

Title: **Saudi Space Commission: First Arab female astronaut to reach the final frontier**

Dear x,

We're writing to announce the momentous occasion of the **first ever female astronaut from Saudi Arabia going to space**. Rayyanah Barnawi, and fellow astronaut Ali AlQarni will **blast off to the International Space Station (ISS) on 21st May**.

The Ax-2 mission will launch atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The crewmates will **travel to and from the International Space Station** in a **SpaceX Dragon 2** capsule named Freedom.

They will be conducting **14 innovative and pioneering scientific experiments in microgravity**, including the repercussions of space on human health and rain-seeding technology, which is aiming to contribute to increasing rainfall in many countries. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, there will also be educational experiments conducted aboard the ISS in real time with 12,000 students viewing from Saudi. **The aim is to inspire the future generation of scientists and aspiring astronauts and encourage more young women and girls to follow STEM careers.**

This trip will secure **the Kingdom's global position within the field of space exploration and underline their service to humanity.**

We're offering interviews from the **21st May** with (and can provide full biographies for both):

- **Mishaal Ashemimry**, Special Adviser to CEO of the Saudi Space Commission & Vice President for Diversity Initiatives at the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). She's the first female aerospace engineer in the GCC and started her own rocket company at aged 26. *Please note - for the Human Space Flight (HSF) program Mishaal is the technical lead and can speak in that capacity but not as a spokesperson for SSC*
- Ahmed Alghofaili, Head of Human Space Flight (HSF), and Chief Development and Planning Officer at Saudi Space Commission

There will also be live **feeds** of the pre-launch, launch, docking, farewell and splashdown available through Encompass Digital Media.

There will also be a **press conference on TBC 1st or 2nd June, when both Saudi astronauts will become available**, and for a further 10 days in the US and thereafter in KSA.


Please do let me know whether you're keen to book an interview, and we'll be issuing the first release on the 21st with further information, and another upon return to Saudi Arabia.

Best wishes,

x

EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and subject to the penalties of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 22 U.S.C. § 618, the undersigned swears or affirms under penalty of perjury that he/she has read the information set forth in this statement filed pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, that he/she is familiar with the contents thereof, and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Date	Printed Name	Signature
7/13/23	Marissa Mastellone	
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