

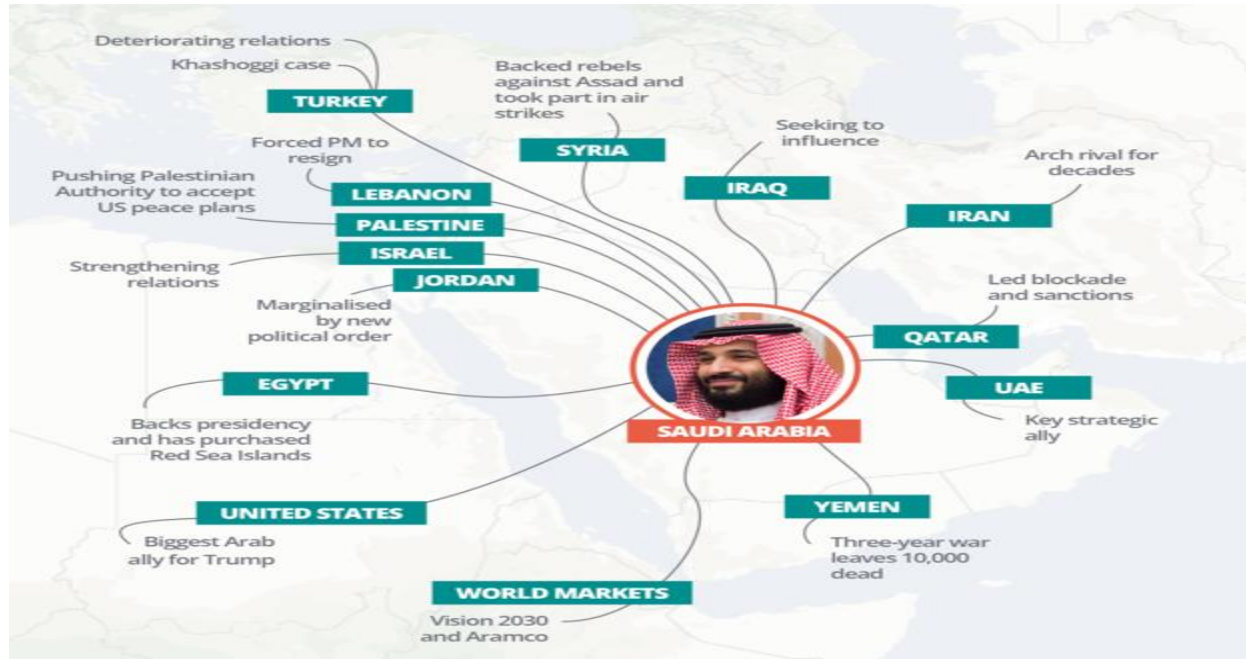


INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO STOP ARMING SAUDI ARABIA?



Why are USA, France, and UK selling arms to a country that has supported terror, has a poor human-rights record, and has waged a reckless war in Yemen?

Saudi Arabia is one of the world's most authoritarian regimes, its repression at home and aggression abroad is propped up and supported by these countries arms sales. Saudi Arabia has the worst record in the world of women's rights, freedom of speech and rights of minorities. The regime is involved in war crimes in Yemen and repeatedly commits atrocities against women, minorities and decedents inside the Kingdom.

And yet, Saudi Arabia is a member of the UN Human Rights Council and in 2015 even was appointed a Chair of the UNHRC Advisory Committee. Moreover, the USA, the UK, and France are among the biggest exporters of arms to Saudi Arabia.

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These self-proclaimed “democratic states” do not only remain silent about such crimes, but also support the regime to commit them!

Trump visited Saudi Arabia on his first foreign trip as president and returned to Washington boasting about \$110bn secured in weapon deals.



Trump holding a chart of weapon sales with Mohammed bin Salman in the Oval Office

Theresa May, the UK prime minister, and Xavier Rolet, the former head of the London Stock Exchange Group, travelled to Saudi Arabia, and as a result shortly after the visit the UK's financial regulator announced it would loosen regulations to allow five percent of Aramco- Saudi owned world's largest oil producer- to list on London's stock exchange within its premium listing rules, which would usually exempt state-owned companies.

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More importantly, although the government tries to mask the true extent of British-made arms exports to Saudi, hundreds of millions of pounds worth of British-made missiles and bombs have been sold to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen under an opaque licensing system that makes tracking arms sales more difficult. Since 2013, around 100 British-made Storm Shadow missiles worth £80m, 2,400 Pave way IV bombs worth £150m, and 1,000 Brimstone missiles worth £100m have been sold to Saudi Arabia.¹

Additionally it is reported that Spain sold \$352m worth of weaponry to Riyadh between 2014 and 2017. France is also amongst the largest arms suppliers to Riyadh with \$475m worth of sales.²

Mohammad bin Salman is establishing closer ties with Israel, taking a particular interest in Israeli cyber-surveillance technology and hi-tech weaponry as well as thawing relations between the two intelligence communities. Saudi Arabia was reported to have cut a deal through US mediation to buy Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system to deploy along its border with Yemen.

This has emboldened the crown prince Mohammad bin Salman's draconian ways of doing business. As such, shortly after securing these deals he embarked on a widespread purge, locking up journalists, businessmen, Islamic scholars and fellow royals.

Not only does it brutally repress its own population, the arms trade with Saudi Arabia is enabling Saudi Arabia to prosecute a war that has killed tens of thousands and left 8 million more on the brink of famine. The bombs killing innocent civilians have the words "Made in the USA, France, UK etc." written on them, and not only this without these western countries intelligence, logistics, training, and equipment, the Saudi war effort would have fallen apart long ago.

¹ According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reports

² According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reports



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Saudi-led coalition through its indiscriminate aerial bombardment has been targeting civilian infrastructure and buildings, something that would constitute a war crime. A UN group of experts recently reported that war crimes are likely to have been committed by Saudi-led coalition. Among the most recent heinous incidents, 40 children were killed on August 9 when a Saudi bombing raid hit a school bus. The World Health Organization has reported that “an outbreak of cholera, the worst in the world, is now running at about 10,000 cases reported every week, double the rate of the first eight months of 2018. The UN warned in October 2018 that if the conflict continued an estimated 12 to 13 million civilians would be at risk of starvation.”

The principle of follow the money has over ruled human rights time and again. However no amount of oil business or arms deals justifies USA, UK, France, and other allied countries collusion with a regime that sponsors jihadism around the world and has the worst human rights record.

ICSFT calls on citizens of these countries to resist the bloody arms trades with Saudi Arabia through legal and political avenues. Meanwhile we would like to thank the government of Finland, Belgium, Canada, and Norway for suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia. And we urge USA, UK, And France, as major arms exporters, to follow these initiatives and halt the arms sales.

The UK should never have been arming repressive Saudi Arabia in the first place. Our military support for the Saudi regime makes us complicit in its wrongs. This is in clear violation of these country’s own guidelines on arms sales, and European and international law, and makes a mockery of the governments’ claims to rigorously control arms exports.

Saudi Arabia’s oppressive regime must be held accountable for its actions. The USA, France, and UK, if they are truly democratic and human rights is their priority agenda, have no business supporting it, either directly or indirectly. USA, France,

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How many MORE breaches of international humanitarian law must Saudi Arabia commit for these countries to stop arming the regime?