



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

It is time US stops supporting war crimes in Yemen!



Donald Trump bowing to Saudi Arabia king Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud while receiving the Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud medal in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 20 May 2017

The Saudi campaign of seducing Donald Trump to escalate US military involvement in Yemen's war without any political settlement has worked.

With little public attention or debate, Trump has already expanded US military assistance to his Saudi ally in ways that are prolonging the Yemen war and increasing civilian suffering.

Disregarding the huge humanitarian toll and voices in Congress that are trying to restrain the Pentagon's involvement, Trump administration officials are considering a request from Saudi Arabia for direct military help from US to control Yemen's main port – which is a life line for Yemeni people.

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The Hodeidah port is a major conduit for humanitarian aid in Yemen, and a prolonged war could be catastrophic for millions of civilians who depend on already [limited aid](#).

The increased US military support for Saudi actions in Yemen is part of a larger policy shift by Trump and his top advisers since he took office.

From 2009 to 2016, the Obama administration authorized a record \$115bn in military sales to Saudi Arabia, far more than any previous administration. Of that total amount, US and Saudi officials signed formal deals worth about \$58bn, and Washington delivered \$14bn worth of weaponry.

Much of that weaponry is being used in Yemen, with US technical support. In October 2016, warplanes from the Saudi-led coalition [bombed a community hall](#) in Yemen's capital, Sana'a, where mourners had gathered for a funeral, killing at least 140 people and wounding hundreds. After that attack – the deadliest since Saudi Arabia launched its war – the Obama administration [pledged](#) to conduct “an immediate review” of its logistical support for the Saudi coalition. But that review led to minor changes: the US withdrew a handful of personnel from Saudi Arabia and suspended the sale of some munitions.

But these concerns evaporated after Trump took office. By [reversing](#) the decision of the former president Barack Obama to suspend the sale of over \$500m in laser-guided bombs and other munitions to the Saudi military, over concerns about civilian deaths in Yemen; in early 2017, Trump administration [approved](#) the deal.

The transformation was solidified during Trump's visit to the kingdom in May 2017, which he chose as the first stop on his initial foreign trip as president.

Saudi leaders gave Trump a [lavish welcome](#): they filled the streets of Riyadh with billboards of Trump and the Saudi King Salman; organized extravagant receptions and sword dances; and awarded Trump the kingdom's highest honor, a gold medallion named after the founding monarch.

During his visit to Riyadh, Trump [announced](#) a series of weapons sales to the kingdom that will total nearly \$110bn over 10 years – including dozens of [F-15](#)

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fighter jets, Patriot missile-defense systems, Apache attack helicopters, hundreds of armored vehicles and thousands of bombs and missiles.

The Saudi campaign to seduce Trump worked. Since then, Trump has offered virtually unqualified support for Saudi leaders, especially to crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is the architect of the disastrous war in Yemen.

Like much of his chaotic foreign policy, Trump is escalating US military involvement in Yemen without pushing for an inclusive and peaceful political solution to the Saudi-led war. His blind support for Saudi Arabia and its allies is worsening the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The war has killed at least 10,000 Yemenis and left more than 22 million people – three-quarters of Yemen's population – in need of humanitarian aid. At least 8 million Yemenis are on the brink of famine, and 1 million are infected with cholera.

By blatantly taking sides, Trump exacerbates proxy wars and inflames sectarian conflict in the region.

ICSFT strongly condemns the US's involvement in the Saudi led genocidal war on Yemen. We call for an immediate end to the US war on Yemen, which has created the largest humanitarian catastrophe on Earth, devastated the poorest country in the Middle East, and fueled misery and destruction for millions of Yemenis. We further urge US to suspend arms sale to Saudi-led coalition and remove its armed forces from Yemen. The US support to the Saudis makes it a co-belligerent in the war under international law. Meaning Washington is implicated in the war crimes committed in Yemen and as such US personnel along with the Saudi-led coalition members should be referred to ICC as per international law.

We call on the international community to draw attention to this disastrous genocidal war on Yemen and condemn its culprits, and stop this man made disaster by taking effective accountability measures. An immediate international arms embargo needs to be declared on Saudi Arabia and its allies. As well, governments' must be held accountable for their arms sales and support to the Saudi-led coalition which is committing war crimes with complete impunity.