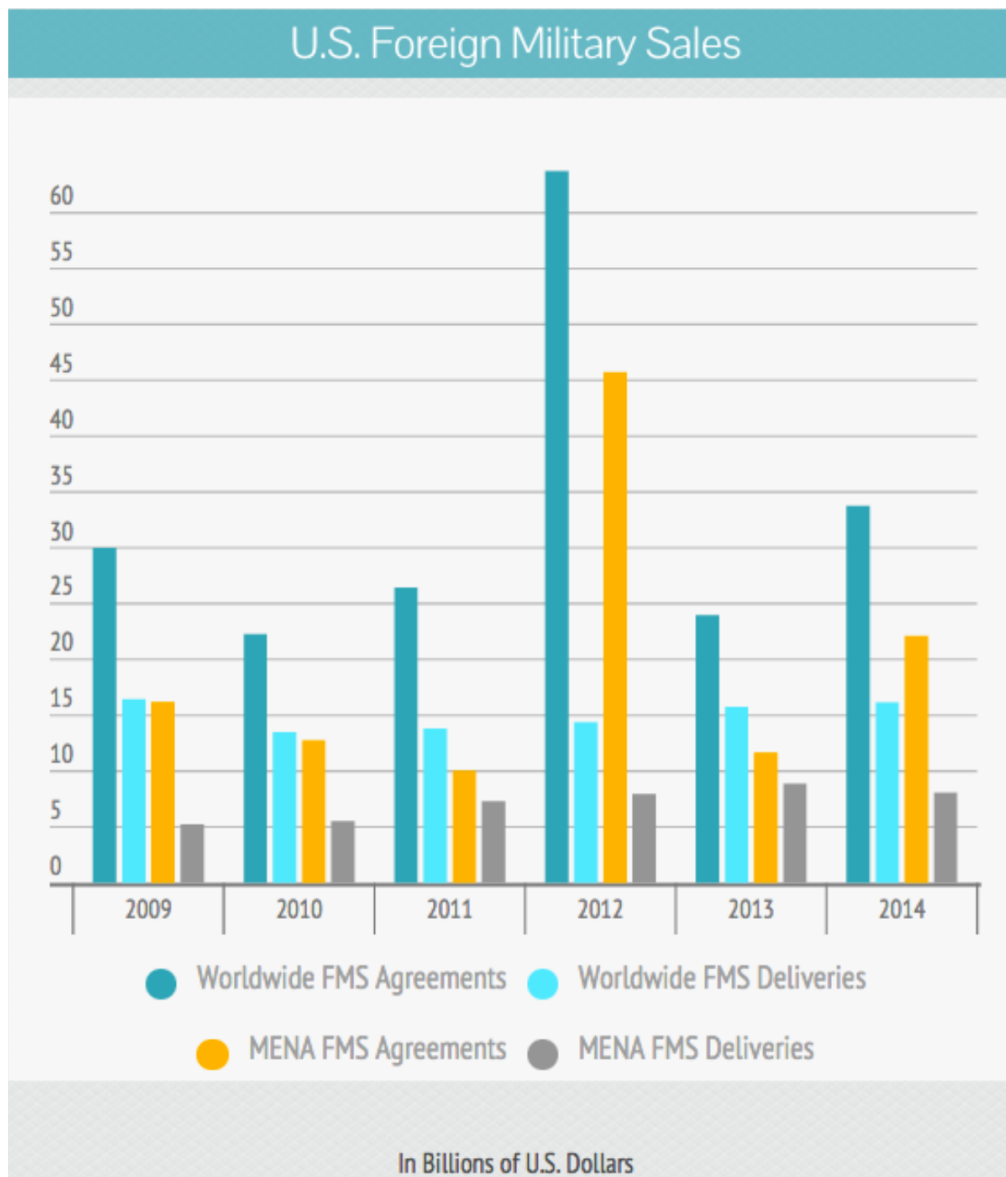




**CRISIS IN YEMEN - HUMANITARIAN AND SECURITY CONSEQUENCES OF MILITARY SUPPORT TO THE REGION**

**Findings (via Security Assistance Monitor)**



- There has been a surge in new deals under the Pentagon's Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program under the Obama administration, with \$195 billion in new agreements -- the highest level since World War II.

- Well over half of the FMS agreements reached during the Obama administration have been with U.S. allies in the Middle East and Persian Gulf, for everything from combat aircraft to attack helicopters to armored vehicles to a wide variety of bombs and missiles. A number of agreements for missile defense systems have also been concluded in recent years.
- The bulk of these new deals involve equipment that has yet to be delivered, so will have an impact on the region for years to come. The exception involves deals for bombs and ammunition, which can be delivered relatively quickly, and have been used intensively in the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen, with disastrous humanitarian consequences.

## **Comments**

*William Hartung:* “During the Obama administration, new deals under the Pentagon's Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program -- the largest channel for U.S. arms transfers -- have reached record levels. More than half of these new agreements have been with U.S. allies in the Middle East and Persian Gulf. As the humanitarian consequences of the U.S.-armed, Saudi-led intervention in Yemen demonstrate, it is long past time for these sales to be subjected to closer scrutiny.”

*Martin Butcher:* “Yemen has descended into a humanitarian disaster putting its people at risk of famine and the US and UK are materially involved through export of arms and military support to the Saudi Arabian Air Force. An estimated eight children a day are killed or injured in Yemen's conflict. The on-going conflict in Syria and the refugee crisis it has produced show why it is so vitally important to search for political solutions before it is too late. It is time the government stopped supporting this war and put every possible effort into bringing an end to the carnage.”

*Tariq Riebl:* “The humanitarian situation on the ground is nothing short of catastrophic with 21 million people in Yemen requiring humanitarian assistance, which represents 80% of the country's population. Unless the fighting stops and the blockade on the free movement of goods is lifted, the situation will continue to deteriorate with dire consequences for the Yemeni people. ”

*Natalie Goldring:* “Although the Middle East is awash with weapons, it’s still possible to decrease the inflow of both weapons and ammunition. As ammunition is quickly consumed during conflicts, controlling ammunition supplies can limit the usefulness of the existing weapons inventories.”

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