



Women in Black
London

**STOP ARMS
SALES TO
SAUDI ARABIA**

UK Arms sales to Saudi Arabia are killing civilians in Yemen

Since 2015, over 10,500 people have been killed in the war in Yemen. More than 3 million people have been displaced. 8 million people face imminent famine. Over 1,300 people have died from cholera, and over 1 million have contracted it, a direct consequence of the conflict. The UK is selling arms which fuel the conflict.

Since March 2015, Saudi Arabia has led a coalition which aims to restore the former government. UK-manufactured Typhoon and Tornado aircraft along with Paveway bombs, and Brimstone and Storm Shadow missiles have been deployed on combat missions in the Yemen campaign. UK military advisers provide technical advice to Saudi command and control headquarters, and the UK trains the Saudi Air Force.

Since 2015, the UK has licensed more than £4.6 billion of weapons sales to Saudi Arabia – a rise of 500% since the start of the war.

The Foreign Office wrote to Women in Black in November 2017, *“The key test for our continued arms exports to Saudi Arabia in relation to IHL [International Humanitarian Law] is whether there is a clear risk that those weapons, the subject of the export licence, might be used in a serious violation of IHL.”* They have failed this test: a third of Saudi attacks have hit civilian targets, including hospitals and schools, as documented by Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF), Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

In December 2016, Michael Fallon, then the Minister of Defence, admitted that British manufactured cluster bombs sold to Saudi Arabia in the 1980s have been used in Yemen. Cluster bombs were banned in 2010 in an international treaty signed by the UK in 2008.

Support Campaign against the Arms Trade (CAAT)

CAAT is pursuing an appeal in its legal proceedings against the Department for International Trade - which approves export licences. CAAT is questioning the legality of its decision to approve arms export licenses to Saudi Arabia, given the use of UK weapons in the Saudi-led attacks on Yemen. The UK government continues to promote weapons sales. In September 2017, Saudi Arabia and its arms suppliers were invited to a huge arms fair in London. Sign CAAT's petition <https://www.caat.org.uk/get-involved/act-now/petition/stop-arming-saudi>, See www.caat.org for details or follow @CAATuk on Twitter

Women in Black stress: UK weapons sales increase insecurity for women in Yemen. Conflict, fuelled by arms sales, undermines women's rights. Women need secure homes, livelihoods, food security, education and healthcare, and protection from sexual and domestic violence.

Please sign and send to:

The Rt.Hon. Theresa May, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1.

The UK, as a party to the Arms Trade Treaty, is prohibited from authorizing an arms transfer if they have knowledge that the arms would be used to commit attacks against civilians, civilian objects or other violations of international humanitarian law.

I call on you to stop fuelling the war in Yemen; suspend all transfers of weapons used to commit violations of international law, as well as general purpose bombs, fighter jets, combat helicopters and their associated parts and components.

Signed.....Date.....

Name:

Address:

Women in Black hold vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin's Place, London, WC2. Our vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. See our website at www.london.womeninblack.org Contact us at: wibinfo@gn.apc.org
www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london Twitter: @WIB_London

Donations for leaflets gratefully received. If you are a woman and agree with us, then do come and join us