

P R E S S R E L E A S E**Suspend arms sales to Saudi Arabia until it stops breaking international rules, says Save the Children**

Susanna Krüger, Geschäftsführerin von Save the Children Deutschland fordert:

“This week, the international community is being challenged like never before on how much it can trust the conduct of its Saudi allies; but in Yemen this has been an open question for over three years. Repeated attacks on civilians and vital infrastructure in Yemen, Saudi Arabia has consistently flouted the international rules and norms of warfare and diplomacy. All sides are committing violations of international law, and the Government’s support for one party in Yemen’s brutal conflict is untenable.

In just the past week an estimated 700 children in Yemen have died from extreme hunger and 1,500 children are suspected to have contracted cholera. According to UN figures, more than 6,000 children have been killed or maimed in airstrikes carried out by the Saudi-led Coalition since the escalation of the conflict. A man-made famine is a very real possibility, the worst in 100 years according to the UN, and all parties to the conflict are to blame.

“Germany must lead by example; the disregard of the international rules-based system must always have consequences. Suspending all arms sales to Saudi Arabia until we can be sure our bombs aren’t being used to commit grave violations against children in Yemen would send a clear signal. And whilst bombs continue to fall on children, Germany and the international community must redouble their efforts to protect children and their families caught up in the conflict and take a stronger lead in bringing it to an end. Rules matter everywhere, even in wars. Germany cannot continue to stay silent as our Saudi allies break them in Yemen. It is children who are suffering the consequences.”

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About Save the Children

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Around the world, we work every day to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. When crisis strikes, and children are most vulnerable, we are always among the first to respond and the last to leave. We ensure children’s unique needs are met and their voices are heard. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach.

We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.