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SAUDI ARABIA: IT'S A TOUGH CALL – WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

By Steve Bakke  December 12, 2018



While there isn't agreement on the precise details, most agree that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was somehow involved in the murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi. It seems that everybody but the President wants to come down hard on the Saudis with painful penalties.

Saudi Arabia is a stabilizing influence in the region. It's an enormous support for the U.S. in Afghanistan and against Iran. Also, despite the Saudi's reckless actions in Yemen, withdrawing our support there damages Yemen's legitimate government that is fighting to regain their rightful place after being ousted by the radical Islamist Houthi government. Other U.S. Arab allies, such as the UAE and Bahrain, are also fighting alongside Saudi Arabia.

Can we isolate Saudi Arabia from the global economy? That's impossible, given its prominence in oil exports and their coveted cash reserves. Many countries depend on Saudi oil and investments. And, if we rejected, even temporarily, future dealings with Saudi Arabia, you can be sure Russia would fill that void.

Yemen is a humanitarian disaster. But this isn't a simple case of choosing the moral course. Sometimes an apparent moral course has unintended immoral consequences.

It's a tough call. What would you do?