

What you should know about HD. 1445:
***An Act relative to pension divestment from companies
selling weapons of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia –
and why the Mass. Legislature should support it***

H.2349 (Rep. Provost) • bit.ly/saudi-divest-bill

- H.D. 1445 would require divestment of the Massachusetts pension plan from all stocks and other obligations of companies selling weapons to Saudi Arabia – unless such companies announce within 30 days that they will not renew or enter into arms contracts.
- The four largest such companies are Raytheon, Boeing, General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin.
- As of June 30, 2018 the pension plan held about \$203 million in the securities of these 4 companies (a large amount but only a fraction of the pension plan's total portfolio)
- These companies sell the Saudis massive quantities of expensive guided bombs and other high tech weapons that play a key role in the thousands of deaths and physical destruction responsible for widespread outbreaks of infectious diseases and starvation in Yemen
- This disaster is primarily the result of Saudi bombing of civilian gatherings, hospitals, water and sewage facilities, food warehouses and roads combined with a frequent naval and air blockade that often prevents international assistance from reaching Yemeni war victims.
- The Saudis indiscriminate bombing of civilian targets, including hospitals and schools in Yemen, and the gruesome murder and dismemberment of Jamal Khashoggi are just the most recent examples of Saudi repressive policies and crimes.
- The United States supports the Saudi-led forces in Yemen by providing intelligence, logistical support and diplomatic cover in addition to billions of dollars in weapons sales from military weapons companies.
- Raytheon is headquartered in Waltham and has manufacturing plants and other major facilities in Burlington, Andover, Cambridge, Woburn, Tewksbury, Billerica, Marlborough and Northborough. Its weapons, technology, deepening relationship with the brutal Saudi regime and influence in the U.S. government have helped make war crimes possible in Yemen. The war in Yemen lays at our doorstep here in Massachusetts.
- This past October U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock warned the U.N. Security Council that at least 14 million Yemenis – almost half the population – are on the verge of famine and that more than 3 million have fled their homes as a cholera epidemic rages while thousands have died of preventable diseases. [Save the Children](#) found that between April 2015 and October

2018 about 84,701 Yemeni children under the age of 5 have died of untreated cases of severe malnutrition.

- The leaders of Oxfam American, the International Rescue Committee, Save the Children USA, and CARE-US have warned that the United States will bear shared responsibility for what may be the largest famine in decades if it does not cease its military support for the Saudis and United Arab Republics.
- Senator Markey has called for a halt to all arms sales to the Saudi Kingdom and Senator Warren has criticized President Trump for refusing “to halt arms sales to Saudi Arabia in part because he is more interested in appeasing U.S. defense contractors than holding the Saudis accountable for the murder of a Washington Post journalist or for the thousands of Yemeni civilians killed by those weapons.”
- Raytheon bomb parts have been identified at civilian sites attacked by the Saudis.
- Raytheon stands to collect billions from arms sales to Saudi Arabia under a recent deal to deepen the country’s military ties with the U.S.
- Raytheon hails its 50-year relationship with Saudi Arabia and has recently signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in military-related projects, including the establishment of Raytheon Arabia to be based in Riyadh.
- Despite increasing attention on weapons sales to the Saudis after Khashoggi’s killing, Raytheon CEO Thomas Kennedy reassured financial analysts by saying, “I’m pretty confident we’ll weather this complexity”.
- More weapons sales to the Saudi-led coalition will doom Yemenis to more death, starvation and disease.
- H.D. 1445 is our opportunity to tell Raytheon that it must end its military support for the uniquely brutal Saudi regime. And it sends a message to the Saudis that they must end their assault in Yemen.

More Info: masspeaceaction.org/raytheon-antiwar



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