

# U.S.-Saudi relations face scrutiny

Saudi Arabia is moving to release some political prisoners and repair relations with regional rivals as it prepares for a policy reset with U.S. President Joe Biden's administration



## QATAR

■ **Jan 4:** Saudi-led bloc of UAE, Bahrain and Egypt ends three-year blockade of Qatar

■ **Jun 2017:** Bloc accuses Qatar of supporting extremism and using state-run *Al Jazeera* as propaganda weapon against neighbours



## RUSSIA



■ **Mar-Apr 2020:** MbS and *Vladimir Putin* clash, triggering oil price war between Riyadh and Moscow

## POLITICAL PRISONERS

■ **Feb 10:** *Loujain al-Hathloul*, Saudi women's rights activist released after 1,001 days in prison



■ **Feb 4:** U.S.-Saudi citizens *Salah al-Haidar*, *Bader al-Ibrahim* temporarily released after being detained in 2019

■ **Jan 14,** *Walid al-Fitaihi*: U.S.-Saudi citizen sees prison sentence reduced



## ASSASSINATION

■ **Oct 2018:** Crown prince triggers global outcry after Saudi-critic and Washington Post columnist *Jamal Khashoggi* (inset above) is killed and dismembered inside Saudi consulate in Istanbul



■ **Oct 2019:** Riyadh enforces informal boycott of Turkish goods following incriminating and macabre leaks through Turkish media over Khashoggi killing. **Saudi imports of Turkish goods fall from \$221 million to just \$16m in 2020**



## CANADA

■ **Aug 2018:** Crown Prince *Mohammed bin Salman (MbS)* cuts diplomatic ties and trade with Canada following call for release of women's rights activists

## YEMEN



■ **Feb 4:** U.S. President *Joe Biden* halts support to Saudi-led six-year war in Yemen. Decision follows order to block sale of smart-bomb technology to Saudi Arabia. Administration appoints special envoy to Yemen to help end civil war