

# Significant Cases of Global Arms Trade

---

## London favours Pragmatism instead the rule of law

---

**Key Data:**

**Years:** 2006

**Involved Countries:** Saudi-Arabia; United-Kingdom

**Weapon Systems:**

**Arms Producers:** BAE Systems

**Perpetrators/Involved Parties:**

**Victims/Affected:**

---

**Main article**

The Al Yamamah Arms Deals refer to a series of record-breaking arms sales made by the United Kingdom (UK) to Saudi Arabia between 1985 and 2007 [1][2]. The deals were facilitated by the British government and were primarily paid for by the delivery of up to 600,000 barrels of crude oil per day to the UK government [1]. The prime contractor for these arms sales has been BAE Systems and its predecessor, British Aerospace [1][3][5]. The Al Yamamah Arms Deals remain the largest arms deal ever concluded by the UK, earning BAE Systems at least GBP 43 billion in revenue [2][5][8].

The Al Yamamah Arms Deals have been shrouded in controversy, with allegations of corruption and bribery being leveled against both the UK and Saudi Arabian governments [2][6][7]. In 2010, BAE Systems pleaded guilty in a US court to charges of making false statements about its compliance with anti-bribery laws in connection with the Al Yamamah Arms Deals [2][6].

Despite the controversy surrounding the deals, they had significant economic and political implications. The deals provided a steady stream of revenue for BAE Systems and their partners, securing thousands of jobs in the UK [2][5]. They also cemented the UK's relationship with Saudi Arabia, a key Middle Eastern ally of the West, and contributed to the stability of the region [2].

---

**Commentary**

In conclusion, the Al Yamamah Arms Deals between the UK and Saudi Arabia were a significant event in the history of arms trade and international relations. While they brought significant economic benefits to the UK, they also exposed issues of corruption and bribery in the arms trade. These deals highlight the complex interplay between national interests, economic incentives, and ethical considerations in international trade and diplomacy.

---

**Additional Information / Sources**

Extended Analysis of the case

<https://corruption-tracker.org/case/al-yamamah-arms-deals>

[1] "Al Yamamah ( Arabic: اليمامة, lit. 'The Dove ') is the name of a series of record arms sales by the United Kingdom to Saudi Arabia, paid for by the delivery of up to 600,000 barrels (95,000 m<sup>3</sup>) of crude oil per day to the British government. The prime contractor has been BAE Systems and its predecessor British Aerospace."

URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Yamamah\\_arms\\_deal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Yamamah_arms_deal)

[2] "The Al Yamamah series of arms deals with Saudi Arabia was, and remains, Britain's biggest arms deal ever concluded, earning the prime contractor, BAE Systems, at least GBP 43 billion in revenue between 1985 and 2007, with further deals still ongoing."

URL: <https://sites.tufts.edu/corruptarmsdeals/the-al-yamamah-arms-deals/>

[3] "Al-Yamamah is technically an agreement between the British and Saudi governments, with BAE as the prime contractor supplying the planes and military equipment. Work is in turn subcontracted to..."

URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/jun/07/bae15>

[4] "We will write a custom Essay on Al-Yamamah Arms Deal: Details and Legislation specifically for you for only \$11.00 \$9.35/page 808 certified writers online Learn More Details BAE Systems was the largest arms manufacturer in the European countries and the leader in the UK."

URL: <https://ivypanda.com/essays/al-yamamah-arms-deal-details-and-legislation/>

[5] "The Al-Yamamah arms deal, first agreed in September 1985, has been worth at least £40bn to defence giant BAE Systems and their partners, securing thousands of jobs. Arms competition But it..."

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-37167251>

[6] "Read the article by David Leigh and Rob Evans highlighted in Black Money, view a map of the global investigation, read a timeline of the case, learn the history of Britain's arms deals and see the ..."

URL: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/blackmoney/readings/>

[7] "The British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, negotiated with Bandar to clinch the so-called al-Yamamah deal [profile] for BAE [BAE's position] in 1985. And the sums available were..."

URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/baefiles/page/0,,2095831,00.html>

[8] "The Al Yamamah series of arms deals with Saudi Arabia was, and remains, Britain's biggest arms deal ever concluded, earning the prime contractor, BAE Systems, at least GBP 43 billion in revenue between 1985 and 2007, with further deals still ongoing."

URL: <https://corruption-tracker.org/case/al-yamamah-arms-deals>

[9] "Al-Yamama ( Arabic: اليمامة, romanized : al-Yamāma) is a historical region in the southeastern Najd in modern-day Saudi Arabia, or sometimes more specifically, the now-extinct ancient village of Jaww al-Yamamah, near al-Kharj, after which the rest of the region was named."

URL: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Yamama>

---

**Author**

---

**Edited** vom 04.05.2022

---