



## **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS**

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**OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION  
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UPR FRANCE**

### **Mr President**

ICSFT welcomes France's acceptance of the recommendation "to continue efforts to contribute on the prevention of crimes against humanity, particularly genocide.."

However France's ongoing support of Saudi led coalition that's committing war crimes in Yemen contradicts with the sentiment of this recommendation, and is a direct violation of its commitment as a state party to the Arms Trade Treaty that refrain parties from selling and buying arms for the purposes of committing war crimes.

The Saudi-led war in Yemen has officially entered its fourth year accompanied by the deafening international silence and impunity! The coalition is carrying out a devastating air bombardment campaign in Yemen that could amount to war crimes. The coalition airstrikes which have struck civilian infrastructure including health facilities, schools, factories, power facilities, bridges and roads is a clear violation of the Law of the War. Further Saudi Arabia holds one of the worst human rights record, sitting on top of global executioners list.

Regardless of this, Saudi Arabia is among the top importers of arms and equipment from France. These arms transfers are taking place despite the fact that the weapons are used to commit serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, especially in the Yemen.

ICSFT recalls that under the ATT, only the identification of a risk of committing or facilitating serious violations of international humanitarian law or human rights law triggers the obligation for State Parties to deny arms exports. Mr President, it is wrong and immoral to think that this risk does not exist in relation to arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The evidence we see from Yemen suggests the opposite: the risk is very clear.

Hence we urge France to immediately stop arms transfers to Saudi Arabia, and any other country where the arms export could facilitate a serious violation of international human rights law or humanitarian law!

**I thank you**

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