# Berkeley Neg File

## Framing

### \*AT: Solvency Doesn’t Matter, Human Rights Value to Ending Arms Sales

## Yemen War

### Weighing

1. **Scope –** Conflicts like Yemen become the norm if you vote pro. [X impact] affects not only Yemen, but also [X place].

2. **Strength of Link –** They don’t solve the root cause of the violence. **Alasrar ’18 of the National Interest** explains that the fighting was initially between the Houthi rebels against what they perceived to be an oppressive government. This conflict will continue absent the Saudis. At best, their impact is a marginal, temporary reduction in the violence.3

3. **Timeframe – Knights ’18 of the Washington Institute** writes that Saudi Arabia has an enormous unused supply of munition from the U.S, even if arm sales are halted, Saudi Arabia could still keep bombing at the current rate for several years, not slowing their air campaign.

[Indeed, **Kredo ’15 of the Security Assistance Monitor** finds that “equipment can be fully functional for decades”.]

However, on day one of a world without arms sales, we would collapse the Saudi-US alliance and trigger all of our impacts.

Michael Knights, 11-5-2018, "U.S.-Saudi Security Cooperation (Part 1): Conditioning Arms Sales to Build Leverage", No Publication, https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/u.s.-saudi-security-cooperation-part-1-conditioning-arms-sales-to-build-lev // JY  
Sales of air-delivered precision-guided munitions (PGMs) are another lightning rod issue in the bilateral security relationship. Following the 2009-2010 round of hostilities with the Houthis, the kingdom sought to refresh its stock of antipersonnel bombs with a large order of 1,300 U.S.-built CBU-105 sensor-fused weapons (a higher-reliability submunition that manufacturers say does not qualify as a cluster bomb due to its low malfunction rate). Yet by November 2015, eight months into the current war, the Saudis had used up nearly 2,600 PGMs, according to strike metrics compiled by The Washington Institute. In response, the Saudis requested a $1.29 billion package comprising around 19,000 air-delivered PGMs, an order that began delivery in July 2017. In addition to that package, the Senate narrowly approved a new $500 million commercial sale of PGMs to Riyadh in June 2017—the first installment in a mammoth $4.46 billion series of air-launched munition deals that would provide the Saudis with 104,000 U.S. PGMs in the next half decade. Riyadh may be accelerating its purchases in anticipation of a prolonged war in Yemen and the potential loss of U.S. sales down the road. According to Washington Institute data collected in Saudi Arabia and Yemen, the kingdom’s forces have used around 14,500 munitions since March 2015, almost all PGMs, with the average rate gradually declining from 333 PGMs per month in 2015 to 270 per month this year. The U.S. munitions currently arriving in Saudi Arabia were ordered in November 2015, when Riyadh recognized it might need new PGMs by 2019, but the intervening years have seen few signs of a PGM shortfall. Based on a rough sense of prewar stocks and a constant dribble of replacements, Riyadh could probably keep bombing at its current rate for several years even if all new U.S. PGM deals were rejected. Thus, while cutting off such sales may be a good way to signal U.S. displeasure or publicly distance Washington from the war, the data indicates that it would not meaningfully slow the air campaign anytime soon.

Fatima Alasrar, 7-25-2018, "Yemen Is Bad but It Would Be Worse Without U.S. Involvement", National Interest, <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/yemen-bad-it-would-be-worse-without-us-involvement-26801> // JY  
For example, congressional narratives depict the Saudi-led coalition as the instigators of the Yemen conflict. In fact, the war in Yemen did not begin with Saudi Arabia’s March 2015 military intervention in the country but with the Houthi militias’ violent overthrow of Yemen’s internationally recognized government, which happened in September 2014. Following their takeover of Yemen’s capital, Sana’a, the Houthis, backed by Iran, imposed a fundamentalist, sectarian, brutal, and repressive regime that dashed any hope for political pluralism and democratic governance in the wake of Yemen’s Arab Spring. The government-in-exile then requested external military intervention, and the Saudi-led coalition responded. That Saudis also got involved because they feared that Iranian military and financial support for the Houthis would create a new and deadly proxy force for Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps within the Arabian Peninsula.

Kredo, Alexis. “Security Assistance Monitor.” Defense Experts Highlight Effectiveness of Human Rights Conditioning S. December 10, 2015. <https://www.securityassistance.org/blog/defense-experts-highlight-effectiveness-human-rights-conditioning>.   
The RAND study also found that when the United States cuts military aid to foreign security force, their military capabilities are negatively affected. However, it indicated that the blow to a state’s security capacity is perhaps less damaging than previously thought, for two possible reasons. Firstly, in some cases, it takes time for a government to lose military capability, as donated equipment and weapons can remain fully functional for decades. Secondly, the United States does not always cuts all types of aid to a foreign force. For instance, some military aid to Nigeria was cut in 2014 on account of Nigeria’s abysmal human rights record and rampant corruption. Yet, the Obama Administration still allocated $4.4 million in security assistance to Nigerian forces in FY 2015. This was even before Nigerians elected a new President, Muhammadu Buhari, who pledged investigations into military abuses and a reform of the Nigeria security sector.

Reuters, 12-8-2018, "Iran's Rouhani says sanctions may lead to drugs, refugee, bomb...", U.S., https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-usa-sanctions/irans-rouhani-says-sanctions-may-lead-to-drugs-refugee-bomb-deluge-idUSKBN1O709I // JY  
Drug trafficking is a serious challenge for Iran as it borders Afghanistan - the worldâ s largest opium producer - and Pakistan, a major transit country for drugs. In 2012, Iran accounted for two thirds of the worldâ s opium seizures and one fourth of the worldâ s heroin and morphine seizures, a U.N. report published in 2014 showed. "Economic terrorism means creating horror in a country and create fear in other countries that intend to invest (there). America's withdrawal from the (nuclear accord) is undoubtedly a clear example of economic terrorism," Rouhani told a meeting of heads of parliaments of China, Russia, and four other countries. Zarif warned about the dangers of large **U.S. arms sales in the Middle East, where Iran's regional rival Saudi Arabia is a major buyer of Western weapons. "The Americans have turned the region into a tinderbox. The level of arms sales by the Americans is unbelievable and much beyond regional needs and this points to the very dangerous policies followed by the Americans**," IRNA reported Zarif as saying. (Reporting by Dubai Newsroom; Editing by Alexander Smith) – Reuters

### Houthis Bad

**Byman ’18 of Georgetown University** writes that, if Saudi Arabia folds, Yemen would be reduced to a variety of warring factions, the strongest of which are the Houthis.

This is unacceptable. **Matthews ’18 of the National Post** writes that the Houthis will seize upon their victory as an opportunity for ethnic cleansing, killing millions of Yemenis.

Daniel L. Byman, 12-5-2018, [Daniel Byman is a senior fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings, where his research focuses on counterterrorism and Middle East security. He previously served as the research director of the center. He is also senior associate dean for undergraduate affairs at Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service and a professor in its Security Studies Program. Previously, Byman served as a staff member with the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks on the United States (“The 9/11 Commission”) and the Joint 9/11 Inquiry Staff of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees. Prior to that, Byman was a policy analyst and the director for research in the Center for Middle East Public Policy at the RAND Corporation and worked for the U.S. government. His most recent book is "Al Qaeda, the Islamic State, and the Global Jihadist Movement: What Everyone Needs to Know" (Oxford University Press, 2015). He is the author of several other books on counterterrorism, state sponsorship of terrorism, and conflict and terrorism in the Middle East.] "Yemen after a Saudi withdrawal: How much would change?," Brookings, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/12/05/yemen-after-a-saudi-withdrawal-how-much-would-change/> RE   
Yet even if Saudi Arabia comes to its senses or is compelled to do so, an end to the intervention would only be the beginning of what is needed. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) would still be militarily involved in the fighting against the Houthis, and it is a much more active player than Saudi Arabia on the ground in Yemen. Local actors would continue to fight: The country is highly divided, and the main factions themselves are further divided. Yemen today is a failed state, and there is no accepted political leadership to pick up the pieces. The Houthis, Iran’s ally, would be the strongest of the factions, and they are brutal and authoritarian as well as tied to Tehran. Terrorist groups like al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula would remain active, trying to establish themselves in any areas that lack a strong rival. Perhaps most important from Riyadh’s point of view, Tehran can claim a victory over its long-time rival. Although Houthi reliance on Iran would decrease as well, the alliance is likely to endure, and Iran will have influence on yet another of Saudi Arabia’s borders. Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, who championed the Yemen war, would be admitting his intervention failed.

National Post,6-5-2018, Iran’s allies are preparing a genocide in Yemen. But there’s still time to stop it, <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/irans-allies-are-preparing-a-genocide-in-yemen-but-theres-still-time-to-stop-it,//ZS>   
Baha’is have been brutally oppressed in Iran, a policy that has been pushed by hardline Shia clerics. Confidential documents released to the United Nations have now revealed the Iranian theocracy is not just content with persecuting this minority within its own borders. The Iranian government has put in place a policy “**to confront and destroy their cultural roots outside the country.”** Now, it appears that this policy is being implemented in Yemen under the cover of war. Abdel-Malek al-Houthi**, the leader of the Houthis in Yemen, has begun to publicly incite hatred against Baha’is. His inflammatory remarks have unmistakable genocidal intent**. When viewed in light of the Houthi authorities’ actions against Yemeni Baha’is, his goal can only be seen as one of extermination and possible genocide. On March 23, 2018, al-Houthi made a widely broadcast speech in which he targeted the Baha’i faith. He warned Yemenis of the “satanic” Baha’i “movement” that is “waging a war of doctrine” against Islam.

### AT: Arms Race Now – Iran

1. **Delink –** **Farda ’18** writes that Iran is actually dramatically cutting back on military spending.

2. There are so many damn alt causes to this. [**Asmar ’18, Gulf News**]

Radio Farda, 12-27-2018, "Less Budget For Iran's Defense Ministry, More For IRGC ", RFE/RL, https://en.radiofarda.com/a/iran-defense-ministry-budget-declines-irgc-more-funding/29679511.html // JY  
Not many details about Iran's budget bill for the next year, presented to the parliament on December 25, have been publicly released. However, a few key points about Iran's defense budget for the next year were leaked the day after President Hassan Rouhani presented the bill amid heckling and protests by a group of hard-line MPs. Many Iranians on social media, mainly regime supporters, protested against what they called "a dramatic decline" in Iran's military budget. Iran's defense budget covers spending for the army, the IRGC, the Basij, the Defense Ministry, and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces. In a series of tweets on December 25, Hossein Dalirian, editor of the IRGC-linked Tasnim news agency's defense desk, presented details about next year's defense budget that while indicating a decline in the budget of the Iranian Army, the budget allocated to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has increased.

Marwan Asmar, Special To Gulf News, 4-30-2018, "Iran spurs regional arms race," No Publication, <https://gulfnews.com/opinion/op-eds/iran-spurs-regional-arms-race-1.2214288> President Hassan Rouhani was quoted as saying **Iran “would produce or acquire any weapons we need” without the approval of the world, which is a clear snub to the world powers. “We are surrounded by aggressive world powers who intervene in the region’s affairs in defiance of international law and invade countries without the consent of the UN and against its charter**,” he said. But he quickly sought to allay the concerns of the states in the region, saying: “Our weapons are not against you. It’s for deterrence.” The regional powers don’t seem to have taken in by the talk of deterrence, fully aware of Iran’s expansionist ambitions. **Tehran has repeatedly sought to spread its influence in the region, so the Arab states are very wary of its designs. Israel had started the arms race in the Middle East long ago, and Iran has only accelerated the proliferation of weapons in the region. Iran’s arsenal and its hegemony has forced Saudi Arabia to buy weapons to ward off the threat. An arms race is inevitable in a region beset by wars**. The last shot is yet to be fired in Yemen and Syria. Israel has churned the troubled waters with occasional forays into Syria, where the Iranians and Russian prop up the Al Assad regime. One of their air raids hit the Iranian military camp in Syria and Tehran has not taken it kindly.

### AT: Conflict Now

1. **Delink –** The war is coming to an end. **Wintour ’19 of The Guardian** writes that the ceasefire is holding and Saudi Arabia is currently intent on reaching a negotiated end to the civil war. The key indicators of war: the seizing of territory and airstrikes, have both come to an end.

Thus why **Shahine ’18 of Bloomberg** writes that Saudi Arabia has cut military spending for the second straight year in a row, perhaps indicating King Salman thinks the war in Yemen is coming to an end.

2. **Turn –** This trajectory is only possible in a world with arms sales for a few reasons.

a. As the U.S. will no longer have influence over it, **Chollet ’18 of Foreign Policy** writes that, if the U.S. pulls out, Saudi Arabia will walk away from the bargaining table.

b. The Houthis will turn away. **Carafano ’18 of the Heritage Foundation** explains that, absent U.S. pressure, Iran would become more aggressive and embolden the Houthis further.

James Carafano, 3-8-2018, "Chaos Will Erupt in the Middle East If U.S. Leaves Yemen", Heritage Foundation, https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/chaos-will-erupt-the-middle-east-if-us-leaves-yemen // JY  
The greatest threats to Middle East stability and security are Iran and transnational Islamist terrorists groups, principally ISIS and al-Qaida. And it is precisely these forces that are fueling the Yemen war. If Congress forces the administration to abandon our allies, Tehran, ISIS, and al-Qaida would feel emboldened and likely double-down on expanding the war. Meanwhile, Washington would lose its ability to influence how Saudi Arabia and the UAE conduct coalition operations. Without our mitigating presence, the carnage of this vicious war would only increase. And Russia would be tempted to further complicate the situation. Moscow has already vetoed a draft U.N. Security Council resolution to hold Iran accountable for providing Yemen's rebels with the long-range missiles recently fired at the Saudi capital.

Alaa Shahine, 12-18-2018, "Saudis to Cut Military Spending as Trump Touts Weapons Sales", Bloomberg, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-12-18/saudis-to-cut-military-spending-as-trump-touts-weapons-sales // JY  
Saudi Arabia will cut military spending for a second straight year in 2019, when education is set to overtake it as the budget’s biggest item, according to official projections published on Tuesday. The Saudi armed forces are among the world’s leading weapons buyers, a role often cited by President Donald Trump to defend America’s close alliance with the kingdom. But they’ll have 12 percent less to spend next year, after getting allocated a budget of 191 billion riyals ($51 billion). Spending on education will also drop, by 6 percent to 193 billion riyals. Overall outlays are projected to rise 7 percent as the kingdom boosts capital investment. The cutbacks on defense may reflect expectations that Saudi Arabia’s war in Yemen is drawing to a close. Earlier on Tuesday, King Salman didn’t include soldiers fighting in the war in his decision to renew a package of cost-of-living allowances for another year. Saudi Arabia heads a coalition that intervened in Yemen in 2015 to support the government against pro-Iranian rebels. The two sides agreed to a ceasefire in a key port city this month, in a rare step toward ending what has turned into the world’s worst humanitarian disaster.

Derek Chollet, former U.S. Asst Sec Defense International Security Affairs, The United States Should Give Saudi Arabia a Choice, Foreign Policy, https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/30/saudi-arabia-should-be-given-a-choice-stop-the-surprises-or-suffer-the-consequences-mbs-khashoggi/  
A divorce will not cause the Saudis to walk away from the war in Yemen or make up with the Qataris. If anything, the end result will be the Saudis will be less restrained, because they will no longer feel the need to acquiesce to U.S. requests. They will certainly feel the loss of sophisticated American weaponry, but the Russians will step in and supply them with less accurate weapons that will likely just kill more in Yemen (for evidence of that, consider Syria). The United States will no longer be complicit in problematic Saudi behavior, but that behavior won’t stop

Patrick Wintour, 1-30-2019, "Yemen ceasefire looks dire but is holding, says UN envoy", Guardian, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/30/yemen-ceasefire-is-holding-says-un-envoy // JY  
Yemen’s fragile ceasefire is holding and [Saudi Arabia](https://www.theguardian.com/world/saudiarabia) remains intent on reaching a negotiated end to the four-year-old civil war, Martin Griffiths, the UN special envoy for the country, has said. Admitting the state of the ceasefire looked dire from the outside, he nevertheless said the key metric for the UN was the absence of offensive military operations to take territory and the end of Saudi airstrikes in the area.

Fatima Alasrar, 7-25-2018, "Yemen Is Bad but It Would Be Worse Without U.S. Involvement," National Interest, <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/yemen-bad-it-would-be-worse-without-us-involvement-26801//ZS>  
“America should continue to support United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths’ in his attempt to broker a lasting political resolution. **But the Houthis will have little incentive to negotiate in good faith absent continuing military pressure. Withdrawing U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition and for Yemen’s internationally recognized government will ease this pressure without doing anything to end Yemen’s war.** It also will not help—and may even exacerbate—the country’s humanitarian crisis while dealing a blow to America’s regional prestige and its short and long-term strategic interests. Lawmakers would do well to consider these costs as they seek to reclaim war-making powers from the executive branch.”

### AT: Link: Ending Sales Solves

1. **Delink –** **Juneau ’16 of International Affairs** writes that the campaign is being waged by 10 countries, of which Saudi Arabia is only one. Even if you cut one head off the hydra, there are 9 others which will continue bombing. Even if they can’t sell to the Saudis, Saudi Arabia is just one of ten countries in a coalition co-lead by the UAE – they would simply increase sales to the UAE, instead.

2. **Delink –** If Iran, a country sanctioned by half the world can get arms, Saudi Arabia can, too. **Pletka ’18 of the AEI** writes that other countries like Russia and China would simply begin selling to Riyadh, taking the U.S.’s place. **Bisaccio ’18 of Forecast International** explains that Saudi Arabia could also get arms from the EU.

Unfortunately, **Crerska ’18 of Johns Hopkins** writes that the U.S. has regulations that will prevent these weapons from being misused – regulations that go away if the arms are coming from other countries. **Chollet ’18 of Foreign Policy** finds that these weapons would be less accurate, costing even more civilian lives.

Derek Bisaccio, 10-23-2018, "Examining U.S. Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia", http://www.defense-aerospace.com/articles-view/feature/5/196962/us-arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia%3A-policy-options.html // JY  
It is not a guarantee that other parties, namely the European Union, will ultimately get on board with an arms embargo, meaning that Saudi Arabia can expect to have options even within Western circles for buying arms. A number of European states have cut arms sales to Saudi Arabia over the last few years for varying reasons, stemming from the Saudi-led campaign in Yemen or concern over Saudi Arabia’s domestic human rights record, both of which have received intense criticism from rights activists. The disappearance of Khashoggi and the sensational details surrounding his alleged killing have renewed and energized European opponents of the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia.[viii] Big European suppliers have generally avoided bailing on Saudi Arabia just yet, with the apparent exception of Germany. The country’s chancellor, Angela Merkel, announced on October 21 that Berlin would be suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia over Khashoggi’s killing. Germany had, up until this point, been continuing “limited” arms sales to Saudi Arabia, as Chancellor Merkel described them, despite a domestic political commitment not to.[ix] Last month, Spain seemingly announced the cancellation of the sale of precision-guided munitions to Saudi Arabia, and then quickly backtracked over fears that pulling the sale would impact a much larger defense deal between the two countries.[x]

**Juneau**, Thomas. (**2016**). Iran’s policy towards the Houthis in Yemen: A limited return on a modest investment. International Affairs. 92. 647-663. 10.1111/1468-2346.12599. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/302064592_Iran's_policy_towards_the_Houthis_in_Yemen_A_limited_return_on_a_modest_investment> For years, mounting instability led many to predict the imminent collapse of Yemen.1 These forecasts became reality in late 2014 as the country spiralled into civil war. The conflict pits an alliance of the Houthis, a northern socio-political movement that has been fighting against the central government since 2004, alongside troops and militias loyal to a former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, against supporters and allies of the government overthrown by the Houthis in early 2015. **The war became regionalized in March 2015 when a coalition of ten mostly Arab states, led by Saudi Arabia, launched a campaign of air strikes against the Houthis** with the declared objectives of stopping and rolling back their expansion and reinstating the exiled government of President Abd Rabbu Mansour al-Hadi. According to Saudi Arabia and the Saudi-backed Hadi government, the Houthis are an Iranian proxy; they therefore frame the war as an effort to counter Iranian influence in Yemen.2

Derek Chollet, former U.S. Asst Sec Defense International Security Affairs, The United States Should Give Saudi Arabia a Choice, Foreign Policy, https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/30/saudi-arabia-should-be-given-a-choice-stop-the-surprises-or-suffer-the-consequences-mbs-khashoggi/  
A divorce will not cause the Saudis to walk away from the war in Yemen or make up with the Qataris. If anything, the end result will be the Saudis will be less restrained, because they will no longer feel the need to acquiesce to U.S. requests. They will certainly feel the loss of sophisticated American weaponry, but the Russians will step in and supply them with less accurate weapons that will likely just kill more in Yemen (for evidence of that, consider Syria). The United States will no longer be complicit in problematic Saudi behavior, but that behavior won’t stop

Czerska, Alexandra. “THE GLOBALIZATION OF DEFENSE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION: IMPACTS ON U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY.” Johns Hopkins. May, 2016. Web. December 11, 2018. < https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/bitstream/handle/1774.2/38085/CZERSKA-THESIS-2015.pdf.>. However, the U.S. does not sell weapons to countries based on the fact that if they do not, the countries can purchase weapons elsewhere. The sale of weapons, in large quantities and of high capability allows the U.S. to strengthen its relations with the purchasing states because it demonstrates the trust the U.S. has in the purchasing state and the strong alignment between the countries. The ability to halt sales of major weapon systems also acts as a barganing tool with which the U.S. can influence its allies to act in accordance with the moral imperatives and strategic interests of the U.S. It is in the 122 interest of the U.S. to be the dominant exporter, especially to allied countries situated in unstable regions because U.S. regulations are in place to safeguard for regional stability and human rights. These exports ultimately boost U.S. foreign relations as well as U.S. national security. The regulations in place allow the U.S. to have the ability to halt exports in order to prevent arms exports from getting out of control and spiraling into arms races. Under U.S. stewardship, weapons sold can be used as a stabilizing deterrent in the regions they are exported to, rather than act as an instigator of conflict.

Ilan Goldenberg, 12-5-18 [Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for a New American Security’s (CNAS) Middle East Security Program and formerly served as the Iran Team Chief in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.] "Give Saudi Arabia a Take It or Leave It Deal," National Interest, <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/give-saudi-arabia-take-it-or-leave-it-deal-37902RE>  
Walking away from supporting the Saudi-led war in Yemen and ending U.S. mid-air refueling might give Washington the moral high ground, but it will do little to stop the killing. The Saudis view the threat in Yemen as crucial to their interests, so U.S. pressure to end the war altogether will fall short of causing real change. To the Saudis, the threat of Iran establishing a foothold on their southern border is much more vital to their interests than procuring U.S. weapons. Rather than walk away from Yemen, they will buy Russian bombs or use less sophisticated weapons and tactics that will kill even more civilians. Americans will have washed our hands of a morally unacceptable situation, but civilian deaths and the threat of famine will actually get worse, and the world will look on and do nothing.

Deirdre Shesgreen,10-16-2018, US weapons sales a flashpoint as President Trump presses Saudi Arabia over missing journalist, USA TODAY, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/10/16/u-s-weapons-sales-saudis-flashpoint-debate-over-missing-journalist/1661290002/,//ZS>  
“These arms don’t talk to one another, so it can be hard to have a wholesale change in who supplies your weaponry,” she said. It would be extremely expensive for Saudi Arabia to switch systems, “so the U.S. actually does have a lot of leverage here,” she added. But others said the Saudis could turn to another country as a diplomatic slap to the U.S. – and because money is not a real obstacle to the oil-rich country. “If we canceled, they would buy from the Russians and the Chinese because they can afford it and it would send us a message,” Danielle Pletka, senior vice president for foreign and defense policy at the American Enterprise Institute, a center-right think tank, said Saudi Arabia. **“It would decrease our leverage and we don’t have someone else” in the region to partner with on other vital foreign policy matters.**

Fatemeh Salehi,xx-xx-xxxx, UK arms exports to Saudi Arabia&nbsp;, Tehran Times, <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/431539/UK-arms-exports-to-Saudi-Arabia,//ZS>

**The most important goals of Britain to strengthen its military presence** inthe Persian Gulf **include Selling more weapons to the Arabs without regard to human rights concerns especially using them in Yemen war**, gaining economic benefits after Britain withdraw from EU and trying to create a new regional order. Although this new regional order will not be suitable and efficient through foreign intervention. Britain is seeking to trade and invest $ 2 trillion in the Persian Gulf region in the next decade (2020-2030). The European Union (EU) has created laws for selling arms to authoritarian and human rights violators. For example, Germany has been more cautious about selling weapons to Saudi Arabia. Thus, **one of the objectives of the British withdrawal from the EU is that they want to get rid of the cumbersome laws that prevent them from selling arms to such authoritative regimes.** In any case**, Britain’s priority is to generate revenue from arms sells to countries that violate human rights, in particular Saudi Arabia. T**he House of Saud has blood on hands, with the murder of Khashoggi, invasion of Yemen for three years, and assassinations of opponents of the regime. **However, all that has not been enough for Britain to stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia.**

Derek Bisaccio [Researcher of Peace and Conflict Studies at Northeastern University], 10-23-2018, "Examining U.S. Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia", No Publication, http://www.defense-aerospace.com/articles-view/feature/5/196962/us-arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia%3A-policy-options.html // JY  
It is not a guarantee that other parties, namely the European Union, will ultimately get on board with an arms embargo, meaning that Saudi Arabia can expect to have options even within Western circles for buying arms. A number of European states have cut arms sales to Saudi Arabia over the last few years for varying reasons, stemming from the Saudi-led campaign in Yemen or concern over Saudi Arabia’s domestic human rights record, both of which have received intense criticism from rights activists. The disappearance of Khashoggi and the sensational details surrounding his alleged killing have renewed and energized European opponents of the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia.[viii] Big European suppliers have generally avoided bailing on Saudi Arabia just yet, with the apparent exception of Germany. The country’s chancellor, Angela Merkel, announced on October 21 that Berlin would be suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia over Khashoggi’s killing. Germany had, up until this point, been continuing “limited” arms sales to Saudi Arabia, as Chancellor Merkel described them, despite a domestic political commitment not to.[ix] Last month, Spain seemingly announced the cancellation of the sale of precision-guided munitions to Saudi Arabia, and then quickly backtracked over fears that pulling the sale would impact a much larger defense deal between the two countries.[x] Across the Atlantic, the Canadian government made no move to terminate the sale of armored vehicles to Saudi Arabia even after the kingdom rather publicly snubbed the Canadian government in August of this year. It may not follow the U.S. if it did cut off Saudi Arabia – France has been perfectly willing to fill the void of American sales to Egypt,[xi] for example – which would undermine the effectiveness of a U.S. arms embargo, too. The U.S. has at various times blocked the sale of precision-guided munitions to Saudi Arabia,[xii] but nevertheless Spain ultimately did not follow suit. There is plenty that the American market offers that cannot be matched by European industry, but even so, the European defense industry is advanced and able to supply Saudi Arabia with a range of systems for its security forces.

### B/L: EU Cutting Off Now

1. **Beswick ’18 of Euro News** reports that European countries like Spain cave to domestic political pressure and have continued selling arms, despite what’s happening in Yemen.

Emma Beswick, 10-22-2018, "Which country has the most to lose in suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia?", euronews, https://www.euronews.com/2018/10/22/which-country-has-the-most-to-lose-in-suspending-arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia // JY  
Germany expressed the intention of stopping exports, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel making the announcement to reporters in Berlin on Sunday. “I agree with all those who say when it comes to our already limited arms exports (to Saudi Arabia) that they cannot take place in the current situation,” Merkel said, according to AFP. France's president Emmanuel Macron last Friday sought to downplay the importance of relations with Riyadh, saying the kingdom was not a major client of France. However, [Saudi Arabia is France’s largest market in the Middle East](https://fr.euronews.com/2018/04/09/paris-et-ryad-freres-d-armes-), even without arms sales. French exports to the Gulf nation totalled almost €4 billion ($4.61 billion) between September 2017 to August 2018, according to economy ministry data. Macron said France has suspended some political visits to Saudi Arabia, like Germany, the UK and the Netherlands as he awaited “clarifications” on Khashoggi's death, but is yet to announce a suspension of arms exports. Previously the top exporter of arms to Saudi Arabia, the UK government has faced mounting pressure over their sales to the Middle Eastern country in previous years. Despite issuing a joint statement with France and Germany on Sunday condemning the killing of journalists as unacceptable, the UK has not announced an arms freeze. Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab said it was a "terrible case" but that Britain would not "overreact" and was “not throwing our hands in the air” because thousands of jobs depended on relations with the country. Spain will similarly not be suspending exports to Saudi Arabia for the moment, despite expressing "consternation" over Khashoggi’s death. Saudi Arabia was Spain’s third-best weapons customer in the 2013-2017 period, according to El Pais newspaper. Back in September, Defence Minister Margarita Robles attempted to halt the sale of 400 guided missiles over concerns about their potential use in the Yemen War. Yet the prime minister demanded that the transaction go ahead after Riyadh threatened to retaliate by ending a €1.8-billion contract with Spain. Workers also took to the streets in protest demanding their jobs be defended.

### B/L: UAE, etc. can’t use US tech

1. **Macias ’18 of CNBC** writes that the U.S. already sells arms to countries like the UAE and Kuwait.

Amanda Macias, 12-12-2018, "Led by Saudi Arabia, Middle Eastern countries are the biggest buyers of US military equipment", CNBC, https://www.cnbc.com/2018/12/12/middle-eastern-countries-are-biggest-buyers-of-us-military-equipment.html // JY  
After Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates are the next largest buyer of U.S. arms in the Middle East. The UAE is responsible for 7.4 percent, or about $4 billion, of sales. According to the State Department, the Emirates' $1.9 billion for [Boeing](https://www.cnbc.com/quotes/?symbol=BA) AH-64 Apache helicopters, Kuwait's $5.1 billion for Boeing's F/A-18 fighter jets, and Bahrain's $2.1 billion for Lockheed Martin's F-16 fighter make up some of the top sales to the Middle East. All told, the U.S. State Department announced that the U.S. sold more than $55 billion in military equipment to foreign governments this fiscal year, which is a 33 percent increase from 2017.

### AT: Link: Refueling

1. **Non-unique –** **Stewart ’18 of Reuters** writes that the U.S. has already ended refueling.

Phil Stewart, 11-10-2018, "U.S. ends refueling support in Yemen war as pressure builds on...", U.S., https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security/u-s-ends-refueling-support-in-yemen-war-as-pressure-builds-on-saudi-arabia-idUSKCN1NF06R // JY  
WASHINGTON/CAIRO (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia and the United States have agreed to end U.S. refueling of aircraft from the Saudi-led coalition battling Houthi insurgents in Yemen, halting a divisive aspect of U.S. support to a war that has pushed Yemen to the brink of famine. The move, announced by the coalition on Saturday and confirmed by Washington, comes at a time when Riyadh, already under scrutiny for civilian deaths in Yemen air strikes, is facing global furor and potential sanctions over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at its Istanbul consulate on Oct. 2.

### AT: Link: Drones

1. **Delink –** **Gambrell ’18 of the Associated Press** writes that China would simply begin selling drones, as it is right now.

John Gambrell, The Associated Press, Gerry Shih, The Associated Press, 10-3-2018, "US Navy still has technological edge, but Chinese drones proliferating across Middle East", Navy Times, https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2018/10/03/us-navy-still-has-technological-edge-but-chinese-drones-proliferating-across-middle-east/ // JY  
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — High above Yemen’s rebel-held city of [Hodeida](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/thousands-flee-key-yemeni-port-city-as-hodeida-offensive-continues/2018/07/05/304a5bb0-8064-11e8-a63f-7b5d2aba7ac5_story.html?utm_term=.c070832aacbc), a drone controlled by Emirati forces hovered as an SUV carrying a top Shiite [Houthi](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2017/12/18/who-are-the-houthis-and-why-are-we-at-war-with-them/) rebel official turned onto a small street and stopped, waiting for another vehicle in its convoy to catch up. Seconds later, the SUV exploded in flames, killing [Saleh al-Samad](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-official/saudi-led-air-strike-kills-top-houthi-official-in-yemen-idUSKBN1HU28Z), a top political figure. The drone that fired that missile in April was not one of the many American aircraft that have been buzzing across the skies of Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. It was Chinese. Across the Middle East, countries locked out of purchasing U.S.-made drones due to rules over excessive civilian casualties are being wooed by Chinese arms dealers, who are world's main distributor of armed drones. "The Chinese product now doesn't lack technology, it only lacks market share," said Song Zhongping, a Chinese military analyst and former lecturer at the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force University of Engineering. "And the United States restricting its arms exports is precisely what gives China a great opportunity." The sales are helping expand Chinese influence across a region vital to American security interests. "It's a hedging strategy and the Chinese will look to benefit from that," said Douglas Barrie, an airpower specialist at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "I think the Chinese are far less liable to be swayed by concerns over civilian casualties," he said.

### AT: Link: Signal

1. **Analytical delink –** Our reasons why other countries would just fill the gap left by the United States are also reasons why a world without arms sales wouldn’t send an effective signal, either. If we just take the “moral high ground” with a policy that won’t actually work, we don’t send any signal and continue appeasing Saudi Arabia.

2. **Analytical internal link defense –** The U.S. has already condemned the war in Yemen., and yet it made no difference. This is because Saudi Arabia doesn’t care about the U.S. “sending a signal” to them.

### AT: Link: Entanglement

1. **Analytical delink –** You don’t solve this problem. Even if we’re not continually making new sales, we’ve already made so many in the past that we’ll be entangled no matter what.

2. **Analytical non-unique –** there are so many alternative causes (e.g., domestic political sentiment) for our engagement in the war. We’re primarily involved to counterbalance Iran. Arms sales and the military action you’re talking about are both symptoms of that political sentiment, not causes.

### AT: I/L – Negotiations

1. **[Alasrar 18 – see above]** It’s comparatively better to force both parties to the table through hard power; because both sides are focused on victory, absent military power, neither side will do so of their own accord.

### AT: (!) Famine

1. **Delink –** **Michael ’18 of the Press Democrat** writes that the Houthis are responsible for diverting food aid.

Maggie Michael, 8-3-2018, "Corruption robs Yemenis of food as country nears famine", Santa Rosa Press Democrat, https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/9122319-181/corruption-robs-yemenis-of-food // JY  
The problem of lost and stolen aid is common in Taiz and other areas controlled by Yemen’s internationally recognized government, which is supported by the Saudi-led military coalition. It is even more widespread in territories controlled by the Houthi rebels, the struggling government’s main enemy during the nearly four years of warfare that has spawned the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. Some observers have attributed the near-famine conditions in much of the country to the coalition’s blockade of ports that supply Houthi-controlled areas. AP’s investigation found that large amounts of food are making it into the country, but once there, the food often isn’t getting to people who need it most — raising questions about the ability of United Nations agencies and other big aid organizations to operate effectively in Yemen.After the release of the AP’s investigation on Monday, the United Nations’ World Food Program for the first time directly accused the Houthi rebels of diverting aid. WFP director David Beasley said in a letter to the Houthis’ leader that if the rebels did not investigate and put an end to theft, the organization would suspend some assistance, potentially effecting nearly 3 million people.“These incidents of fraud amount to stealing food from the mouths of hungry Yemeni children,” Beasley wrote.The WFP said its own investigation had found “evidence of trucks illicitly removing food from designated food distribution centers” in Houthi-controlled areas as well as fraud by a local food aid distributor connected to the Houthis’ Education Ministry. It said it learned many people in the Houthi-controlled capital, Sanaa, We use cookies to optimize your experience, analyze traffic, and personalize content. To learn more, please visit our Privacy Policy. By using our site without disabling cookies, you consent to our use of them. Accepthave not been getting food rations they’re entitled to and that in other areas “hungry people have been denied full rations.”The World Food Program has 5,000 distribution sites across the country targeting

## Signals/Influence

### AT: General Influence

1. Arms sales don’t have anything to do with \_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. There’s no brink for this argument lol

### AT: Human Rights

1. **Non-unique –** **Zengerle ’18 of Reuters** writes that the U.S. is already sanctioning Saudi Arabia for Khashoggi’s death.

Patricia Zengerle, 11-16-2018, "U.S. imposes sanctions for Khashoggi killing, Saudis seek death...", U.S., https://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-khashoggi/us-imposes-sanctions-for-khashoggi-killing-saudis-seek-death-penalty-idUSKCN1NK2VB // JY  
WASHINGTON/RIYADH (Reuters) - The United States imposed economic sanctions on 17 Saudi officials on Thursday for their role in the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, as Saudi Arabia’s public prosecutor sought the death penalty for five suspects in the murder. The U.S. Treasury Department sanctions were the first concrete response by the Trump administration to Khashoggi’s death in the Saudi consulate in Turkey in October. Among those sanctioned were Saud al-Qahtani, who has been removed from his position as a top aide to the powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as well as the Saudi Consul General Mohammad al-Otaibi and members of a 15-person team Turkey has identified as being involved. The measure was unusual for Washington, which rarely imposes sanctions on Saudi nationals. The sanctions do not target the Riyadh government, an important U.S. security and economic ally.

### AT: Terrorism

1. **Case turn argument [depends on what you’re going for]**

### AT: Prolif

1. **Delink –** Saudi Arabia won’t proliferate. **Fitzpatrik ’15 of the Journal for Global Politics and Strategy** writes that Riyadh doesn’t have the tech to enrich uranium, and no one will sell it to them.

2. **Delink –** Even if they could, they never have the incentive to do so. **Zakaria ’15 of the Washington Post** writes that the threat of western retaliation would be just too great.

Fitzpatrick, Mark. (2015). *Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the Nuclear Rumour Mill. Survival, 57(4), 105–108.*doi:10.1080/00396338.2015.1068562   
Wanting enrichment technology, however, is a far cry from possessing it. How would the Saudis acquire the technology? Their nascent nuclear industry is at a rudimentary stage. They have no facilities relating to enrichment, and no known research programme or specialists in this field. Developing uranium enrichment on their own would take 15 years or more. If they really want to match Iran’s enrichment programme, they naturally would want to buy the technology, but who would sell it? The 49 members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) have agreed not to transfer any nuclear technology that would contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. There is no standard interpretation of this clause, but clearly it would apply to a Saudi enrichment programme that was initiated to contribute to a weapons option. Although the NSG guidelines are voluntary, the ‘non-proliferation principle’, as it is called, has become an entrenched norm.6 Any inclination to violate it would put the would-be exporter under intense international pressure. Five nations that possess enrichment technology are outside the NSG: India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea. Iran obviously would not empower its Gulf rival in this way, and neither would Israel. India, which seeks NSG membership, prides itself on not allowing proliferation-sensitive exports and has strong reasons to keep its export record clean. North Korea may have no compunction against selling nuclear technology to any wouldbe buyer, but it has no connections with Saudi Arabia and every major intelligence agency is watching to ensure that none develop. Pakistan is the usual suspect. It has close ties with Saudi Arabia, and benefited from Saudi munificence when its nuclear-weapons programme was getting off the ground. Every couple of years a media scoop alleges that Pakistan is on the verge of transferring nuclear weapons to Saudi Arabia. A thinly sourced article in the Sunday Times on 15 May 2015 is a recent example, claiming that Saudi Arabia has taken a ‘strategic decision’ to acquire ‘offthe-shelf’ nuclear weapons from Pakistan.7 Whatever the Saudis may have decided, however, a transfer requires a willing supplier. As I argued last year in my Adelphi book, Overcoming Pakistan’s Nuclear Dangers, Pakistan has strong strategic, political and economic incentives to keep its nuclear weapons to itself.8 Just as the Pakistanis resolutely refused Saudi Arabia’s request for aircraft and ground forces to support the Yemen intervention,9 so too they would refuse a nuclear-weapons transfer. Very little in the Sunday Times article is credible. Take this line, purportedly from a US intelligence official: ‘We know this stuff is available to them off the shelf.’ The US intelligence community includes 17 separate agencies and over 800,000 US officials hold top-secret clearances.10 No doubt reporters can find at least one of them whom they can quote repeating what has been in previous press reports.11 But responsible intelligence officials do not speak that way. Those who know something about Pakistan’s nuclear programme know that it has no nuclear weapons ‘on the shelf’ waiting for delivery to Saudi Arabia. Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal is focused entirely on India. Opening up a second front on its west by becoming involved in the Saudi–Iran dispute would be a strategic blunder.

Zakaria [Fareed Zakaria, PhD in Government from Harvard University, Correspondent with the Washington Post, 6-11-2015, Why Saudi Arabia can’t get a nuclear weapon, The Washington Post, http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/saudi-arabias-nuclear-bluff/2015/06/11/9ce1f4f8-1074-11e5-9726-49d6fa26a8c6\_story.html]  
Of the many unnerving aspects of the future of the Middle East, a nuclear arms race would top the list. And to feed that unease, Saudi Arabia has been periodically dropping hints that, should Iran’s nuclear ambitions go unchecked, it might just have to get nuclear weapons itself. This week, the Saudi ambassador to London made yet another explicit threat, warning that “all options will be on the table.” Oh, please! Saudi Arabia isn’t going to build a nuclear weapon. Saudi Arabia can’t build a nuclear weapon. Saudi Arabia hasn’t even built a car. (By 2017, after much effort, the country is expected to manufacture its first automobile.) Saudi Arabia can dig holes in the ground and pump out oil but little else. Oil revenue is about 45 percent of its gross domestic product, a staggeringly high figure, much larger than petro-states such as Nigeria and Venezuela. It makes up almost 90 percent of the Saudi government’s revenue. Despite decades of massive government investment, lavish subsidies and cheap energy, manufacturing is less than 10 percent of Saudi GDP. Where would Saudi Arabia train the scientists to work on its secret program? The country’s education system is backward and dysfunctional, having been largely handed over to its puritanical and reactionary religious establishment. The country ranks 73rd in the quality of its math and science education,according to the World Economic Forum — abysmally low for a rich country. Iran, despite 36 years of sanctions and a much lower per capita GDP, fares far better at 44. And who would work in Saudi Arabia’s imagined nuclear industry? In a penetrating book, Karen Elliott House, formerly of the Wall Street Journal,describes the Saudi labor market: “One of every three people in Saudi Arabia is a foreigner. Two out of every three people with a job of any sort are foreign. And in Saudi Arabia’s anemic private sector, fully nine out of ten people holding jobs are non-Saudi. . . . Saudi Arabia, in short, is a society in which all too many men do not want to work at jobs for which they are qualified; in which women by and large aren’t allowed to work; and in which, as a result, most of the work is done by foreigners.” None of this is to suggest that the kingdom is in danger of collapse. Far from it. The regime’s finances are strong, though public spending keeps rising and oil revenue has been declining. The royal family has deftly used patronage, politics, religion and repression to keep the country stable and quiescent. But that has produced a system of stagnation for most, with a gilded elite surfing on top with almost unimaginable sums of money. Saudi Arabia’s increased assertiveness has been portrayed as strategic. In fact, it is a panicked and emotional response to Iran, fueled in no small measure by long-standing anti-Shiite bigotry. It is pique masquerading as strategy. In October 2013, after having spent years and millions of dollars campaigning for a seat on the U.N. Security Council, it abruptly declined the post at the last minute, signaling that it was annoyed at U.S. policy in its region. Its most recent international activism, the air campaign in Yemen, has badly backfired. Bruce Riedel, a former top White House aide, says that damage to civilians and physical infrastructure “has created considerable bad blood between Yemenis and their rich Gulf neighbors that will poison relations for years. Yemenis always resented their rich brothers, and now many will want revenge.” He notes that the air campaign is being directed by the new defense minister, the king’s 29-year-old son, who has no experience in military affairs or much else. But couldn’t Saudi Arabia simply buy a nuclear bomb? That’s highly unlikely. Any such effort would have to take place secretly, under the threat of sanctions, Western retaliation and interception. Saudi Arabia depends heavily on foreigners and their firms to help with its energy industry, build its infrastructure, buy its oil and sell it goods and services. Were it isolated like Iran or North Korea, its economic system would collapse. It is often claimed that Pakistan would sell nukes to the Saudis. And it’s true that the Saudis have bailed out Pakistan many times. But the government in Islamabad is well aware that such a deal could make it a pariah and result in sanctions. It is unlikely to risk that, even to please its sugar daddy in Riyadh. In April, Pakistan refused repeated Saudi pleas to join the air campaign in Yemen. So let me make a prediction: Whatever happens with Iran’s nuclear program, 10 years from now Saudi Arabia won’t have nuclear weapons. Because it can’t.

## Terrorism

### Weighing

1. **Magnitude –** there are so many other factors that affect terrorism.

### \*Terrorism Inc. Now

### Link: Weapons to Terrorists

1. **Delink –** **Al Jazeera ’17** writes that 90% of weapons come from other sources.

Al Jazeera 17, "ISIL weapons traced to US and Saudi Arabia,” <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/isil-weapons-traced-saudi-arabia-171214164431586.html>  
About 90 percent of weapons and ammunition used by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) originated in [China](http://www.aljazeera.com/topics/country/china.html), [Russia](http://www.aljazeera.com/topics/country/russia.html), and Eastern Europe, with Russian-made weapons outnumbering those of any other country.

## \*Petrodollar

### AT: Link: Retaliation

### \*AT: Recycling

### AT: Petroyuan

## Oil Bad

### AT: Link: Cut Off Oil

1. **Delink –** Saudi Arabia won’t cut off oil to the United States. **Egan ’18 of CNN** writes that Saudi Arabia would simply be encouraging a faster shift away from its oil supplies and toward renewables and other sources. Thus, **Khrennikova ’18 of Bloomberg** writes that the Saudis’ own energy minister said they have no plans to repeat oil crises past.

Matt Egan, 10-15-2018, "Saudi Arabia is No. 2 supplier of oil to the United States", CNN, https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/15/investing/saudi-arabia-oil-imports-united-states/index.html // JY  
But energy analysts warn that such a move would backfire. **By spiking prices, Saudi Arabia would only be encouraging more investment in US shale, renewable energy and electric vehicles. In other words, Saudi Arabia would be shooting itself in the foot. "That would be a self-defeating strategy," said Vincent Piazza, an energy analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. "Demand erosion due to higher prices would create a negative feedback loop." Khalid al-Falih, Saudi Arabai's oil minister, sought to ease fears about the kingdom taking any drastic actions. "I want to assure markets and petroleum consumers around the world that we want to continue to support the growth of the global economy, the prosperity of consumers around the world,"** he said in a speech in India on Monday, according to Bloomberg News.

Dina Khrennikova, 10-22-2018, "Saudi Arabia Has No Plans to Repeat 1973 Oil Crisis, Falih Says", Bloomberg, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-10-22/saudi-arabia-has-no-plans-to-repeat-1973-oil-crisis-falih-says // JY  
Saudi Arabia has no intention of using its oil wealth as a political tool in the controversy over the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, and the kingdom plans to boost crude output again soon. "For decades we used our oil policy as a responsible economic tool and isolated it from politics," Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said in an [interview](http://tass.com/economy/1026924) with Russia’s TASS news agency published on Monday. "So let’s hope that the world would deal with the political crisis, including the one with a Saudi citizen in Turkey, with wisdom," he said.

### AT: Warming

1. **Non-unique –** **Nakagawa of Green Tech Media** finds as of **September** that investment into renewables is at an all time high, having grown 3% in the last year, and renewable energy generation has finally outpaced fossil fuels.Current oil prices are already high enough to discourage consumers from using fossil fuels. Increasing oil prices sharply and immediately, however, would pull the rug out from under developing countries, which are still making this shift. In either world, the transition is going to happen—the question is whether we punish the developing world or not.

2. **Internal link turn –** **Slav ’18 of OilPrice** explains that high oil prices are necessary to fund Riyadh’s Vision 2030 initiative, which will reduce its reliance on oil overall, and will include a shift to sources like nuclear power.

**This outweighs on timeframe** – in the long term, to reduce overall oil use, instead of just with a temporary price shock, vote con.

[EMMA FOEHRINGER MERCHANT](https://www.greentechmedia.com/authors/emma-foehringer-merchant) [], 7-23-2018, "Another Major Oil Player Invests in Clean Energy", No Publication, https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/another-major-oil-company-invests-in-clean-energy1 // JY  
Vitol’s commitment is the latest in a growing roster of fossil-fuel-centric companies showing confidence in clean energy through financial commitments. Among oil and gas majors, Shell [has invested](https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/shell-gobbles-up-another-grid-edge-company#gs.4jDLcRg) in solar developers [like Silicon Ranch](https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/shell-takes-major-stake-in-us-solar-developer#gs.HQpKw_s) and [storage company sonnen](https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/sonnen-raises-71m-and-partnership-with-shell#gs.thRzMZQ), Total has acquired energy efficiency company GreenFlex and invested in energy storage company Ionic Materials, and Engie has bought electric charging company EVBox. It’s worth noting that much of this appetite has come from Europe, whereas U.S. oil and gas giants have been more hesitant to drop money into renewables projects.

Melanie Nakagawa, [], 9-17-2018, "The Global Community Is Not Slowing Down on Climate Action", No Publication, https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/the-global-community-is-not-slowing-down-on-climate-action // JY  
Even with these clear indicators of the effects of climate change, the current administration in Washington, D.C. is not just refusing to act; it is actually undermining the ability to address climate change by actively pursuing policies that throw kindling on an already-burning fire. But as international climate leaders from government and industry meet this month to spotlight their actions at the [Global Climate Action Summit](http://globalclimateactionsummit.org/) in San Francisco and for [Climate Week](https://www.climateweeknyc.org/) in New York City, the fundamental message remains clear: Global momentum to address climate change will not stop. The global community shows no signs of slowing progress in the face of Washington’s self-inflicted headwinds. Here at home, [local and state governments](https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/climate-summit-brings-new-electric-vehicle-charging-commitments#gs._hohzR4), as well as the private sector, are moving ahead to help solve these problems, and capital investment into solutions is at a record high. This is key because technology-centric innovation will be a critical catalyst to both adaptation and mitigation against the effects of climate change. A great example of this are the [thousands of governments and corporations](https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/cities-states-and-businesses-striking-distance-of-paris-climate-goals-trump#gs.4u62L=M) that stood up after President Trump announced his effort to withdraw from the groundbreaking international climate accord in Paris to announce that [“We Are Still In”](https://www.wearestillin.com/signatories) to meet their commitments. In July 2018, [Bloomberg NEF reported](https://about.bnef.com/blog/corporations-already-purchased-record-clean-energy-volumes-2018-not-anomaly/) that corporations had already shattered the previous annual record for the purchasing of clean energy for their operations — a result of leadership and strategic planning. As you can see from the graph below, the trends are pretty hard to miss. These trends will only continue as 60 percent of Fortune 100 companies have established significant goals to increase the use of renewable energy in their operations, creating a critical positive feedback loop. According to [Bloomberg NEF annual figures](https://about.bnef.com/blog/clean-energy-10-predictions-2018/), global markets saw a 3 percent growth in clean energy investment to over $333.5 billion in 2017, but more significant was the growth in actual clean energy generation that reached an all-time high in response to falling costs, outpacing fossil energy generation. In 2018 those trends continue as investors are increasingly adopting longer-term investment time horizons rather than focusing on short-term returns. Some of the world’s largest pools of capital, including key institutional investors managing over $17 trillion in assets, are elevating climate change as an investment priority. This includes actions like investing in green infrastructure, private equity funds focused on innovative technology and climate impact, and direct project-level investment.

Slav ’18 (Irina Slav – writer for the U.S.-based Divergente LLC consulting firm with over a decade of experience writing on the oil and gas industry, “Saudis Ready To Swing Oil Market Into Deficit,” 21 February 2018, https://oilprice.com/Energy/Crude-Oil/Saudis-Ready-To-Swing-Oil-Market-Into-Deficit.html)  
Saudi Arabia is undergoing a truly seismic shift in its economy, politics, and society, all thanks to the oil price crash of 2014. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, commonly referred to as MBS, would likely not have had the opportunity to initiate the sweeping changes envisaged in Vision 2030 had it not been for the price collapse. Now, Riyadh needs oil prices to rise as high as possible for the plan to succeed — and is even ready to tip the market into a deficit to that end. Saudi Arabia used to be OPEC’s most influential price dove, according to Bloomberg’s Grant Smith. Now, the kingdom has adopted a markedly different approach. Saudi Arabia is now focused on pushing prices as high as it can for a very simple reason: Aramco’s IPO. There are more than enough doubts surrounding the listing of the world’s largest oil company. There’s no certainty about the location of its international listing, and some observers have even argued that Riyadh might opt for a private placement instead so as to ensure the entire 5 percent that is set to be offered will find a buyer. Aramco’s IPO is crucial for Vision 2030, as the proceeds from the sale will be the fuel that this ambitious plan runs on. While analysts disagree strongly on exactly how much Aramco is worth, it’s clear that the higher oil prices are, the higher the valuation for this oil giant will be.