

# Key dates in alleged Iran assassination plot

U.S. authorities have charged two men linked to the Iranian government with plotting to assassinate the Saudi ambassador in the United States. Iran has dismissed the allegations as a fabrication

■ **May 24: Manssor Arbabsiar** – naturalised U.S. citizen with dual Iranian and U.S. passports – meets informant for **U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration** posing as Mexican drug cartel member

Series of meetings take place in U.S. and Mexico



■ **Jul 17:** Informant and Arbabsiar discuss having ambassador killed at his favourite restaurant. Arbabsia dismisses possibility of other casualties as “no big deal”

■ **Aug 1/9:** Arbabsiar, with approval of co-defendant **Gholam Shakuri**, sends two wire transfers totalling \$100,000 as downpayment

■ **Sep 28:** Arbabsiar flies to Mexico but is denied entry and placed on return flight to New York

■ **Sep 29:** Arrested at JFK airport during flight layover

■ **Oct 4-5:** Arbabsiar, in custody since arrest, agrees to make monitored phone calls to Shakuri in Iran. Shakuri said to be member of **Quds Force** – Iran’s **Revolutionary Guard Corps**

**Shakuri tells Arbabsiar plot should move forward as quickly as possible, stating “just do it quickly, it’s late”**

■ **Jul 14:** Informant tells Arbabsiar that his price for killing ambassador is \$1.5m and that he will need four men to carry out murder

Source: U.S. Justice Department

Pictures: Getty Images

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