



Stop Selling Arms to Saudi Arabia

To: **Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland**

Evidence is mounting that war crimes are being committed in Yemen by the Saudi-led coalition. Canadian-made Light Armoured Vehicles previously sold to Saudi Arabia are at risk of being used to support ground attacks in Yemen. **We call on you to suspend all arms transfers to Saudi Arabia and other parties to the conflict in Yemen.**



**For more information on this petition
please contact: hhomes@amnesty.ca**

Sincerely,

**Petition Signers: Complete if you wish to receive
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Further Background:

A bloody conflict has been raging in Yemen for more than two years – but largely ignored by the rest of the world. It is fuelled by arms sales from a dozen countries including Canada. Evidence of possible war crimes is mounting.

Nearly 5000 civilians have been killed, including hundreds of children, since a Saudi-led military coalition launched airstrikes against Huthi armed groups in Yemen in March 2015. Some 3 million people have been displaced.

There is overwhelming evidence that the Saudi-led military coalition is failing to protect civilians, and that some attacks may amount to war crimes. Air strikes have targeted hospitals, schools, markets and mosques. Ground forces of both anti-Huthi and Huthi armed groups have been operating in residential neighbourhoods, putting everyone in the area at risk, including of reprisal attacks.

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen will only deepen unless the supply of arms is cut off. No country should be directly or indirectly supplying weapons, munitions, military equipment or technology that would be used in the conflict until the violations stop.

In April 2016, then Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion signed off on 6 export permits authorizing the majority of the deal negotiated under the previous government. This includes Canada's current \$15 billion multi-year deal to sell Light Armoured Vehicles (LAVs) to Saudi Arabia. Canadian-made LAVs transferred in previous years could be used to support ground attacks in Yemen. Images posted on social media by the Saudi Arabian National Guard appear to show Canadian-made LAVs being moved to the volatile border area.

On May 11, 2016, the Globe and Mail reported on video evidence of LAVs being used to suppress protests in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province. While the origin of the vehicles is unclear, these reports deepen Amnesty's concern that Canadian-made LAVs could be misused.