**Wayland Affirms**

**Our sole contention is dousing the flames**

The war in Yemen has created a massive humanitarian crisis. [**Cockburn**](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/yemen-war-death-toll-saudi-arabia-coalition-military-assistance-uk-a8678376.html) **explains in 2018** that “the number of Yemenis who have died in the violence is over 60,000.” Furthermore, [**Summers**](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/oct/15/yemen-on-brink-worst-famine-100-years-un) **explains in 2018** that “If war continues, famine could engulf the country with 12 to 13 million civilians at risk of starvation.”

**Unfortunately, Saudi Arabia is about to make a bad situation worse for two reasons.**

**First is the resource curse**

[**Ahmed 15 of the Middle East Eye**](https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/us-saudi-war-opec-prolong-oils-dying-empire) explains that “By 2030 the kingdom’s [oil] exports would drop to zero” continuing that “[a] decrease in state revenues, causing reductions in domestic subsidies for oil and food, creates internal grievances that fuel domestic political agitation and unrest.” Indeed, [**Riegg 16**](https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/311671-why-the-al-sauds-may-be-preparing-for-a-real-war) **of the Hill** quantifies “[Saudi] exports [are] projected to be nearly a quarter of what they were in 2012

To the Saudi government, this is terrifying as [**Riegg 17**](https://www.newsweek.com/what-saudi-arabia-going-do-its-arms-buildup-569277) of Newsweek writes that “nearly 90 percent of Saudi’s economy remains based on oil” **Riegg continues** that with the worsening economy, “[Saudi Arabia may] attack one of their neighbors to decrease domestic discontent” This is already happening as [**Fenton 18**](https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/comment/2018/12/5/yemen-needs-more-than-peace-talks-and-ceasefires) **of the New Arab** writes that “Saudi Arabia is looking to exploit Yemen's crisis, by building an oil-port a pipeline in Yemen”

**Second is the Iranian Bogeyman**

The [**Economist 18**](https://www.economist.com/special-report/2018/06/21/can-muhammad-bin-salmans-gamble-work) reports“[Mohammed Bin Salman] has antagonized clerics, princes, and businessmen.” As such, he has tried to become more popular by “cast[ing] himself as the champion of women and the young against the corrupt old elites. Furthermore, [**Behravesh**](https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/why-saudi-arabia-cant-let-yemen-go) **17** furthers that “[Saudi Arabia’s] actions against the Houthis have sharpened nationalism in Saudi Arabia, enhancing the popularity of its leaders, in particular, MBS” [**Kelemen 18**](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2018/07/05/saudi-arabia-from-within-diversionary-policy-of-iranian-containment/)finds that when “[Saudi Arabia] is confronted with domestic issues, it diverts the public’s attention from domestic matters to the international arena by means of war or conflict” Thus, [**Fenton**](https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/comment/2018/12/5/yemen-needs-more-than-peace-talks-and-ceasefires) **18** continues “Even if a ceasefire were passed, or peace talks were completed, it is likely that Saudi Arabia [would] not abide...Even if the conflict were to be halted soon, Saudi Arabia [would] intervene in Yemen [in the future ].

**The only way to prevent Saudi Arabia’s aggression is the end arms sales. This happens in two ways.**

**First is crippling the military**

[**Caverley ‘18**](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/12/opinion/saudi-arabia-arms-sales.html) **of the New York Times** corroborates, “the Saudi military relies [on America], not just … [for] tanks, planes, and missiles but for a daily supply of maintenance, training, and support, such as intelligence and refueling.” As such, the [**CBO**](https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R44984.pdf) **finds in 2017** that Saudi Arabia’s involvement in the “war has largely been waged with U.S.-provided weapons.” Problematically, the [**Guardian in 2018 writes that**](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/sep/26/huge-spike-in-yemen-violence-as-civilian-deaths-rise-by-164-in-four-months-hodeidah) “civilian deaths in Yemen increased by 164% in the timespan since the Saudi offensive started”

Ending arms destroys Saudi capabilities as [**Riedel**](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/10/10/after-khashoggi-us-arms-sales-to-the-saudis-are-essential-leverage/) **reports** “If Washington halts the flow of [arms], the [Saudi Airforce] will be grounded.”

Thankfully, Saudi Arabia wouldn’t be able to find another supplier of weapons easily. [**Guay 18**](https://theconversation.com/arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia-give-trump-all-the-leverage-he-needs-in-khashoggi-affair-104998) explains “[Saudi Arabia] is “locked in” to a specific kind of weapons system, [so] the cost to switch to a different supplier can be huge. After being so reliant on U.S. weapons systems for decades, the transition costs could be prohibitive for Saudi Arabia.”

**Second is chocking off militias**

[**Elbagir**](https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/02/middleeast/yemen-lost-us-arms/) **finds in 2019** that “Saudi Arabia has transferred American-made weapons to hardline militias waging the war in Yemen.” **he continues** “the Saudis have used the US-manufactured weapons as a form of currency to buy the loyalties of militias or tribes.” Thus, [**WIS**](http://www.wistv.com/2019/02/05/us-arms-end-up-wrong-hands-including-irans-yemens-civil-war/) **reports in 2019** that “there were millions of dollars worth of American military hardware that is in command of the militias.”

However, these weapons only prolonging the conflict as [**Raghavan**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/world/wp/2018/12/06/feature/the-merchants-of-despair/?utm_term=.22e6e2918259) **finds in 2018** that “[these militias] could pose a daunting challenge to restoring stability even if the Houthis lay down their arms.” These militias dominate Yemen as [**Ardemagni**](https://www.ispionline.it/it/pubblicazione/yemens-military-tribal-army-warlords-19919) **explains 2018** that only sixteen percent of Yemen is controlled by the government. Furthermore, these armed militias perpetuate famine as [**Michael**](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/yemen-famine-food-supplies-civil-war-block-a8705031.html) **reports in 2018** that “factions and militias have blocked food aid, diverted it to front-line combat units or sold it for profit on the black market.”

**Thus, we affirm**

**Resource Curse**

Saudi Arabia is going to massively escalate the conflict in Yemen and all across the middle east because it needs access to their oil reserves. Saudi Arabia is running out of oil which is causing economic downturn. In order to prevent Saudi Arabia from escalating the conflict, we need to cut off arms sales

**Iranian Boogeyman**

Saudi Arabia is going through economic downturn. As such, the Royal family has decided to unify the people against Iran. Because of this, as conditions in Saudi Arabia worsen, they will have to increase their involvement in Yemen. In order to stop them, we need to end arms sales.

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**Crippling the Military**

Let's go to our first warrant about crippling the Saudi Military. The CBO finds that the war in Yemen has largely been waged with US arms. As such, ending arms sales would prevent Saudi Arabia from further aggression in Yemen. This is vital as Saudi campaigns in Yemen are associated with an 164% increase in civilian casualties

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## **Arming Rebel Groups**

Let's go to our second warrant about arming rebel groups. Right now, Elgabir finds that Saudi Arabia is supplying the various rebel militias in Yemen with US made weapons. Raghavan finds that These groups have begun fighting each other and are causing more violence and suffering, and they pose an important barrier to peace even after the Houthis stop fighting. Ardemangi finds that since there are so many of these militias, the Yemeni government only controls 16% of the country. These militias block aid from reaching millions who are in need. Essentially, when you end arms sales, these militias get no US weapons, leading to less fighting. This worsens the impact of famine in the country.

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