

**Organization for Defending Victims of Violence**



**UK and US Sell Weapons to Saudi despite the UN Reports**

**Mr. President,**

The US and the UK continue military exports to Saudi Arabia neglecting international law and human rights. The Saudi – led Coalition is believed to be accused of arbitrary killing, attacking non-military sites, and blocking flow of humanitarian aid to civilians.<sup>1</sup>

**Mr. President,**

Considering the staggering scope of destruction in Yemen and frequent reports presented by international human rights bodies, including the most recent report of the Security Council on Yemen<sup>2</sup>, (ODVV) believes that, transfer of weapons to Saudi Arabia under the present conditions is a potential threat to international peace and security. Therefore, total halt or at least suspension of arms supplies to Saudi Arabia, must be a top priority for weapon exporting countries.

1. ODDV draws special attention of the HRC to the threat posed to humanity in Yemen as a result of disregard for standards of selling weapons by the US and UK.
2. ODDV requests the UN and NGOs to encourage Saudi Arabia to join international treaties on arms including the Convention on Cluster Munitions and to make the country comply with rules of human rights and international humanitarian law.
3. ODDV calls for immediate halt of airstrikes and use of illegal weapons including cluster munitions in Yemen, because as the Security Council report proves the Saudi Coalition attack to Yemen has led to a humanitarian crisis<sup>3</sup> which is exacerbated by the blockade<sup>4</sup>.
4. ODDV asks the international community to make a serious effort against arms export policies in Europe and the United States.

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1. For example see UN Secretary General's Report on Children and Armed Conflict A/70/836-S/2016/360 (April 20, 2016), Paras. 171 and 228; report from Human Rights Watch: "Targeting Sa'ada – Unlawful Coalition Airstrikes on Sa'ada City in Yemen" (June 2015); report from Amnesty International: Yemen: 'Nowhere safe for civilians': Airstrikes and ground attacks in Yemen (August 2015), CRC. Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Saudi Arabia (25th October 2016), CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4

2 . S/2018/68

3 . "10 air strikes led to at least 157 fatalities and 135 injuries, including at least 85 children". Paragraph 160.

4 . Paragraphs 188 & 189.