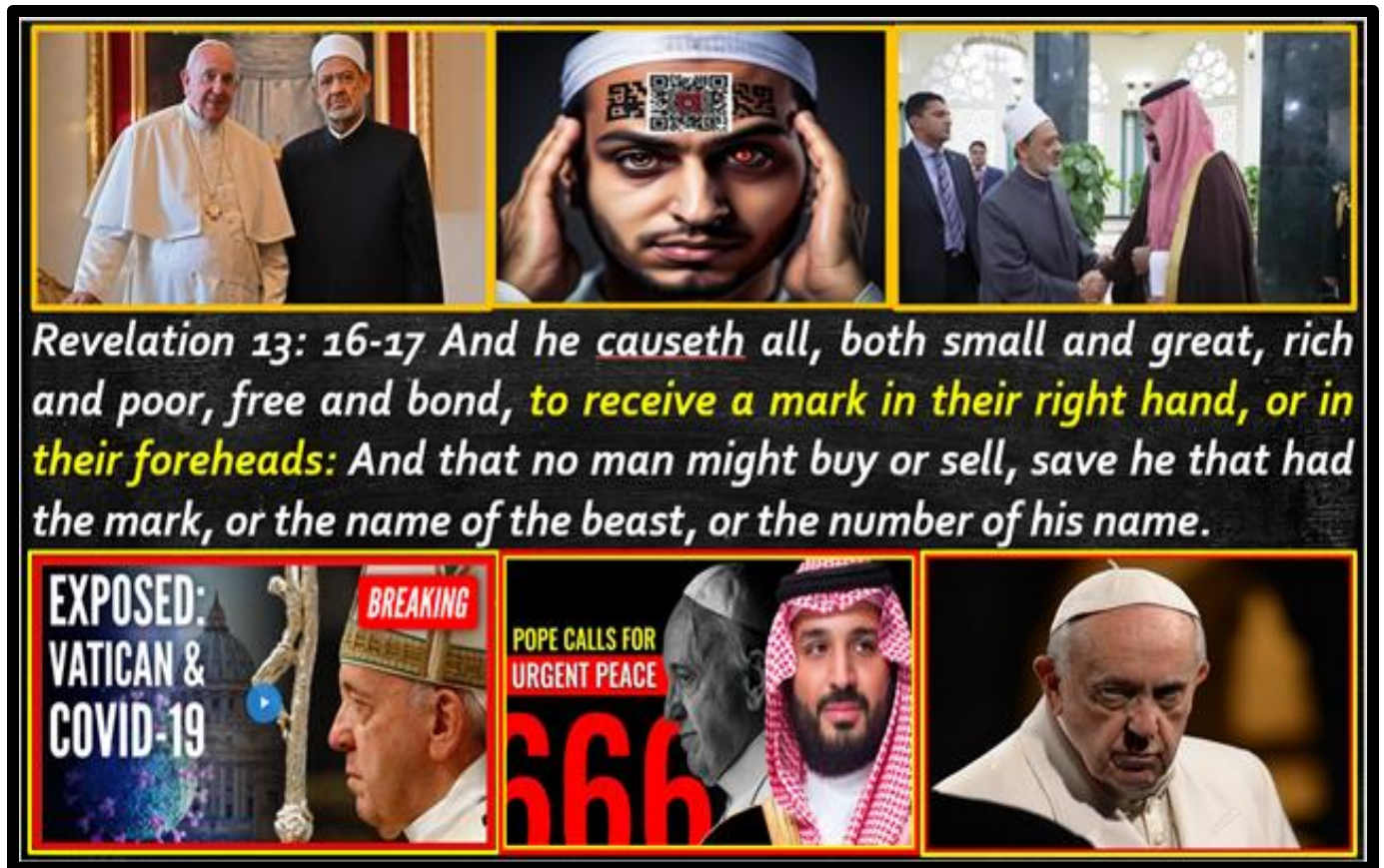
Another study found that implementing compulsory meningococcal vaccination for pilgrims reduced the incidence of the disease [13,14,16]. The prevalence of carriage and the antimicrobial resistance patterns observed **HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE PREVENTIVE MEASURES, INCLUDING CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCE** and monitoring of meningococcal carriage and vaccination strategies, **TO ENHANCE HEALTH SECURITY** during the Hajj pilgrimage and mitigate the risk of disease transmission among the pilgrims and their communities. Understanding the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance patterns of N. meningitidis among pilgrims contributes to enhancing GHS and protecting public health during such events.

Notably, Makkah reported zero cases from 2006 onward, marking a commendable milestone in disease control [11]. This declining trend highlights **THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF CONTINUOUS VACCINATION PROGRAMS IN PREVENTING AND MANAGING DISEASE, SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AND EFFORTS TO CONTROL OUTBREAKS. THE ROLE OF SUCH VACCINATIONS IN PREVIOUS OUTBREAKS OF DISEASE ATTRIBUTED TO THE HAJJ HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY DESCRIBED.**

3.4. Vaccination coverage and uptake

Among the 527 pilgrims considered "at increased risk" of infections, only 31.9 % of participants received the influenza vaccine, and 34.9 % received the pneumococcal vaccine. The study reveals that a noteworthy portion of individuals at high risk did not receive the recommended vaccines. The low and declining vaccination uptake highlighted in this study raises concerns regarding the potential health risks faced by unvaccinated pilgrims. It is imperative to educate pilgrims about the significance of vaccination and its role in safeguarding their health. **THIS EDUCATIONAL EFFORT IS ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVE VACCINE UPTAKE AND ENSURE THE WELL-BEING OF PILGRIMS DURING MASS GATHERINGS.**

THESE FINDINGS UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINED PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AIMED AT PROMOTING VACCINATION AND ADDRESSING BARRIERS THAT HINDER VACCINE ACCEPTANCE. BY CONSISTENTLY EDUCATING AND ENGAGING SAUDI HAJJ PILGRIMS ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF VACCINATION, HEALTH AUTHORITIES CAN STRIVE FOR EVEN HIGHER VACCINE UPTAKE RATES IN THE FUTURE.

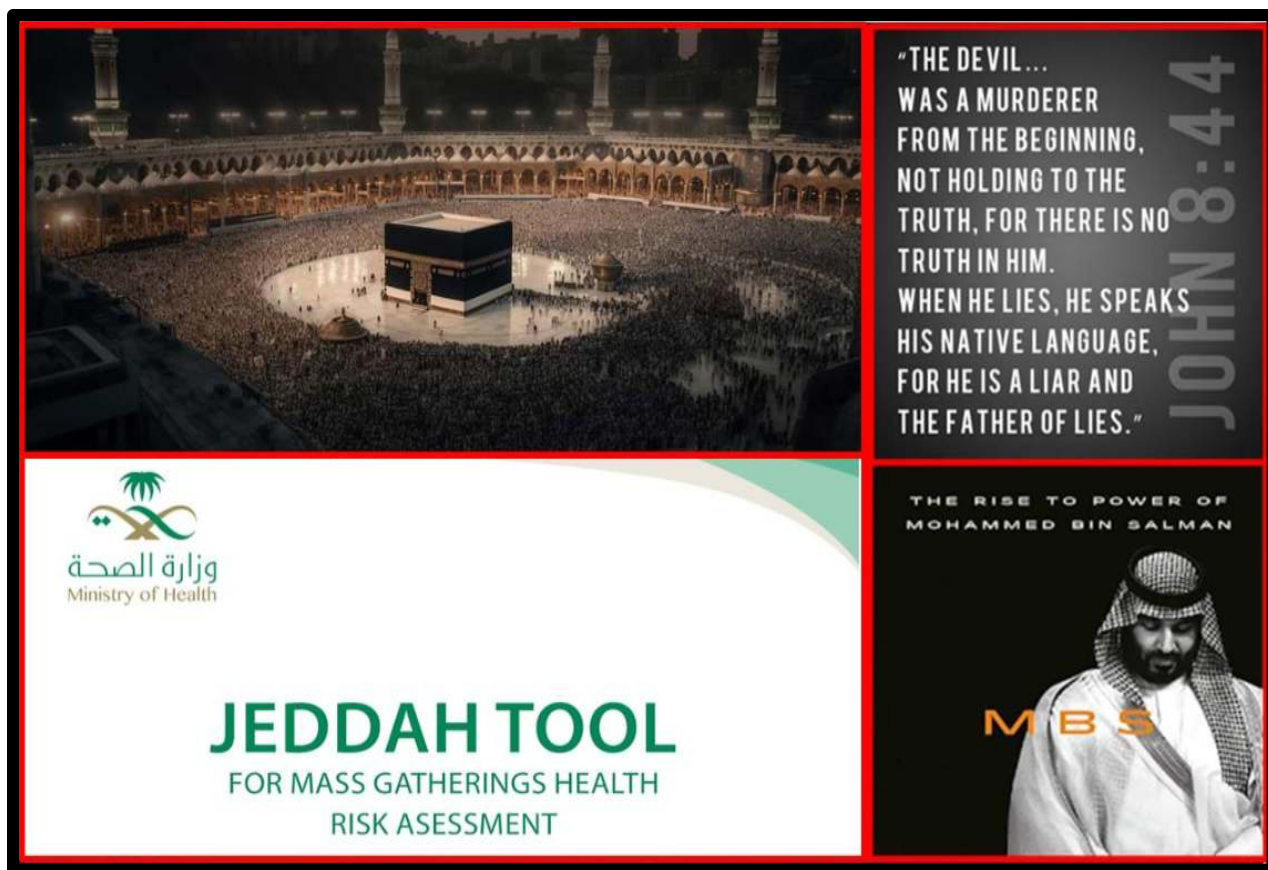


Revelation 13: 16-17 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

ADDITIONALLY, IT'S CRUCIAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT COMPLIANCE WITH MANDATORY VACCINATION, DESPITE ITS IMPORTANCE, IS OFTEN SUBOPTIMAL. GIVEN THESE CHALLENGES, CONTINUED AND STRICT SURVEILLANCE OF DISEASES AT NATIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE. Therefore, efforts to address vaccination uptake disparities should also **INCLUDE STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ADHERENCE TO VACCINATION PROTOCOLS**, to enhance overall health security and mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks.

3.5. Advancements in health surveillance and technology

EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS ARE ESSENTIAL TO MONITOR AND DETECT any outbreaks of infectious diseases among the pilgrims. **DURING THE HAJJ, HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND SCREENING MEASURES ARE IMPLEMENTED TO DETECT AND CONTROL** the spread of infectious diseases. **SAUDI ARABIA ESTABLISHES HEALTH CHECKPOINTS AT VARIOUS ENTRY POINTS TO MONITOR THE HEALTH STATUS OF INCOMING PILGRIMS [17,18,20].**



Fever screening during certain peaks of communicable diseases (H1N1, MERS and COVID-19) and other health assessments are conducted to identify potential cases of infectious diseases. Pilgrims found to be symptomatic or at risk of certain diseases are isolated and provided with medical care as needed. Thus, early detection allows for rapid response and containment measures to prevent further spread [18,19,21].

THE "JEDDAH TOOL" DEVELOPED BY THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR MASS GATHERINGS MEDICINE serves as a strategic Health Risk Assessment (HRA) framework. Applied successfully during Hajj seasons, it provides a practical model for global health security, considering reputational risk. This tool not only contributes to the health security of the pilgrims and host community but also provides a **VALUABLE MODEL FOR ADDRESSING GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY CONCERNS IN THE CONTEXT OF DIVERSE MASS GATHERINGS WORLDWIDE.**

Additionally, implementation of the Health Early Warning System (HEWS) during the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia significantly contributes to global health security. By **PROVIDING REAL-TIME SYNDROMIC AND EVENT-BASED SURVEILLANCE (EBS) DATA, HEWS ENABLES EARLY DETECTION OF POTENTIAL HEALTH THREATS**, offering a proactive and effective approach to risk mitigation and response. **THIS INITIATIVE SETS A PRECEDENT FOR ROBUST DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IN LARGE-SCALE INTERNATIONAL MASS GATHERINGS, SHOWCASING ITS RELEVANCE AND IMPACT ON GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY [19].**

WITH THE ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, HEALTH SURVEILLANCE DURING THE HAJJ HAS UNDERGONE SIGNIFICANT TRANSFORMATION, INCORPORATING ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS, DIGITAL HEALTH PASSPORTS, AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS FOR DATA TRACKING AND MANAGEMENT. THESE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS HAVE GREATLY ENHANCED THE EFFICIENCY AND ACCURACY OF HEALTH MONITORING, ENABLING EARLY DETECTION OF GAPS IN VACCINE COVERAGE AND RAPID RESPONSE TO EMERGING HEALTH THREATS.



THE SAUDI MOH'S COMMITMENT TO MONITORING PILGRIMS' VACCINE COMPLIANCE HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN MAINTAINING HEALTH SECURITY DURING THE HAJJ. SAUDI ARABIA'S COMMITMENT TO COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS ALLOWS IT TO MONITOR HEALTH RISKS EFFECTIVELY DURING THE HAJJ. By closely monitoring the health status of pilgrims and promptly identifying any potential outbreaks or disease clusters, they can implement timely interventions to control the spread of infectious diseases.

3.6. Economic benefit of vaccination during hajj

Vaccination during Hajj has significant public health benefits and contributes to various economic advantages [22,23] such as reducing the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases, minimizing the need for medical interventions, hospitalizations, and associated healthcare costs. This leads to significant cost savings for both individuals and the healthcare system, enhancing the overall economic efficiency of the pilgrimage. Vaccination plays a crucial role in ensuring a safer and more economically viable Hajj pilgrimage by preventing disease outbreaks and promoting overall health among pilgrims. Here **ARE FIVE (5) ECONOMIC BENEFITS (5) ASSOCIATED WITH VACCINATION DURING HAJJ.**



1. **Prevention of Disease Outbreaks:** Vaccination helps prevent the spread of infectious diseases among pilgrims, reducing the risk of disease outbreaks during Hajj. Controlling and containing outbreaks can save the economy from the financial burden of responding to and managing large-scale health emergencies.
2. **Reduced Healthcare Expenditures:** Vaccination significantly reduces the risk of infectious disease outbreaks among pilgrims during Hajj, which minimizes the burden on healthcare systems and associated costs. By preventing infections and related complications, healthcare resources can be directed more efficiently, reducing the strain on the healthcare system and minimizing medical costs.
3. **Improved Productivity:** Healthy pilgrims are more likely to participate fully in the religious activities and rituals of the Hajj pilgrimage. By staying healthy, pilgrims can better engage in their spiritual journey, contributing to a more fulfilling and productive pilgrimage experience.
4. **GHS:** Hajj vaccination efforts contribute to GHS by reducing the risk of disease transmission between countries. Preventing infectious disease outbreaks during the pilgrimage prevents the international spread of diseases and helps maintain the health security of the global community.
5. **Long-Term Economic Growth and Sustainability:** The host country is committed to promoting a safe and healthy pilgrimage experience by investing in vaccination campaigns and public health measures during Hajj. This positive reputation enhances the country's image in the global community, attracting more pilgrims in the long run and fostering sustainable economic growth.

3.7. Global collaboration

COMMUNICATING WITH HEALTH AUTHORITIES FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT INFECTIOUS DISEASE TRENDS ENSURES A COORDINATED AND COHESIVE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO POTENTIAL HEALTH THREATS. THIS OPEN EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE ENHANCES

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES, CONTRIBUTING TO THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF HEALTH SECURITY EFFORTS [24].



One of the key factors contributing to the success of vaccination efforts during the Hajj is the Saudi MoH comprehensive public health planning. ***IT COLLABORATES CLOSELY WITH INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS AND LEVERAGES EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES TO DESIGN EFFECTIVE VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS. THIS STRATEGIC APPROACH ENSURES THAT THE MOST RELEVANT AND UP-TO-DATE VACCINES ARE ADMINISTERED TO PILGRIMS, ENHANCING THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VACCINATION PROGRAMS.***

Effective health security governance during the Hajj relies on ***SEAMLESS COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SAUDI ARABIAN AUTHORITIES,*** and relevant stakeholders [25]. Regular communication channels are established to disseminate real-time updates on infectious disease outbreaks, emerging health risks, and best practices in health management. ***THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF VACCINATION STRATEGIES***

DURING THE HAJJ PILGRIMAGE SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW IN BOLSTERING THEIR HEALTH SECURITY FRAMEWORKS.

3.8. Challenges and successes in implementing vaccination strategies

Despite the significant progress in vaccination efforts during the Hajj, challenges remain. Critical challenges were ensuring equitable access to vaccines, overcoming vaccine hesitancy, and addressing cultural and religious beliefs. Challenges also included logistical issues in reaching and vaccinating many pilgrims from diverse locations.

ADDRESSING VACCINE AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY BARRIERS WILL FURTHER ENHANCE HEALTH SECURITY DURING THE HAJJ. THE REVIEW ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR ROBUST SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS to monitor vaccine coverage and detect potential outbreaks promptly. On the other hand, successful vaccination campaigns demonstrated the importance of **STRONG PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN HEALTH AUTHORITIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN COORDINATING AND IMPLEMENTING VACCINATION PROGRAMS EFFECTIVELY.**

Revelation 13: 16-17 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

4. Discussion

The importance of GHS has become increasingly evident in the context of MGs, such as the Hajj [26,27,29]. This comprehensive review reveals that Saudi Arabia has taken proactive measures to address health security concerns during the Hajj. **IMPLEMENTING MANDATORY VACCINATIONS** has significantly reduced the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases among pilgrims. Saudi Arabia's proactive measures, including **MANDATORY VACCINATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH REGULATIONS, HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE INCIDENCE OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES AMONG PILGRIMS.**

In addition to the robust vaccination strategies, **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A HEALTH PASSPORT SYSTEM DURING THE HAJJ PILGRIMAGE HAS EMERGED AS A CRUCIAL COMPONENT OF HEALTH SECURITY**

THE HEALTH PASSPORT SERVES AS A COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT THAT INCLUDES VACCINATION RECORDS, MEDICAL HISTORY, AND OTHER RELEVANT HEALTH INFORMATION OF PILGRIMS. THIS DIGITAL TOOL FACILITATES EFFICIENT TRACKING AND VERIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS' HEALTH STATUS, contributing to the overall safety and well-being of the pilgrims and preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

THE INTEGRATION OF A HEALTH PASSPORT ALIGNS WITH GLOBAL EFFORTS TO LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY in public health management and represents a forward-looking approach to enhancing health security during mass gatherings. As the world faces ongoing health challenges, **THE ADOPTION OF SUCH TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS, LIKE THE DIGITAL HEALTH PASSPORT, BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT.**

The experience gained from managing health security during the Hajj is invaluable in developing strategies for future MGs and health emergencies worldwide. This study **EMPHASIZES THE NEED FOR ONGOING COLLABORATION AND INFORMATION SHARING AMONG COUNTRIES TO ENHANCE GLOBAL HEALTH RESILIENCE AND PREPAREDNESS.** Lessons learned from the Hajj can inform long-term health security strategies, public health policies, and emergency response plans, contributing to improved global health systems' capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to infectious diseases [9].



Furthermore, the study's emphasis on the multidisciplinary approach echoes existing research highlighting the collaborative efforts needed to manage health security during MGs. Previous literature has emphasized the need for collaboration among healthcare professionals, policymakers, and researchers to develop comprehensive and practical health security strategies [27].

Managing viral diseases like SARS and MERS during the Hajj has demonstrated **THE IMPORTANCE OF TIMELY AND COORDINATED EFFORTS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, HEALTH AUTHORITIES, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PREVENTING DISEASE TRANSMISSION AND SAFEGUARDING GLOBAL HEALTH [28]. COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FROM RESEARCHERS, PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES, POLICYMAKERS, AND COMMUNITIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO ENHANCE DATA COLLECTION**, research modeling, risk assessment, safety measures, and cultural awareness. By bridging these gaps and translating research findings into actionable measures, decision-makers can better equip themselves to protect public health and enhance GHS in the face of infectious disease challenges.



The knowledge and public health security gained through years of careful planning for the Hajj also contribute to Saudi Arabia's broader vision for the future. ***WITH THE MUSLIM POPULATION EXPECTED TO GROW GLOBALLY, MORE PILGRIMS WILL TRAVEL TO MECCA, ALIGNING WITH VISION 2030.***

The lessons learned during the pandemic highlight the need for adaptability and agile vaccination strategies in handling emerging health threats [29], [30], [32]. Saudi Arabia's commitment to evidence-based health regulations demonstrates its dedication to pilgrim safety and GHS standards, setting an example for other countries hosting MGs and ***REINFORCING THE IMPORTANCE OF ROBUST HEALTH SECURITY MEASURES.***

THE FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY UNDERSCORE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ROBUST VACCINATION PROGRAMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION to ensure a successful Hajj pilgrimage with minimized health risks.



By addressing challenges such as vaccine hesitancy, monitoring vaccine safety, and **INTEGRATING NEW VACCINES AND TECHNOLOGIES**, the health and global security of Hajj pilgrims can be further enhanced. [Table 2](#) provides a concise overview of the key challenges and corresponding strategies related to Hajj vaccination and global health security. These challenges encompass various aspects, including managing **MASS GATHERINGS**, **ENSURING VACCINE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION**, **ADDRESSING VACCINE HESITANCY**, preventing cross-border disease transmission, enabling rapid response to emerging outbreaks, navigating cultural and religious sensitivities, and promoting health equity and access for vulnerable groups.

Table 2. **SEVEN (7) CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES FOR HAJJ VACCINATION AND GHS.**

Challenge	Strategies
Managing MGs	Implement crowd management techniques, enhance healthcare facilities, and establish medical centres to handle potential outbreaks.
Vaccine Supply and Distribution	Ensure an adequate supply of vaccines, establish distribution channels, and collaborate with manufacturers to meet demand.
Vaccine Hesitancy	Conduct public health campaigns to address misconceptions, provide education about vaccine benefits, and build trust in vaccination.
Cross-Border Disease Transmission	Strengthen disease surveillance and communication between countries, enforce vaccination requirements, and share health information.
Rapid Response to Emerging Outbreaks	Develop contingency plans, establish rapid response teams, and enhance collaboration with international health organizations.
Cultural and Religious Sensitivities	Engage religious leaders, integrate vaccination with religious teachings, and promote the importance of health in religious practices.
Health Equity and Access for Vulnerable Groups	Ensure access to vaccination for all pilgrims, especially vulnerable populations, through targeted vaccination programs and outreach.

Sustained efforts in promoting vaccination and strengthening cooperation will contribute to a safer and healthier Hajj experience for pilgrims and support GHS. The cost-effectiveness of vaccination, prevention of disease outbreaks, and reduction in healthcare and economic burdens highlight the importance of incorporating health economics considerations into the planning and implementing Hajj vaccination strategies. By doing so, policymakers and stakeholders can ensure the sustainability of the pilgrimage's health security measures while maximizing the socio-economic benefits for all involved.



The study also highlights the evolving health security governance during the Hajj and **THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE VACCINATION COVERAGE AND COMPLIANCE RATES**. Moreover, the experience of managing the Hajj during the COVID-19 pandemic underscores the need for adaptability and agility in health security planning to respond to rapidly changing circumstances effectively [30].

It is essential to acknowledge the potential limitations of this review, including possible publication bias and the exclusion of non-English language articles. Even though extensive literature searches, some relevant studies may have yet to be captured in the analysis. Additionally, the dynamic nature of infectious disease outbreaks and changing vaccination recommendations may impact the relevance of the findings over time. Despite these limitations, efforts were made to ensure a comprehensive synthesis of the available literature on vaccination in Hajj and its implications for GHS. Future research should evaluate the **LONG-TERM IMPACT OF VACCINATION STRATEGIES DURING THE HAJJ PILGRIMAGE ON GHS AND EXPLORE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO OVERCOME VACCINATION-RELATED CHALLENGES**.



59. THE PRINCE, BEAST, ANTICHRIST BEHEADS THE TRIBULATION SAINTS BY A SWORD WHO DON'T TAKE HIS VACCINATION MARK

<https://rumble.com/v565igg-the-prince-beast-antichrist-beheads-the-tribulation-saints-by-a-sword.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/K0Rvmy5yCoE>



MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN BEHEADS TH

'ESCALATING BLOODSHED'

In November 2024, another AFP tally found that **THE KINGDOM EXECUTED OVER 100 FOREIGNERS IN 2024 - THE HIGHEST TOTAL OF FOREIGNERS EXECUTED IN ONE YEAR, ALMOST TRIPLE THE FIGURES FOR 2023 AND 2022. SAUDI HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND LAWYERS HAVE ACCUSED MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN OF OVERSEEING A CRACKDOWN ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION SINCE HE CAME TO POWER**, including the introduction of a counterterrorism law that Human Rights Watch has **criticised** for its broad definition of terrorism.

“THESE NUMBERS REFLECT THE ESCALATING BLOODSHED SINCE KING SALMAN AND HIS CROWN PRINCE, MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN, CAME TO POWER. THEY ALSO CONFIRM THE FALSITY OF ALL THE CLAIMS OF REFORM AND CHANGE THAT BIN SALMAN HAS RAISED FOR YEARS,” Duaa Dhainy, senior researcher at ESOHR, told Middle East Eye. **“WHAT IS ALSO WORRYING IS THE USE OF THIS PUNISHMENT AGAINST POLITICAL OPPONENTS, AND FOR CRIMES THAT ARE NOT THE MOST SERIOUS,”** she added.

AT LEAST 1,115 EXECUTIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT UNDER BIN SALMAN’S RULE BETWEEN 21 JUNE 2017 AND 9 OCTOBER 2024. Additionally, according to rights NGO Reprieve, **SAUDI ARABIA HAS REPEATEDLY LIED TO THE UN ABOUT ITS USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY.**



THE MARK, NAME
OR NUMBER OF THE

THOSE WHO WERE BEHEADED



FOR THEIR WITNESS OF JESUS



60.MARK OF THE BEAST: INFRARED QR CODE, MICRONEEDLE VACCINATION SMART PATCH MARK

<https://rumble.com/v56ddsq-mark-of-the-beast-infrared-qr-code-microneedle-vaccination-smart-patch-mark.html>

61.THE 4TH SEAL-DEATH: WORD FROM ABBA FATHER & KING YESHUA

<https://youtu.be/aUW-DiZWexs>

62.WOMAN DIED & JESUS REVEALED THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MARK OF THE BEAST

<https://youtu.be/Z2m9Q4e9GWw>



5. Conclusion

Vaccination during the Hajj pilgrimage goes beyond individual health benefits; it offers substantial economic advantages and contributes significantly to GHS. By preventing disease outbreaks and reducing healthcare costs, vaccination enhances productivity and acts as a strategic defense against global health threats. ***PRIORITIZING VACCINATION EFFORTS IN SAUDI ARABIA NOT ONLY ENSURES THE WELL-BEING OF PILGRIMS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY BUT ALSO PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN STRENGTHENING GLOBAL HEALTH.*** This proactive approach reflects a wise investment with far-reaching impacts on health, economics, and global well-being.

63. IRON NET: DIGITAL REPRESSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



[James Lynch](#) ECFR Alumni · Visiting Fellow 29 June 2022

In April 2021, Malcolm Bidali, a Kenyan security guard living in Doha, opened his Twitter account to find that someone had sent him a link to a Human Rights Watch report about migrant workers. Bidali was using an anonymous account, [@noaharticulates](#), to blog about his life and document the daily exploitation and abuse that he and his fellow workers experienced. His account, which only had a few hundred followers, had just begun to attract interest both from foreign readers and young Qataris who appreciated his frank, unflinching account of the reality he and his colleagues confronted every day.

The link did not work. But it was never meant to: it was a phishing link designed to reveal the true identity of [@noaharticulates](#). A week later, Bidali was arrested at

his labour camp by State Security officers. After a month in solitary confinement and a [campaign for his release](#) by students in Qatar, he was deported to Kenya with a hefty fine for publishing “[false news with the intent of endangering the public system of the state](#)”. And there ended the career of Qatar’s first – and, so far, only – migrant worker blogger. A year before the 2022 Men’s Football World Cup, the build-up to which had been characterised by international concern about the [abuse of migrant workers](#), the Qatari state had used a relatively simple technical measure to snuff out a perceived threat.

FOR MUCH OF THE WORLD’S POPULATION, THE DIGITAL REALM HAS BECOME CENTRAL TO THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE. YET ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES IS OFTEN MEDIATED BY DIGITAL PLATFORMS, WITH OR WITHOUT USERS’ KNOWLEDGE. THIS MEANS THAT THE GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES, OR INDIVIDUALS WHO DOMINATE THE DIGITAL REALM HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO GAIN CONTROL OVER THE PUBLIC SPHERE. There is now little trace of the widespread optimism that once defined public views of the digital revolution.

FAR FROM BEING A PRELUDE TO LIBERATION, THIS REVOLUTION HAS INCREASINGLY ALLOWED STATES TO EXERCISE CONTROL AND EVEN ENGAGE IN REPRESSION. As Egyptian technologist, blogger, and activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah [argued](#) in a 2017 essay written in Tora Prison: **“THE AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED: MEANING IS DANGEROUS, DEFENDING IT IS A CRIME, AND ITS PROPONENTS ARE ENEMIES.” CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS HAVE STRAINED TO FIND WAYS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM DIGITAL ATTACKS, BYPASS STATE CENSORSHIP, OR CHALLENGE DISINFORMATION – BUT THIS HAS NOT PROVED TO BE A FAIR FIGHT.**

IT IS NOTHING NEW FOR GOVERNMENTS TO REPRESS THEIR POPULATIONS OR SEEK TO CONTROL THE FLOW OF INFORMATION – AUTHORITARIANS HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO STOP THE SPREAD OF DANGEROUS IDEAS AND REPLACE THEM WITH OFFICIAL NARRATIVES. AND THEY HAVE ALWAYS SOUGHT INFORMATION ABOUT CITIZENS BY MONITORING THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE DIFFERENCE NOW IS THAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE AN ASTONISHING ARRAY OF TOOLS WITH WHICH TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS – RANGING FROM SPYWARE TO FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY AND MASS SURVEILLANCE. AND THEY CAN USE THESE TOOLS WITH LITTLE CONCERN THAT THEY WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR DOING SO.



THE HUMAN COSTS OF DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM ARE EVIDENT ACROSS THE WORLD, BUT PARTICULARLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA – WHERE THE RULE OF LAW WAS, AT BEST, UNDER SEVERE STRAIN EVEN BEFORE THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION. SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES HAVE INVESTED HEAVILY IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING THROUGH INTENSIFIED COLLABORATION WITH CHINA AND ISRAEL, AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO BECOME DIGITAL SUPERPOWERS. The lack of an international consensus on how such tools should be governed has created a fractured landscape of **COMPETING PRINCIPLES AND MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES THAT DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANS OFTEN EXPLOIT.**

European policymakers are rightly concerned about these developments. As this author argued [in 2021](#), **GOVERNMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ARE BECOMING EVEN MORE AUTHORITARIAN. THE DIGITAL DIMENSION OF AUTHORITARIANISM IS CENTRAL TO THIS TREND. GIVEN THAT REPEATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND A LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY FREQUENTLY LEAD TO SOCIETAL BREAKDOWN,** the European Union seems misguided in its **RELIANCE ON AUTHORITARIANS TO GUARANTEE STABILITY AND SECURITY** in its southern neighbourhood.



**FOR WHEN THEY SHALL SAY,
PEACE AND SAFETY;
THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMETH UPON THEM,
AS TRAVAIL UPON A WOMAN WITH CHILD;
AND THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:3**

EU POLICY SHOULD TREAT DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM IN THE REGION AS A SIGNIFICANT SECURITY AND POLITICAL CONCERN. But there is no sign that it is doing so. As a 2021 [European Parliament research paper](#) put it, the EU “still has to decide whether tackling digital repression is a core geopolitical interest at the highest political level”.

AUTHORITARIAN STATES’ USE OF SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY shows why this is a problem. Responding to the risks associated with digital technologies, the European Commission published in January 2022 a draft [Declaration on European Digital Rights and Principles](#) with the aim of creating a “human-centred, secure, inclusive, and open digital environment, where no one is left behind”. The draft [includes](#) the principle that “no one shall be subjected to unlawful online surveillance or interception measures”. Yet it will be challenging to adhere to this principle in Europe. ***TRADE IN SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY – INCLUDING THAT INVOLVING EUROPEAN COMPANIES – HAS SPUN OUT OF CONTROL.*** For instance, [Morocco](#) and the [UAE](#) reportedly targeted the communications of French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson respectively.

Until 2020, Israeli company NSO Group had an office in Cyprus – which was a hub for surveillance consultants – and promoted its products at UK defence fairs while under investigation by the FBI and facing a lawsuit for hacking brought by WhatsApp. The EU has declined to [sanction](#) the company. The United States has [restricted](#) export licences involving NSO Group (a move that Israel [is lobbying](#) to reverse) but, in the EU, such decisions are made by [member states](#).

THE EU IS POORLY SUITED TO DEALING WITH THE GRADUATED, SUBTLE TREND TOWARDS DIGITAL REPRESSION (in contrast to more urgent threats to democracy and human rights, such as Russia’s war on Ukraine). The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance has reported [“a deep and dangerous](#)

[cleavage](#) in the EU’s internal fundamental consensus on liberal democratic values”, with Hungary and Poland transitioning into “[soft authoritarianism](#)”.

Governments in [Hungary, Poland, Germany, and Spain](#) have all been accused of using NSO Group’s Pegasus technology to target domestic critics, including journalists and politicians. The company told the European Parliament in June 2022 that **[AT LEAST FIVE \(5\) EU COUNTRIES HAD USED PEGASUS](#)**. Meanwhile, the company’s technology has played a critical role in engendering and cementing relationships between Israel and ***AUTHORITARIAN STATES AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA***, the UAE, India, and Hungary.



This paper focuses on some of the key forms of digital repression in the Middle East and North Africa, and their implications for deepening Israeli-Gulf links and Chinese digital diplomacy. It analyses the main ways in which Europeans are currently responding to these trends – including through regulation and diplomacy – and makes recommendations for how they should address the challenges posed by spyware, artificial intelligence, and the protection of civil society.

THREAT CONTROL, SOCIAL CONTROL

In hindsight, rapid technological advances had a transformative impact between 2009 and 2012. Governments everywhere from Tehran and Cairo to Manama and Damascus appeared to be digital novices as they wrestled with the increasing availability of smartphones and the development of social media platforms. They seemed unable to respond effectively as activists and young people freely shared information with one another and the wider world, circumventing traditionally powerful state-controlled media.

Some analysts have made the compelling argument that overexcited commentators (particularly those in the West) undervalued the contribution of offline mobilisation and organising, and that [tech companies used the 2011 uprisings](#) to promote a positive narrative about their contributions to society. But there is no doubt that new technologies had a huge impact on political organisation. And they continue to do so: just as protests in the Arab-speaking world in the early 2010s were influenced by Twitter and Facebook, those in Myanmar, Hong Kong, and Belarus [more recently](#) have been shaped by Telegram, WhatsApp, and Signal.



However, ***THE RESULTING TECHNOLOGICAL PUSHBACK FROM GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA HAS BEEN SWIFT AND TRANSFORMATIVE*** in its own way. As analyst James Shires [argues](#), the ***“AMBIGUITY, IMPRECISION AND MULTIVALENCE”*** of the term “cybersecurity” – particularly the [lack of consensus](#) about what constitutes a legitimate security threat in the digital domain – ***HAS HELPED AUTHORITARIANS LEGITIMISE VARIOUS STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING THEIR POLITICAL GOALS.***

These strategies focus on everything from “negative control” to “[proactive co-option](#)”. ***THE FORMER INVOLVES THROTTLING THE FLOW OF CRITICAL OR ACCURATE INFORMATION AND SILENCING ONLINE IRRITANTS, WHILE THE LATTER IS DESIGNED TO SHAPE NARRATIVES AND CREATE ACCEPTED TRUTHS, USING MASSIVE DIGITAL DATA SETS TO IDENTIFY EMERGING THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES.***

THREAT CONTROL: ONLINE CRACKDOWNS AND CENSORSHIP

After the shock of the Arab uprisings, governments across the region introduced **NEW LAWS AND POLICIES TO PLACE THE SAME RESTRICTIONS ON ONLINE DISCOURSE AS APPLIED TO THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF JOURNALISTS AND OPPOSITION LEADERS**. Under the repressive and often interchangeable [cyber-crime laws](#) that swept the region in the early 2010s, **ONLINE COMMENTARY ON ALMOST ANY TOPIC COULD BE AN IMPRISONABLE OFFENCE IF THE GOVERNMENT DEEMED IT A THREAT TO STATE INTERESTS OR PUBLIC SECURITY SUCH AS “SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM”**.



STATES ALSO DELIBERATELY CONFLATED LEGITIMATE POLITICAL CRITICISM WITH “FAKE NEWS” AND OTHER FORMS OF [DISINFORMATION](#), allowing them to portray legal persecution as a defence of freedom of expression.

Governments [arrested](#) swathes of activists, journalists, and ordinary Twitter users under these new rules. In 2018 an Egyptian court gave [Amal Fathy](#) a two-year

prison sentence for posting a Facebook video about her experience of being sexually harassed – on the charge of “using a website to promote ideas calling for terrorist acts”. A Jordanian teacher who used his Facebook account to peacefully criticise his government was [seized by masked UAE security officers](#) as he was walking with his children in 2020. He was held incommunicado and handed a ten-year sentence for “acts against a foreign state”. Police and judicial harassment became commonplace, affecting all kinds of social media users, ranging from royals in [Kuwait](#) and internet activists in [Oman](#) to journalists in [Tunisia](#).



AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO IDENTIFY CRITICS WHO OPERATE ANONYMOUSLY: a 2018 [FBI complaint](#) accuses **THREE MEN OF WORKING FOR SAUDI ARABIA TO PENETRATE TWITTER'S CALIFORNIAN OFFICES, WITH THE AIM OF PASSING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION ON THOUSANDS OF USERS TO THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES.** [Abdulrahman al-Sadhan](#), arrested in 2018 and sentenced to 20 years in prison followed by a 20-year travel ban, was reportedly identified by the Saudi authorities due to this security breach

at Twitter. He allegedly used an anonymous account to criticise the government's economic policies.

AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO USED THEIR CONTROL OVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS TO BLOCK UNWELCOME COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER FORMS OF INFORMATION, targeting [VPN users](#) and encrypted [VoIP apps](#) that are designed to prevent surveillance. The UAE briefly lifted its restrictions on [WhatsApp and Skype](#) for international visitors to Expo 2020, but has otherwise banned calls on these services for years. **AUTHORITARIANS LIBERALLY BLOCK WEBSITES THEY DEEM THREATENING.**

[Syria](#) is among the most censored internet environment in the world, a situation exacerbated by international sanctions – which push some foreign sites to restrict their own services there. Governments can also ask search engines and other platforms to remove [specific content](#): **COUNTRIES WITH LITTLE INTERNET FREEDOM MAKE THE MOST REQUESTS FOR CONTENT REMOVAL, ESPECIALLY FOR REASONS SUCH AS “GOVERNMENT CRITICISM” AND “NATIONAL SECURITY”.**

Instagram moderators report that the Iranian authorities [offer bribes](#) of between €5,000 and €10,000 to remove the accounts of critical journalists and activists. The [Jordanian authorities](#) have used a range of regulatory and technical tools to restrict many types of content and services, including Arabic LGBT+ websites and the entire Facebook Live service during protests. **IN EXTREME CASES, GOVERNMENTS SIMPLY BLOCK INTERNET ACCESS FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE POPULATION.** Military leaders in Sudan shut down the internet immediately after launching a [coup in late 2021](#). In May this year, Iran blocked almost all internet access in [Khuzestan province](#), which was witnessing mass protests against rising food prices and a bloody crackdown. Foreign companies involved in providing mobile and internet services can find themselves accused of complicity in such

shutdowns. France Telecom and UK firm Vodafone famously implemented the “kill-switch” at the request of Hosni Mubarak’s government in 2011, at the height of anti-regime protests in Egypt.

SOCIAL CONTROL: RE-ESTABLISHING THE STATE’S GRIP ON DOMINANT NARRATIVES

As well as cracking down on supposedly threatening information or narratives, ***AUTHORITARIANS AGGRESSIVELY IMPOSE THEIR OWN NARRATIVES TO SHAPE PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS – OFTEN SUCCESSFULLY. WHERE CITIZENS ACROSS THE REGION SEEK TO DRAW ATTENTION TO POPULAR GRIEVANCES OR STATE FAILURE, THEY CAN BE OVERWHELMED BY STATE-LED COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGNS, WHICH PUMP OUT DISINFORMATION AND FAKE NEWS, OFTEN ADOPTING A VIOLENT AND MISOGYNISTIC TONE.***



THE BEAST’S GREEN DRAGON OF DECEPTION. DOCTRINES OF DEVILS AND DRAGONS. A KING OF DARK SENTENCES, POLITICAL DECEPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES. ONLY ONE PERSON AND COUNTRY IN THE WHOLE WORLD CLAIMS TO HAVE THE ANSWERS.

BY NIGHT WATCHMAN MINISTRIES ON DECEMBER 8, 2024 • ([LEAVE A COMMENT](#))

THIS PROCESS HELPS TURN SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS INTO A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH IT IS HARD TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PROPAGANDA AND GENUINE COMMENTS. The resulting lack of certainty creates distrust in the public sphere and has a chilling effect on users, leading many of them to abandon the platforms altogether. Women are particularly liable to be targeted: [Dima Sadek](#), a journalist who was using her Twitter account to report on Lebanon’s protests in 2019, was subjected to an intense, coordinated programme of online harassment, including the sharing of faked compromising photos – as a result of which her mother had a stroke. One [European Parliament report](#) refers to such tactics as a key part of the “next generation repression toolkit”.

As analyst Marc Owen Jones [points out](#), the UAE and ***SAUDI ARABIA ARE “DIGITAL SUPERPOWERS” PARTLY BECAUSE OF THEIR INVESTMENTS IN CONTROLLING THE ONLINE AGENDA THROUGH A VARIETY OF MEANS, INCLUDING TROLL AND BOT ARMIES, AS WELL AS ASTROTURFING – THE PRACTICE OF CREATING THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT LEGITIMATE USERS ARE SPONTANEOUSLY SUPPORTING A CAUSE.***^[1] Twitter has [removed](#) thousands of accounts linked to the Emirati and Saudi governments.

AUTHORITARIANS OFTEN USE FIRMS TO RUN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. This is partly for reasons of efficiency and scale, but also ***TO MAINTAIN PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY ABOUT THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH PRACTICES.*** In late 2019 Twitter announced that it was removing [tens of thousands of inauthentic accounts](#) linked to SMAAT, ***A SAUDI PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM, FOR “AMPLIFYING MESSAGES FAVORABLE TO SAUDI AUTHORITIES”. SUCH ACCOUNTS ARE USED BY GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE REGION AND ARE USUALLY REFERRED TO AS “BOTS”. WHEN THEY ARE COORDINATED AROUND A SINGLE POLITICAL GOAL –*** such as undermining [protests in Algeria](#) or defaming [human rights defenders in Morocco](#) – they are sometimes known as ***“ELECTRONIC FLIES”***. At the time of his

MURDER BY AGENTS OF THE SAUDI STATE, WASHINGTON POST COLUMNIST JAMAL KHASHOGGI WAS REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO LAUNCH “[THE BEES](#)”, A NETWORK OF ACTIVISTS WHO WOULD COORDINATE THEIR TWEETS TO COUNTER THE NARRATIVES PROMOTED BY THE SAUDI CROWN PRINCE’S ELECTRONIC FLIES.



AUTHORITARIANS’ PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS ALSO USUALLY INVOLVE THE [ACCOUNTS](#) OF REAL PEOPLE TO HELP AMPLIFY THE GOVERNMENT’S NARRATIVE. In some cases, these people reportedly work directly in concert with the authorities. [According](#) to 7amleh, an NGO, “an institutionalized system” formed of “the Israeli government, government-operated non-governmental organizations (GONGOs) and online trolls” works to smear Palestinian human rights activists and organisations as “terrorists” or supporters of terrorism.



Cristiano Ronaldo Expresses Joy Over Meeting Saudi Crown Prince MBS And Discussing Esports Future

Israel's [cyber unit](#) – which is modelled on similar bodies in the United Kingdom and France – has reportedly bombarded platforms with requests to remove online posts in support of Palestinian political causes, [prompting](#) YouTube and Instagram to do so. Such activity even [led to the removal](#) of content posted by the Palestinian government.

Facebook (now Meta) has [acknowledged](#) that it made errors in removing content related to the 2021 protests against the evictions of Palestinians from their homes

in the Sheikh Jarrah district of Jerusalem. The company's oversight board recommended that it go further by commissioning an [independent investigation](#) into the episode. This investigation was under way as of [late 2021](#), but its findings have not yet been made public.

STATES SOMETIMES DEPLOY COORDINATED INAUTHENTIC BEHAVIOUR ON SOCIAL MEDIA INTERNATIONALLY. THE AIM OF THIS IS OFTEN TO DELEGITIMISE PROTEST MOVEMENTS THEY PERCEIVE AS A THREAT TO REGIONAL STABILITY OR, EQUALLY, TO UNDERMINE THEIR ADVERSARIES BY SUPPORTING – OR APPEARING TO SUPPORT – ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS.

Middle Eastern powers may have learnt from [the Kremlin's use of disinformation in Syria](#), which has effectively sowed distrust and division, disempowering legitimate activists. Egypt, the UAE, **SAUDI ARABIA**, and Turkey have all been ***IMPLICATED IN INFORMATION OPERATIONS THAT USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO SHAPE PERCEPTIONS*** of the conflict in [Libya](#), while the [Egyptian government](#) has seemingly battled for online attention with external opponents backed by Qatar. During protests in Lebanon in 2019, influencers who apparently emerged from nowhere with large numbers of followers and who were promoted heavily by Saudi networks, began to introduce sectarian and anti-Iran narratives into the online political discourse – in an apparent attempt to counter demonstrators' message of unity between faiths.

Russia's information operations have generally received far more international attention than those of Middle Eastern states. However, some ***EU OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT DISINFORMATION EMANATING FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA POSES INCREASING "THREATS TO DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL AND POLICYMAKING PROCESSES" IN EUROPE.***

King Neb's Statue [Daniel 2]

Gold: Babylon [Daniel 7:4]

Silver: Medo-Persia [Daniel 7:5]

Bronze: Greece [Daniel 7:6]

King of the North: Syria/Seleucid Empire

King of the South: Egypt/Ptolemaic Empire [Daniel 11:1-35]

Iron: Kingdoms of North and South Revived

Iron/Clay: 10 Kings, Antichrist's Future Kingdom [Daniel 7:7, 11:31-44], Revived Islamic Caliphate

Daniel 7:24 And the **TEN HORNS** out of this kingdom are **TEN KINGS THAT SHALL ARISE**; and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

Revelation 17:12 And **THE TEN HORNS WHICH THOU SAWEST ARE TEN KINGS**, which have received no kingdom as yet; but **RECEIVE POWER AS KINGS ONE HOUR WITH THE BEAST**.

13 These have one mind, and **SHALL GIVE THEIR POWER AND STRENGTH UNTO THE BEAST**.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and **GIVE THEIR KINGDOM UNTO THE BEAST**, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

THE 10 HORNS OF THE BEAST

10 HORNS & THE LITTLE HORN DANIEL 7 & 8

Analysis by the European External Action Service indicates that [actors other than Russia](#) “have emerged to varying degrees as prominent disinformation threats”. **THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HELD [HEARINGS IN 2021](#) INTO THE THREAT THAT SAUDI ARABIA POSES IN THIS AREA.**

The prolonged Saudi-backed takeover of Newcastle United FC in 2020 and 2021 was intensely debated on social media by fans of the club – many of whom welcomed the acquisition – and critics of the takeover who considered it a **DANGEROUS EXAMPLE OF “[SPORTSWASHING](#)”**. Analysts noticed **A SURGE IN REAL AND SEEMINGLY FAKE [SAUDI-BASED ACCOUNTS](#) THAT SUPPORTED THE TAKEOVER AND PROMOTED SAUDI INTERESTS AND POLICIES.** “**I WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF THERE WASN’T SOME PR FIRM AT THE HELM TRYING TO COORDINATE THIS,**” said Jones. [\[2\]](#)

SAUDI ARABIA & FIFA SPORTSWASHING ITS SINS?

INDIA
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THREAT CONTROL: SPYWARE AND ISRAELI-GULF COLLABORATION

Until recently, *THE CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT TARGETED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE WAS LARGELY RESTRICTED TO MAJOR POWERS WHOSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAD DEVELOPED IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE.* The proliferation of commercial surveillance and spyware packages has changed all that. In the early 2010s, [Canadian NGO Citizen Lab](#) revealed that *SEVERAL ARAB GOVERNMENTS WERE EMPLOYING ITALIAN FIRM HACKING TEAM TO TRACK THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR POLITICAL OPPONENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, AND OTHERS.* In 2016 [Italy barred](#) the company from exporting its products outside the EU but, by 2019, the owner of Hacking Team was marketing KRAIT. *THIS SURVEILLANCE TOOL, DESCRIBED BY ONE RESEARCHER AT CITIZEN LAB AS “[A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS](#)”, CAN TAKE OVER ANDROID DEVICES TO SURVEIL THEM WITHOUT REQUIRING THEIR OWNERS TO CLICK ON A LINK.*

SPYWARE HAS PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS' EFFORTS TO CRUSH SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. At the height of President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi's unprecedented crackdown on Egyptian civil society in 2016-2017, [seven human rights groups](#) – all of which were being investigated as part of Case 173, a notorious investigation by the authorities – were targeted 90 times in three months using sophisticated malware. This malware was crafted as shared documents that contained timely and relevant information, and that came from legitimate providers such as Google and Dropbox.

The UAE led the way in developing its own cyber-surveillance capacities, employing more than a dozen former employees of the US National Security Agency – who worked through Abu Dhabi-based cyber-security firm DarkMatter – in what was known as [Project Raven](#). The team helped develop the Karma platform, which allowed them to hack into the iPhones of hundreds of activists, political leaders, and suspected terrorists in 2016 and 2017. Crucially, Karma – like KRAIT – does not require a target to click on a link sent to their device, a capability one Raven operative described as being “like Christmas”.

Their targets included Ahmed Mansoor, an Emirati activist then known as “the last human rights defender in the UAE”, who was subsequently arrested by state security agents and handed a [ten-year sentence](#) for his activities on social media. Prior to his arrest, [Mansoor told journalists](#) that the discovery of the spyware on his phone was “as bad as someone encroaching in your living room, a total invasion of privacy, and you begin to learn that maybe you shouldn't trust anyone anymore”. Three former US officials were [prosecuted](#) for violating US hacking laws and export controls in relation to the project. In 2019 the *New York Times* revealed that [ToTok](#), a popular social media app, was actually a surveillance tool – the sole shareholder of ToTok was Group 42, an Abu Dhabi-based company [chaired by Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#), the UAE's national security adviser.

Facing this onslaught, social movements and civil society networks have not merely been passive victims of repression: rather, they have strained to find ways of protecting themselves and bypassing censorship. Groups such as [SMEX](#) and [Zamleh](#) provide digital security services and advice across the Arabic-speaking world, while organisations based in the relative safety of Europe and North America – such as [EFF](#), [Access Now](#), and [Amnesty's Security Lab](#) – also provide technical guidance and support, as well as assistance with investigations. Advocacy groups such as the Heartland Initiative have begun to press [technology investors](#) to pay greater heed to the risks associated with cyber-security firms in their portfolios.

ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE BEEN HACKED HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO SEEK LEGAL ROUTES TO HOLD THOSE RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE: LOUJAIN AL-HATHLOUL, A SAUDI WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST WHO WAS JAILED AND TORTURED AFTER BEING ARRESTED IN THE UAE, HAS LODGED A [CASE AGAINST AMERICAN EXECUTIVES AT DARKMATTER](#) FOR THEIR ROLE IN HACKING HER PHONE.



Nevertheless, even the most tech-savvy activists struggle to protect themselves: encryption technology has failed to keep up with hacking tools, as was chillingly demonstrated by the [Pegasus revelations](#) in 2021. Pegasus can penetrate a device with a “zero-click” attack, take complete control of a smartphone, and potentially leave without a trace. Among the 50,000 numbers that researchers into the tool accessed, they found 180 that belonged to journalists and many more that belonged to human rights defenders, academics, businesspeople, lawyers, doctors, union leaders, diplomats, politicians, and even heads of states.

Pegasus was used to hack the devices of human rights activists across the Middle East and North Africa – including those working on [abuses by the Bahraini state, documenting Israeli violations](#) of Palestinians’ rights, and defending [Sahrawi rights](#). The tool gave the state unparalleled access to their activities and networks, as well as to their personal lives. As the [EU data protection supervisor](#) put it, ***PEGASUS COMBINED “A LEVEL OF INTRUSIVENESS THAT IS INCOMPARABLE WITH WHAT WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE, WITH FEATURES CAPABLE TO RENDER MANY OF THE EXISTING LEGAL AND TECHNICAL SAFEGUARDS INEFFECTIVE AND MEANINGLESS”.***

Proponents of such technologies argue that while they may be misused in some cases, states have a legitimate use for spyware – countering criminal activity. Revelations about Pegasus have brought home the extent to which states themselves are at risk from cyber-surveillance technologies, making their proliferation an issue of national security as well as a human rights concern.

Pegasus was developed and marketed by NSO Group – which is one of several Israeli companies at the forefront of the cyber-surveillance industry. In 2011 the Israeli government published a [national cyberspace strategy](#) that set out its commitment to advance ***“ISRAEL’S STATUS AS A CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT***

OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES” and “to work to encourage the cyber industry in Israel”. The strategy bore fruit: in 2021 the Israeli cyber-security industry raised [\\$8.8 billion in funding](#), with Israeli companies accounting for one in three cyber-security unicorns (startups valued at over \$1 billion) globally. In 2021 the value of Israel’s cyber-security exports totalled [\\$11 billion](#), roughly equal to that of its [arms exports](#).

There is a well-established pathway from Israeli security entities, particularly the Israel Defense Force’s elite [Unit 8200](#), sometimes referred to as Israel’s National Security Agency, to the private sector. One Israeli tech recruiter told [Haaretz](#) that, “serving in a tech division of military intelligence is the best shortcut there is to the business sector.” A 2018 study found that [80 per cent of employees of Israeli cyber firms](#) had been trained in Unit 8200 or related units. Unit 8200 has long been associated with aggressive and [intrusive surveillance](#) of Palestinians, including through “the collection of embarrassing sexual, financial or other information”. Cyber-security startups established by former members of these units have tested their technologies with lucrative contracts from the Israeli military before bringing the products to the international market. For example, tech startup AnyVision (now called Oosto) developed an [extensive facial recognition network across the West Bank](#) for the Israeli army, a model that one *Haaretz* journalist described as “competing with the Chinese regime” in its intrusiveness. “These surveillance products are often marketed and sold as ‘field tested’,” says Marwa Fataftah of Access Now.^[3] In 2021 AnyVision secured [\\$235m](#) in an investment round led by SoftBank’s Vision Fund 2. ***SOFTBANK’S TECHNOLOGY PORTFOLIO, WHICH INVESTS IN “GLOBAL AI INNOVATORS”, HAS BEEN HEAVILY BACKED BY SAUDI ARABIA’S PUBLIC INVESTMENT FUND.***

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISRAEL’S CYBER-SECURITY INDUSTRY HAS PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE ISRAELI STATE’S DEEPENING STRATEGIC LINKS WITH SAUDI

ARABIA. A process that culminated in Israel signing the Abraham Accords with UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco in 2020.

SAUDI ARABIA HAS HOSTED ISRAELI TECH ENTREPRENEURS TO PURSUE INVESTMENTS IN ISRAELI COMPANIES AND FUNDS, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT THESE FIRMS WOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE PLANNED NEOM SMART CITY, THE SITE OF THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN ISRAELI AND SAUDI LEADERS IN LATE 2020.



SOME ISRAELI ACTIVISTS ARGUE THAT THESE RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN FORGED THROUGH “PEGASUS DIPLOMACY”, WHEREBY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT APPROVES THE EXPORT OF NSO TECHNOLOGY TO GULF STATES IN RETURN FOR THE NORMALISATION OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ISRAEL. In 2019, seeking **RIYADH’S TACIT SUPPORT FOR NORMALISATION AND ACCESS TO SAUDI AIRSPACE FOR ISRAELI AIRLINES**, then **PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN**

NETANYAHU PERSONALLY APPROVED THE RENEWAL OF NSO GROUP'S LICENCE TO EXPORT PEGASUS TO SAUDI ARABIA, TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THE ROLE THE SOFTWARE HAD PLAYED IN THE COUNTRY'S CRACKDOWN ON HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS (PERHAPS INCLUDING KHASHOGGI).

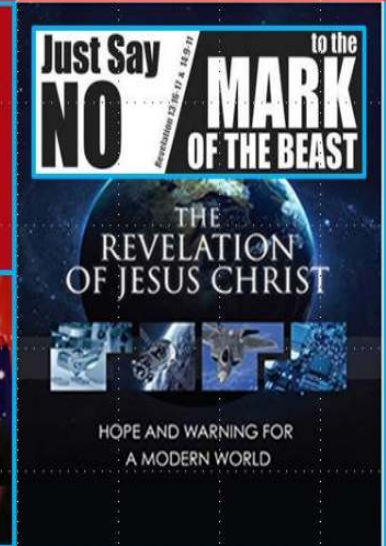
Cellebrite, an Israeli cyber-security firm owned by [Sun Corporation](#) – which has marketed its products to the Belarusian and Hong Kong authorities – **HELPED SAUDI ARABIA HACK INTO A PHONE HELD BY THE SAUDI JUSTICE MINISTRY IN 2020**. In 2021 Citizen Lab found evidence suggesting that hacking software provided by Israeli firm [Candiru](#) – which the US has since placed on an export control list alongside **NSO GROUP FOR ACTIVITIES THAT “THREATEN THE RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER” – HAS BEEN OPERATED BY SAUDI ARABIA**.

SOCIAL CONTROL: MASS SURVEILLANCE AND THE CHINESE MODEL

AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST INCREASINGLY ENGAGE IN COMPREHENSIVE SURVEILLANCE BASED ON THE CHINESE MODEL, USING AI-LED PROGRAMMES THAT ANALYSE MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF PERSONAL DATA TO “IDENTIFY THREATS, TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STATE ACTION”, as a [recent Project on Middle East Political Science study](#) on digital authoritarianism puts it. Dubbed “[dataveillance](#)” as early as the 1980s, such a strategy may be out of reach for poor, low-capacity Arab states. But this is not the case for wealthier countries in the region.

THE FOUNDING BOARD OF NEOM ONCE DECLARED THAT THE PROJECT “SHOULD BE AN AUTOMATED CITY WHERE WE CAN WATCH EVERYTHING ... WHERE A COMPUTER CAN NOTIFY CRIMES WITHOUT HAVING TO REPORT THEM OR WHERE ALL CITIZENS CAN BE TRACKED.” THE STATE MAY PORTRAY SUCH CAPABILITIES AS A MEANS TO ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY AND EFFICIENCY, BUT THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL RISK THAT THEY WILL FACILITATE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

THE ANTICHRISTS ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT IS HERE



WHEN CITIZENS ARE AWARE THEY ARE SUBJECT TO PERVASIVE MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION, THIS CAN LEAD THEM TO [ACCEPT THE STATUS QUO](#) AND LIMIT THEIR EFFORTS TO IMAGINE ALTERNATIVE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL REALITIES. SUCH A CHILLING EFFECT CAN ALTER THE BEHAVIOUR OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE POLITICALLY ENGAGED BUT SEEK TO AVOID NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES IN OTHER AREAS OF THEIR LIVES. Dubai has mooted a [behavioural reward system](#) that seems to draw *INSPIRATION FROM THE CHINESE [SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM](#)*. As Jones notes, there is *AN ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF TECH COMPANIES THAT COLLECT PERSONAL DATA AS PART OF A BUSINESS MODEL SOMETIMES TERMED “[SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM](#)” AND THE INTERESTS OF AUTHORITARIANS WHO COLLECT PERSONAL DATA FOR THE PURPOSES OF SOCIAL CONTROL.* ^[4]

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROVIDED GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD WITH A REASON TO MASSIVELY INCREASE THEIR COLLECTION OF CITIZENS' PERSONAL DATA, OFTEN WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY, HIGHLY INTRUSIVE APPS THAT MONITOR THEIR MOVEMENTS.



The government in Bahrain threatened to severely punish individuals who failed to use its covid-19 app – which captured location data through GPS and uploaded it to a central database, [tracking the movements of users in real-time](#) – or wear the electronic wristband that came with it. Kuwait’s covid-19 app uploaded users’ location data to a central server every ten minutes. The UAE used [thermal cameras](#) in airports and malls, and on police officers’ helmets, to track the temperature of passers-by. Just as governments around the world used the security crisis of 9/11 to permanently adopt a raft of restrictive laws and measures, they

seem likely to retain many data surveillance practices introduced in response to covid-19.

GOVERNMENTS' COLLECTION AND USE OF BIOMETRIC INFORMATION ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNING. The [Israeli authorities](#) have reportedly collected the images of at least 450,000 Palestinians with live facial recognition (LFR) software that, according to its manufacturer, uses CCTV feeds to “identify individuals and objects ... and then track targets as they move between different feeds”. Around 95 per cent of East Jerusalem is covered by CCTV.

This has a profound psychological effect on [people who know they are almost always being filmed](#). One man [told the Washington Post](#) that, when his six-year-old daughter dropped a teaspoon from the family's roof, soldiers came to his home to tell him that he would be cited for throwing stones. Israeli soldiers are incentivised to take as many photos as possible of Palestinians, including children, so they can be matched to live video footage.

In March 2020, [Abu Dhabi police](#) upgraded their patrol cars with a **LIVE BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION SYSTEM**. Dubai's [Oyoon](#) security system uses the network of 300,000 cameras across the city to analyse data and “detect suspects”. [NTechLab](#), which is partly owned by the Russian government, and which helps to operate **RUSSIA'S VAST BIOMETRIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM**, opened an Abu Dhabi office in 2021 and won the contract to carry out video [monitoring of Expo 2020](#). The company claims that its products can identify people's emotions.

One of its tools is designed to classify faces based on their [perceived ethnicity or race](#). In Gulf countries such as Qatar – where [racial discrimination](#) is a major concern and people from ethnic minorities at heightened risk of harassment by state authorities – migrant workers may now be flagged as a security risk if LFR technologies detect that they have [visited a specific public space multiple times](#).

The UAE has pioneered the use of predictive policing – in which historical data inform future strategies and resource allocation – in the Gulf, with Dubai’s police force announcing in [2016](#) its intent to use this approach and, more recently, developing an [AI platform to guide decision-making](#). Bahrain has reportedly been using [PredPol software to anticipate protests](#).

In Europe and North America, predictive policing has been shown to reinforce [discriminatory policing practices](#), and to have a particularly significant impact on racial or other minorities. Multiple studies show how data-driven or algorithmic decision-making tends to result in discrimination against already marginalised or excluded communities. This is because predictive policing depends on so-called [dirty data](#) – inaccurate, skewed, or systemically biased data that has been generated using patterns of behaviour shaped by political, social, and other biases.

Some scholars now go further, [arguing](#) that racial inequality is in fact “a feature, not a bug of data capitalism”. ***IN AUTHORITARIAN COUNTRIES, THERE IS A HEIGHTENED RISK THAT THE AUTHORITIES WILL ABUSE THESE TYPES OF SYSTEMS. AND, AS ONE [EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT STUDY](#) POINTS OUT, AI-DRIVEN DATA-COLLECTION SYSTEMS AFFECT “WIDER AND HARDER TO DELINEATE CATEGORIES OF VICTIMS” THAN OTHER FORMS OF DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM – WHICH MAKES THEM MORE DIFFICULT TO CHALLENGE AND, ACCORDINGLY, MORE LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE POPULATION.***

While Gulf and other ***ARAB STATES*** are traditional allies of the US, their ***DEEPENING COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA PROVIDE THEM WITH A MASS-SURVEILLANCE MODEL AND PARTNER*** – one that will sell them technological capabilities at a relatively low price. China has used the [Digital Silk Road](#), the technological component of its Belt and Road Initiative, to ***SIGN***

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING WITH Egypt, **SAUDI ARABIA**, and the UAE. These agreements pave the way for intensified technology transfer, training programmes, and investments in infrastructure by Chinese tech firms. In this way, China will become increasingly important to Arab technology stacks – the layers of a digital communications ecosystem. **HUAWEI IS NOW HELPING SAUDI ARABIA LAUNCH ITS NATIONAL AI CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

Huawei has made substantial inroads into the Gulf markets for 5G and [cloud services](#). **SAUDI ARABIA HAS CHOSEN TO USE HUAWEI'S 5G TECHNOLOGY IN NEOM DESPITE THE OBJECTIONS OF THE US – WHICH HAS CONCERNS ABOUT THE FIRM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY, AS WELL AS THE RISK THAT CHINESE 5G WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY WILL SERVE AS A PLATFORM FOR CYBER-ATTACKS AND INFLUENCE OPERATIONS. ONE SAUDI OFFICIAL [TOLD](#) THE FINANCIAL TIMES IN 2021 THAT "THERE'S A LOT TO LEARN FROM CHINA AND ITS ABILITY TO DEVELOP THE WAY IT HAS IS PREDICATED ON THE FACT IT'S NOT A DEMOCRACY."**



Watching these developments with concern, the US has formed initiatives such as the [Freedom Online Coalition](#), a group of 34 states “committed to protecting and promoting online freedoms domestically and abroad”. ***THE FIERCE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE US AND CHINA OVER TECHNOLOGY UNDERMINES EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A UNIFIED GLOBAL VISION OF DIGITAL GOVERNANCE. CONTROL OF [INTERNET STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS](#) IS A CRITICAL PART OF THIS CONTEST:***

China uses financing under the Digital Silk Road to promote its [technology standards](#). ***AUTHORITARIAN STATES INCREASINGLY APPLY THESE STANDARDS***, which are unlikely to involve concepts such as “[privacy by design](#)”, an approach to systems development that requires data protection to be taken into account throughout the process.



IN SAUDI ARABIA, GOOGLE HAS MOVED TO SET UP A CLOUD REGION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ARAMCO. SMEX POINTS OUT THAT GOOGLE SERVICES IN THE COUNTRY WILL BE PLACED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE SAUDI COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION, WHICH CAN DIRECT THE FIRM TO REMOVE OR BLOCK CONTENT THAT MAY FALL FOUL OF SAUDI ARABIA'S REPRESSIVE 2007 CYBER-CRIME LEGISLATION. Google claims to have carried out a human rights impact assessment of the controversial project, which it says is "of limited scope". In June 2022, more than half of the company's independent shareholders voted for a resolution that asked the company to "commission a report assessing the siting of **GOOGLE CLOUD DATA CENTERS IN COUNTRIES OF SIGNIFICANT HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN**".



More broadly, the EU should raise the profile of spyware-related human rights violations in bilateral discussions with partners such as the UAE, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. It is still ***UNCLEAR WHETHER THE UNION MENTIONED DIGITAL REPRESSION IN ITS FIRST [HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE](#) WITH SAUDI ARABIA IN LATE 2021.***

Finally, the resources the EU allocates to initiatives to defend against digital authoritarianism still pale in comparison to the scale of the challenge, with civil society groups in many ***MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES ALMOST ENTIRELY UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE DOMESTICALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY USING THE INTERNET.***

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About the author

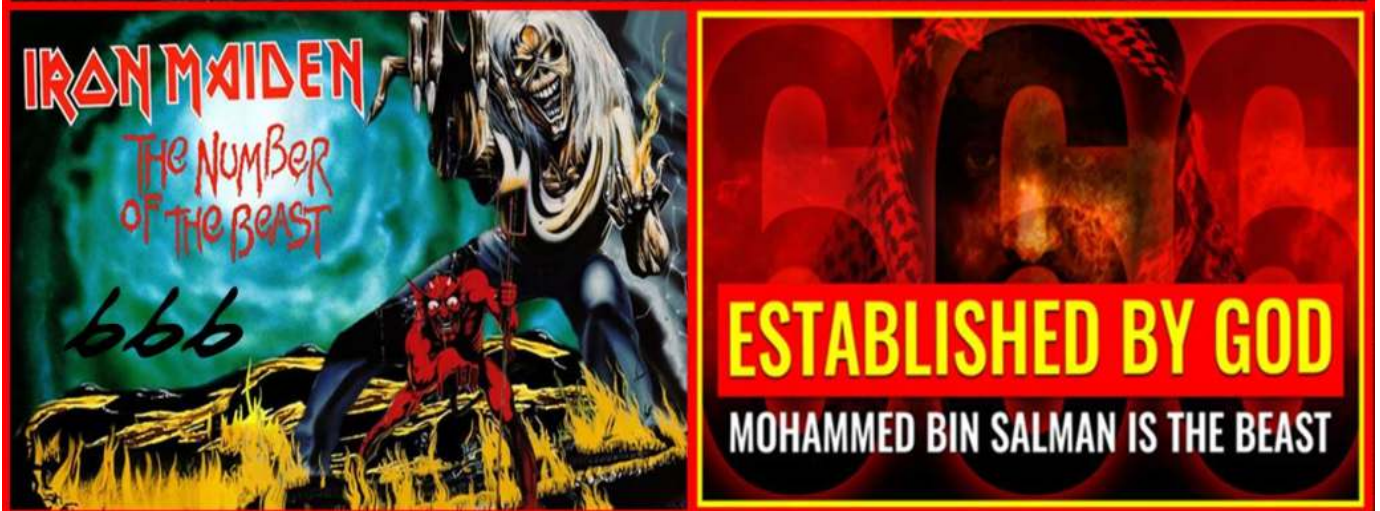
[James Lynch](#) is a visiting fellow at ECFR and a founding co-director of FairSquare, a human rights research and advocacy group. He worked at Amnesty International from 2011 to 2017 – where he was, among other roles, deputy director of the Middle East and North Africa programme, and where he was [targeted by a fake NGO](#) of unknown provenance claiming to work on human rights and the Qatar World Cup. Lynch worked for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office between 2004 and 2011, mainly focusing on the Middle East.

64. 666: THE NUMBER OF THE PRINCE, BEAST, ANTICHRIST, MAHDI, 12TH IMAM

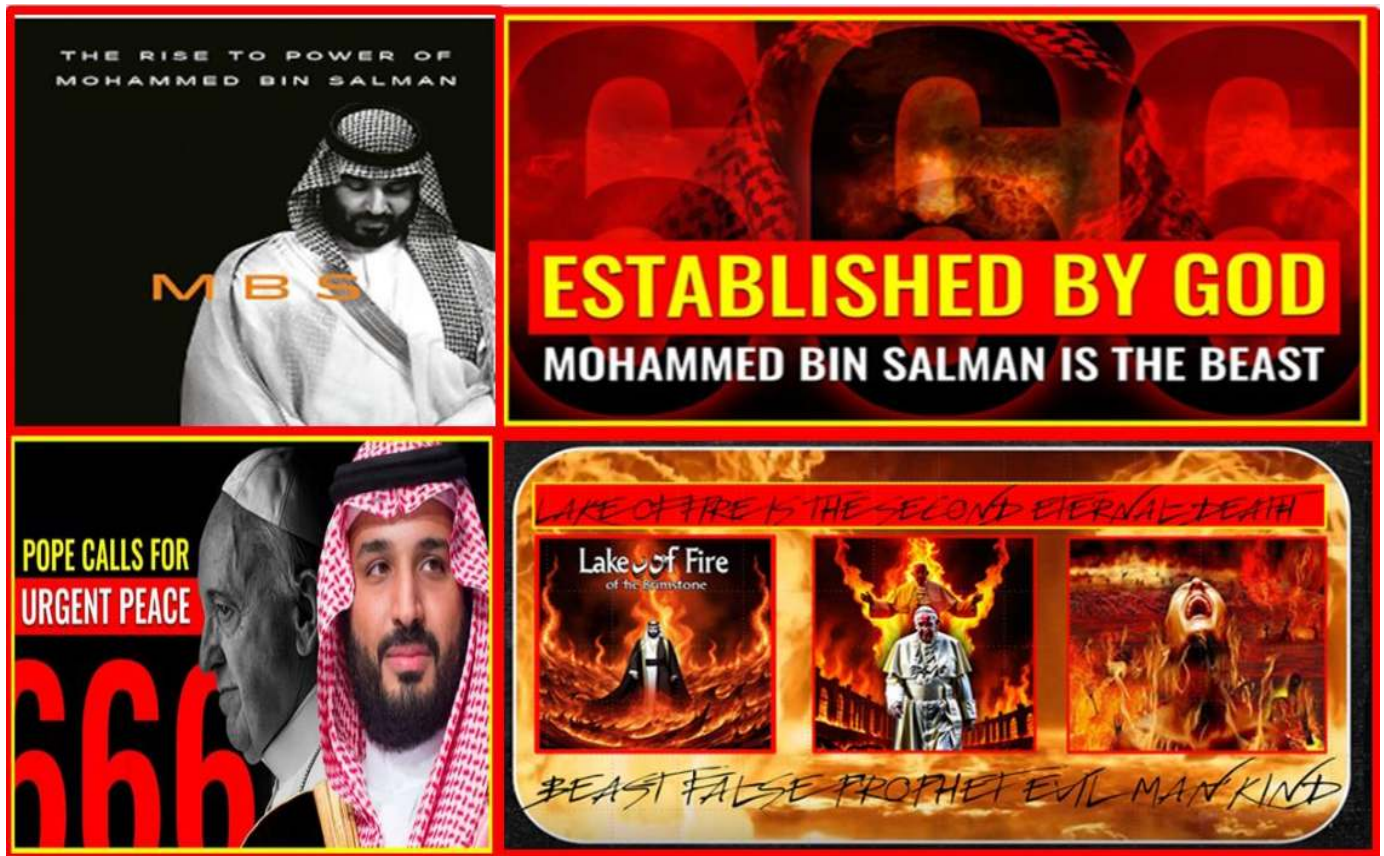
<https://rumble.com/v561ko5-666.-the-number-of-the-prince-beast-antichrist-mahdi-12th-imam.html>

65. 666: MATHEMATICALLY COUNT THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST

Revelation 13:16-18 And he [false pope, prophet, pontiff] causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or **THE NUMBER OF HIS NAME**. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding **COUNT THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST: FOR IT IS THE NUMBER OF A MAN; AND HIS NUMBER IS SIX HUNDRED THREESCORE AND SIX.**



1. **WORSHIP THE BEAST. (6X).** (Rev. 13:4, 13:8, 13:12, 14:9, 14:11, 20.4)
2. **WORSHIP THE BEAST'S IMAGE. (6X).** (Rev. 13:14, 13:15, 14:9, 14:11, 16:2, 19:20)
3. **TAKE THE BEAST'S MARK. (6X).** (Rev. 13:16, 13:17, 14:9, 14:11, 16:2, 19:20)
4. Take the beast's number. (2X). (Rev. 13:17, 13:18)
5. Take the beast's name. (2X). (Rev. 13:17, 14:11)



Commentary: **THERE ARE A TOTAL OF EIGHTEEN (18) VERSES THAT INDICATE THE ETERNAL SINS OF DAMNATION THAT RESULT FROM WORSHIPPING THE BEAST, WORSHIPPING HIS IMAGE AND TAKING HIS MARK OF IDENTIFICATION. THREE (3) DENOTES GOD'S EMPHASIS AND INTENSITY. SIX (6) DENOTES THE EVIL NUMBER OF MAN = 18, OR 6+6+6 = 18, OR 666 . . . "HERE IS WISDOM. LET HIM THAT HATH UNDERSTANDING COUNT THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST: FOR IT IS HE NUMBER OF A MAN; AND HIS NUMBER IS SIX HUNDRED AND THREESCORE AND SIX (666)." (REV. 13:18). WORSHIPPING THE BEAST, HIS IMAGE AND TAKING HIS MARK ARE THE ETERNAL SINS THAT MEN COMMIT DURING THE TRIBULATION.**

IN NUMEROLOGY, GEMATRIA (/gə'meɪtriə/; Hebrew: גימטריה or גמטריא, gimatria, plural גמטראות or גימטריות, gimatriot) is THE PRACTICE OF ASSIGNING A NUMERICAL VALUE TO A NAME, WORD OR PHRASE BY READING IT AS A NUMBER, OR SOMETIMES BY USING AN ALPHANUMERICAL CIPHER.

In the [Textus Receptus](#) manuscripts of the [New Testament](#), the [Book of Revelation \(13:17–18\)](#) cryptically asserts 666 to be "the man's number" or "the number of a man" (depending on how the text is translated) associated with [the Beast](#), **AN ANTAGONISTIC CREATURE THAT APPEARS**

BRIEFLY ABOUT 66.6% INTO THE APOCALYPTIC VISION. Some manuscripts[[which?](#)] of the original [Koine Greek](#) use the symbols $\chi\xi\varsigma$ [chi xi stigma](#) (or $\chi\xi\phi$ with a [digamma](#)), while other manuscripts spell out the number in words.

THERE ARE A TOTAL OF TEN (10) COMBINED REFERENCES OF EVIL MEN TAKING THE BEAST'S MARK, NUMBER OR NAME. These three descriptions are synonymous with being identified with (or belonging) to the beast and his system. Ten (10) denotes God's allness or physical completeness regarding things on earth. These ten references indicate man's complete earthly evilness and damnation resulting from taking either the mark, number or name of the beast and his kingdom.

These men are so deceived and evil, that they not only allow themselves to worship the beast and his fake image, but they allow themselves to be physically 'branded' or marked in order to be identified with the beast. Evil men obtain this mark, number or name so they can also participate in the global economy in terms of buying and selling. They have to be identified as having this mark, number or name, physically evident on either their right hand or forehead, in order to be allowed to execute a purchasing or selling transaction. Once evil men worship the beast, his image and take his mark (or number, name), they are damned.

There are three verses regarding a very specific, powerful and clear angelic warning given to men on earth, to NOT worship the beast, or his image, or take his mark (name, number). **THREE (3) DENOTES GOD'S EMPHASIS AND INTENSITY.**

66. WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO REFUSE TO TAKE THE MARK OF THE BEAST?

<https://youtu.be/bmewFNiOKBw>

. . . "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they

have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” (Rev. 14:9, 14:10, 14:11)

Twice (2) the message is directed at men. The angel repeats himself indicating that the message is for men and what behavior is judged eternally sinful (for ever and ever). Men who worship the beast, his image and take his mark will;

- 1. Experience God’s wrath.**
- 2. God’s wrath will not be diluted, or held back, but given in full strength.**
- 3. They will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone for torment.**
- 4. Their torment will be forever and ever (eternity).**
- 5. Their torment will be witnessed by holy angels.**
- 6. Their torment will take place in the presence of the Lamb.**
- 7. They will have no rest day or night, forever and ever (eternity).**

THERE ARE SEVEN (7) SPECIFIC RESULTS THAT STEM FROM MEN WORSHIPPING THE BEAST, HIS IMAGE AND TAKING HIS MARK (NAME OR NUMBER). SEVEN (7) DENOTES GOD’S DIVINELY DETERMINED COMPLETENESS AS TO HIS PURPOSE OR PLAN. Eternal punishment in the lake of fire and brimstone, day and night is the strongest wrath that God gives evil men (and Satan, beast/antichrist and false prophet). There is a specific mention that this torment takes place in the presence of the Lamb. These men, while in their torment, will see or consciously be aware of the existence of Jesus Christ. This will provide added pain, anguish and misery since they will be painfully made aware of the choice of their decisions (to worship the beast, his image and take his mark). They were warned not to do what they did.

The Bible gives plenty of examples of the glory that is given to those who did NOT worship the beast, his image or take his mark. Yet, despite the angelic warning . . . despite the 3 ½ year testimony of two witness and prophets . . . despite the witnessing of Tribulation Saints . . . despite the flying angel who proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ . . . evil men still chose to worship the beast, his image and to take his mark, name or number.

They chose to ignore the messages, the warnings, and the testimonies. And now, they are in the lake of fire and brimstone, and will have to pay the price for their evil decision(s), for eternity. They see Jesus Christ, and have become painfully aware of what they could have had through Jesus Christ and instead, they chose the false, empty promises of Satan by worshipping the beast, his image and taking his mark, name or number.

Their extreme bitterness and woeful regret will emotionally torment them for eternity, in addition to the physical pain, suffering and torment that they will experience in the lake of fire for eternity. Through their decision to follow Satan, God gave them exactly what they wanted. They did not want anything to do with Jesus Christ, who paid for their sins with his own blood. As such, God gave them over to Satan, since it was their free decision or choice, and what they desired while they were physically alive on earth.

These evil men did everything humanly possible to ignore warnings, to blaspheme God, to ignore the gospel of Jesus Christ, and instead they accepted and believed in lies, worshipped Satan, the beast and his image. Evil men even went so far as to physically defile their bodies (flesh) by taking the branding (mark, number or name) of the beast. All of these actions and behaviors enabled evil men to give themselves totally and wholeheartedly over to Satan through his system of the beast/antichrist and the false prophet.

There are two visions describing what John the Apostle saw, regarding men who were overcomers (them that had gotten victory) by NOT worshipping the beast, his image or taking his mark, number or name.



. . . “And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgements are made manifest.” (Rev. 15:2, 15:3, 15:4).

. . . “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgement was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” (Rev. 20:4).

Men who do NOT worship the beast, his image and take his mark are described as;

- 1. THEY ARE IN HEAVEN (STAND ON A SEA OF GLASS).**
- 2. THEY HAVE HARPS OF GOD.**
- 3. THEY SING PRAISES AND WORSHIP JESUS CHRIST FOR THEIR SALVATION.**
- 4. THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOD’S JUDGEMENTS CAME TO PASS.**
- 5. THEY ARE GIVEN THRONES UPON WHICH THEY SIT UPON.**
- 6. THEY ARE GIVEN JUDGEMENT.**
- 7. THEY LIVE AND REIGN WITH CHRIST FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.**

THERE ARE SEVEN (7) SPECIFIC RESULTS THAT STEM FROM MEN NOT WORSHIPPING THE BEAST, HIS IMAGE AND TAKING HIS MARK (NAME OR NUMBER). SEVEN (7) DENOTES GOD’S DIVINELY DETERMINED COMPLETENESS AS TO HIS PURPOSE OR PLAN. These blessings or glories are the complete opposite of what awaits those men who DID worship the beast, his image and took his mark, name, number.

- 1. THE RIGHTEOUS ARE IN HEAVEN FOR ETERNITY VERSUS EVIL MEN WHO ARE IN THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE FOR ETERNITY.**
- 2. THE RIGHTEOUS ARE JOYFUL AND PLAY HARPS VERSUS EVIL MEN WHO ARE BITTER, RESENTFUL, ANGRY, TORMENTED, CRY AND WAIL IN ANGUISH.**

3. **THE RIGHTEOUS SING THE PRAISE OF AND WORSHIP JESUS CHRIST VERSUS EVIL MEN WHO ONCE PRAISED AND WORSHIPPED SATAN (THROUGH THE BEAST, HIS IMAGE AND IN TAKING HIS MARK).**
4. **RIGHTEOUS MEN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WHAT GOD SAID WOULD COME TO PASS, IN FACT DID COME TO PASS (MADE MANIFEST) VERSUS EVIL MEN WHO IGNORED AND REJECTED WARNINGS, THE GOSPEL AND TESTIMONIES OF THE TRUTH.**
5. **THE RIGHTEOUS ARE GIVEN THRONES IN HEAVEN VERSUS EVIL MEN WHO ARE DROWNING IN TORMENT IN THE LAKE OF FIRE.**
6. **THE RIGHTEOUS ARE GIVEN JUDGEMENT VERSUS EVIL MEN WHO ARE JUDGED.**
7. **THE RIGHTEOUS LIVE AND REIGN WITH CHRIST VERSES EVIL MEN WHO DIE AND FALL WITH SATAN.**

The avoidance of doing these five (5) eternal sins is one of the most important themes, in the entire book of Revelation. Men must avoid doing these things, literally at all costs. Even to the point of being beheaded or martyred. Men's eternal destinies depend on it. Worshipping the beast, his image and taking his mark, name or number result in eternal damnation. There is no way of sugar coating or downplaying this reality.



And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

[Revelation 14:10](#) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with **FIRE AND BRIMSTONE** in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

[Revelation 19:20](#) And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were **CAST ALIVE INTO A LAKE OF FIRE BURNING WITH BRIMSTONE.**

[Revelation 20:10](#) And the devil that deceived them was cast into the **LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE**, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

[Revelation 21:8](#) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in **THE LAKE WHICH BURNETH WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE: WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH.**

All faiths lead to God: New controversy as Pope preaches religious pluralism on final day of tour

The Catholic Herald

September 13, 2024 at 9:24 am



HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS = 666

His Holiness Pope Francis

Reverse Franc Baconis

666

9

(22 letters, 4 words)

"His Holiness Pope Francis" = 666 (Reverse Franc Baconis)

H 37 I 38 S 36 H 36 L 30 I 30 N 26 S 26 S 26 P 26 O 26 P 26 E 26 F 26 R 26 A 26 N 26 C 26 I 26 S 26

Reverse Franc Baconis

Z	z	Y	y	X	x	W	w	V	v	U	u	T	t	S	s	R	r	Q	q	P	p	O	o	N	n
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	m	L	l	K	k	J	j	I	i	H	h	G	g	F	f	E	e	D	d	C	c	B	b	A	a
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52



NEOM BABYLON THE 'MYSTERY RELIGION'.

67. POPE FRANCIS' MYSTERY RELIGION BABYLON: ONE-WORLD RELIGION

<https://rumble.com/v56o02t-pope-francis-mystery-religion-babylon-one-world-religion.html>



PETRUS ROMANUS
THE LAST OR FINAL P

68. THE FALSE POPE, PROPHET OR PONTIFF CAUSES THE WORLD'S WORSHIP OF THE BEAST, ANTICHRIST OR MAHDI

<https://rumble.com/v57i6ej-the-false-pope-prophet-or-pontiff-causes-the-worlds-worship-of-the-beast-an.html>

TRIBULATION ECONOMY OF THE FALSE PROPHET

UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

Primes
666
9

(20 letters, 3 words)

"UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME" = **666** (Primes)

U N I V E R S A L 398 B A S I C 100 I N C O M E 170 **666**
73 43 23 79 11 61 67 2 37 3 2 67 23 5 23 43 5 47 41 11

Move Up		Primes													Move Down	
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m				
2	3	5	7	11	13	17	19	23	29	31	37	41				
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z				
43	47	53	59	61	67	71	73	79	83	89	97	101				

BeingJustified.com



I believe it is time to explore concepts like the universal basic income (UBI), also known as 'the negative income tax': an unconditional flat payment to all citizens, which could be dispersed through the tax system.

- Pope Francis

THE ECONOMY OF FRANCIS

Primes
666
9

(19 letters, 4 words)

"THE ECONOMY OF FRANCIS" = **666** (Primes)

T H E 101 E C O N O M Y 291 O F 60 F R A N C I S 214 **666**
71 19 11 11 5 47 43 47 41 97 47 13 60 13 61 2 43 5 23 67

Move Up		Primes													Move Down	
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m				
2	3	5	7	11	13	17	19	23	29	31	37	41				
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z				
43	47	53	59	61	67	71	73	79	83	89	97	101				

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POPE FRANCIS IS THE FALSE PROPHET.pdf



69. THE NUMBER OF MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN = 666

The NUMBER OF MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN '666'

HISTORIC PEACE AGREEMENT

Primes
666
9

(22 letters, 3 words)

"HISTORIC PEACE AGREEMENT" = **666** (Primes)

H I S T O R I C 316 P E A C E 82 A G R E E M E N T 268 **666**
19 23 67 71 47 61 23 5 53 11 2 5 11 2 17 61 11 11 41 11 43 71

Move Up			Primes											Move Down		
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m				
2	3	5	7	11	13	17	19	23	29	31	37	41				
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z				
43	47	53	59	61	67	71	73	79	83	89	97	101				

BeingJustified.com

Saudi Arabia will not recognize Israel without Palestinian state, says Crown Prince



September 18, 2024

The NUMBER OF MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN '666'

THIRD TEMPLE OF ISRAEL

Primes
666
9

(19 letters, 4 words)

"THIRD TEMPLE OF ISRAEL" = **666** (Primes)

T H I R D 181 T E M P L E 224 O F 60 I S R A E L 201 **666**
71 19 23 61 7 71 11 41 53 37 11 47 13 60 23 67 61 2 11 37

Move Up			Primes											Move Down		
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m				
2	3	5	7	11	13	17	19	23	29	31	37	41				
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z				
43	47	53	59	61	67	71	73	79	83	89	97	101				

BeingJustified.com



ISRAEL FALSE PEACE AGREEMENT.pdf



ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION AND PE

The NUMBER OF MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN '666'

ROYAL FAMILY OF SAUD

Primes

666

9

(17 letters, 4 words)

"ROYAL FAMILY OF SAUD" = **666** (Primes)

R O Y A L 244 F A M I L Y 213 O F 60 S A U D 149 **666**

61 47 97 2 37 13 2 41 23 37 97 47 13 67 2 75 7

Move Up					Primes										Move Down										
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
2	3	5	7	11	13	17	19	23	29	31	37	41	43	47	53	59	61	67	71	73	79	83	89	97	101

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The NUMBER OF MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN '666'

the kingdom of the beast

Reverse Franc Baconis

666

9

(20 letters, 5 words)

"the kingdom of the beast" = **666** (Reverse Franc Baconis)

t h e 96 k i n g d o m 232 o f 66 t h e 96 b e a s t 176 **666**

14 38 44 32 36 26 40 46 24 28 24 42 14 38 44 50 44 52 16 14

Move Up										Reverse Franc Baconis												Move Down							
Z	z	Y	y	X	x	W	w	V	v	U	u	T	t	S	s	R	r	Q	q	P	p	O	o	N	n				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26				
M	m	L	l	K	k	J	j	I	i	H	h	G	g	F	f	E	e	D	d	C	c	B	b	A	a				
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52				

titled.com

The NUMBER OF MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN '666'

PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN

Primes

666

9

(23 letters, 4 words)

"PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN" = 666 (Primes)

P R I N C E 196 M O H A M M E D 209 B I N 69 S A L M A N 192 666
 53 61 23 43 5 11 41 47 19 2 41 41 11 7 3 23 43 67 2 37 41 2 43

Move Up					Primes					Move Down				
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m		
2	3	5	7	11	13	17	19	23	29	31	37	41		
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z		
43	47	53	59	61	67	71	73	79	83	89	97	101		

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The NUMBER OF MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN '666'

JUDAS WILL ENTER MBS

Primes

666

9

(17 letters, 4 words)

"JUDAS WILL ENTER MBS" = 666 (Primes)

J U D A S 178 W I L L 180 E N T E R 197 M B S 111 666
 29 73 7 2 67 83 23 37 37 11 43 71 11 61 41 3 67

Move Up					Primes					Move Down				
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m		
2	3	5	7	11	13	17	19	23	29	31	37	41		
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z		
43	47	53	59	61	67	71	73	79	83	89	97	101		

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70. I DIED & SAW HOW THE ANTICHRIST DECEIVES EVEN THE ELECT - WARNING VISION

<https://youtu.be/bczYEYxVOVE>

71. RIYADH LAUNCHES 'GLOBAL HARMONY' INITIATIVE



TFC News, Zhariya Camid Published Oct 25, 2024 04:57 PM PHT Updated Oct 25, 2024 05:07 PM PHT

SAUDI ARABIA'S GLOBAL HARMONY INITIATIVE IS A 'UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY'

ISLAMABAD: PAKISTAN'S TOP DIPLOMAT IN SAUDI ARABIA AND EXPATRIATES WELCOMED AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE SAUDI "GLOBAL HARMONY INITIATIVE," SAYING THAT IT

WOULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING AND UNITY BETWEEN THE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES LIVING IN THE KINGDOM.

SAUDI ARABIA LAST WEEK UNVEILED THE GLOBAL HARMONY INITIATIVE, WHICH IS AIMED AT CELEBRATING THE DIVERSE NATIONALITIES AND CULTURES OF RESIDENTS THROUGH EXPLORING THEIR LIVES, CONTRIBUTIONS AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION.

THE INITIATIVE, A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE QUALITY OF LIFE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, SAUDI VISION 2030, THE KINGDOM'S GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY AND THE MINISTRY OF MEDIA, WILL FEATURE EVENTS DURING RIYADH SEASON SHOWING THE CUISINES, CULTURES AND HERITAGE OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS PAKISTAN, INDIA, MALAYSIA, INDONESIA AND OTHERS.



“THE GLOBAL HARMONY INITIATIVE WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING AND UNITY AMONG THE DIVERSE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITIES IN SAUDI ARABIA,” Ahmad Farooq, Pakistan’s ambassador to Saudi Arabia, told Arab News.

Farooq said the initiative provides a valuable platform, especially for the Pakistani community, to share its rich cultural heritage and highlight its significant contributions to the Kingdom.

“The Global Harmony Initiative is a significant step toward acknowledging the vital role expatriates play in Saudi society,” he added. He said Pakistanis have a “unique opportunity” to highlight their professional achievements, family values and cultural integration. **FAROOQ ADDED THAT THE GLOBAL HARMONY INITIATIVE NOT ONLY PROMOTES INCLUSIVITY BUT ALSO**

STRENGTHENS THE BONDS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES TO ENHANCE THE OVERALL FABRIC OF SAUDI SOCIETY.



He encouraged Pakistani expatriates to actively participate in the initiative, tell their stories and underline their **CONTRIBUTIONS FOR A BRIGHTER, MORE HARMONIOUS FUTURE**. Pakistani expatriates from all walks of life welcomed the initiative, saying it will provide them opportunities to engage with diverse cultures while also promoting their own.

“It is indeed a great initiative, as we will not only experience the diverse cultures of various expatriate communities but also have the chance to introduce the richness of Pakistani culture to others,” Muhammad Naveed, a Pakistani engineer in Riyadh, told Arab News. He said the initiative would foster stronger ties between expatriates and the Saudi community.

“It is an excellent step forward and we are excited to become part of this during this Riyadh Season,” he said. Zainab Zahoor, a Pakistani expatriate who lives in Riyadh with her family, described the initiative as a **WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO CONNECT AND INTEGRATE WITH OTHERS**.

“As a Pakistani expatriate living in Riyadh, I believe the **GLOBAL HARMONY INITIATIVE** allows us to showcase the richness of Pakistani culture while **BUILDING STRONGER CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER EXPATRIATE GROUPS AND SAUDI SOCIETY**,” she told Arab News. Zahoor said the initiative **CREATES A SENSE OF UNITY AND APPRECIATION AMONG DIVERSE COMMUNITIES**.

“It is now up to the Pakistani mission and community to fully utilize this opportunity to showcase our culture and highlight our contributions to Saudi society,” she said. Muhammad Ahmed, a Pakistani who works for a multinational company in Jeddah, **DESCRIBED THE INITIATIVE AS A “VITAL STEP” TOWARD FOSTERING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.**

“Saudi Arabia is home to millions of expatriates from various countries, with significant populations from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh,” Ahmed said. “These communities can foster deeper connections as **THEY SHARE A COMMON REGIONAL BACKGROUND AND CULTURAL TIES FROM THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.**”

He said the platform offers Pakistanis a chance to engage with other communities in the Kingdom so that they can **BUILD LASTING RELATIONSHIPS AND PROMOTE A SPIRIT OF UNITY.**



73. SAUDI ARABIA LAUNCHES GLOBAL HARMONY INITIATIVE

<https://youtu.be/UEJwBmi97xw>



THE BEAST'S VISION
2030 = '666'. PDF..pdf

RIYADH HAS LAUNCHED THE "GLOBAL HARMONY" INITIATIVE TO CELEBRATE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITIES, including the Filipino community in the Kingdom. The initiative was unveiled during a high-profile event at the Movenpick Hotel and Residences in Riyadh. **TWELVE AMBASSADORS AND HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS**, including diplomats from the Philippine Embassy, were also present.

THE "GLOBAL HARMONY" INITIATIVE IS PART OF THE RIYADH SEASON FESTIVITIES held at Al-Suwaidi Park, highlighting expatriates' contributions to the economy, social lives, and recreational activities while showcasing success stories and cultural diversity. Riyadh Season is a series of cultural and sporting events held annually in Saudi Arabia from October to March, organized by the General Entertainment Authority.

This program underscores efforts by both the government and private sectors to improve the quality of life in Saudi cities. In partnership with the Ministry of Information and the General Entertainment Authority, ***THE INITIATIVE WILL CELEBRATE NINE CULTURES FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA, THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA, PAKISTAN, YEMEN, SUDAN, JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA, BANGLADESH, AND EGYPT. ATTENDEES CAN ENJOY CONCERTS, STREET PERFORMANCES, TRADITIONAL FOOD, HANDICRAFTS, AND CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.***

This initiative not only celebrates vibrant expatriate communities but also ***FOSTERS CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING BY INTRODUCING SAUDI CITIZENS AND VISITORS TO THE HERITAGE AND TRADITIONS OF FEATURED NATIONS.***