Press Release from the English Chess Federation, January 2, 2018

No embargo.

King Salman Rapid and Blitz World Chess Championships

The English Chess Federation regrets the absence of Israeli players from the King Salman Rapid and Blitz World Chess Championships staged in Riyadh last month. Visas for Israeli players were requested, but not issued by the Saudi authorities. This was not in accordance with FIDE’s motto *gens una sumus*.

The ECF calls on FIDE to issue an unequivocal statement that future representative events will not be staged in Saudi Arabia, or in any country which refuses to allow players from Israel or any other federation to participate.

Dominic Lawson, President

Mike Truran, Chief Executive

Malcolm Pein, Director of International Chess and FIDE Delegate

Ends