



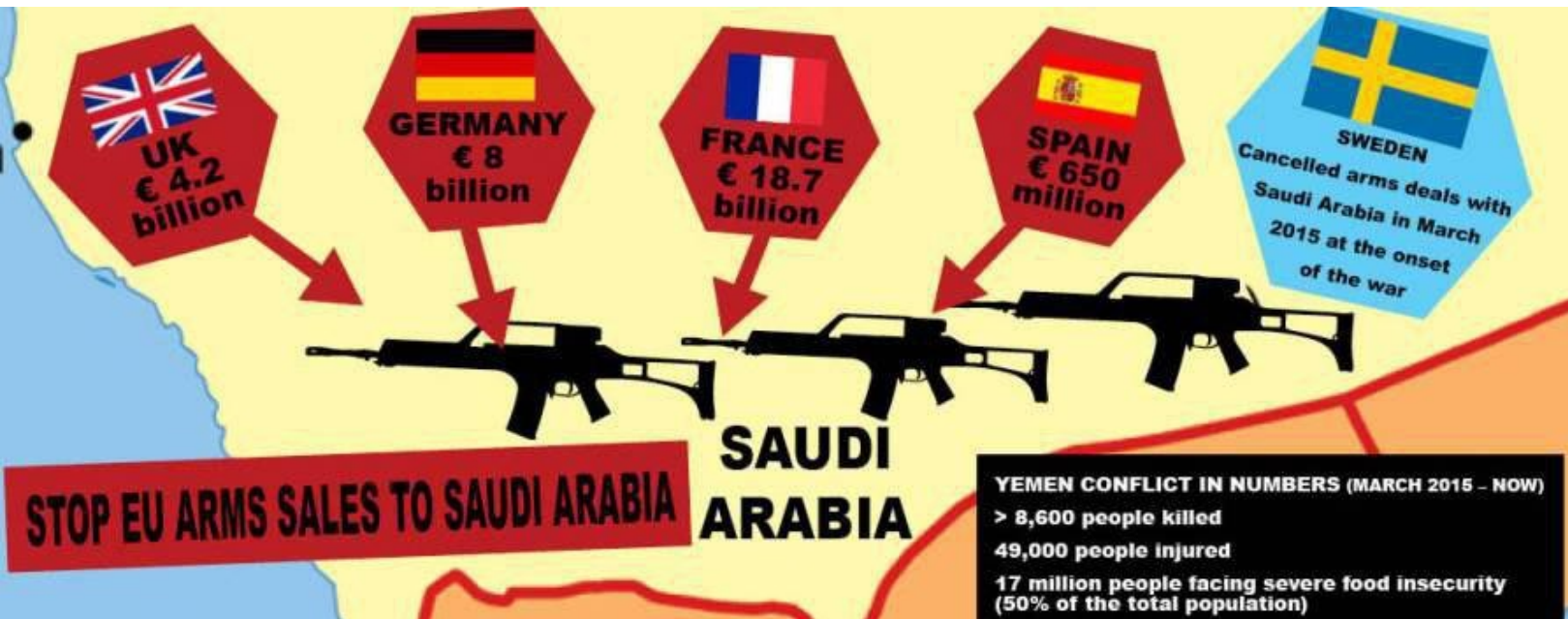
# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN Rights

Registration No.

2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

## ICSFT CALLS FOR END OF ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA - ACTION BEFORE RHETORIC



Despite the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Yemen due to the war waged by Saudi-led coalition, global north countries that claim to have a high moral ground for human rights and have constantly called for an end to conflict in Yemen are closing arms deal with Saudi Arabia, in contrary to their public stance on selling weapons to countries involved with the conflict in Yemen.

France, UK, USA have been the major arms exporters, and now Germany has joined in on the Arms trade deal that's costing the lives of innocent Yemeni people. On top of this year when the conflict in Yemen has drawn international attention Germany declared it would halt all arms sales to countries involved in the conflict in Yemen, such as Saudi Arabia; however just before the end of year Saudi Arabia and UAE's dollar has triumphed Germany's seemingly strong stance on the war in Yemen.



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL  
SUPPORTING  
FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN Rights** Registration No.  
**2795/2012**  
**OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION**

This comes shortly after the Group of Eminent Experts (GEE) have reported on the commission of war crimes in Yemen and indicated the Saudi -led coalitions responsibility for the ongoing violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws.

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 air strikes 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. Most importantly situation in Yemen has been designated the worst humanitarian crisis, with thousands of civilians perishing as a direct result of the warfare, and an estimated eight million civilians have been displaced and are at risk of famine.

Additionally, Saudi Arabia holds one of the worst human rights record, sitting on top of global executioners list.

Ironically, regardless of these documented violations, Saudi Arabia is among the top importers of arms and equipment from countries like Germany, USA, UK, and 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.

These country's ongoing support of Saudi led coalition that's committing war crimes in Yemen contradicts with the sentiment of their commitment and responsibility to prevent crimes against humanity, particularly genocide, and is a direct violation of their commitment as a state party to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that refrain parties from selling and buying arms for the purposes of committing war crimes. The ATT statute is also echoed by The European Union (EU) Common Position on Arm Sales, although not binding, that stipulates the



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL  
SUPPORTING  
FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN Rights** Registration No.  
2795/2012  
**OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION**

requirements Member States should adhere to when selling weapons. The Common Position urges Member States from trading weapons with countries that use them to commit war crimes or to violate international human rights laws.

One of the most apparent and efficient ways to end the war in Yemen is to stop supplying arms to the Saudi led coalition. Hence claiming to prioritize human rights over petrol- dollar dealing, yet engaging in arms sales with Saudi Arabia and allies is a classic case of hypocrisy surrounding the current international diplomacy.

If these major proponents of human rights can't back their rhetoric with action, at least in the face of the worst man -made humanitarian disaster, then who's going to stop the Saudi-led war in Yemen??

The financial benefits of arms sales takes the front seat to human rights once again.

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. 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.

Therefore ICSFT urges Germany, France, UK, USA, and any other county that claims to be against human rights violations, 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!

Human rights agenda should not be compromised by financial gains, especially when the transaction is at the expense of innocent human lives!

ICSFT in **special consultative status with the ECOSOC** / Center Oecumenique des eglise 150, Route de Ferney 1211, Offices: 191&192, Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: +41227884808/ 5&6- Fax:+ 41227884807- Website: [www.icsft.net](http://www.icsft.net)- Email: [uncoordinator@icsft.net](mailto:uncoordinator@icsft.net) / [info@icsft.net](mailto:info@icsft.net)