# Sjostrom/Verska – Millard North Aff v1

## Our Sole Contention is Yemen

#### The Daily Sabah indicated this week that:

Daily Sabah, 2-11-2019, "Child deaths reflect ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen," https://www.dailysabah.com/mideast/2019/02/11/child-deaths-reflect-ongoing-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen, Date Accessed 2-14-2019 // JM

As the fragile truce still holds in Yemen, young victims have bared the brunt of years-long war. In yet another case of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the war-torn country, newborn Yemeni conjoined twins, whose plight sparked a plea for urgent medical treatment overseas, died in Sanaa Saturday, the health ministry in Houthi-controlled Yemen said overnight. Doctors treating 2-week-old Abd al-Khaleq and Abd al-Rahim in the capital Sanaa had said the boys could not survive within Yemen's war-ravaged health system and needed to be taken abroad. In a statement carried by the Houthi-run Saba news, the health ministry said the deaths reflect the health and humanitarian situation Yemen's children are living through as a result of the war. Health services have collapsed as the conflict has ground on and most hospitals are not equipped to provide specialist treatment for rare conditions. Bringing patients out for treatment poses enormous logistical challenges. Mediators are pushing for the reopening of Sanaa international airport. But the airport in Houthi-controlled Sanaa has been closed to civilian flights since 2015 because the Saudi-led coalition has control over Yemeni airspace. Only U.N. planes can land there currently and re-opening the airport is a key aim of U.N.-led peace talks which began with negotiations in Stockholm in December. The Iranian-aligned Houthis and the Saudi-backed government agreed on a cease-fire to withdraw forces at peace talks following months of diplomacy. Fighting has largely abated in Hodeida, but progress on the withdrawal has been slow. Yemen lies beside the southern mouth of the Red Sea, one of the most important trade routes in the world for oil tankers. It has been wracked by conflict for the last five years when Shiite Houthi rebels overran much of the country. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the former Saudi defense minister, and Saudi Arabia's allies launched Operation Decisive Storm in March 2015. Civilians have borne the brunt of the conflict. The last available U.N. figure for the civilian death toll was published in 2016 and stood at more than 10,000. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, which tracks violence in Yemen, puts it at around 57,000 people.

#### Unfortunately, arms flowing in from the United States continue to prolong the conflict. CNN reports two weeks ago that

CNN/ Wlox, 2-5-2019, "US arms end up in wrong hands, including Iran’s, in Yemen’s civil war," http://www.wlox.com/2019/02/05/us-arms-end-up-wrong-hands-including-irans-yemens-civil-war/, Date Accessed 2-14-2019 // WS

American weapons sold to the Saudi-led coalition are in the hands of hardline militias, al Qaeda-linked groups, Iranian proxies and numerous other unchecked factions in Yemen’s civil war. A swamp of uneasy alliances has led to sensitive U.S. weaponry, sold legally, ending up in the wrong hands, arguably prolonging Yemen’s conflict and making Americans less safe. In an exclusive report, a CNN correspondent followed the trail of weapons made in America and lost to Yemen’s chaos. Yemen is split between warring factions, U.S. backed and Saudi-led in the country’s south, Iranian-backed Houthi militias in the north.

#### Leaving millions in need – Abedi quantifies earlier this month that:

Maham Abedi, 2-2-2019, "Yemen’s humanitarian crisis, explained in 2 charts," Global News, https://globalnews.ca/news/4915160/yemens-humanitarian-crisis-explainer/, Date Accessed 2-3-2019 // JM

[Yemen](https://globalnews.ca/tag/yemen/) is in the midst of the [world’s worst](https://news.un.org/en/focus/yemen) humanitarian crisis. The deaths, starvation, displacement and destruction of infrastructure caused by the conflict are not unknown. At least 10,000 people have been killed, according to the United Nations, while other estimates are much higher. More than 50,000 have been wounded. The images of bare children, bones poking through pale skin, are hard to look at. And yet, it’s difficult to comprehend the scale of devastation the violence has caused. The [Worldwide Threat Assessment report,](https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/2019-ATA-SFR---SSCI.pdf) recently released by the U.S. government, outlines some of the latest harrowing statistics coming out of Yemen. It lists humanitarian impacts such as famine and disease, predicting things will get worse in 2019. “The fighting has left more than 22-million people, or approximately 75 per cent of the population, in need of assistance, with millions of people at severe risk of famine by the UN definition — numbers that are likely to rise quickly if disruptions to aid access continue,” the report reads. Yemen was already the poorest country in the Arab world before a Saudi-led coalition went to war with Iran-allied rebels in March 2015 in a failed bid to drive them from the capital and much of the country’s north. The Saudi-led coalition has come under mounting international criticism for civilian casualties caused by airstrikes, the destruction of basic infrastructure and its blockade of key Yemeni ports, which are a lifeline for vital aid. The problem is worsened by reports that even if aid reaches Yemen, it is not going to those who need it most. A recent analysis by a coalition of global relief groups found that even with the food aid that is coming in, more than half of the population is not getting enough to eat — 15.9 million of Yemen’s 29-million people. In some parts of the country, fighting, roadblocks and bureaucratic obstacles have reduced the amount of aid getting in. In other areas, aid gets in but is lost or stolen before it gets to the hungriest families. Counting the number of people who have starved to death in Yemen is difficult, because of the challenges of getting into areas shaken by violence, and because starving people often officially die from diseases that prey on their weakened conditions. The numerous challenges are further complicated by the fact that hospitals, schools, and food-storage facilities have been targeted in the violence. According to charity Save the Children, more than half of the country’s health facilities are now closed or partially functioning. At the same time, Yemen is grappling with the worst cholera outbreak in the world, reportedly affecting well over one-million people. Then there are other illnesses, such as diphtheria, that are also more prominent. Statistics gathered by the United Nations and advocacy organizations paint an overwhelmingly dire situation. But there is much more to be told. Save the Children Canada CEO Bill Chambers explained to Global News that Yemen is the “perfect storm of humanitarian, protection and economic crises” — and they’re all fuelling each other. “Yemen’s children are in the eye of that storm and their prospects of survival are dwindling each day. Children are struggling to survive the triple threat of bombs, starvation and disease,” he said. An added challenge has been raising awareness about Yemen’s crisis and getting Canadians to truly care about those affected. Unlike other recent conflicts, like Syria for example, Yemen hasn’t generated the same outpouring of support — in Canada or in other parts of the world. Chambers said it’s a complex issue, but one that is gradually improving through increased media coverage and awareness campaigns. “The reality is that Canadians are generous, but their areas of support are related to where the media focuses its coverage — if the Canadian media isn’t covering the crisis, the Canadian public is not as engaged,” Chambers said. “The same is true with the Syria crisis – media coverage really has an impact on the public’s level of engagement.” Paul Slovic, a psychologist at the University of Oregon who researches people’s reaction to such conflicts explained when a problem is so large, people often don’t identify with it. Slovic called it the “singularity effect.” His research found that as the number of deaths in a conflict increase, fewer people pay attention. “The difference between no lives at risk and one is huge,” Slovic said. “But if I said that there were 87 people at risk… and then you realize it’s 88, you don’t feel any different about 88 than 87.”

#### As a result, the flow of life saving assistance to Yemen has been hampered in two ways. First, current food aid cannot be reached because of conflict zones as Al Jazeera writes this week that

Al Jazeera, 2-11-2019, "Yemen food aid to feed millions at risk of rotting: UN," https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/02/yemen-food-aid-risk-rotting-190211174419940.html, Date Accessed 2-12-2019 // WS

Food aid in a warehouse on the front lines of [Yemen's war](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/yemen-civil-war-ali-abdullah-saleh-death-171204163618674.html) is at risk of rotting, leaving millions of Yemenis without access to life-saving sustenance, the UN said on Monday. The Red Sea Mills silos, located in the western port city of Hodeidah, are believed to contain enough grain to feed several million people. But the granary has remained off-limits to aid organisations for months. "The World Food Programme grain stored in the mills - enough to feed 3.7 million people for a month - has been inaccessible for over five months and is at risk of rotting," said a joint statement by the UN aid chief and special envoy for Yemen. "We emphasise that ensuring access to the mills is a shared responsibility among the parties to the conflict in Yemen." Hodeidah, and its food silos, have been in the hands of Yemen's [Houthi](https://www.aljazeera.com/topics/subjects/houthis.html) rebels since 2014, when the armed group staged a takeover of large swaths of Yemen's territory.

#### Second, existing aid routes are inaccessible because of conflict. [Jonaki Mehta](https://www.marketplace.org/people/jonaki-mehta) who indicates in 2018 that:

Sabri Ben-Achour and Jonaki Mehta. 12-06-2018. “As conflict continues in Yemen, getting aid to civilians is a challenge”, Market Place. <https://www.marketplace.org/2018/12/06/world/conflict-continues-yemen-getting-aid-civilians-challenge>, Date Accessed 2-4-19 //CM

In the midst of a devastating civil war, the people of Yemen are facing dire consequences, including [the world’s worst hunger crisis](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000068917/download/?_ga=2.248278607.91679333.1544028520-387672324.1544028520), according to the Food Security Information Network. And the situation is only expected to get worse. According to Relief International, 22.7 million of the 27 million people in Yemen are reliant on humanitarian aid. But violence near ports makes it difficult for aid organizations to reach civilians, and those in remote locations are even harder to get to. Rama Hansraj is Relief International’s Yemen country director and joined host Sabri Ben-Achour via Skype from Sana’a, Yemen. They spoke about the situation on the ground, barriers to delivering aid, and utilizing cash as a form of relief. Below is an edited version of their conversation. What is the situation like on the ground? We are a bit alarmed at the dramatic deterioration of the situation over recent months in Yemen. There are millions of people whose lives are at risk of famine. To be precise, 22.7 million people are dependent on humanitarian aid right now, while the country's population is 27 million. Out of those, we’re seeing 400,000 children under the age of 5 suffering from acute malnutrition. And we have almost 2.3 million internally displaced people moving around the country. There’s an Integrated Phase Classification report on food security that is supposed to come out in a couple of weeks that should give good indicators of the actual situation on the ground, but it is deteriorating. How do you get aid to civilians in a war zone? It has been quite difficult for us to reach out to the neediest populations in Yemen, especially in the remote locations not visible on the frontlines of the conflict. Relief International does have a good relationship with the authorities, but it’s obvious that in a situation like this, it’s difficult to get humanitarian access while dealing with a lot of bureaucratic impediments on the ground. Even the process of conducting humanitarian needs assessments is difficult because samples are drawn from the most accessible areas, making those vulnerable areas more vulnerable.

#### Thankfully ending arms sales SLOWS DOWN the conflict and allows for more food aid to IMMEDIATELY reach Yemeni civilians in two ways. First, US action creates pressure on MbS to follow through on peace talks. Doug Bandow indicates in December that as:

Doug Bandow. 12-18-2018, “It’s Time to End U.S. Support for the Saudi War on Yemen”. CATO Institute. <https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/its-time-end-us-support-saudi-war-yemen>, Date Accessed 2-5-2019 // JM

Washington has turned many Yemenis into enemies and potential terrorists while rewarding Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s worst impulses. The Pentagon’s claim that aiding Riyadh’s war reduces civilian casualties is risible: Some sixty thousand civilians have been killed, most in coalition airstrikes. Nearly half the population needs aid; a million people have contracted cholera; famine stalks much of the land; civilian infrastructure, primitive to start, has been wrecked. The number of dead from malnutrition approaches one hundred thousand. Emirati and Saudi interests are diverging, with Abu Dhabi promoting separatism in the south, making a peaceful, stable settlement even more difficult. Which has left the administration and its congressional servants, paraphrasing Secretary Pompeo, to caterwaul about Iran. The ever-blinkered Wall Street Journal complained about a vote to “abandon an ally in a proxy war with Iran.” Yet Riyadh started the war without considering America’s interests. Moreover, Tehran has never controlled the Houthis, did not start the present conflict, and has only limited influence even now. With its own economy is in crisis, Iran could not afford to underwrite even a victorious Houthi regime. Tehran also would have little reason to do so: Yemen will remain in desperate crisis for years, neither able nor willing to challenge Riyadh or Washington. Yemen is a problem for Riyadh primarily because of MbS’ hubris. He is likely to acknowledge his blunder only if the United States stops trying to protect the crown prince from his own folly. The ongoing peace talks offer some hope. They have advanced further than previous attempts, and have reached some positive agreements, such as prisoner exchange, though implementation remains. The fact that Western nations have turned against the war encouraged the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to start making concessions, necessary to reach a more enduring peace. So long as Riyadh can count on a blank check from Washington—it turns out the United States wasn’t even charging enough for refueling Saudi aircraft—the kingdom has no reason to temper its policy. Which means the administration should take the next step and end all support for the war; MbS and his companions should bear the full burden of what amounts to imperial warmongering. However, the administration continues to treat the KSA as the superpower, needed far more by America than Riyadh needs Washington. Indeed, the president, who asserts his divine negotiating skills, tossed away his leverage when he announced that the United States was lost without Saudi Arabia’s aid. So obsequious has he been in dealing with the Saudis that some critics presume he is protecting private business interests. Yet the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has no choice but to sell its oil; otherwise, the crown prince and his thousands of relations won’t be able to afford their palaces, yachts and vacations. Worse, without funds to spread at least a little largesse among the population, the royals would end up hanging from lamp posts. Riyadh could shift to other weapon suppliers, but its investment in American arms makes that difficult: requirements for training, spare parts and interoperability would continue to push the KSA toward the West. China and especially Russia cannot fulfill ambitious economic development plans; Saudi Arabia requires American and European participation. Most importantly, who else would promise to protect the licentious princes and princesses as they mulct their people while treating Islam as a libertine license? With just one and two rudimentary aircraft carriers, respectively, Moscow and Beijing will not be sending their armadas, to use Trumpspeak, to the Persian Gulf. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not the first murderous dictatorship with which America has dealt. Doing so may be necessary, but always should be done reluctantly, without illusion. Policy should focus on achieving Washington’s objectives at the least cost. The United States should seek a regional balance, not Saudi hegemony. The KSA has proved far more brutal and destabilizing than Iran: invading one neighbor; kidnapping the leader of another; launching a diplomatic offensive, backed by the threat of military action, against a third; and supporting radical insurgents against a fourth. Washington should end all support for the Yemen war and terminate further weapons sales until the kingdom draws down that conflict. While remaining formally friendly toward Riyadh, the Trump administration should indicate that business as usual is impossible with a regime that has made ostentatious irresponsibility the bedrock of its foreign policy. In just four years MbS has directed multiple foreign disasters and humiliations. It would be wise for the king and other members of the royal family to ponder whether they should move forward with a leader who guarantees continued embarrassment for and estrangement from those nations once most friendly to the KSA. Moreover, Washington should denounce Riyadh’s crimes. The United States lacks credibility when it criticizes Tehran but ignores the fact that Saudi Arabia remains a totalitarian state both politically and religiously—despite MbS’ presentation as the great reformer, not one church, synagogue or temple operates. Indeed, the country has become even more repressive under the crown prince. Khashoggi’s murder and dismemberment simply highlighted a brutal policy already evident to Saudis at home. Secretary Pompeo, who falsely certified that Riyadh was acting to limit civilian casualties in Yemen, should attempt to keep his hypocrisy within more modest bounds. It is, to coin a phrase, time for a change in policy toward Saudi Arabia. The U.S. administration should stop acting as the monarchy’s public relations agent and the U.S. military should stop acting as the royal family’s bodyguard. Most importantly, Washington should stop supporting a war it should never have backed. Only then will it be possible to reform America’s relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

#### Fortunately, Bazzi concludes in 2018 that:

Mohamad Bazzi, 9-30-2018, "The United States Could End the War in Yemen If It Wanted To," Atlantic, https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/09/iran-yemen-saudi-arabia/571465/, Date Accessed 2-4-2019 // JM

Saudi and Emirati leaders want a clear-cut victory in their regional rivalry with Iran, and they have been emboldened by the Trump administration’s unconditional support to stall negotiations. A recent UN effort to hold peace talks between the Houthis, Hadi’s government, and the Saudi-led coalition [collapsed](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-un/yemen-peace-talks-collapse-in-geneva-after-houthi-no-show-idUSKCN1LO08Z) in early September, after the Houthi delegation did not show up in Geneva. Houthi leaders said the Saudis, who control Yemen’s airspace, would not guarantee their safe travel. Days later, Yemeni forces loyal to the Saudi-UAE alliance launched a new offensive aimed at forcing the Houthis out of Hodeidah port, which is the major conduit for humanitarian aid in Yemen. UN officials warn that a prolonged battle for the port and its surroundings [could lead](https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-n-pushes-to-avert-catastrophic-uae-attack-on-yemen-port-1528668213) to the death of 250,000 people, mainly from mass starvation. After the Trump administration’s endorsement this month, the Saudi-UAE alliance has even less incentive to prevent civilian casualties and new humanitarian disasters. Saudi Arabia and its allies are more likely to accept a peace process if it is clear that the United States won’t support an open-ended war in Yemen and won’t provide the military assistance required to keep the war apparatus going. But Trump has shown little sign of pressuring his Saudi and Emirati allies, least of all over Yemen. The only realistic check left is in Congress, where more voices are asking why the world’s most powerful country is helping to perpetuate the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

#### Second, by creating a Saudi Weapons Supply Shock. Josh Rogin writes in 2018 that Saudi Arabia:

Josh Rogin, 10-16-2018, "Opinion," Washington Post, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/josh-rogin/wp/2018/10/16/trump-has-it-totally-and-completely-backwards-on-saudi-arms-sales/, Date Accessed 1-28-2019 // WS

When President Trump argues that the United States can’t halt arms sales to Saudi Arabia over the Saudis’ alleged murder of journalist and Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi, he’s giving up a key piece of leverage over Riyadh for no reason at all. What’s worse, Trump is also turning one of America’s best strategic assets into a liability, a massive unforced error that could weaken the United States worldwide. Set aside that Trump’s claim of $110 billion of arms sales to Saudi Arabia as announced last year is hugely exaggerated, considering that number [mostly refers to](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2018/10/11/trumps-billion-arms-sales-saudi-arabia-still-fake/?utm_term=.b68c162ded5c) deals struck during the Obama administration and new deals that haven’t yet materialized. The significant arms-sales relationship we do have with Saudi Arabia gives us enormous leverage over them, leverage Trump should use to pressure King Salman to reveal what his regime knows about Khashoggi’s disappearance. Saudi Arabia’s military is already built around U.S. and British defense platforms, meaning they can’t easily switch to Russian or Chinese systems. Riyadh is especially dependent on U.S. arms right now because their bloody war in Yemen requires a constant flow of U.S. munitions, not to mention U.S. intelligence, maintenance and refueling support. U.S. arms sales are not simply a financial deal or a jobs program; they represent a strategic advantage of the United States. Countries want U.S. weapons because they are the best. That gives us connections, influence and, yes, leverage over these countries. That’s how arms sales have always worked, until Trump flipped the script.

#### Since Saudi Arabia cannot successfully fight without US support, ending arms creates the necessary shock and forces a gap in the fighting. That’s why Joe Gould quantifies that

Joe Gould, 11-20-2018, "Trump statement sticks with Saudis, hyping economic benefits of alliance," Defense News, https://www.defensenews.com/2018/11/20/trump-statement-sticks-with-saudis-hyping-economic-benefits-of-alliance/, Date Accessed 1-30-2019 // WS

“The Saudi military depends on U.S. arms, spare parts and maintenance to carry out its brutal war in Yemen, and could not prosecute that war for long without that support,” Hartung said. Two-thirds of the 365 combat-capable aircraft in the Saudi arsenal are of American-origin, including 171 F-15 combat aircraft, a mainstay of the Saudi air war in Yemen. The Saudi land forces and National Guard possess more than 3,000 U.S.-supplied armored vehicles, and the Saudis have tens of thousands of U.S.-supplied bombs and missiles. That’s why a competitor could not easily replace the U.S. in supplying Riyadh, according to Hartung. “It would take decades for the Kingdom to wean itself from dependence on U.S. equipment, training and support, and new equipment might not be easily interoperable with U.S.-supplied systems,” Hartung said. “Saudi Arabia could buy a Russian or Chinese system here or there to send a political message, but they could not easily replace the role of sales and support from the United States, along with the United Kingdom, as the major bulwarks of its military capability.”

#### Slowing down the war and allowing for food aid to reach Yemeni civilians solves two impacts. First is starvation. Al Jazeera continues that

Al Jazeera, 2-11-2019, "Yemen food aid to feed millions at risk of rotting: UN," https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/02/yemen-food-aid-risk-rotting-190211174419940.html, Date Accessed 2-12-2019 // WS

Food aid in a warehouse on the front lines of [Yemen's war](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/yemen-civil-war-ali-abdullah-saleh-death-171204163618674.html) is at risk of rotting, leaving millions of Yemenis without access to life-saving sustenance, the UN said on Monday. The Red Sea Mills silos, located in the western port city of Hodeidah, are believed to contain enough grain to feed several million people. But the granary has remained off-limits to aid organisations for months. "The World Food Programme grain stored in the mills - enough to feed 3.7 million people for a month - has been inaccessible for over five months and is at risk of rotting," said a joint statement by the UN aid chief and special envoy for Yemen. "We emphasise that ensuring access to the mills is a shared responsibility among the parties to the conflict in Yemen." Hodeidah, and its food silos, have been in the hands of Yemen's [Houthi](https://www.aljazeera.com/topics/subjects/houthis.html) rebels since 2014, when the armed group staged a takeover of large swaths of Yemen's territory. The move prompted the military intervention of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and allies the following year on behalf of the embattled government, triggering what the UN calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis. More than 10 million Yemenis are on the brink of starvation [and]. As many as 85,000 children in [Yemen](https://www.aljazeera.com/topics/country/yemen.html) may have starved to death over the past three years, the charity [Save the Children](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/11/yemen-85000-children-died-starvation-181121041742347.html) estimated.

#### Thankfully aid solves because they conclude just the current aid stored in Yemen would be:

Al Jazeera, 2-11-2019, "Yemen food aid to feed millions at risk of rotting: UN," https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/02/yemen-food-aid-risk-rotting-190211174419940.html, Date Accessed 2-12-2019 // WS

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#### Second is stopping terror recruitment. as the Heather Hill writes that if people

Heather Hill, 2-19-2004, "WFP Head: Terrorists recruit from the poor and hungry," World Food Programme, https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-head-terrorists-recruit-poor-and-hungry, Date Accessed 2-12-2019 // WS

Terrorists recruit from the poor and hungry. Making his first official visit to Australia, the head of the United Nations World Food Programme called for increased international food aid as one of the most effective ways to alleviate the poverty and hunger that can breed terrorism and conflict. James Morris, WFP Executive Director, said that food security can help dispel the sense of desperation and futility that drive hungry people, especially the young, into extremist causes. "In a climate of perpetual hunger, young people lose faith in the future," Morris said in the Australian capital Canberra. "If they do not even know where their next meal is coming from, they become easy targets for those who recruit for terrorist groups [because they offer a certain future]

#### And, that’s what happening in Yemen as Paul Pillar indicates in 2018 that:

Paul R. Pillar, 3-20-2018, "The Saudi War in Yemen Is Strengthening Terrorism," Just Security, https://www.justsecurity.org/54106/saudi-war-yemen-strengthening-terrorism/, Date Accessed 2-14-2019 // JM

The civilian casualties from the Saudi campaign and U.S.-Saudi ties risk creating a generation of Yemeni civilians who see the United States as an enemy. In Yemen, America’s humanitarian and counterterrorist interests align, because both require a political resolution of the conflict. Unless the fighting stops, the humanitarian situation will further worsen and the recruiting ability of AQAP and ISIS will continue to increase. The Trump Administration took an important first step in December, calling out Saudi Arabia for the humanitarian impact of its policies and demanding an end to a Saudi blockade of Yemen’s ports that prevented essential fuel, food, and medicine from reaching civilians. Congress is increasingly focused on whether U.S. support for the Saudi air campaign is in America’s interests, and is questioning the legality of the Saudi blockade. But to save the lives of millions of Yemeni civilians and to roll back gains made by AQAP and ISIS, President Trump needs to assert U.S. leadership in securing an end to the conflict. This will necessitate getting Saudi Arabia to accept that negotiations are the only way to achieve the stability in Yemen that Riyadh has failed to win on the battlefield. Although UN-led negotiations have been stalled for over a year, the announcement this month of a new UN envoy provides an opportunity for diplomatic progress. A new UN Security Council resolution could set the stage for resumed peace talks, which neighboring Oman already has offered to host. Following repeated ceasefire calls by the White House, the Administration should make clear to its Saudi and Emirati allies – including during visits to Washington by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and UAE Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed – that continued airstrikes will result in the withholding of U.S. military assistance. Otherwise, Yemen’s war will continue to threaten not only the lives of millions of Yemenis, but also those of Americans as well.

#### The impact is massive as Ammar writes last year that

Ammar Abdullah, 3-6-2018, "Al-Qaeda’s Resurrection," Council on Foreign Relations, https://www.cfr.org/expert-brief/al-qaedas-resurrection, Date Accessed 2-7-2019 // JM

ISIS can no longer compete with al-Qaeda in terms of influence, reach, manpower, or cohesion. In only two domains is ISIS currently stronger than its rival: the power of its brand and its presumed ability to mount spectacular terrorist strikes in Europe. But the latter is a product of Zawahiri’s strategic decision to prohibit external operations in the West so that al-Qaeda’s rebuilding can continue without interference. The handful of exceptions to this policy—such as the 2015 Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris and the 2017 St. Petersburg Metro bombing in Russia—provide compelling evidence that al-Qaeda’s external operations capabilities can easily be reanimated. Yemen-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula’s [has the] capacity to commit acts of international terrorism—especially the targeting of commercial aviation—was recently the subject of a [revealing New York Times story](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/30/world/middleeast/yemen-al-qaeda-us-terrorism.html). Al-Qaeda’s success in resurrecting its global network is the result of three strategic moves made by Zawahiri. The first was to strengthen the decentralized franchise approach that has facilitated the movement’s survival. Over the years, the leaders and deputies of al-Qaeda’s far-flung franchises have been integrated into the movement’s deliberative and consultative processes. Today, al-Qaeda is truly “global,” having effectively incorporated local grievances and concerns into a global narrative that forms the foundation of an all-encompassing grand strategy. The second major move was the order issued by Zawahiri in 2013 to avoid mass casualty operations, especially those that might kill Muslim civilians. Al-Qaeda has thus been able to present itself through social media, paradoxically, as “moderate extremists,” ostensibly more palatable than ISIS. This development reflects Zawahiri’s third strategic decision, letting ISIS absorb all the blows from the coalition arrayed against it while al-Qaeda unobtrusively rebuilds its military strength. Anyone inclined to be taken in by this ruse would do well to heed the admonition of Theo Padnos (née Peter Theo Curtis), the American journalist who spent two years in Syria as a Nusra hostage. Padnos [related in 2014](https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/28/magazine/theo-padnos-american-journalist-on-being-kidnapped-tortured-and-released-in-syria.html) how the group’s senior commanders “were inviting Westerners to the jihad in Syria not so much because they needed more foot soldiers—they didn’t—but because they want to teach the Westerners to take the struggle into every neighborhood and subway station back home.” A parallel thus exists between the U.S. director of national intelligence’s [depiction of the al-Qaeda threat today](https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Newsroom/Testimonies/2018-ATA---Unclassified-SSCI.pdf) [PDF] as mainly limited to its affiliates and the so-called Phoney War in western Europe between September 1939 and May 1940, when there was a strange lull in serious fighting following the German invasion of Poland and the British and French declarations of war against Germany. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain visited British forces arrayed along the Franco-Belgian border that Christmas. “I don’t think the Germans have any intention of attacking us, do you?” he asked Lieutenant General Bernard Law Montgomery, the commander of an infantry division defending the front. The Germans would attack when it suited them, [Montgomery brusquely replied](https://www.amazon.com/Dunkirk-Retreat-Victory-Julian-Thompson/dp/162872515X). It is a point worth keeping in mind as al-Qaeda busily rebuilds and marshals its forces to continue the war against the United States it declared twenty-two years ago.