

US Provided “Intelligence” and Bomb Used in Massacre of Yemeni Schoolchildren

The involvement of U.S. military intelligence in “fine-tuning” the targets of coalition airstrikes is likely the main factor explaining why the U.S. government has refused to condemn the strike and has refused to support an independent investigation into the atrocity.

By [Whitney Webb](#)

Global Research, August 15, 2018

[MintPress News](#) 13 August 2018

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#), [Military Militarization](#) and [WMD](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

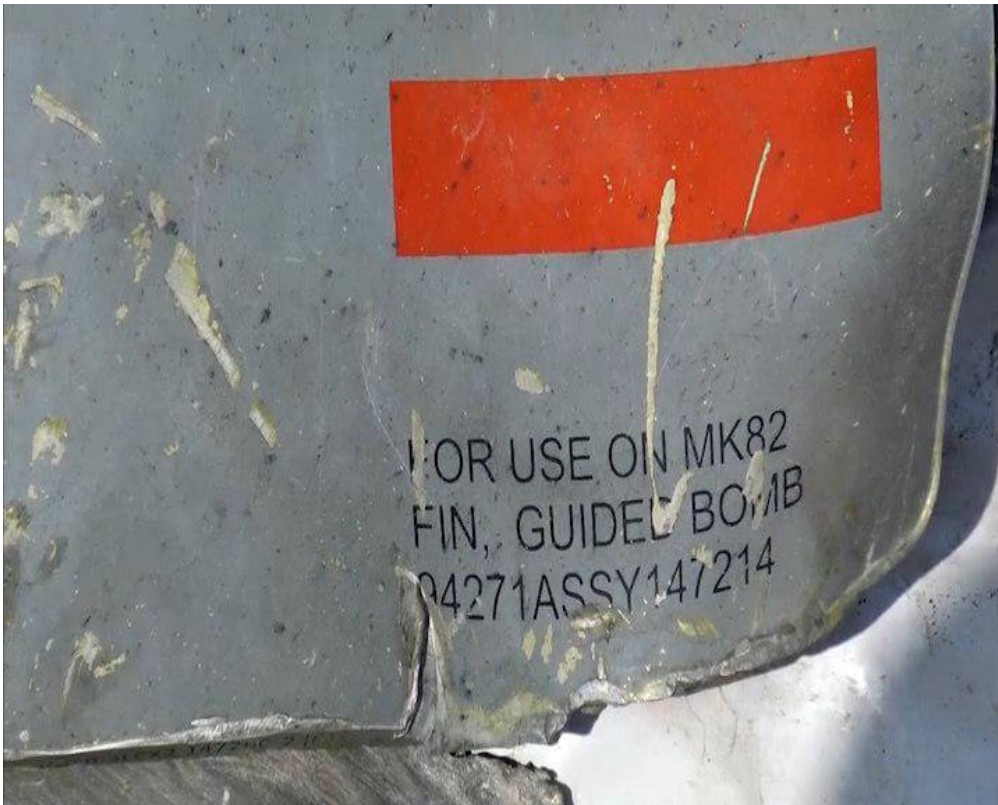
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Last Thursday's [horrific bombing](#) of a bus full of school children in northern Yemen was carried out using a weapon sold to the Saudi Arabia-led coalition by the United States, photo evidence of the bomb site has revealed.

The photos taken at the scene by Ahmed AbdulKareem for *MintPress News* and by other local journalists indicate that a Mark 82 (MK-82) bomb, jointly manufactured by U.S. weapons companies Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics, had been used in the attack.

The attack killed at least 50 and wounded over 60 others, the vast majority of whom were young children. Despite the fact that those targeted were civilians and mostly children, the Saudi-led coalition [defended the strike](#), calling it a “legitimate military operation.”

MK-82 bombs, along with other “general purpose” MK series bombs, have been sold to the Saudi-led coalition by the U.S. through a series of contracts made [in 2016](#) and [2017](#). In addition to last Thursday’s atrocity, the Saudi-led coalition has used the MK-82 bombs to target Yemeni civilians in the past, such as the coalition’s [bombing of a funeral](#) in 2016 that left over 140 dead and 525 wounded.



A close-up of a bomb fragment found at the scene of the airstrike on a Yemeni school bus last Thursday.
Ahmed AbdulKareem | MintPress News

[Over 10,000](#) MK-series bombs have been sold to the coalition since the war began, despite an international outcry over the coalition's near-constant targeting of civilians and critical infrastructure. Overall, the U.S. has sold [billions of dollars worth of bombs](#) to the Saudis since the war in Yemen began in 2015, [most recently approving](#) over \$110 billion in weapon sales to Saudi Arabia in May of last year.

The U.S. relies on "fog of war" excuse to avoid responsibility

Despite the fragments of U.S.-made munitions found at the strike site, the U.S. military has refused to acknowledge that the bomb used in the attack had been sold to the coalition by the United States. Army Maj. Josh Jacques — a spokesman for U.S. Central Command — [told Vox](#) that "We may never know if the munition [used] was one that the U.S. sold to them," asserting as his reason the fact that the U.S. military doesn't "have a lot of people on the ground." Yet, the U.S. does have an [unspecified number of ground troops](#) active in Yemen who are involved with "intelligence sharing" and [interrogations](#) at UAE-run "black-site" prisons.



A child holds a fragment of the U.S.-made MK-82 bomb used in last Thursday's massacre of Yemeni schoolchildren. Ahmed AbdulKareem | MintPress News

However, U.S. complicity in last Thursday's bombing of a school bus goes far beyond merely providing the munitions used. Indeed, since this past June, the U.S. military [has been providing](#) the Saudi-led coalition "intelligence to fine-tune their [the coalition's] list of airstrike targets" in Yemen — meaning that the U.S. military was either, at worst, involved in choosing the strike location, or at the very least aware of the coalition's intention to target the school bus.

The involvement of U.S. military intelligence in "fine-tuning" the targets of coalition airstrikes is likely the main factor explaining why the U.S. government [has refused](#) to condemn the strike and has refused to support an independent investigation into the atrocity, instead supporting only a Saudi-led inquiry. Indeed, were the full extent of U.S. involvement in last week's bombing made clear, the U.S. government could find itself in trouble, as certain government officials [could be accused](#) of complicity in coalition war crimes in Yemen.

However, the weapons companies themselves, regardless of the damage their products cause, continue to be free of any and all liability.



Fragments of the U.S.-made MK-82 bomb used in last Thursday's massacre of Yemeni schoolchildren.
Ahmed AbdulKareem | MintPress News

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