

Neg

We negate.

Our sole contention is emboldenment

The conflict in Yemen has reached a unique turning point for three main reasons.

And the first is external pressure. **Hafesi of Reuters in 2018** reports that **Iran**, the main weapon supplier for the Houthi rebels, is willing to pressure the rebels and bring them to the negotiation table. Indeed, **UN Special Envoy Griffiths explains last Tuesday** pressure by the Saudi coalition on the Houthi forces has led them to make key concessions, express interest in laying down their arms and de-escalate the conflict. For example, the recent negotiations have led to an absence of any offensive military operations and an end to Saudi airstrikes in the area.

Second is internal pressure. Drawing out the conflict has had a significant impact on the **Houthi leadership**. **Delozier of the Washington Institute** explains the Houthis are becoming less politically inclusive and are fighting increasing levels of dissent from within their ranks. **The Royal Institute of International Affairs** last weekend confirms the Houthis lack of economic resources has made the Houthis more vulnerable than ever.

Third is a new negotiator

Abdulkareem of MPN News finds last week, the previous negotiation's leader was replaced with a neutral general both sides are willing to work with, signaling the beginning of effective diplomacy. **Mint Press** confirms, the decision to appoint a new monitoring chief will finally give the United Nations a chance to succeed.

Overall, we can see the effects are already materializing.

The independent as of an hour ago the Houthi rebels agreed to withdraw their fighters from the lifeline port city of Hodeidah. In a statement released by the rebel group, the Houthis said they will withdraw from the port city as the first step and facilitate access to the grain aid. This aid is set to help feed more than 3 million needy people. Moreover the complete withdrawal means more aid is on the way as **Ghobari in 2018** quantifies that the Hodeidah port handles 80% of Yemen's food imports and aid supplies, which 22 million Yemenis currently rely on.

However, affirming would reignite conflict, and jeopardize aid in Yemen in two ways.

First is letting Saudi Arabia run rampant. Currently, **Rawhani of Al-Jazeera 18** writes the Khashoggi killing has forced the US to begin pressuring Saudi Arabia to the negotiating table and away from conflict. As a result, **Bloomberg 18** concludes the recent deal would not have been possible without US pressure on Saudi Arabia and Yemen. However, **Cordesman of the Hill 18** explains ending arms sales with Saudi Arabia will create a rift in our relationship with Saudi Arabia, and essentially end our relationship. **Rogan of the Washington Examiner 19** continues this rift in relationship would cause Saudi Arabia to lose

interest in reaching durable peace in Yemen, in turn, reigniting the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

Second is emboldening Houthis rebels.

The **ICG reports in 2018** that ending US military assistance would embolden the Houthis to increase their aggression. Fortunately, **Alley of the ICG in 2018** writes that current US arms sales to Saudi Arabia are key to deter the threat of the Houthi rebels. **EgyptToday** reports two days ago that now, we have a window of opportunity to reach a political solution, but continued international pressure is necessary to make them abide by the current ceasefire. This is crucial because **McElroy in 2018** explains that Houthi forces have previously blocked aid deliveries in Yemen, preventing its distribution to people in need. **Barrington of Reuters explains last week** if Houthi rebels were to take back control of areas such as the port of Hodeidah, the main supply route for aid would be cut off.

However, outside of Yemen, **The ICG 18** finds ending US military assistance would embolden Iran as they see a window of opportunity. This is problematic as **Avni 18** writes banning the coalition in Yemen would cause Iran to create more regional instability or regional catastrophe. In fact, as of **last week**, the threat of ending arm sales has led Iran to aggress as they see an opportunity **to expand**. **Haaretz in 18** finds that Iran could exacerbate conflict in 4 more regions and the **European Council on Foreign Relations 18** corroborates that increased tension in the region has high probability to devolve into war putting millions at risk. Negating is key as **Fleeb 19** states that continued US military pressure is essential in containing Iranian aggression.

Thus we negate.