

Divest from the Yemen War
***An Act relative to pension divestment from companies
selling weapons of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia***

HD.3348 (Rep. Elugardo), SD.1496 (Sen. Jehlen)

- This act 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 hightech 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.
- According to the United Nations, at least 24 million Yemenis – around 80% of the total population – are in need of humanitarian aid and more than 3 million have been displaced since 2015. For children, the situation is even more dire. 93% of all children – 12.3 million – are in need of humanitarian aid and almost 20% have lost their homes. Save the Children has also found that 10.3 million children – nearly 78% of all children in the country – do not have enough food to eat.

- 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.
- Shortly after announcing his candidacy, President Biden unveiled his first major foreign policy position: ending support for the war in Yemen. A Biden spokesman had this to say at the time, “Vice President Biden believes it is past time to end U.S. support for the war in Yemen.”
- Senators Markey and Warren have also called for a halt to all arms sales to the Saudi Kingdom as well as criticizing Former President Trump at the time for refusing to do so.
- 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 signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in military-related projects, including the establishment of Raytheon Arabia, to be based in the Saudi capital of 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.
- This bill is our opportunity to tell Raytheon that it must end its military support for the 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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