

**Chris Murphy,
United States Senator for Connecticut
136 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510**



Dear Senator Murphy,

I am writing on behalf of the Organization for World Peace to express my concerns regarding the United States' policy of providing arms to Saudi Arabia. Over the last several months, the Trump administration has moved to increase its supply of military support to Riyadh, placing the lives of millions of Yemeni civilians at great risk.

Since 2015, Saudi Arabia has led a coalition of Arab states in a ruthless military campaign against the Houthi rebels. According to a 2019 Al Jazeera report, the Saudi coalition has conducted tens of thousands of airstrikes in Yemen, destroying markets, schools, and hospitals as a result. International organizations such as Human Rights Watch have accused Saudi Arabia on numerous occasions of intentionally targeting civilian sites, which is a direct violation of the Geneva Conventions. Saudi Arabia has also imposed naval blockades in Yemen's ports, depriving relief programs from delivering lifesaving supplies to a country where 80% of its population requires humanitarian aid.

In March 2017, President Trump announced the signing of a \$110 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia in an effort to strengthen military ties between Washington and Riyadh. This close relationship has persisted even as Saudi Arabia continues to bomb non-military targets in Yemen and assassinate critics of the state, including Washington Post Columnist and American citizen, Jamal Khashoggi.

Thankfully, bipartisan opposition against the Saudi Kingdom has grown considerably in the United States Congress, which passed legislation in 2019 to suspend any further military provisions to Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, President Trump was able to bypass congressional oversight through a controversial emergency declaration, which allowed him to provide the coalition with an additional \$8 billion military package. Seeking to determine the legality of this action, State Department Inspector General Steve Linick conducted an investigation into the matter. However, before Linick's final report was

complete, he was fired by President Trump, who within days after Linick's removal, announced immediate plans to sell Saudi Arabia even more weapons.

We at the Organization for World Peace are gravely concerned about these recent events. The firing of Inspector General Linick is an undisputed example of abuse of power, and Congress must hold the President accountable for his actions. If this does not occur, my colleagues and I fear Trump may invoke the same emergency declaration to bypass the authority of Congress once more, and continue to supply Saudi Arabia with excess military support as the regime destroys civilian life in Yemen.

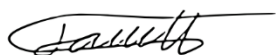
Senator Murphy, we urge your office to immediately take action in order to preserve the lives of the devastated Yemeni population, which for years has faced nothing but constant violence and mass humanitarian suffering. Specifically, we call on you to:

- Compel all members of Congress to oppose providing Saudi Arabia with weapons and military support;
- Demand Congress investigate the legality of President Trump's 2019 emergency declaration to approve U.S. weapons sales to Saudi Arabia; and
- Ensure the appropriate congressional committees investigate the firing of Inspector General Steve Linick.

As someone who has previously led bipartisan initiatives against American arms sales to Saudi Arabia, I trust that you recognize how serious this matter is concerning the health and security of the Yemeni people. Without your help, Trump will continue to pour weapons into Saudi Arabia, which will undoubtedly perpetuate the violence in Yemen.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Koenigsbauer
Advocate, Organization for World Peace



Jonathon Arrell
Vice President, Organization for World Peace