

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



## Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

*Intel for Advocacy*

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SL: Trump's world: profit > death

### [TRUMP'S DISGRACEFUL 'EMERGENCY' ARMS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UAE](#)

Because nearly every day in the Trump administration there's a scandal that would have taken down any other president, you may have missed a big story in the last week: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo [announced](#) that Trump invoked a rarely used national security emergency power enshrined in the Arms Export Control Act to bypass Congress and allow the U.S. defense industry to sell upwards of \$8 billion worth of arms to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

On its face, this news might sound like business as usual. For the Trump administration and its chaos-first foreign policy, fanning the flames of conflict and humanitarian catastrophe in the Middle East, overhyping the Iran threat to bring us closer to war, ignoring gross human rights violations, and circumventing Congress' constitutional authority is the new normal. And of course, it's all in the name of profit, including perhaps even [Trump's personal business interests](#).

#### WHY TRUMP'S END AROUND CONGRESS ARMS SALE IS A BIG DEAL

1. **Trump is thumbing his nose at Congress.** Just weeks after a bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate told Trump he must withdraw U.S. military assistance to the Saudi/UAE-led war against Houthis in Yemen -- which is responsible for a disastrous humanitarian crisis -- Trump is doubling down by giving Saudi Arabia and the UAE more weapons and tools to commit more war crimes and fuel the flames of conflict in Yemen.
2. **Trump's arms sale escalates tensions with Iran, making conflict with Tehran more likely.** Once again, Trump, Pompeo, and National Security Advisor John Bolton are taking us to the brink of another disastrous war in the Middle East. Pompeo justified the emergency move by citing an increased threat from Iran. Of course, there's one problem: This alleged new threat from Iran [is completely made up](#). Indeed, there's [another story](#) out this week based on leaks from U.S. intelligence officials that Team Trump is inflating

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the threat.

3. **Team Trump undermines U.S. leadership and values by ignoring Saudi and UAE gross human rights violations.** If helping defend the Saudis after the brutal murder of Washington Post columnist, and U.S. resident, Jamal Khashoggi wasn't bad enough, Trump's arms sale announcement came just days after it was [reported](#) that the Saudi government plans to execute three prominent moderate religious scholars for ... being moderate religious scholars. "Selling them more weapons is an astonishing affront to human rights," Amnesty International [tweeted](#) this week. Scoville Fellows Laila Ujayli and Lizamaria Arias have more on this [here](#).
4. **Trump is discarding our values for profit.** While it's still unclear how much Trump stands to benefit financially from his fealty to the Saudi and UAE governments, one thing is clear about this new arms deal: more money will pour into defense industry coffers. In fact, industry executives were in New York just this month [telling investors](#) how much money they'll make from recent increased tensions with Iran.

## WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

There is bipartisan opposition in Congress to selling more arms to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. And while Trump has bypassed congressional approval with his emergency declaration, Congress can still block the deal by [including a measure](#) in a must-pass defense authorization or appropriations bill (you can sign and share our action on that [here](#)).

But what's just as important: **Members of Congress must speak out** and we can urge them to do so. A number of lawmakers have already issued strong statements (the Forum on Arms Trade has links to those statements and other resources on this issue [here](#)). But if anything, our representatives need to continuously fight back against Donald Trump's extreme erosion of our norms and values, wherever and whenever the opportunity may arise.

## **BURIED LEDES**

**The Dream and Promise Act will likely pass the House within the next few weeks.** The bill would grant a pathway to citizenship for so-called "DREAMers" and provide permanent benefits to other immigrants, asylum seekers, and those who have escaped undue hardship in their home countries. "I have to admit, I got emotional [last Wednesday] night when we passed it [in committee]," [said](#) Rep. Pramila Jayapal, co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

**More than 400 groups from diverse communities and movements across the country,** including from leading foreign policy organizations, recently [sent letters](#) to House Democratic leaders in support of the Dream and Promise Act.

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**The Trump administration is launching a new assault on the fight to combat climate change.** [Soon](#), “parts of the federal government will no longer fulfill what scientists say is one of the most urgent jobs of climate science studies: reporting on the future effects of a rapidly warming planet and presenting a picture of what the earth could look like by the end of the century if the global economy continues to emit heat-trapping carbon dioxide pollution from burning fossil fuels.”

Dozens of retired top military brass sent a [letter](#) to Trump this week telling him that “a war with Iran, either by choice or miscalculation, **would produce dramatic repercussions in an already destabilized Middle East** and drag the United States into another armed conflict at immense financial, human, and geopolitical cost.”

This is the [story](#) of how **one member of Congress got a defense contractor to return \$16 million** due to its price gouging practices.

Lawyers for Guantanamo Bay detainees [criticized](#) a new exhibit at the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C. for **sanitizing the U.S. use of torture after 9/11**.

A senior U.S. military official **accused Russia of not adhering to a moratorium on testing nuclear weapons** this week, [without offering any evidence](#).

And finally, SHOT: “I would agree that if after the [Iraq] war, we aren’t treated more or less as a liberating force ... I accept the possibility that I’m wrong.” -- Bill Kristol, [3/28/2003](#).

CHASER: “**I dislike quasi-Stalinist demands for apologies**.” -- Bill Kristol, [5/26/2019](#), when asked to apologize for his role in taking the U.S. to war in Iraq.