



Subject: **First Arab Female astronaut, Rayyanah Barnawi to fly into space. Exclusive media opportunities available**

Hi XXX,

Hope you are well.

We're getting in touch on behalf of the Saudi Space Commission (SSC) to announce the momentous occasion of the first Arab Female astronaut, Rayyanah Barnawi flying into space alongside fellow Saudi astronaut Ali AlQarni. The mission consists of four astronauts all travelling towards the International Space Station (ISS) to conduct ground-breaking scientific research experiments.

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 ISS 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 all):


- **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 – can provide in-depth knowledge on the SSC and AX-2 mission

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 Florida and thereafter in KSA.

Please do let us know whether you're interested in an interview with Mishaal or Ahmed from 21st May onwards and / or the astronauts themselves from June.

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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