



Women in Black
London

**STOP ARMS
SALES TO
SAUDI ARABIA**

UK Arms sales to Saudi Arabia are killing civilians in Yemen

Since 2014, over 10,500 people have been killed in the war in Yemen. More than 2.5 million people have been displaced. Half the population faces imminent famine. While the UK has donated £100 million in humanitarian aid to Yemen - at the same time as it 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 £2.8 billion of weapons sales to Saudi Arabia.

The Foreign Office wrote to Women in Black in November, *“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, Minister of Defence, admitted that British manufactured cluster bombs sold to Saudi Arabia in the 1980s were 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)

On 7-9 February CAAT is taking legal proceedings against the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills - which approves export licences. CAAT will question the legality of their decision to approve export licenses to Saudi Arabia, highlighting their failing to take steps to prevent violations of international humanitarian law. Sign CAAT’s petition <https://www.caat.org.uk/get-involved/act-now/petition/stop-arming-saudi>, and support them in court. See www.caat.org for details or follow @CAATuk on Twitter

Weapons don't create security 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.

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, pending CAAT's legal proceedings.

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