

Minister  
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre  
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

August 12, 2022

Ms. Heather McPherson, M.P.  
House of Commons  
[Heather.McPherson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Heather.McPherson@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Ms. McPherson:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 30, 2022, concerning the situation in Yemen.

Global Affairs Canada actively funds meaningful programs that result in the betterment of Yemeni welfare, some of which are described below. As well, Global Affairs Canada works to ensure that Canadian exports, including arms sales, meet Canada's values and requirements under both domestic and international law, regardless of their destination to ensure they do not exacerbate the crisis in Yemen.

Canada has consistently been a top-tier donor in support of the international humanitarian response to the crisis in Yemen since 2015. More specifically, Canada has provided over \$300 million in humanitarian funding to support food assistance, clean water and sanitation, shelter, protection and health care, including sexual and reproductive health.

Additionally, since December 2018, Canada has committed over \$22 million in peace and security assistance in Yemen to support the UN-led peace process. This has included the secondment of a Canadian diplomat to the UN Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen.

Canada actively participated in the 2018 UN-led peace process and has since consistently supported international diplomatic efforts to end the war in Yemen while championing an inclusive and peaceful resolution to the conflict.

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Respect for human rights is a cornerstone of Canada's export controls legislation. Canada's export controls regime is designed to control the export of strategic, military, and dual-use goods and technology in a lawful manner that is consistent with Canada's foreign and defence policies, security interests and international obligations.

All permit applications for controlled items are reviewed on a case-by-case basis under Canada's robust risk assessment framework, including against the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) criteria which are enshrined in Canada's *Export and Import Permits Act*. Under Canadian legislation, controlled goods and technology will not be exported from Canada where there is a substantial risk that they could be used to commit or to facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights law or serious acts of gender-based violence, or violence against women and children.

Additionally, officials from Global Affairs Canada have carefully assessed whether military goods exported to Saudi Arabia would be used in a manner consistent with the ATT and Canada's domestic legislation.

This review, completed in 2020, concluded that exports authorized to date and exports proposed under permit applications received and assessed to date, were not at substantial risk of being used in contravention of Canadian law or ATT criteria. This conclusion does not mean that export permits will be issued automatically. All new export permit applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are subject to Canada's rigorous risk assessment process.

Please be assured that the Government of Canada will continue to closely monitor the situation in Yemen and encourage all parties to work toward a peaceful resolution to the conflict while continuing to support the people Yemen.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Joly', with a stylized, flowing script.

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.