

[Date)

Dear [Insert name of your MP],

Re: The UK must not resume arms sales to Saudi Arabia as weapons could be used to target civilians in Yemen

I write to you as your constituent to express my concerns about the UK's plans to resume arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Although the UK Government has called for peace in Yemen several times over the last 5 years of conflict, on 7 July 2020 it made the decision to continue to sell arms to Saudi Arabia - one of the countries involved in the conflict in Yemen.

In June 2019, following a legal challenge from campaigners, the UK Government arms sales to Saudi Arabia were deemed unlawful by the UK Court of Appeal. This had prevented the granting of any new arms export licenses for Saudi Arabia. However, according to Campaign Against Arms Trade, this had allegedly been breached and new licensing has been granted on at least two occasions since the ban. On 7 July 2020 the UK Government announced that it would be renewing all new arms exports licenses.

Suspending arms sales is a vital step in ending the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The people of Yemen have suffered more than five years of brutal warfare, which has left a quarter of a million people dead – through attacks on civilians, preventable diseases, and widespread malnutrition. I've learned through the relief and development agency Tearfund that over 80% of the population (24 million Yemenis) require humanitarian assistance to survive.

Now Yemen also faces the challenge of fighting COVID-19's rapid spread while hampered by a conflict-decimated healthcare system, recent escalation in attacks by all parties, and a humanitarian response underfunded by the international community. **Yemen cannot wait any longer** for this devastating conflict to be brought to an end.

Please would you write to the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Trade:

1. To express concern about the announcement and urge them not to authorise any arms sales to Saudi Arabia.
2. To raise concerns that any weapons sold to Saudi Arabia could be used to commit further violations against civilians.
3. To ask that the government publish the analysis which led to the decision to resume arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Please ask that the data is made public, so that the decisions' legality can be scrutinised, before arms sales are resumed.
4. To urge the government to pressure all parties to the conflict to implement a ceasefire, as called for by the UN Secretary General.

I would very much like to hear what you as my MP think about this situation, and when you get a reply from the Foreign Secretary, and the Secretary of State for International Trade, it would be good to hear their response.

Kind regards,

(name)

(contact details including your address to show you live in the constituency)