

Oppose Proposed \$110 billion Arms Sale to Saudi Arabia LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement, June 4, 2017

LA Jews for Peace urges Congress to restrict and/or cancel the \$110 billion arms sale agreement that President Donald Trump signed with Saudi Arabia on May 20 in Riyadh. Selling weapons to Saudi Arabia will only worsen the war in Yemen, further arm Saudi-sponsored terrorist groups like Daesh (Islamic State) and al-Qaeda fighting in Iraq and Syria, and enable a war with Iran.

Saudi Arabia has one of the worst human rights records and has supported many of the extremists terrorizing the people of the Middle East and the world. Specifically:

- Saudi Arabia is leading a coalition supporting the ousted Yemen government. In that role, Saudi Arabia has bombed and blockaded Yemen killing thousands of civilians and bringing the population of 17 million people to the brink of famine.
- Saudi Arabia is the source of much of the funding that Daesh and al-Qaeda receive and both groups are motivated by Wahabi Islam that is promoted worldwide by Saudi Arabia.
- Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammed bin Salman claims that the Iranian Shia leaders are planning to seize Mecca and he seems anxious to engage in a preemptive war. He threatened, "We will not wait until the battle is in Saudi Arabia, but we will work so the battle is there in Iran."

LA Jews for Peace commends Congressional leaders of both parties who are calling for limitation to the \$110 billion arms agreement.

- H.J. Res. 102 by Representatives Justin Amash (R-Mich.) and Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.), cosponsored by Reps. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), Walter Jones (R-N.C.), and Jim McGovern (D-Mass.), aims to block the proposed sales of precision-guided munitions and other offensive weapons to the Government of Saudi Arabia.
- A similar joint resolution in the Senate is sponsored by Senators Chris Murphy (D.-Conn.), Al Franken (D.-Minn.) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.).
- Representatives Ted Lieu (D-Calif.) and Ted Yoho (R-Fla.) sent a letter to the House Foreign Affairs Committee to reconsider selling precision-guided munitions to Saudi Arabia.

LA Jews for Peace strongly encourage Congress to apply the same scrutiny to other countries in the Middle East, especially Israel and Egypt. The U.S. government sells them the same arms they sell Saudi Arabia, and they too are guilty of the same violations of the U.S. Arms Export Act and the Leahy act because they use these U.S.-supplied arms against civilians.

This arms sale extends a reckless policy from the Obama and prior administrations at a time when the Saudi government is escalating a gruesome war in Yemen. This sale, and all foreign arms sales, should be stopped.