



FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 58th session of the Human Rights Council

General Debate Item 3: OHCHR report on the negative human rights impacts of arms transfers

Global defence spending surged in 2024 to USD 2.46 trillion, up from 2.24 trillion in 2023.¹ With recent decisions to boost defence budgets, this upward trend will continue. As the arms industry profits, the increasing availability of weapons fuels human rights violations, and serious breaches of international humanitarian law.²

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) welcomes OHCHR's report on the negative human rights impacts of arms transfers ([A/HRC/58/41](#)), and its recommendations to address compliance gaps.

The report highlights gaps in implementing meaningful safeguards against prohibited arms transfers, as contained in frameworks like the Arms Trade Treaty, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It is unclear whether, how, on what basis and to what effect safeguards such as comprehensive risk assessments and robust human rights due diligence measures are applied by State and private actors in the arms trade.

We believe OHCHR has a valuable role to play in helping close these compliance gaps, for example, by providing further analysis and practical guidance on preventing prohibited transfers, including through effective risk assessments and human rights due diligence measures.

We call on the Council to continue this timely work, including through its next resolution on arms transfers. We stand ready to support those working through this Council to end human rights violations caused or exacerbated by arms transfers.

ENDS

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¹ International Institute for Strategic Studies, [Global Defence Spending Soars to New High](#) (12 February 2025).

² OHCHR, Impact of Arms Transfers on Human Rights ([A/HRC/58/41](#)), pp. 2-3.