

Francois-Phillippe Champagne,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Justice Building, Suite 506  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H9



Dear Minister Champagne,

I am writing on behalf of the Organization for World Peace to express my concern over Canada's decision to approve permits allowing military exports to Saudi Arabia. Although the terms of the arms deal are valued at more than \$14 billion dollars, the human rights toll will far exceed any economic benefits experienced in Canada.

This deal is most concerning due to Saudi Arabia's role in the Yemeni Civil War. The Saudis are leading a coalition supporting the Yemeni Government against the Houthi armed movement. The coalition forces have been accused of numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity. Namely, indiscriminate bombings, civilian casualties, illegal weapons usage, detainment and torture of activists and journalists. Often times, Saudi-led coalition forces have used weapons and munitions sold by countries in Europe and America. Saudi Arabia's involvement in this conflict has prolonged what the United Nations has dubbed the worst humanitarian catastrophe in decades.

I am gravely concerned at the proposed permission to allow for a renegotiated arms deal between Canada and Saudi Arabia. Understandably, job creation is intensely important as many Canadians are out of work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the risks associated with this deal cannot be ignored. Canada was one of a few countries to present a resolution against Saudi Arabia's violations at the UN Human Rights Council and to now conduct arms transactions would go against the liberal values Canada stands for.

Mr. Champagne, I urge your office to act swiftly to:

- Publicly announce the cancellation of permits to allow military exports to Saudi Arabia and the cessation of arms negotiations.
- Lead investigations into Saudi Arabian international war crimes in the Yemeni Civil War.
- Call for greater action from the United Nations Human Rights Council to investigate Saudi Arabia's alleged human rights violations.

As an advocate for peace, I trust that you will take this issue seriously and seek to protect Canada's position as a global leader/defender of liberal values.

Sincerely,

Brett Smiley  
Advocate, Organization for World Peace

Jonathon Arrell  
Vice President, Organization for World Peace