

CHAPTER III

TURKISH POLICY TOWARDS THE TRAGIC OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI MURDER

This chapter explained about the the causes behind Jamal Khashoggi murder that is so controvercial by elaborating his thoughts as a journalist who is very influential in the development of Islam in the Islamic States. Furthermore, Turkey attitude in accusing Saudi Arabia as a part of being involved in this murder also will be explained in this chapter by examing the evidences that Turkey found and the suspect that being involved in which those are leads to the Saudi Arabia.

A. The Causes Behind Jamal Khasoggi Murder incident

It's become a big question, the reasons behind the murder of Jamal Khasoggi and why his murder becoming very controvercial. The existence of Khasoggi itself closely related to the three countries which are Saudi Arabia, United States and Turkey because Khashoggi is known have Turkish blood from his grandfather and his family is one of thousands of Saudi citizens of Turkish descent. In 2017 Khashoggi was lived in the Washington D.C as a columnist for the Washington Post, he often flew to Istanbul to attend meetings with experts and academics to discuss solutions to the inconvenience of the Islamic world lately. According to Khashoggi, the Islamic world can overcome all its problems through democracy. The breakthrough of democracy and economic development in Turkey was attracted him. He mentioned that Turki could be an example for the Muslim world. However, Khashoggi's thoughts seemed to be restrained under the Saudi government Khashoggi only wanted the Saudi

kingdom to accept and develop discussions for the reporter. Not pressuring them with arrest and pursuit. (Eneng Susanti, 2018)

Other than that, Khashoggi was known as a critical reporter who very brave to deliver the sharp critics to the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. In an interview on the UpFront Aljazeera program and a number of columns published in the Washington Post, Khashoggi expressed his support for the reforms launched by the Saudi crown prince. However, he was disappointed because on the way the crown prince behaved as a dictator and imprisoned his critics. Moreover, he was criticized Mohammed bin Salman for imprisoning a number of Saudi Arabian intellectuals and journalists. So that no one dared to speak up and criticize the reforms he made. Khashoggi assessed that the reforms that had been rolled out by the Saudi crown prince were aimed at controlling power entirely in his hands by imprisoning his critics. The critics also about the War in Yemen in which Khashoggi said that Mohammed bin Salman in fighting Houthi rebels in Yemen and Islamic movement groups in Yemen. He said the Saudi crown prince did not provide a way to share power for democracy in Yemen. He suggested political reform was needed in Saudi Arabia. The massive corruption in Saudi Arabia that involving a number of princes. He told that the practice of corruption in Saudi Arabia is different from other countries. For example, infrastructure development is based on prince's interests and land monopoly by the royal family in Saudi Arabia. Criticizing the crown prince's policy in fighting extremists but wrong in punishing people. Khashoggi said extremist clerics were highly respected by Mohammed bin Salman, but he punished and imprisoned people who opposed extremism in Saudi Arabia such as intellectuals,

scholars, journalists and social media user. (Tempo.co, 2018)

In deepening this case, not only Turkey that give respond but also the United States showed its concerned towards this case. Indirectly it gives a positives influence for these two countries to relieve the tensions that happened between them. In responding this case the United States has not reached the final conclusion about the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, although the CIA report mentions the involvement of Saudi crown prince, Prince Mohammad bin Salman. However, in a statement, Trump called the Saudis "important allies" and the United States must "consider many things". This thing referring to the arms purchase agreement with Saudi Arabia, after a senior US official met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, but still the United States also feel concerned and still ask for the CIA to look for the relevant evidences and make those who would be responsible to the case. (BBC NEWS, 2018)

Based on the brief Khashoggi's experiences that have been explained above, it was enough to show how important he is in a media role as a critical reporter that oftenly give its strict critics towards the Islamic issues that happend surround the Islamic countries but especially to the Saudi Arabia. Khashoggi has great confidence towards his country. All the critics that he expressed, it's because he hope his country could be a more better as a Islamic Country although Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ever devised a plan to persuade Khashoggi who lives in the US to return to Saudi Arabia and detain him, but it didn't make he back to Saudi Arabia. He continue life as a reporter then found a women in Turkey. Unfortunately, no one know that when he wants to arrange his marriage documents

in Saudi Arabia Consulate in Turkey would bring him into a death.

B. Turkish accusation towards Saudi Arabia as the suspect of Jamal Khashoggi Murder.

As the Jamal Khashoggi murder incident happened in Turkey, of course Turkey as the host country cannot remain silent in facing this case. When Turkey knew there had been a murder at the consulate general of Saudi Arabia in Turkey, Turkish Government directly took immediate action. The government did such kind of deep investigation regarding this case. Turkish investigators believe that he was strangled when he visited to collect documents on his marriage to a Turkish citizen which would soon be held.

As the result of the investigation on October 17th , it was reported by the anonymous source of Turkey found an audio recordings that shows how Jamal Khashoggi mutilated for 7 minutes. One day after, Middle East Eye quoted a source from within the Saudi kingdom and reported that 7 of the 15 members of the killing team were close people and bodyguards of Mohammed bin Salman. Anadolu and a number of media said that two high-ranking officials who were said to be involved were the Deputy Chief of Intelligence of Saudi Arabia, Major General Ahmed al Asiri, and adviser Siber Saud al Qahtani. On October 20th 2018, the Saudi Arabian attorney general acknowledges that Jamal Khasoggi was killed in Saudi consultants in Turkey. Saudi Arabia admitted sending 15 people to bring Jamal to go home. They did such negotiations with Khashoggi but then it was failed. On October 22nd 2018, the Middle East Eye media reported the killer team named Fiqrat el-Nemr or Tiger Squad which formed in 2017 which consisted of the 50 best intelligence and military agents. The mission of the

tiger army covertly killed Saudi Arabia dissidents in the kingdom even abroad. They swore allegiance to the crown prince Mohammad bin Salman. Then the Middle East Eye media also quote the source from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and reported that 7 of 15 Jamal Khashoggi killers were the close person and the bodyguard of Mohammad bin Salman. The team of 15 people sent to Istanbul included people in charge of logistics, intelligence and negotiations aimed at persuading Khashoggi to return. Anadolu and others media mentioned that some of the high-ranking state officials also involved, they are Saudi Arabia's Deputy Chief of Intelligence, Major General Ahmed Al Asiri and Cyber Advisor Saud al-Qathini. The Wall Street Journal reports that the leader of the assassination operation Jamal Khashoggi, Saud Al-Qahtani, sent 11 messages before and after Khashoggi went missing at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2 (Tempo.co, 2018)

Other than that, on October 23 until November 11, Turkish intelligence agents tapped into 14 telephone calls of Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb, the main bodyguard of the Crown Prince who was the coordinator of Khashoggi's assassination mission. 7 Mutreb's telephone call led to the office of Mohammed bin Salman. Arab and Turkish sources told Reuters, released on October 24, that main assistant of Mohammed bin Salman was communicating via Skype with the Khashoggi killers and Khashoggi himself. An anonymous source told Middle East Eye that Jamal Khashoggi's finger was allegedly taken and shown to the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. On November 11, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country provided copies of the recording of Jamal Khashoggi's murder to the US, Germany, France, Britain and Saudi Arabia. . On 4 December 2018, the CIA Director met with senior

senators to discuss the role of the Saudi high official in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. On December 13, 2018, the US Senator concluded that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for a credible investigation into the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

After a long investigation done by Turkey until they found the suspect of this murder, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has demanded extradition of suspects and a court in Turkey issued an arrest warrant for former Saudi intelligence chief Ahmad al-Assiri and former adviser to the royal family Saud al-Qahtani, on December 5th 2018, but then the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Adel al-Jubeir refused an extradition request for the defendants to murder the journalist Jamal Khashoggi who was posted by Turkey. He also asked their friends in Turkey to share with them about the evidence that can be used in court but unfortunately this was reportedly rejected by Ankara. But then after a long negotiations Ankara is finally agree to have a further investigation with together with Saudi Arabia. (BBC NEWS, 2018)

Furthermore, as the action of responsibility towards this case, the Saudi foreign minister stressed the suspects would not be extradited to Turkey, but would be prosecuted in Saudi Arabia. It took more than 2 weeks for Saudi Arabia to find out that Jamal Khashoggi was killed at their embassy in Istanbul on October 2. Although the United States Intelligence Agency (Central Intelligence Agency / CIA) concluded that the Saudi crown prince, MBS, ordered the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. That conclusion also refutes an explanation from the Saudi Arabian government which claims the prince was not involved in the murder of the Washington Post journalist at the Saudi Embassy. The

Saudi prosecutor's office did not release the names of 11 people he said had been charged in the case, and said that 10 other people were still under investigation and five people who admitted their involvement in the murder. But then, on November 11, Saudi Arabia's public prosecutor said he would seek the death penalty for five people accused of killing journalist Jamal Khashoggi, and the Trump administration imposed sanctions on 17 Saudi officials who were allegedly involved in the case. Under the sanctions, any assets owned by 17 Saudi officials who are in US jurisdiction will be frozen, individuals blocked from entering the US, and US-based companies are prohibited from conducting any transactions with them. (Matamatapolitik.com , 2018)

Based on the steps above taken by Saudi Arabia, they increasingly prove that this incident has no relation with the prince Muhammad Bin Salman. The public prosecutor stressed that there was no order from the government to kill journalists who opposed the government, and kept Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman away from the case. It also added by Mr. Adel al-Jubeir, the foreign minister of the kingdom, said that the results of Saudi investigations continued to free the crown prince. The Saudi government has repeatedly said that the crown prince was unaware of the operation, even though his two closest aides were suspected of involvement. The two aides named Major General Ahmed al-Assiri, former deputy head of Saudi intelligence, and Qahtani, a former media adviser and the prince's right hand man, they were dismissed from their position and were involved in the investigation.