

Arms sales to Saudi 'illicit' due to civilian deaths in Yemen: campaigners

Damage is seen inside a hospital operated by Medecins Sans Frontieres after it was hit by a Saudi-led coalition air strike in the Abs district of Hajja province, Yemen August 16, 2016. REUTERS/Abduljabbar Zeyad

By [Stephanie Nebehay](#) | GENEVA

A group that campaigns for stricter arms sales controls said on Monday that Western powers were breaking international law by selling vast amounts of weapons to Saudi Arabia that are being used to hit civilians in Yemen.

The Control Arms Coalition said Britain, France and the United States were flouting the 2014 Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which bans exports of conventional weapons that fuel human rights violations or war crimes.

"It is extremely concerning that many transfers are still continuing, in particular the governments of the United States, the UK and France have authorized and are continuing to export very large quantities of weapons, including explosive weapons, bombs which are being used daily against civilians in Yemen," said Anna MacDonald, director of the Control Arms Coalition.

She was speaking to a news briefing as week-long U.N. negotiations began in Geneva aimed at putting teeth into the ATT which lacks a mandatory public reporting system for the \$100 billion global arms trade.

France authorized arms licenses worth \$18 billion to Saudi Arabia last year, followed by the United States at \$5.9 billion and Britain's \$4 billion, the group said in its latest study.

Nigeria's ambassador Emmanuel Imohe, who chairs the conference, said: "The allegation is quite grave and it should be of concern to everyone including the ATT secretariat itself."

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said last week it was evacuating its staff from six hospitals in northern Yemen after a Saudi-led coalition air strike hit one of its hospitals, killing 18 people.

NO BLANK CHECK

The coalition says it does not target civilians and accuses the Houthi group that it is battling in Yemen of placing military targets in civilian areas. A body that the coalition set up to look into civilian casualties is investigating the MSF incident, among others.

The war has killed more than 6,500 people since it began 16 months ago and raised the prospect of famine in the Arab world's poorest country.

Outcry over civilian casualties has led some members of the U.S. Congress to push for restrictions on arms transfers. The Obama administration this month approved a potential \$1.15 billion arms package for Saudi Arabia.

In a statement on Friday, the Pentagon cautioned that its support for Saudi Arabia in its campaign was not "a blank check," however, and said it has pressed the coalition on the need to minimize civilian casualties.

Campaigners said arms exports also drove fighting in South Sudan last month that killed hundreds, prompting fears of a return to civil war.

"We think that governments of other countries have fueled this violence by repeatedly authorizing arms transfers to South Sudan," said Geoffrey Duke, head of South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms. He named China, Ukraine and South Africa as the main suppliers to the Juba government.

To date, 87 countries have ratified the ATT, while another 46 - including the United States - have signed it, leaving important gaps, Imohe said.

"For example, in the Arab world only Mauritania is listed amongst states parties, while Asia Pacific has only three states parties," he said, referring to Japan, Samoa and Tuvalu.

Amnesty International said: "Big arms traders Russia and China have not joined the ATT and have supplied gross violators of human rights."

(Additional reporting by Phil Stewart in Washington; Editing by Robin Pomeroy)

BBC NEWS

Yemen crisis: Oxfam critical of UK-Saudi arms deals



The aid agency Oxfam has accused UK ministers of "denial and disarray" over an agreement to sell arms to Saudi Arabia, which could be used in Yemen.

The Saudi-backed Yemeni government is fighting against Shia rebels.

The UK government has faced repeated calls to ban weapons sales to Saudi Arabia amid concerns over international humanitarian law breaches in that war.

A government spokeswoman said it was satisfied the Saudi deals complied with the UK's "export licensing criteria".

Oxfam says the UK has switched from being an "enthusiastic backer" of the Arms Trade Treaty to "one of the most significant violators".

The treaty sets international standards for the trade in conventional arms and seeks to prevent illegal arms trading.

Governments who sign up to it - such as the UK - are expected to review arms export contracts to ensure the weapons do not violate existing arms embargoes, will not be used for war crimes, human rights abuses or organised crime and will not be diverted for illegal use.



Image: OXFAM

Penny Lawrence says the government fails to keep to its word over arms deals

Oxfam will use the second conference of states party to the treaty in Geneva on Tuesday to criticise the government's position on sales to Saudi Arabia.

Last year the British government approved more than £3bn worth of arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The United States approved £4bn worth and France almost £14bn.

Worldwide, the weapons trade is believed to be worth £1.3tn annually.

Yemen conflict



Image: REUTERS

Tribesmen loyal to the Houthi movement, which aims to overthrow Yemen's government

Competing forces are fighting for control of Yemen, in a power struggle with serious implications not just for the region, but the security of the West.

The battles are between several different groups, with the main fighting between forces loyal to President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, and those allied to Zaidi Shia rebels known as Houthis, who forced Mr Hadi to flee the capital Sanaa in February 2015.

But Yemen's security forces themselves have split loyalties, with some backing Mr Hadi, and others the Houthis and Mr Hadi's predecessor - the still-influential Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Meanwhile, both President Hadi and the Houthis are opposed by al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

And the emergence in late 2014 of a Yemen affiliate of the jihadist group Islamic State, which seeks to eclipse AQAP, has further complicated the deadly ongoing scenario.

Penny Lawrence, deputy chief executive of Oxfam GB, will say that UK arms and military support are fuelling a "brutal war in Yemen, harming the very people the Arms Trade Treaty is designed to protect".

She will add: "Schools, hospitals and homes have been bombed in contravention of the rules of war.

"The UK government is in denial and disarray over its arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition bombing campaign in Yemen.

"It has misled its own parliament about its oversight of arms sales and its international credibility is in jeopardy as it commits to action on paper but does the opposite in reality."

'Robust control'

She will also ask how the government can insist that other nations abide by a treaty it helped set up "if it flagrantly ignores it?".

A British government spokeswoman said it took its arms export responsibilities "very seriously" and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world.

"The government is satisfied that extant licences for Saudi Arabia are compliant with the UK's export licensing criteria.

"The key test for our continued arms exports to Saudi Arabia in relation to international humanitarian law (IHL) is whether there is a clear risk that those weapons might be used in a serious violation of IHL.

"The situation is kept under careful and continual review."

SWI swissinfo.ch**Weapons trade rules "need global cooperation"**

AUG 22, 2016 - 15:25



Switzerland is an active player in the global arms trade
(Keystone)

Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann has called on all signatories to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to work together to ensure that global rules are followed in the sale of weapons and munitions.

Opening the second conference of the ATT in Geneva on Monday, Schneider-Ammann emphasized that the job of implementing the deal is now at hand following a first administrative phase to get it underway. World military expenditure rose 1% to reach \$1.7 trillion (CHF1.6 trillion) in 2015, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Switzerland is one of 130 countries that have signed up to ATT and in April of last year became one of 85 to put it into force. The internationally binding rules on the cross-border trade of conventional weapons was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013.

Swiss exports of war material dropped 21% last year to CHF446.6 million, but rebounded 3% in the first half of 2016, notching CHF224 million for arms manufacturers. Switzerland produces a broad range of military hardware, ranging from handguns to explosives and armoured vehicles.

Switzerland has assumed the seat of the ATT secretariat this year, with Geneva hosting the annual event to promote transparent arms trading that respects the rule of international law. Schneider-Ammann said that civil society has an important role to play in regulating the cross-border sale of weapons and munitions.

"Civil society supports us and gives us constructive criticism on the treaty and its implementation," he said.

NGOs have in the past been critical of Switzerland's role in the global arms trade. The government has been previously accused on opaqueness after Swiss-made weapons ended up in different countries than they were supposed to.

Switzerland clamped down on sales of weapons to the Middle East and northern Africa in recent years following outbreaks of social unrest and civil war. Some of those restrictions have been partially lifted in the last few months.

"Since the treaty came into force, Switzerland has worked closely with the countries and regions most affected by the illegal trade in small arms, and we will not relax in our efforts," Schneider-Ammann said.

"It is clear that countries cannot achieve the aims of the treaty individually. Collaboration is essential if ATT is to be effective."

According to the annual Small Arms Survey, compiled by the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland is the third most transparent country in the weapons trade. It lost its top ranking this year for the first time since 2007 in the independent survey.

Cut weapons sales to Saudi over Yemen, arms watchdog says

By [AFP](#)

PUBLISHED: 10:54 GMT, 22 August 2016 | **UPDATED:** 10:54 GMT, 22 August 2016

An arms watchdog on Monday urged major weapons exporters, including the United States and France, to cut sales to Saudi Arabia over its actions in Yemen, as a conference on global arms trade opened in Geneva.

The World Trade Organization is hosting the second conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which came into force in 2014 laying out new rules governing the international arms market.

By continuing to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia, which has led a 17-month-long campaign against rebels in Yemen, major weapons exporters that signed the ATT are guilty of "the worst kind of hypocrisy," said Anna Macdonald, director of the watchdog Control Arms.



Saudi Arabia has led a 17-month-long campaign against rebels in Yemen, facing fierce criticism over air strikes on civilian targets ©Fayez Nureldine, Fayez Nureldine (AFP/File)

"The ATT has been in force for nearly two years but some States Parties are violating it with impunity," Macdonald added in a statement.

"Every day, we are seeing the devastating impact of the sale of arms and ammunition for use on civilians in Yemen."

The ATT requires states to block any arms deal if they have knowledge at the time of the sale that the weapons will be used against civilians.

Saudi Arabia has faced fierce criticism over its Yemen offensive in support of the internationally recognised government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi.

There have been repeated strikes on civilian targets. Medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has described the Saudi-led coalition bombings as "indiscriminate."

France authorised \$18 billion (16 billion euros) in weapons sales to Saudi Arabi last year, Control Arms said in a report this month.

The United States approved arms deals with Riyadh worth \$5.9 billion in 2015, while for Britain the figure was \$4.0 billion.

France and Britain have ratified the ATT. The US has signed the deal, but Congress has not approved it.

Control Arms accused those countries of "flouting international law in plain sight by continuing to sell billions of dollars worth of deadly weapons to Saudi Arabia."

The US Navy announced Saturday it had slashed the number of intelligence advisers directly supporting the Saudi-led coalition's air war in Yemen following concerns over civilian casualties.

**US, EU Accused of Paying Lip Service to Global Arms Treaty**

By [Thalif Deen](#)

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 22 2016 (IPS) - The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which was aimed at curbing the flow of small arms and light weapons to war zones and politically-repressive regimes, is being openly violated by some of the world's arms suppliers, according to military analysts and human rights organizations.

The ongoing conflicts and civil wars in Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, South Sudan and Ukraine are being fueled by millions of dollars in arms supplies – mostly from countries that have either signed or ratified the ATT, which came into force in December 2014.

Dr. Natalie Goldring, UN Consultant for the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy and a Senior Fellow with the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University, told IPS: “The Arms Trade Treaty is incredibly important. Put simply, if fully implemented, it has the potential to save lives.”

But if implementation is not robust, the risk is that “business as usual” will continue, resulting in continued violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, she warned.

“Recent and proposed arms sales by States Parties and signatories to the ATT risk undermining the treaty,” said Dr Goldring, who has closely monitored the 20 year long negotiations for the ATT, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in April 2013.

The reported violations of the international treaty have coincided with a weeklong meeting in Geneva, beginning August 22 through August 26, of ATT's second Conference of States Parties (CSP).

Recent reports from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Control Arms, Forum on Arms Trade and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) document the continued transfer of conventional weapons that may be used to violate international humanitarian and human rights law.

Brian Wood, Head of Arms Control and Human Rights at Amnesty International, said the ATT has the potential to save millions of lives, which makes it especially alarming when states who have signed or even ratified the treaty seem to think they can continue to supply arms to forces known to commit and facilitate war crimes, and issue export licenses even where there is an overriding risk the weapons will contribute to serious human rights violations.

“There must be zero tolerance for states who think they can just pay lip service to the ATT.”

“The US government's response to apparent Saudi bombings of civilian targets is to sell them more weapons? This makes no sense.” -- Natalie Goldring

He said the need for more effective implementation is painfully obvious: “from Yemen to Syria to South Sudan, every day children are being killed and horribly maimed by bombs, civilians are threatened and detained at gunpoint, and armed groups are committing abuses with weapons produced by countries who are bound by the treaty,” he noted.

Providing a list of “unscrupulous arms transfers,” Amnesty International pointed out that the US, which has signed the ATT, and European Union (EU) member states who have ratified it, including Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France and Italy, have continued to lavish small arms, light weapons, ammunition, armoured vehicles and policing equipment on Egypt, “despite a brutal crackdown on dissent by the authorities which has resulted in the unlawful killing of hundreds of protesters, thousands of arrests and reports of torture by detainees since 2013.”

In 2014, France issued export licences that again included sophisticated Sherpa armoured vehicles used by security forces to kill hundreds of protesters at the Rabaa al-Adawiya sit in just a year earlier.

Arms procured from ATT signatories have also continued to fuel bloody civil wars, the London-based human rights organization said.

In 2014, Amnesty International said, Ukraine approved the export of 830 light machine guns and 62 heavy machine guns to South Sudan.

Six months after signing the ATT, Ukrainian authorities issued an export licence on 19 March 2015 to supply South Sudan with an undisclosed number of operational Mi-24 attack helicopters.

Three of those attack helicopters are currently in service with South Sudan government forces, and they are reportedly awaiting the delivery of another.

Additionally, in March 2015 the US State Department approved possible military sales of equipment and logistical support to Saudi Arabia worth over \$24 billion, and between March 2015 and June 2016, the UK approved the export of £3.4 billion (approximately \$4.4 billion) worth of arms to Saudi Arabia.

“These approvals were given when the Saudi Arabia-led coalition was carrying out continuous, indiscriminate and disproportionate airstrikes and ground attacks on civilians in Yemen, some of which may amount to war crimes,” Amnesty International said in a statement released August 22.

Jeff Abramson of the Forum on the Arms Trade said the Geneva meeting takes place during a time of ongoing conflict and controversy over the responsible transfer and use of conventional weapons.

He said key topics that may be addressed, either formally or informally, include better promoting transparency in the arms trade and arming of Saudi Arabia, in light of the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen — including recent US notification of possible tank sales to Riyadh.

Dr Goldring told IPS the US government recently proposed to sale of 153 M1A2 Abrams tanks to Saudi Arabia.

She said the written notification of the proposed sale notes that 20 of the tanks are intended as “battle damage replacements for their existing fleet.”

As Brookings Institution Scholar Bruce Riedel has noted, the Saudis are only using tanks in combat along the Saudi-Yemeni border.

“The US government’s response to apparent Saudi bombings of civilian targets is to sell them more weapons? This makes no sense. This is part of a pattern of continued arms transfers taking place despite a high risk that they will be used to violate international human rights and humanitarian law,.” declared Dr Goldring.

She said States parties to the ATT are required to address the risks of diversion or misuse of the weapons they provide. But if this criteria are taken seriously, it’s virtually impossible to justify continued weapons deals with countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Countries without strong export control systems have argued that it will take time to fully implement the ATT, while other countries such as the United States have domestic impediments to ratifying the treaty.

But one of the treaty’s strengths, Dr Goldring, argued is its specification of conditions under which arms transfers should be blocked. States do not have to wait for ratification or accession to the treaty to begin implementing such standards.

“The ATT is a new treaty, but we can’t afford to ‘ease into’ it. While we discuss the treaty, lives are being lost around the world. We need to aggressively implement the ATT from the start,” Dr Goldring said.

Another important issue in full implementation of the ATT, she noted, is making the global weapons trade transparent, so that citizens can understand the commitments their governments are making in their names.

“Governments should not be transferring weapons unless they are willing to take responsibility for them. Their opposition to openness and transparency raises questions about what they’re trying to hide,” she added.

But in the end, although it's important to bring transparency to the discussion of these issues, the real issue is whether the transfers are being controlled. Recent sales raise significant concerns in this regard, Dr Goldring said.

"The Conference of States Parties that is being held this week in Geneva presents a critical opportunity to face these issues. To strengthen the Arms Trade Treaty, the conference must focus on this key substantive concern of the risks entailed in continuing business as usual. States should not allow their attention to be diverted to process issues," said Dr Goldring who is currently participating in the Geneva meeting.

L'Orient LE JOUR

Appel d'une ONG en faveur de la suspension des livraisons d'armes à l'Arabie saoudite

AFP

22/08/2016

L'ONG basée à New York Control Arms a lancé un appel lundi à Genève pour que les principaux exportateurs d'armes, dont les Etats-Unis et la France, stoppent leurs livraisons à l'Arabie saoudite du fait de son action militaire au Yémen.

Cette semaine se tient à Genève (du 22 au 26 août) la deuxième Conférence des Etats parties au Traité sur le commerce des armes (TCA), adopté par l'Assemblée générale de l'Onu le 2 avril 2013 et entré en vigueur le 24 décembre 2014.

Le TCA prévoit notamment l'interdiction d'exporter des armes conventionnelles si l'Etat partie a des raisons de penser que celles-ci pourraient servir à commettre un génocide, des crimes contre l'humanité, des crimes de guerre ou des attaques dirigées contre des civils.

En continuant à vendre des armes à l'Arabie Saoudite, qui dirige depuis mars 2015 au Yémen une coalition militaire contre la rébellion chiite, les principaux exportateurs d'armes qui ont signé le TCA se rendent coupables de "la pire des hypocrisies", a dénoncé Anna Macdonald, directrice de l'ONG Control Arms.

"Chaque jour, nous voyons l'impact dévastateur de la vente d'armes et de munitions utilisées contre les civils au Yémen", a-t-elle ajouté, lors d'une conférence de presse. L'Arabie saoudite fait face à des critiques répétées de la part des défenseurs des droits de l'Homme en raison du nombre élevé de civils tués dans les raids aériens au Yémen.

Le TCA compte actuellement 130 Etats signataires, dont plus de 80 l'ont ratifié. La France et le Royaume-Uni l'ont fait, tandis que les Etats-Unis ont signé le traité mais ne l'ont pas ratifié, le Congrès américain l'ayant rejeté.

Selon Control Arms, en 2015, la France a autorisé la vente d'armes à l'Arabie Saoudite à hauteur de 18 milliards de dollars (16 milliards d'euros). Au cours de la même période, les Etats-Unis ont approuvé la vente d'armes à Riyad pour 5,9 milliards de dollars (5,2 milliards d'euros). Pour le Royaume-Uni, ce chiffre a été de 4 milliards de dollars (3,5 milliards d'euros).

L'appel de l'ONG intervient alors que le secrétaire d'Etat américain John Kerry est attendu en Arabie saoudite, les 24 et 25 août. Le 20 août, les Etats-Unis ont annoncé avoir réduit le nombre de leurs conseillers militaires auprès de la coalition arabe intervenant au Yémen, tout en affirmant que cette décision n'était pas liée au nombre élevé de victimes civiles des bombardements dans ce pays en guerre.



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Une semaine cruciale pour le commerce des armes

Photo Salvatore DI NOLFI/MaxPPP

Hier s'est ouverte à Genève, la deuxième Conférence des États parties au Traité sur le commerce des armes. Une centaine de pays sont réunis jusqu'au 26 août, pour débattre de la mise en œuvre du traité. Sur notre image, durant un rassemblement devant le quartier général des Nations Unies, des activistes d'Amnesty International brandissent une réplique géante d'un fusil d'assaut AK-47 avec un canon noué, pour inciter les gouvernements rassemblés à toujours plus de volontarisme dans ce domaine. Le traité a été adopté par l'assemblée générale des Nations Unies le 2 avril 2013. Depuis, 130 États l'ont signé et 85 l'ont mis en vigueur.

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Países buscan un acuerdo para implementar el Tratado sobre el Comercio de Armas

Por © EFE 2016 | 08/22/2016

La segunda conferencia de los países miembros del Tratado sobre el Comercio de Armas (ATT) comenzó hoy en Ginebra con el objetivo de avanzar en su implementación, especialmente en la obligatoriedad de informar sobre todos los acuerdos de venta internacionales.



La segunda conferencia de los países miembros del Tratado sobre el Comercio de Armas (ATT) comenzó hoy en Ginebra con el objetivo de avanzar en su implementación, especialmente en la obligatoriedad de informar sobre todos los acuerdos de venta internacionales.

Este es el objetivo anunciado por un grupo de ONGs que persiguen un control más estricto del comercio de armas.

El acuerdo, que cuenta con 87 estados miembros y otras 46 naciones que lo han firmado pero aún no lo han ratificado, es el primero jurídicamente vinculante para controlar el comercio de armas convencionales.

La meta es prevenir y eliminar el tráfico ilícito o su desvío hacia usos y usuarios finales no autorizados.

El tratado fue firmado en abril de 2013 y entró en vigor en diciembre del 2014.

Los activistas consideran que la manera más efectiva de controlar el comercio de armas es publicar todos los acuerdos internacionales que se firmen, motivo que les llevará a abogar esta semana por que los estados se comprometan a hacerlo.

"La mejor manera de hacer que los estados sean responsables es asegurarse que los acuerdos que no cumplen con el ATT se hagan públicos. Una publicación transparente es la única vía para la implementación del acuerdo, que ha estado en la sombra durante dos años", afirmó en un comunicado la directora de la ONG Control Arms, Anna Macdonald.

"Si los parlamentos, los medios y las organizaciones de la sociedad civil no pueden ver un informe de las exportaciones e importaciones anuales, no podrán hacer un control efectivo de los gobiernos y prevenir conductas irresponsables", dijo, por su lado, Alain Bovard, de Amnistía Internacional, también en la conferencia.

El ATT establece que todos los acuerdos de venta de armas deben cumplir criterios estrictos para evitar que las armas se usen para llevar a cabo violaciones a los derechos humanos o crímenes de guerra, o que sean derivados para actos terroristas o delictivos.

Asimismo, otro de los asuntos que los activistas esperan que se trate en la reunión es la transferencia de armas a Yemen y la necesidad de que se ejerza un control más estricto sobre el comercio en la región para evitar la entrada de más material bélico al país árabe, sumido en una cruenta guerra civil.

europa press

Un cuarto de los países firmantes del Tratado sobre el Comercio de Armas lo vulneran

Publicado 22/08/2016 14:37:01CET



Según la organización, España exportó en 2015 armas a Colombia, Egipto, Irak y Arabia Saudí, lo que podría poner en peligro a miles de civiles

MADRID, 22 Ago. (EUROPA PRESS) -

Al menos un cuarto de los países que firmaron el Tratado sobre el Comercio de Armas (TCA, que entró en vigor en 2014, no cumplen las obligaciones establecidas en el acuerdo, según ha denunciado Amnistía Internacional, que ha alertado de que muchas de las naciones siguen desarrollando actividades comerciales relacionadas con la compraventa de armas y equipamiento militar.

Algunos de los países firmantes del TCA han rechazado someterse al escrutinio público sobre la transferencia de armas y no cumplen con la obligación de presentar informes al respecto, tal y como se había establecido, según ha señalado Amnistía con motivo de la segunda conferencia del TCA, que se celebra esta semana en Ginebra.

En 2015, España exportó armas a Colombia, Egipto, Irak y la coalición liderada por Arabia Saudí en Yemen, entre otros, lo que podría poner en peligro la vida de miles de civiles, según la organización, que ha instado a los diferentes países a garantizar que el TCA cumpla con su cometido de proteger los Derechos Humanos frente a las consecuencias del comercio internacional de armas.

"El TCA ofrece la posibilidad de salvar millones de vidas, por lo que resulta especialmente alarmante que los Estados que lo han firmado y ratificado parezcan pensar que pueden seguir suministrando armas a aquellas fuerzas que saben que están cometiendo crímenes de guerra", ha manifestado Brian Wood, director de Control de Armas y Derechos Humanos de Amnistía Internacional.

"Es terrible que sigan concediendo licencias de exportación incluso cuando existe un riesgo notable de que dichas armas contribuyan a graves violaciones de Derechos Humanos", ha añadido. "Debe haber tolerancia cero para los gobiernos que crean que pueden limitarse a cumplir el TCA sólo un poco. Es necesaria una mayor implementación", ha instado Wood.

TRANSFERENCIAS POCO ESCRUPULOSAS

Según Amnistía, Estados Unidos, que firmó el TCA, así como algunos Estados miembros de la Unión Europea que lo han ratificado, como Bulgaria, Chequia, Francia o Italia, han seguido transfiriendo munición, armas de pequeñas dimensiones, vehículos blindados y material policial a Egipto a pesar de la brutal represión por parte de las autoridades del país contra los disidentes.

En 2014, Francia concedió licencias de exportación que incluían vehículos blindados Sherpa, el mismo modelo utilizado por las fuerzas de seguridad egipcias durante la masacre de Rabaa en 2013. Según ha denunciado Amnistía, las armas proporcionadas por los signatarios del TCA han seguido alimentando diversas guerras civiles. En 2014, Ucrania aprobó la exportación de 830 ametralladoras ligeras y 62 ametralladoras pesadas a Sudán del Sur.

Según varios informes, en 2015, seis meses después de firmar el TCA, las autoridades ucranianas concedieron una licencia de exportación para suministrar a Sudán del Sur helicópteros de ataque Mi-24 operativos. Tres de esos helicópteros de ataque están siendo utilizados actualmente por las fuerzas gubernamentales de Sudán del Sur.

"Al firmar el TCA, el Gobierno de Ucrania acordó no emprender ninguna acción que minara el objeto y el propósito del tratado, lo cual incluye garantizar que no se transfieran armas si se sospecha que puedan ser utilizadas para atacar a civiles", ha aseverado Wood.

"Resulta difícil entender la decisión de Ucrania de exportar armas a Sudán del Sur, donde están muriendo civiles que se encuentran refugiados en hospitales y lugares de culto, viviendo bajo la protección de la misión de mantenimiento de la paz de la ONU", ha explicado Wood.

En 2015, España negó varias licencias de exportación de gas lacrimógeno a Egipto, pero autorizó ventas de material de defensa por valor de 124,6 millones de euros, según Amnistía. Además, el Gobierno exportó armas valoradas en más de 106 millones, incluidos 226.000 euros en municiones, 2 millones en vehículos y 102 millones en aviones.

FALTA DE INFORMES

La constante falta de informes por parte de algunos países sobre los detalles de sus importaciones y exportaciones de armas constituye una violación del tratado, que exige dos informes específicos: un informe inicial sobre las medidas adoptadas para implementar el tratado y un informe anual sobre las exportaciones autorizadas o reales de armas.

Amnistía Internacional ha observado que el 27 por ciento de las naciones no ha presentado ni el informe inicial de implementación ni el informe anual y que algunos países han elegido que los informes sean confidenciales, como Moldavia y Eslovaquia.

"Que los gobiernos puedan aún optar por ocultar los datos de sus exportaciones de armas hace prácticamente imposible que los parlamentos, los medios de comunicación y la sociedad civil evalúen si se están cumpliendo los objetivos clave en materia de Derechos Humanos", ha zanjado Wood.

En Estados Unidos, el Departamento de Estado ha aprobado varias ventas de material militar y apoyo logístico a Arabia Saudí por valor de más de 24.000 millones de dólares. Según datos oficiales, entre 2011 y 2015 España exportó armas a Arabia Saudí por un valor de 1.198,9 millones de euros. El Gobierno español aseguró en su informe anual de exportaciones de 2015 que "todas las licencias relativas a munición fueron acompañadas de certificados que incluían estrictas cláusulas de no reexportación o uso fuera del territorio del país de destino".