

## **To Heads of State, Foreign and Trade Ministers, and Members of the United Nations:**

We respectfully call on you to stand with Canada and publicly condemn Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses. No sanctions or threats should ever silence us from speaking up for the humanitarian values we believe in.

When Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland called for the release of peaceful human rights activists in Saudi Arabia, the world looked the other way. What a lonely feeling it must be, to boldly champion the humanitarian values many of our countries profess to stand for, only to be met with deafening silence.

While our governments have yet to publicly take a stand, we the undersigned proudly stand with Canada on their response to Saudi Arabia's human rights violations, and 840,000 people from around the world have joined us too. Now we are calling on leaders everywhere to do the same.

Saudi Arabia still allows women to be sentenced to death by stoning for adultery. The Kingdom whips bloggers who dare speak critically of their strict version of Islam, and they regularly lock up peaceful women's rights activists. And the Kingdom continues to enforce a medieval male guardianship law which prevents women from making crucial decisions for themselves without the explicit consent of a man.

That's *in addition* to the horrific abuses and alleged war crimes committed in Yemen. The Saudi-led coalition's recent attack on a school bus killed 40 children reportedly between the ages of six and eleven. The UN has already 'blacklisted' the Saudi coalition for killing almost 700 children, and for attacking dozens of schools and hospitals in Yemen. But that condemnation was still not enough for the coalition to stop bombing Yemeni children.

Saudi Arabia is a powerful ally, and a prodigious buyer of western arms. But our policies, alliances, and diplomacy must not be reduced to walking on eggshells when governments blatantly defy the most basic international laws on human rights.

The time has come to finally stand up to Saudi Arabia and all other governments that commit gross human rights violations. It is our collective responsibility -- as stewards of our people -- to speak up again and again, no matter how many diplomats are expelled as a result.

We implore you to join us, and to consider all possibilities to ensure Saudi Arabia stops these human rights abuses -- either by joining Canada in issuing honest, critical public statements; halting the sale of arms to the Kingdom; or considering more robust sanctions. Our greatest failure in this moment is no action at all.

Join us in standing with Canada on the right side of history.

Sincerely,

1. Professor Noam Chomsky, linguist, historian and thinker, USA
2. David Nicholls, Author and Writer, UK
3. Rony Brauman, Co-founder and former President of MSF (Doctors without borders), France
4. Raphaël Glucksmann, Essayist and thinker, France
5. Benoît Hamon, Founder of Génération-s, former Minister and presidential candidate, France
6. Anne-Cécile Mailfert, President of the Women Foundation, France
7. Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, UK
8. Lord Ashdown, former leader of the Liberal Democrats
9. MP Stella Creasy, Labour, UK
10. MP Esther Benbassa, EELV, France
11. MP Sébastien Nadot, En Marche, France
12. MP Jess Phillips, Labour, UK
13. MP Jennifer de Temmerman, En Marche, France
14. MP Lammert van Raan, Party for the Animals, The Netherlands
15. MP Bram van Ojik, GroenLinks, The Netherlands
16. MP Ivan Lewis, Labour, UK
17. MP Holger K. Nielsen, MP for SF, former Foreign Minister, Denmark

18. MP Gareth Hughes, Green Party, New Zealand
19. MP Caroline Lucas, Green Party, UK
20. MP Balthasar Glättli, President of the Green Group in the Federal Assembly, Switzerland
21. MP Juan López de Uralde, Unidos Podemos and co-spokesperson of EQUO, Spain
22. MP Eva Flyvholm, Enhedslisten (Red-Green Alliance), and defense spokesperson, Denmark
23. MP Pernille Skipper, Enhedslisten (Red-Green Alliance), and political spokesperson, Denmark
24. MP Margarete Bause, Member of the federal Parliament, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, Germany
25. MP José María Guijarro, Unidos Podemos, Secretary General of the parliamentary group, Spain
26. MP Christian Juhl, Enhedslisten, Denmark
27. MP Dr. Franziska Brantner, Member of the German federal parliament, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, Germany
28. Regional Counsellor Julien Bayou, EELV Party, France
29. MEP Molly Scott Cato, Greens-European Free Alliance, UK
30. MP Bas Eickhout, Greens-European Free Alliance, Netherlands
31. MEP Sven Giegold, Greens-European Free Alliance, Germany
32. MEP Claude Moraes, S&D, Chair of Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, UK
33. MEP Bart Staes, Greens-European Free Alliance, Belgium
34. MEP Marietje Schaake, ALDE, Netherlands
35. MEP Eva Joly, Greens-European Free Alliance, France
36. MEP Pavel Telička, ALDE, and Vice President of Parliament, Czech Republic
37. MEP Julie Ward, S&D, UK
38. MEP Patricia Lalonde, ALDE, France
39. MEP Jude Kirton-Darling, S&D, UK
40. MEP Petr Ježek, ALDE, Czech Republic
41. MEP Reinhard Bütikofer, Greens-European Free Alliance, Germany
42. MEP Ana Miranda, Greens-European Free Alliance, Spain
43. MEP Ángela Vallina de la Noval, GUE/NGL, Spain
44. MEP Lidia Senra Rodríguez, GUE/NGL, Spain

45. MEP Georgi Pirinski, S&D, Bulgaria
46. MEP Barbara Spinelli, GUE/NGL, Italy
47. MEP Bodil Valero, Greens-European Free Alliance, Sweden
48. MEP Pascal Durand, Greens-European Free Alliance, France
49. MEP Ska Keller, Co-chair Greens-European Free Alliance, Germany
50. MEP Michèle Rivasi, Greens/European Free Alliance, France
51. MEP David Martin, S&D, UK
52. MEP Elena Valenciano, S&D, Spain
53. MEP Liadh Ní Riada, GUE/NGL, Ireland
54. MEP Matt Carthy, GUE/NGL, Ireland
55. MEP Martina Anderson, GUE/NGL, UK
56. MEP Lynn Boylan, GUE/NGL, Ireland
57. MEP Philippe Lamberts, Co-chair Greens-European Free Alliance, Belgium
58. MEP Dimitrios Papadimoulis, GUE/NGL and Vice President of Parliament, Greece
59. MEP Guillaume Balas, S&D, France
60. MEP Jo Leinen, S&D, Germany
61. MEP Guy Verhofstadt, Chair of ALDE, and former Prime Minister of Belgium