

## Human Rights Impact Assessment 2022 – Northrop Grumman Corporation

**Resolved:** Shareholders request that Northrop Grumman publish a report, at reasonable cost and omitting proprietary information, with the results of human rights impact assessments examining the actual and potential human rights impacts associated with high-risk products and services, including those in conflict-affected areas.

**Whereas:** Northrop Grumman is the world’s fourth-largest defense company, with high-risk business activities in the areas of controversial arms trade, military training, nuclear weapons, and border militarization.<sup>1</sup> Irremediable human rights impacts linked to the end use of the company’s products and services, particularly those with lethal capabilities, expose Northrop Grumman to legal, financial, and reputational risks.

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights establish clear expectations for corporations to conduct human rights due diligence, including impact assessments, as part of the corporate responsibility to respect human rights. Risks and due diligence expectations are heightened for business activities in conflict-affected areas. In a 2019 Amnesty International report about the defense industry’s failure to carry out effective human rights due diligence, Northrop Grumman’s Human Rights Policy was criticized for having “fleeting” references to human rights and lacking sufficient focus on impacts of products and services.<sup>2</sup>

Northrop Grumman has contracted with or supplied weapons to multiple states engaged in conflict, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, India, Israel, Morocco, and Colombia.<sup>3</sup> Northrop Grumman is one of the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces’ largest defense partners, supplying weapons since 1971 and providing military training.<sup>4</sup> A 2020 report by the UN Human Rights Council alleges that Saudi-led coalition airstrikes in Yemen “may amount to war crimes” and the supply of weapons from the U.S. and other countries “has helped to perpetuate the conflict.”<sup>5</sup> During the May 2021 attacks on Gaza, where apparent war crimes were committed, Northrop Grumman was scrutinized for supplying Longbow missile systems and Apache helicopters to the Israeli Armed Forces.<sup>6</sup>

The company has at least \$24 billion in nuclear weapons contracts, including a new 9-year \$13.3 billion U.S. contract awarded in 2020.<sup>7</sup> The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which

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<sup>1</sup> <https://investigate.afsc.org/company/northrop-grumman>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/0893/2019/en/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.northropgrumman.com/who-we-are/global-presence/> ; <https://www.upi.com/Defense-News/2015/10/16/Colombia-receives-Northrop-Grumman-ANTPS-78-radar/4871445000556/> ; <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2018/05/246179/morocco-cargo-m1a2s-laser-tanks-us> ; <https://news.northropgrumman.com/news/releases/northrop-grumman-delivers-center-fuselage-for-first-israeli-f-35-aircraft>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.northropgrumman.com/who-we-are/northrop-grumman-in-the-middle-east/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/GEE-Yemen/2020-09-09-report.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/27/gaza-apparent-war-crimes-during-may-fighting#> ;

<https://www.afsc.org/resource/us-corporations-complicit-military-attacks-gaza>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-Perilous-Profitteering\\_ExecSummary.pdf](https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-Perilous-Profitteering_ExecSummary.pdf) ; <https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/northrop-grumman/>;

entered into force this year, may require the company to demonstrate that it is not conducting prohibited activities in jurisdictions that ratified the Treaty.<sup>8</sup>

From 2018 to 2021, Northrop Grumman was the primary contractor to develop the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Advanced Recognition Technology (HART) database.<sup>9</sup> It will hold sensitive biometric and biographical data for 260 million people, which presents risks of privacy rights violations, increased surveillance, racial bias, and harm to immigrant communities.<sup>10</sup> Northrop Grumman is among the top 14 companies with the most contracts with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to militarize the U.S. - Mexico border.<sup>11</sup>

At Northrop Grumman's 2021 annual meeting, the human rights impact assessment proposal received 22.35% shareholder support.<sup>12</sup>

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<https://www.northropgrumman.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-Annual-Report-Northrop-Grumman.pdf> ;

<https://govtribe.com/award/federal-contract-award/definitive-contract-fa821920c0006>

<sup>8</sup> [https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2017/07/20170707%2003-42%20PM/Ch\\_XXVI\\_9.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2017/07/20170707%2003-42%20PM/Ch_XXVI_9.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://investigate.afsc.org/company/northrop-grumman>

<sup>10</sup> <https://theintercept.com/2020/11/17/dhs-biometrics-dna/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.tni.org/files/publication-downloads/more-than-a-wall-report.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://investor.northropgrumman.com/node/38126/html>