

# War in Yemen – Made in Europe: Online protest against European arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition

*Virtual Protest Actions to commemorate the “forgotten war” in Yemen*

- *Campaigners and NGOs from 10 European countries criticize European arms exports to Saudi-led coalition*
- *European governments have licensed €42 billion worth of arms to Saudi-led coalition*

On the night of 26 March 2015, the Saudi-led coalition launched its military intervention in Yemen. The war that has been raging since then in the Gulf of Aden is described by the United Nations as "the world's worst man-made humanitarian disaster". In 2019 alone, there were more than 3,000 direct fatalities, and 24 million are dependent on humanitarian aid.

A broad alliance of campaign groups and NGOs from ten European countries have called for an end to arms sales and the role of European governments in the suffering.

**European governments have licensed €42 billion arms have been licensed to the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen between 2015-2018.**

Over recent years, some states have introduced some restrictions on arms sales. In some countries restrictions also include the UAE, but loopholes often still exist. In addition, arms companies and individual governments are arguing increasingly for an early lifting of existing national restrictions, although the war has not lost any of its brutality.

The campaigners had originally planned events, poster actions and performances against European arms exports to the Yemen war coalition, but these have been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The organizations are calling for broad virtual protests. Different possibilities are offered like taking photos of yourself with the slogan “Stop Arming the Saudi-led Coalition”, sharing messages and infographics, using common hashtags and following participating groups from all over Europe.

**The campaigners are calling to impose an EU-wide arms embargo against all members of the Saudi-led coalition.** This embargo should not allow any exceptions for export licenses already granted or component deliveries within the framework of European joint projects.

**(...) Statements of national groups!!!**

The following organisations will be taking part in the action:

- CAAT, UK
- urgewald, Germany
- Ohne Rüstung leben, Germany
- Stop Wapenhandel, Netherlands
- Vredesactie, Belgium
- Rete Italiana per il Disarmo, Italy
- Centre Delàs per la Pau J.M. Delàs, Spain
- NESEHNUTÍ, Czech Republic
- Agir pour la Paix, Belgium
- Svenska Freds, Sweden

- Sadankomitea, Finland
- Stop Fuelling War, France
- Aktion Aufschrei, Germany
- DFG-VK, Germany