

Political statement C14

WEAPON EXPORTS

Norway applies some of the strictest regulations in the world on exporting weapon parts. At the same time, several countries condemned by the international community for waging wars have received parts for their weapons from Norwegian weapons manufacturers. This means that the current regulations are not good enough and must be tightened further. Norway cannot position itself as a nation of peace while simultaneously profiting from illegal wars.

Norwegian People's Aid requests that the Norwegian government demand end-user certificates on all our weapons exports – even to our allies and EU Member States. Only in this way can we ensure that Norwegian weapon parts do not end up in the wrong hands.

It is extremely problematic to see Norwegian weapon parts passing through Norway's trade partners to countries that wage war in ways that contravene international law. The Norwegian government has stated that "conflict resolution and contributing to reconciliation play a key role in Norwegian foreign policy". Norwegian People's Aid is therefore critical of the fact that Norway is such a major international supplier of weapon parts and ammunition, and that we can trace many of these weapon parts to ongoing wars with huge, unacceptable civilian casualties.

Norwegian People's Aid is one of the leading humanitarian mine-clearing organisations in the world. We were involved in drawing up the prohibition of landmines in 1997, the ban on cluster munitions in 2010, and the prohibition of nuclear weapons in partnership with ICAN in 2017. We want to see stricter regulation of the use of explosive weapons in urban areas. As a key international player in the field of disarmament, we take a critical view of Norway's production and sale of weapon parts and its investment in weapon production when we cannot guarantee that these weapons will not end up in the wrong hands.

Norwegian People's Aid demands that:

- Norway significantly tighten the regulations regarding the sale of weapons and weapon parts.
- Norway work to reduce civilian suffering in conflicts by always demanding end-user certificates, even on Norwegian weapon exports to allies and EU Member States.