INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the world’s second largest oil producer and exporter. It is the second largest importer of arms in the world.

It is a hereditary dictatorship founded in 1932 by Ibn Saud and governed since by his descendants. It is one of the most authoritarian and repressive regimes in the world.

Political organising, such as through political parties, human rights groups or demonstrations is banned, and peaceful expressions of dissent can be punished by torture and death. The regime is sectarian, subjecting the Shia community to severe discrimination. It is misogynistic, denying women and girls basic rights and it is homophobic: same-sex sexual activity can be punished by death.

In March 2015, a coalition led by Saudi Arabia intervened in the conflict in Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the world, killing thousands of civilians and creating a humanitarian catastrophe. Attacks by the coalition have hit hospitals, schools, food warehouses and supply lines, destroying essential infrastructure. Millions of people now face starvation. Save The Children estimates that 85,000 children under 5 may have died of starvation since the beginning of the conflict.

UK MILITARY RELATIONSHIP & ARMS SUPPLIES

Saudi Arabia is the UK’s biggest arms customer and has been a major buyer of UK weapons since the 1960s. The UK government is intimately involved in these deals. Over 260 UK Ministry of Defence civil servants and military personnel work in the UK and Saudi Arabia to support the contracts.

The regime’s repression at home and aggression abroad is propped up and supported by these arms sales, and military and security training.

The UK government promised to support the Saudi-led attacks on Yemen “in every practical way short of engaging in combat.” It has continued to provide arms for the conflict despite overwhelming evidence of repeated breaches of international humanitarian law. It has licensed over £4.7 billion of arms to Saudi Arabia since the bombing began.

Typhoon and Tornado aircraft, manufactured by BAE Systems, have been central to the attacks. Other UK weapons used include Raytheon’s Paveway bombs, and MBDA’s Brimstone and Storm Shadow missiles. The government issued ‘Open licences’ for these, which means there is no limit on the quantity that may be sold and their value is unknown.

PROFILE: MWATANA

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights is an independent Yemeni organization dedicated to defending and protecting human rights. It specialises in field investigations and research to create accurate and objective accounts of the facts in order to detect and stop human rights violations in Yemen, as well as improving legislation and government policies. It works to bring support and justice to victims of human rights abuses, and hold human rights abusers to account.

🔗 mwatana.org  🌐 facebook.com/mwatanaen  🐦 twitter.com/mwatanaar
**SAUDI ARABIA & DSEI**

Delegations from Saudi Arabia have been invited to every DSEI arms fair as guests of the UK.

Many of Saudi Arabia’s arms suppliers will attend.

- **BAE Systems** is a primary partner and beneficiary of the massive billion-pound arms contracts which have helped prop up the autocratic Saudi regime for more than fifty years
- **Leonardo** and **Rolls Royce** both manufacture parts for Eurofighter Typhoons for the Royal Saudi Air Force
- **MBDA** and **Raytheon** both manufacture bombs and missiles used by Saudi Arabia in Yemen
- **Lockheed Martin** provides air and missile defences and “capabilities to preserve peace and stability” including Hellfire air-to-ground missiles and Sniper Advanced Targeting Pods
- **General Dynamics** supplies Abrams main battle tanks and large numbers of armoured vehicles

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- Sign the petition to Stop DSEI at [www.caat.org.uk/stop-dsei](http://www.caat.org.uk/stop-dsei)
- Join and share the Stop DSEI 2019 Facebook event
- Share our Stop DSEI 2019 video: find it on Youtube, Facebook and Twitter

stopthearmsfair.org.uk
caat.org.uk