



**Press Release
For immediate release**

In the wake of Canada's recent accession to the Arms Trade Treaty

The Federal Court of Canada is once again asked to cancel exports permits to allow Canada's continuing exports of armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia

Montréal, 10 October 2019 –In the wake of Canada's recent accession to the *Arms Trade Treaty* that came into force for Canada on September 17, 2019 and in continuation of Operation Armoured Rights initiated in 2016, Professor Daniel Turp filed a new Notice of Application for Judicial Review with the Federal Court of Canada this morning.

In this application, Professor Turp invites the Court to issue an order directing Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland to cancel existing permits authorizing the export of arms and military equipment to Saudi Arabia. It should be recalled that former Canadian Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion issued six permits on April 6, 2016, authorizing the export of Light Armoured Vehicles (LAVs) and related weapons systems, spare parts and technical data to the Saudi National Guard ("SANG") for the performance of a contract concluded in 2014 between the Canadian Commercial Corporation ("CCC") and the SANG.

Since these licences were issued, multiple citizens and non-governmental organizations, in particular Amnesty International, Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, the Rideau Institute, Oxfam Québec and Project Ploughshares, have requested their cancellation, particularly because of Saudi Arabia's possible use of these LAVs in the context of the conflict in Yemen.

But, like her predecessor, Minister Freeland has consistently refused to cancel these licences, even though "[f]rom March 2015 to June 2018, the conflict in Yemen claimed at least 16,706 civilian victims, including 6,475 killed, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had "established that at least 7,292 civilians (including at least 1,959 children and 880 women) and 11,630 wounded civilians (including 2,575 children and 1,256 women) in Yemen had been directly affected by the armed conflict between March 2015 (when it began this monitoring) and June 2019",

"Under the *Export and Import Act*, recently amended to allow Canada to accede to the *Arms Trade Treaty*, the Minister of Foreign Affairs should have cancelled the export permits that allow the continued export of LAVs being manufactured at the General Dynamics Land Systems Canada plant in London, Ontario. There is indeed a substantial risk that these weapons may be used to commit violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights law and serious acts of gender-based violence or serious violence against women and children," said Professor Turp.

Operation "Armoured Rights", launched in 2016 by Professor Turp, was supported by three generations of students from the Faculty of Law of the Université de Montréal. Citizens and non-governmental organizations can join this operation by expressing their support via the operation's Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/droitsblindés>

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