

UK Arms Saudi Arabia Under “Defence” Guise



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While Britain insists its escalating military budget is strictly for domestic defence, the government has agreed to send military jets to assist Saudi operations.

Details. On October 20, the UK government formally [announced](#) it is sending RAF Typhoon fighter jets and an RAF Voyager refuelling aircraft overseas to Saudi Arabia. This move further escalates a military buildup that Britain was already conducting. In recent months, London deployed a [Sky Sabre](#) air defence system, an [RAF Voyager](#) aircraft and military personnel to Saudi Arabia.

► As their name suggests, the Ministry of Defence insists the military, its budget and all operations are strictly for "defensive" purposes, including this deployment – the aircraft being there solely to protect Saudi airspace and infrastructure from Houthi drone and missile attacks rather than to conduct offensive strikes.

► The material catalyst for this “defence” is the [securing](#) Saudi oil infrastructure and Red Sea trade routes, which is done alongside other European and regional powers. [France](#) recently deployed troops, radars, and air defence systems to guard the major oil terminal at Yanbu. Britain now accelerates this effort alongside [Pakistan](#), which has already sent 8,000 troops, as well as [Egypt](#) and [Turkey](#).

► Rather than homeland defence, a massive chunk – about [a third](#) during the 2024/25 financial year – of Britain’s military budget funds global force projection. The military [maintains](#) 145 base sites across 42 countries, routinely deploying these assets for foreign interventions, including logistical [support](#) to Israel and [assisting](#) US operations against Iran.

Context. Britain is currently pushing a massive [expansion](#) of its military budget under the guise of national security. To secure public compliance for this buildup, the government and media [justify](#) the spending increases as a necessary measure to defend the homeland and prepare for “[Russian aggression](#)”.

► London's commitment to continually increase its military budget to meet NATO [targets](#) is not a rationally thought-out plan for domestic defense. Washington demands a minimum spending from member states in order to assist it with its own force projection. However, even with these major budget hikes and direct military assistance in the Middle East, Trump still openly [condemns](#) the UK's efforts as insufficient.

► This expanding military budget is paid for directly by the working class through the [sacrifice](#) of basic public services. As the state guts these vital resources, working-class health is deteriorating rapidly, with healthy life expectancy now dropping below the legal retirement age in [90%](#) of the country. The Treasury has explicitly admitted to [raiding](#) civilian infrastructure to fund the military, formally announcing plans in [Parliament](#) to slash capital [budgets](#) across civilian departments to bankroll the Ministry of Defence.