



I SUPPORT PEACEFUL DISARMAMENT OF SWEDISH ARMS EXPORTS

Swedish arms exports are unethical and profoundly destructive. The situation has grown so severe that parliamentary work for change can be combined with civil disobedience. I who endorse this appeal support peaceful civil disarmament actions as part of the efforts to stop Swedish arms exports.

Apart from shattering the lives of millions of people by causing death and refugee catastrophes, Swedish arms exports also undermine years of efforts to develop international rule of law, where ethics and rational argument would replace the principle that "might is right".

The arms exports which are permitted by the Swedish Inspectorate of Strategic Products, and endorsed by parliamentarians, are in breach of numerous points in the parliamentary guidelines¹ for Swedish arms exports. They are against the will of the Swedish people². And they are also in violation of Sweden's, the EU's and the UN's stated goals on security, democracy, conflict resolution and human rights³.

"Thou shalt not be a victim. Thou shalt not be a perpetrator. Above all, thou shalt not be a bystander," historian Yehuda Bauer wrote. Suffering in the world is not created so much by the immediate perpetrators as by all of us, who allow injustice to continue without intervening. When a situation is unsustainable, when violent crime is underway, the principle of lawful excuse exists. It says third parties have the right to physically intervene to prevent threats to life and health.

Sweden's arms exports are so destructive and immoral that I the undersigned consider it justified, through peaceful civil disobedience, to disarm Swedish armaments⁴ designated for export.

NAME, OCCUPATION/IDENTITY, PLACE, DATE

The non-profit network *Ofog - for a nuclear free and demilitarised world* works since 2002 with opinion building and civil disobedience. See www.ofog.org/avrusta

By "disarmament action," Ofog refers to an attempt to physically render armaments or production facilities for such harmless, utilising for example hammers. This is done through nonviolent civil disobedience, which means consideration and respect for all those involved and other societal actors, as well as that the activists openly participate in a subsequent legal process where the action can be weighed against the activity it intervenes with.

¹ Sweden consistently exports armaments to countries at war or which grossly violate human rights, in breach of conditional clauses in the guidelines. See <http://www.isp.se/sa/node.asp?node=418>.

² Sifo survey quoted in Aftonbladet, April 9, 2003, <http://www.aftonbladet.se/debatt/article132882.ab>, fetched in June 2008.

³ For example the parliamentary decision on "Politics for Global Development", 2003.

⁴ By armaments we refer to weapons and other equipment used for military purposes.