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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Saudi Arabia's death sentence Monday for five people connected to journalist Jamal Khashoggi's killing after a trial shrouded in secrecy has prompted widespread criticism – except from the White House.

The White House has not issued an official statement as of Monday afternoon, but a senior administration called the sentencing an “important step.”

The response was an outlier among the international community, which blasted Riyadh for its opaque justice system and failing to hold senior officials accountable for Khashoggi's 2018 murder.

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