

# Resolved: The United States should end its arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

## CASE CARDS

### Yemen

#### Crisis Not getting better

Coats, US Intelligence Report, January 2019, <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/2019-ATA-SFR---SSCI.pdf> (NK)

**The Huthi movement in Yemen and the Saudi-led coalition**, which supports the Yemeni Government, **remain far apart in negotiating an end to the conflict, and neither side seems prepared for the kind of compromise needed to end the fighting, suggesting the humanitarian crisis will continue**. The coalition, buoyed by military gains in the past year, seems fixed on a Huthi withdrawal from Sanaa and significant Huthi disarmament. These terms remain unacceptable to the Huthis, who believe they can use external attacks to threaten Saudi Arabia and the UAE, undercut Saudi and UAE public support for the conflict, and draw international condemnation of the coalition's intervention in Yemen. 34 **The humanitarian impacts of the conflict in Yemen—including, famine, disease, and internal displacement—will be acute in 2019 and could easily worsen** if the coalition cuts key supply lines to Sanaa. **The fighting has left more than 22 million people**, or approximately 75 percent 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.

#### Many nations have either stopped, or are massively decreasing, arms sales to SA, leaving the US as the only major supplier

**Dewan 18** Angela Dewan, Cnn, 11-23-2018, "These are the countries still selling arms to Saudi Arabia," CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/22/middleeast/arms-exports-saudi-arabia-intl/index.html> //DF A number of countries have restricted arms sales to Saudi Arabia since the kingdom began airstrikes on Yemen in 2015, in a war that the UN describes as the world's worst man-made humanitarian disaster. **Calls for more restrictions on arms exports have been growing, particularly in Europe**, since the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Turkey last month. US President Donald Trump, however, has repeatedly pointed to the US' lucrative arms deals with the Saudis as a reason to stand by the kingdom. **Denmark and Finland on Thursday became the latest countries to suspend new arms deals with Saudi Arabia**. Denmark's Foreign Ministry said it was freezing new deals over both Khashoggi and Yemen, while the Finnish Foreign Ministry mentioned only Yemen. Finland also banned new arms sales to the United Arab Emirates, which is part of the Saudi-led coalition in the conflict. Their announcements came just two days after **Germany said it was stopping all arms transfers to the kingdom**. Denmark and Finland are not major suppliers of weapons to Saudi Arabia, but Germany **certainly is**. It had already suspended new arms deals to Saudi Arabia, but on Monday it widened that ban to include the transfers of

weapons on existing orders as well. So where is Saudi Arabia getting its weapons from? Arms deals are often done in secret or with little publicity. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) tries to track deals involving major weapons, and a database of Saudi imports from the last decade shows the United States as the biggest supplier, followed by the United Kingdom, France, Spain and then Germany. But a lot of exporters still selling to the Saudis have dramatically decreased their supply in recent years. The United Kingdom, for example, transferred arms worth an estimated \$843 million in 2016 but almost halved that value to \$436 million last year, according to SIPRI. (The database uses values constant with 1990 prices to eliminate currency fluctuations and inflation.) French exports of major weapons to Saudi Arabia were worth \$174 million in 2015 but dropped to \$91 million in 2016 and \$27 million last year. The value of Spanish exports also dramatically decreased in that time period, but the Spanish government confirmed this year it would go ahead with arms deals it had previously suggested it would freeze, bowing to pressure from Spanish manufacturers, according to reports. US dwarfs other exporters Despite these decreases, the overall value of Saudi weapons imports actually increased by 38% between 2016 and 2017. That was almost entirely because of a huge uptick in transfers from the United States, which almost doubled its exports in terms of value from \$1.8 billion to \$3.4 billion in that time. Germany also multiplied its exports from \$14 million to \$105 million, although it is expected to be much lower this year following its suspension. Overall, no country comes close to the United States in major weapons supply. Over the past five years, for example, the US accounted for 61% of major arms sales to the Saudis. The UK was a distant second, with a 23% share, while France, in third place, was a mere 4%. In a statement on Tuesday, Trump said that canceling major arms contracts with the Saudis would be foolish, and that "Russia and China would be the enormous beneficiaries" if the US halted its sales. China supplies a negligible amount of major weaponry to Saudi Arabia, SIPRI data shows, but it is on the increase. Russia supplies so little it is not included in the organization's database.

## **Arms sales were never meant to be put to use; this relationship is out of whack and is due for a reset**

**Walsh and Schmitt 18** Declan Walsh and Eric Schmitt, 12-25-2018, "Arms Sales to Saudis Leave American Fingerprints on Yemen's Carnage," NYT,

[https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/25/world/middleeast/yemen-us-saudi-civilian-war.html?rref=collection%2Fbyline%2Fdeclan-walsh&action=click&contentCollection=undefined%2Fion=stream&module=stream\\_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=6&pgtype=collection](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/25/world/middleeast/yemen-us-saudi-civilian-war.html?rref=collection%2Fbyline%2Fdeclan-walsh&action=click&contentCollection=undefined%2Fion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=6&pgtype=collection) //DF

For decades, the United States sold tens of billions of dollars in arms to Saudi Arabia on an unspoken premise: that they would rarely be used. The Saudis amassed the world's third-largest fleet of F-15 jets, after the United States and Israel, but their pilots almost never saw action. They shot down two Iranian jets over the Persian Gulf in 1984, two Iraqi warplanes during the 1991 gulf war and they conducted a handful of bombing raids along the border with Yemen in 2009. The United States had similar expectations for its arms sales to other Persian Gulf countries. "There was a belief that these countries wouldn't end up using this equipment, and we were just selling them expensive paperweights," said Andrew Miller, a former State Department official now with the Project on Middle East Democracy. Then came Prince Mohammed bin Salman. When the prince, then the Saudi defense minister, sent fighter jets to Yemen in March 2015, Pentagon officials were flustered to receive just 48 hours notice of the first strikes against Houthi rebels, two former senior American officials said. American officials were persuaded by Saudi assurances the campaign would be over in weeks. But as the weeks turned to years, and the prospect of victory receded, the Americans found themselves backing a military campaign that was exacting a steep civilian toll, largely as a result of Saudi and Emirati airstrikes. American military officials posted to the coalition war room in Riyadh noticed that inexperienced Saudi pilots flew at high altitudes to avoid enemy fire, military officials said. The tactic reduced the risk to the pilots but transferred it to civilians, who were exposed to less accurate bombings.

## Continued support for SA emboldens them to commit atrocities and prevents negotiations to end the war

**Bazzi 18** Mohamad Bazzi, 11-20-2018, "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/> //DF

The Trump administration has shown little interest in using arms deals as leverage for a political settlement, or to force the Saudis to take concerns about civilian deaths more seriously. In March 2017, Trump reversed a decision by the Obama administration to suspend the sale of more than \$500 million in laser-guided bombs and other munitions to the Saudi military. As more members of Congress expressed criticism of Saudi actions in Yemen, the Senate narrowly approved that sale. After the Houthis fired ballistic missiles at several Saudi cities in late 2017, the Trump administration again escalated U.S. involvement in the war. The New York Times broke the news that the Pentagon had secretly dispatched U.S. special forces to the Saudi-Yemen border to help the Saudi military locate and destroy Houthi missile sites. Frustrated by the deepening U.S. role, two dozen members of the House introduced a resolution this week invoking the 1973 War Powers Act, arguing that Congress never authorized American support for the Saudi coalition and instructing Trump to withdraw U.S. forces. 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 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 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.

## The Saudi military is totally dependent on US arms

**Riedel 18** Bruce Riedel, 10-10-2018, "After Khashoggi, US arms sales to the Saudis are essential leverage," Brookings, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/10/10/after-khashoggi-us-arms-sales-to-the-saudis-are-essential-leverage/> //DF

In June 2017, after the president's visit to Riyadh—his first official foreign travel—we published a Brookings blog post detailing that his claims to have sold \$110 billion in weapons were spurious. Other media outlets subsequently came to the same conclusion. When Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman visited the White House this year, the president indirectly confirmed that non-deal by chiding the prince for spending only "peanuts" on arms from America. The Saudis have continued to buy spare parts, munitions, and technical support for the enormous amount of American equipment they have bought from previous administrations. The Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) is entirely dependent on American and British support for its air fleet of F15 fighter jets, Apache helicopters, and Tornado aircraft. If either Washington or London halts the flow of logistics, the RSAF will be grounded. The Saudi army and the Saudi Arabian National Guard are similarly dependent on foreigners (the Saudi Arabian National Guard is heavily dependent on Canada). The same is also true for the Saudis allies like Bahrain. Under President Obama, Saudi Arabia spent well over \$110 billion in U.S. weapons, including for aircraft, helicopters, and air

defense missiles. These deals were the largest in American history. Saudi commentators routinely decried Obama for failing to protect Saudi interests, but the kingdom loved his arms deals.

## **Saudis need constant retooling, which means ending arms sales would instantly halt their operations, and it means Russia or China couldn't replace**

**Riedel 18** Bruce Riedel, 10-25-2018, "U.S. POLICY AND THE WAR IN YEMEN," Brookings Institution, [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/fp\\_20181025\\_yemen\\_war\\_transcript.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/fp_20181025_yemen_war_transcript.pdf)  
Since 2015 and the start of the Saudi led coalition war that was meant supporting the coalition warfare effort. Dafna has already mentioned the kinds of military assistance we provide, inter air refueling, some intelligence support. But the most important one is not new arms sales, it is the continuation of existing arms sales. The Saudi Air Force must get spare parts, technical upgrades, maintenance, expertise, you name it, jet tires from the United States every single day in order to operate. If that flow of spare parts came to a close tonight, the Royal Saudi Air Force would be grounded tomorrow morning or at least those aircraft that are American supply. The other aircraft are supplied by the United Kingdom so the U.S. and the United Kingdom have tremendous leverage here if they want to do it. But it was more than military support and more than the ongoing logistics supply line. The United States also endorsed Saudi diplomacy and in particular, supported the UN Security Council Resolution 2216 which guides the UN mediation effort and which kind of sets the international tone for what is proper in Yemen. UN Security Council Resolution 2216 is completely unbalanced. This is basically written by the Saudi government and then presented to the council by one of its partners in the war at the time then Jordan. Jordan has more or less dropped out of the war since then. The resolution is essentially the Saudi indictment of the Houthi Ali Abdullah Saleh coalition. It sanctions the Houthis, it sanctions Saleh. It is so unbalanced that in my judgment it is actually a barrier to peace, not a pathway to peace.

## **The US wields considerable influence over Saudi Arabia and the goals of its leadership**

**Tabatabai 18** Ariane M. Tabatabai, 11-15-2018, "Could America Use Its Leverage to Alter the Saudis' Behavior?," The Rand Corporation, <https://www.rand.org/blog/2018/11/could-america-use-its-leverage-to-alter-the-saudis.html> //DF  
Both the Obama and Trump administrations watched as the kingdom's policies became more assertive, leading to the widely held assumption that America can't change the Saudi calculus. But this is far from the truth. As the Saudis' chief political and military partner and the undisputed security guarantor in the Middle East, the United States has considerable influence it can wield over Saudi decisionmaking. It has thus far gone virtually unused. In reality, the United States may have more leverage over Saudi Arabia today than at any other time except during the 1991 Gulf War. Trump's ascension to the U.S. presidency helped alleviate some of Saudi Arabia's concerns that stemmed from President Obama's Middle East policies and, consequently, afforded the United States more influence over the kingdom. The Saudis had grown distrustful of U.S. commitment to the region due to President Obama's plans to pivot to Asia and his administration's response to the Arab Spring and pursuit of a nuclear deal with Tehran. But President Trump made Riyadh the destination of his first foreign trip in office and pledged to support the kingdom while harshly criticizing its archenemy, Iran, and withdrawing from the nuclear deal this past May. At the same time, Saudi Arabia has become more reliant on the United States than when President Obama was in office. **Riyadh's contentious policies—like the war in Yemen and the rift with its neighbors—have constrained its options and inadvertently reinforced Saudi Arabia's need for U.S. military and political support**, including security cooperation and intelligence sharing. **Prince Mohammed's legacy and perhaps even power is presently tied to two initiatives: The Yemen war and Vision 2030—an ambitious program of social and economic reforms that Riyadh plans to institute to diversify its economy. Neither objective is apparently proceeding as the crown prince had hoped. And to succeed, they will likely require continued U.S. support**. Until recently, President Trump was not inclined to use these developments as leverage. Instead, he stood by the crown prince even as U.S. military support to Saudi forces in Yemen—including aerial refueling and advising on intelligence sharing and targeting

procedures—have come under attack in Congress and by international rights groups. Some have argued that the administration has emboldened Riyadh, giving it carte blanche to pursue its more assertive policies. New details pertaining to Khashoggi's murder have emerged, ostensibly tying the young Saudi monarch to the incident and leading to mounting congressional pressure. But the Trump administration has been willing to give the Saudis only a mere slap on the wrist without fundamentally altering the dynamics of the U.S.-Saudi relationship.

### **SA also relies on the US for protection from Iran, which gives us leverage**

**Kristof 18** Nicholas Kristof, 12-15-2018, "So, I Asked People in Saudi Arabia About Their Mad, Murderous Crown Prince," NYT,

[https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/15/opinion/sunday/saudi-arabia-yemen-khashoggi.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FYemen&action=click&contentCollection=world%2Fopinion=stream&module=stream\\_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=7&pgtype=collection](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/15/opinion/sunday/saudi-arabia-yemen-khashoggi.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FYemen&action=click&contentCollection=world%2Fopinion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=7&pgtype=collection) //DF

The truth is that as Saudi Arabia's significance as an oil producer diminishes, we need Saudi Arabia less. In 25 years, if we're freed from the tyranny of imported oil, we may not need it at all. Some Saudis kept trying to suggest to me that if we block weapons sales to Riyadh, the kingdom will turn to Moscow. That's absurd. It needs our spare parts and, more important, **it buys our weapons because they come with an implicit guarantee that we will bail the Saudis out militarily if they get in trouble with Iran. Saudi Arabia's armed forces can't even defeat a militia in Yemen, so how could they stand up to Iran?** That's why we have leverage over Saudi Arabia, not the other way around. Let's use that leverage. The next step should be a suspension of arms sales until Saudi Arabia ends its war on Yemen, for that war has made us complicit in mass starvation.

### **Ending arms sales to SA is the best leverage the US has to force negotiations to end the war**

**Kristof 18** Nicholas Kristof, 12-29-2018, "Your Tax Dollars Help Starve Children," NYT,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/07/opinion/sunday/yemen-famine-war-saudi-arabia.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article> //DF

"You're not going to solve this long-term until the war is ended," said David Beasley, the executive director of the World Food Program. "It's a man-made problem, and it needs a man-made solution." That solution will entail strong American backing for a difficult United Nations-backed peace process involving Yemeni factions and outsiders, aiming for a measure of power sharing. This diplomatic process requires engaging the Houthis, not just bombing them. It also means a cease-fire and pressure on all sides to ensure humanitarian access and the passage of food and fuel. The best leverage America has to make the Saudis part of the solution is to suspend arms sales to Riyadh so long as the Saudis continue the war. In conference rooms in Riyadh and Washington, officials simply don't fathom the human toll of their policies.

### **The war got worse after Trump got into office and took a more lenient position with the Saudis**

**Niarchos 18** Nicolas Niarchos, 1-22-2018, "How the U.S. Is Making the War in Yemen Worse," New Yorker,

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/01/22/how-the-us-is-making-the-war-in-yemen-worse> //DF

A month after the funeral-hall strike, Donald Trump was elected President. In January, when he was inaugurated, he promised a review of Obama's foreign policy. "Their objective is a strong relationship with the Saudis, a strong relationship with the Emiratis," Bruce Riedel told me. "Yemen is just not a priority." The Saudis lobbied Trump's National Security Council for the cranes purchased by

usaid for Hodeidah to be returned. The National Security Council acceded, and the cranes have been sent to storage, at the U.S.'s expense. The former senior Administration official told me, "**Since January, you've seen the humanitarian situation in Yemen fall off a cliff, and I don't think it's a coincidence.**" According to Rajat Madhok, of unicef, **the cholera crisis and the malnutrition are unprecedented.** " 'Bad' would be an understatement," Madhok told me. "**You're looking at a health collapse, a systemic collapse.**" Trump's connections to Saudi Arabia are hardly hidden. During the 2016 election, his organization opened eight companies there, which he subsequently closed after their existence was made public. Shortly after his Inauguration, in January of last year, as Isaac Arnsdorf reported for Politico, lobbyists for Saudi Arabia checked into a Trump hotel and ended up spending more than a quarter of a million dollars. In April, Michael Cohen, Trump's personal lawyer, signed on to a partnership with a law and lobbying firm retained by Saudi Arabia.

## **Decreasing support for the war by European nations is what's pushed SA to the negotiating table, but progress will only be made if the US takes definitive action and ends support**

**Bandow 18** 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> //DF

Moreover, Tehran has never controlled the Houthis, did not start the present conflict, and has only limited influence even now. With its own economy 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.

**Spencer 19** Richard Spencer, 2-1-2019, "Airstrikes point to end of fragile Yemen ceasefire," The Sunday Times,

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/airstrikes-point-to-end-of-fragile-yemen-ceasefire-6p308fw0p> //DF

**A ceasefire in the Yemeni civil war was close to collapse yesterday as jets of the Saudi-led coalition resumed bombing round the crucial port of Hodeidah. The air attacks were necessary because Houthi rebels had refused to redeploy troops in line with a UN- negotiated ceasefire** agreement signed in Stockholm in December, a coalition spokesman said. Anwar Gargash, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, the other leading regional power fighting with the Saudis, said that the rebels had failed to meet an agreement to pull out of Hodeidah. "Still no Houthi withdrawal from Hodeidah city and ports, and militia blocking aid convoys from leaving Hodeidah and barring ships from entering ports," he said on Twitter. He added that the coalition had struck ten Houthi training camps outside Hodeidah and was "prepared to use more calibrated force to prod Houthi compliance with Stockholm agreement". Hodeidah is Yemen's main port and supply route for food and aid supplies. The United Nations and aid agencies say that millions of people are at risk of starvation if it remains closed. A Houthi spokesman said that they were committed to the ceasefire and accused the coalition, which is backed by the US and Britain, of breaching it. "If there is enough pressure to make it happen by the international community in general, the US and UK in particular, the ceasefire will hold as planned," he said. **Under the agreed terms, both sides were to "redeploy" troops from Hodeidah, where there has been intense street fighting, and port operations were to be put under civilian control with UN supervision. However, the Houthis were accused of putting their fighters in civilian uniform and not pulling them back. They said that there was**

nothing in the agreement that meant they could not leave security officials in place. Patrick Cammaert, the retired Dutch general assigned by the UN to oversee the ceasefire's implementation, came under fire, apparently from Houthi fighters, while in the city. He is leaving after his initial one-month term and will be replaced by a Danish former general, Michael Lollesgaard. There have been some deadly attacks in other parts of Yemen not included in the deal. A Houthi drone exploded over a military parade, killing several Yemeni government officials. At the weekend a mortar strike, believed to be from the Houthi side, hit the grain silos on the Red Sea coast used by the World Food Programme. Peter Salisbury, Yemen analyst at the International Crisis Group, said that the ceasefire deal was imprecise enough to allow both sides to interpret its demands in accordance with their own wishes. "It feels like neither side wants the blame for the collapse of the agreement, but both are also trying to call the other's bluff," he said.

## Security Umbrella

**Ryan 18** Missy Ryan, 10-12-2018, "As crisis intensifies, what's at stake in America's military partnership with Saudi Arabia?" Washington Post,

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/as-crisis-intensifies-whats-at-stake-in-america-as-military-partnership-with-saudi-arabia/2018/10/12/3ce0994e-cd75-11e8-a3e6-44daa3d35ede\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.a5cff1083ff8](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/as-crisis-intensifies-whats-at-stake-in-america-as-military-partnership-with-saudi-arabia/2018/10/12/3ce0994e-cd75-11e8-a3e6-44daa3d35ede_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.a5cff1083ff8) //DF

Although Congress has the power to broadly halt arms sales or suspend military aid, lawmakers have so far declined to do so. The Obama administration, frustrated by Saudi attacks on civilian sites in Yemen, temporarily halted sales of precision munitions in 2016, but Trump reversed that move after taking office. For Saudi Arabia, the race to arm itself has been aimed not just at boosting its fighting power but also deepening political ties with producer nations like the United States. The favor those sales have curried was starkly visible in Trump's Oval Office comments this week. But analysts and former officials said the cultivation of Saudi Arabia as the top U.S. arms customer had not yet turned the kingdom into Washington's essential military partner in the Arab world.

### **Absence of US protection opens up Saudi Arabia to a world of horrors (Doran - NYT)**

Michael Doran and Tony Badran, 11-21-2018, "Opinion," New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/21/opinion/trump-saudi-arabia-khashoggi.html> (NK)

Would a compromised crown prince be a more reliable partner for the United States in stabilizing the Middle East? In all likelihood, sanctions would simply embitter Prince Mohammed, who would respond by tacking toward Russia and China. The United States could console itself by celebrating its staunch commitment to principle, but its influence would diminish considerably. Get our newsletter and never miss an Op-Doc. Watch Oscar-nominated short documentaries from around the world made for you. Less likely but worth keeping in mind is the worst-case scenario. **Prince Mohammed's enemies, inside and outside the kingdom, are numerous, and American sanctions on him would put a target on his back. In a violent succession battle, what horrific forces would be unleashed? Outside actors, such as Iran and Russia, coveting control of the kingdom's oil wealth and influence over the Islamic holy cities, would rush in.** The United States would find itself embroiled in another civil war as in Syria. In either scenario, Iran would rejoice. Critics of Mr. Trump's Saudi policy are already demanding that the United States pressure the kingdom to end the war in Yemen without so much as mentioning the need to ensure that the country does not become another base, like Lebanon, for Iran. The murder of Mr. Khashoggi was a brutal and grotesque act. The United States has registered its feelings loudly and clearly by putting sanctions on the 17 men who were directly involved in the killing.

# R2R

We affirm, resolved: the United States *should* end its arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Our sole contention is that ending arms sales is essential to ending the war in Yemen.

For the past four years, Saudi Arabia has been waging a brutal campaign in Yemen that has gone nowhere and resulted in countless civilian deaths.

The United States has given Saudi Arabia a blank cheque, enabling it to continue the killings without any constraints. Mohammad Bazz at the Atlantic writes in 2018: Saudi 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. Saudi Arabia and its allies are more likely to accept a peace process if it is clear that the United States won't provide the military assistance required to keep the war apparatus going.

Ending arms sales is the only way to use our leverage and force Saudi Arabia to end the war. Nicholas Kristof writes explains in the New York Times in 2018: The best leverage America has to make the Saudis part of the solution is to suspend arms sales to Riyadh so long as the Saudis continue the war.

This is for two reasons.

First, crippling the military.

Saudi Arabia is almost entirely dependent on US arms, a trend that has accelerated in recent years. Angela Dewan reports in CNN in 2018: A number of countries have restricted arms sales to Saudi Arabia since the kingdom began airstrikes on Yemen in 2015, such as Germany and the United Kingdom. Despite these decreases, the United States almost doubled its exports. The US accounted for 61% of major arms sales to the Saudis. The UK was a distant second, with a 23% share. China supplies a negligible amount of major weaponry to Saudi Arabia, and Russia supplies so little it is not included in the database.

Ending arms sales would cripple the Saudi military and force them to end their campaign in Yemen. Bruce Riedel at the Brookings Institution explains in 2018: The Saudi Air Force must get spare parts, technical upgrades, maintenance, expertise, you name it, from the United States every single day in order to operate. If that flow of spare parts came to a close *tonight*, the Royal Saudi Air Force would be grounded *tomorrow morning*.

Second, sending a signal.

Beyond the physical sales of arms, Saudi Arabia relies on the US security alliance to protect themselves from outside threats. Missy Ryan writes in a 2018 Washington Post article: For Saudi Arabia, the race to arm itself has been aimed not just at boosting its fighting power but also deepening political ties with producer nations like the United States. The favor those sales have curried is starkly visible in Trump's White House.



The Saudis rely on the US alliance to protect them from Iran,. Nicholas Kristof writes in the New York Times in 2018: it buys our weapons because they come with an implicit guarantee that we will bail the Saudis out militarily if they get in trouble with Iran. Saudi Arabia's armed forces can't even defeat a militia in Yemen, so how could they stand up to Iran? That's why we have leverage over Saudi Arabia.

We know that the Saudis respond very strongly to US pressure. As Nicolas Niarchos explains in a 2018 New Yorker article: it is no coincidence that the humanitarian crisis in Yemen fell off a cliff when Trump entered office and made Yemen not a priority.

We also know that the increasing international pressure on Saudi Arabia following the Khashoggi murder has had some positive effects, but the US needs to step in for the Saudis to fully change. Doug Bandow at the Cato Institute writes in 2018: The ongoing peace talks offer some hope. They have advanced further than previous attempts. 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. However, so long as Riyadh can count on a blank check from Washington, the kingdom has no reason to temper its policy.

, we affirm.

SA reliant on US

Ending arms sales solves in 2 ways;

1. Restricts ability to conduct bombing campaigns
  - Kill 60 k
  - Bombs also cause famine and mass disease outbreak
2. Makes peace negotiations more likely
  - Ends war at large
  - Supported both by the practical warrant and the Iran warrant
  - Need A2 Russia and China can defend against Iran

US support allegedly makes the war safer, but the empirical record shows our unwavering support greenlights atrocity. By the time your RFD is over, 6 Yemeni children will have been killed  
Foreign policy 10-9-18

(Lara Seligman is Foreign Policy's Pentagon correspondent

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/10/09/starvation-and-child-soldiers-in-yemen/>)

In health centers across Yemen, children are weighed and measured for signs of severe  
AND

Yemeni conflict becomes a terrible stain on the U.S. reputation.”

**FRONTLINES**

**WEIGHING,.**

# EXTRAS

## Security Guarantee Extension

1. Iran is an existential threat to SA. SA has such a large defense budget b/c of Iranian paranoia
2. SA doesn't have its own army and has no way to protect itself or impose its will in the region
3. SA has shaped its entire national security strategy around outsourcing to the US

## Credibility

**Ending arms sales to Saudi Arabia would enhance US credibility in the region and improve its ability to cooperate with allies**

**Weber 18** Emily Weber, 11-20-2018, "The United States Should End Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia," International Affairs Review at the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University, [//DF">http://www.iar-gwu.org/content/united-states-should-end-arms-sales-saudi-arabia //DF](http://www.iar-gwu.org/content/united-states-should-end-arms-sales-saudi-arabia)

Additionally, the United States should focus on relieving the famine and disease ubiquitous throughout the country. The danger from both Saudi forces and terrorist organizations makes aidwork nearly impossible. The United States should try to create safe zones for aid organizations. These zones would be in a few areas throughout the country providing food and medical care to civilians caught in the crossfire. These areas would allow the United States to target aid depending on civilians' changing needs. Since the UN already provides designated refugee areas, safe zones could use existing UN aid management infrastructure. By limiting its interventions in Yemen to delivering humanitarian aid, the United States would create more stabilization in the region and work more effectively to end the civil war. U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia along with U.S.- led military interventions create chaos and unnecessarily involve the United States in a proxy war. Ending arms sales to Saudi Arabia would improve relations with other countries in the Middle East and would force other countries we consider our allies to ensure their actions were in line with international and U.S. norms. Overall, this action would improve our entire strategy for managing conflicts across the region.

**Not checking SA destroys US credibility by showing that we only care about economic interests, not morals or human rights**

**Guay 18** Terrence Guay [Clinical Professor of International Business, Pennsylvania State University], 10-19-2018, "Arms sales to Saudi Arabia give Trump all the leverage he needs in Khashoggi affair," Conversation,

<https://theconversation.com/arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia-give-trump-all-the-leverage-he-needs-in-khashoggi-affair-104998> //DF

That is why the U.S. has significant leverage in this aspect of the relationship. Any Saudi threat to retaliate against a ban on U.S. arms sales by buying weapons from countries that have not raised concerns about the Khashoggi disappearance would not be credible. And is probably why, despite worries in the White House, such a threat has not yet been made. Selling ideals for short-term gains Since the end of World War II, the U.S. has developed a global reputation as a moral authority championing human rights. Yes, there have been many times when realpolitik took priority. But despite these moments, the U.S. managed also to maintain its authority by advocating respect for human rights as a global norm during the Cold War, and within many repressive regimes ever since. With Khashoggi, Trump is choosing to give up that mantle completely by showing his priority is purely economic, regardless of the impact on the United States' global reputation. Such a bald-faced strategy, in my view, sells American values short and weakens U.S. global credibility.

## Yemen Civil War

### Link – US Pressure

**As long as the US sells arms to the Saudis, it will have no credibility in calling for peace talks**

**Depetris 17** Daniel Depetris, Kate Kizer, 6-9-2017, "Want to Reduce Iran's and al-Qaeda's Sway in Yemen? End the War," Defense One,

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2017/06/want-reduce-irans-and-al-qaedas-sway-yemen-end-war/138556/?oref=d-river> //DF

U.S. policy in Yemen has made things worse. Despite Washington's rhetorical support for a political resolution, the U.S. has literally fueled the Saudi bombing campaign for more than two years. And billions of dollars in defense sales to the Saudis and Emiratis have enabled some of the conflict's worst humanitarian abuses. As long as the U.S. plays arsonist one night and firefighter the next, the war in Yemen will continue and the parties to the conflict will have no incentives to engage in an inclusive peace process. That means thousands more civilians will die in ground fighting and air strikes, the recent cholera outbreak will spiral out of control as Yemen's already meager health infrastructure shrivels even further, and terrorist groups like al-Qaeda will remain free to capitalize on the violence. It's time for Washington to change course. And fast. Reports that the Trump administration asked the Saudis to provide law-of-war assurances before releasing \$390 million of precision munitions are welcome. But it appears that these assurances have amounted to nothing more than additional training for the Saudi Royal Air Force, and Saudi lip service about avoiding civilian areas in their air campaign likely won't amount to much. With the White House approval of the sale of \$510 million in precision munitions, it's time for Congress to play bad cop. By expressing strong opposition to the sale when the Senate votes on S.J.Res.42 next week – the bipartisan joint resolution of disapproval that would block the precision munition sale – Congress can give the administration the diplomatic leverage it needs to end the notion that there can be a military solution to the conflict via unconditional U.S. support. Perpetuating Yemen's war by resuming arms sales to an ally who is either incapable or uninterested in preventing civilian casualties increases U.S. complicity in possible war crimes and does nothing to further the peace process.

## Ending arms sales sends Saudi Arabia a clear message that the US condemn their actions

**Kizer and Depetris 18** Kate Kizer, Daniel Depetris, 11-29-2018, "The Senate Takes a Step to Void America's Blank Check to the Saudis," Defense One,

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2018/11/senate-takes-step-void-americas-blank-check-saudis/153143/?oref=d-river> //DF

It's not every day when members of Congress can move U.S. foreign policy in a more productive direction and save thousands of innocent lives at the same time. But this week, Sens. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont; Mike Lee, R-Utah; and Chris Murphy, D-Conn., did precisely that by forcing a debate and vote on a bipartisan war powers resolution requiring a U.S. withdrawal of all military assistance to the Saudi and United Arab Emirates-led coalition's war effort in Yemen. The action by 63 Senators to advance this legislation is a long-overdue corrective to what has been nearly four years of unjustified and unauthorized U.S. involvement in a war where all combatants have engaged in war crimes on a weekly basis. The United Nations has called Yemen the world's most urgent humanitarian crisis. This, however, is actually a mild description to what millions of Yemenis face every single day. The conflict has upended day-to-day life on an unimaginable scale: wiping out the country's public health industry; raising the price of necessities such as food and fuel; sending the economy into a tailspin; and forcing parents to travel hundreds of miles through battlefronts in the hope of saving their children from starvation and disease. Some 85,000 children are estimated to have perished from starvation since the war began. Some 14 million people, nearly half of Yemen's population, are now at severe risk of famine from the war – a man-made famine in which the U.S. would be culpable. If the Saudi-led coalition continues its attack on Hodaydah through which roughly 70 percent of the country's food and fuel pass, the world could witness starvation on a scale it has not seen in decades. As a primary supplier of arms, munitions, and logistical support to the Saudi and UAE coalition, the United States is directly complicit in the sorry state Yemen now finds itself. While the parties to the conflict bear primary blame for its effects, Washington's unconditional assistance to Riyadh has undoubtedly served as kindling and prolonged the bloodshed. The Trump administration's decision to terminate mid-air refueling to the coalition was a welcome, yet reversible, step in the right direction, even if the U.S. should never have provided such capability in the first place. By advancing the Yemen resolution, senators in both parties have sent a clear message to Riyadh and Abu Dhabi that America's elected representatives are running out of patience. Just as importantly, by merely using the War Powers Resolution as a vehicle to force a national debate, lawmakers in the Senate have put the White House on notice that Congress as an institution is no longer content with being a passive spectator on some of the most critical issues of American foreign policy and our democracy: the power to determine when and where we go to war.

## Impact – Civilian Casualties

### The death toll has gotten so high that the UN has stopped counting it

**Bazzi 18** Mohamad Bazzi, 11-20-2018, "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/> //DF

In his speech to the United Nations General Assembly this week, President Donald Trump signaled to Saudi Arabia that he would avoid criticizing its destabilizing actions in the Middle East. Instead, he blamed only Iran, the kingdom's regional rival, for funding "havoc and slaughter." Trump praised Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for pledging billions in aid and "pursuing multiple avenues to ending Yemen's horrible, horrific civil war." He failed to mention that Yemen's current conflict escalated dramatically in early 2015, when Saudi Arabia led a coalition of Arab countries to intervene in the war. That war has long since devolved into a humanitarian catastrophe. The United Nations stopped counting its civilian death toll two years ago, when it hit 10,000. An independent estimate by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, which tracks conflicts worldwide, found that nearly 50,000 people, including combatants, died between January 2016 and July

2018. The war has also left more than 22 million people—75 percent of the population of Yemen, already one of the poorest countries in the world—in need of humanitarian aid.

## **US arms and intelligence are directly used to kill thousands of Yemeni civilians**

**Weber 18** Emily Weber, 11-20-2018, "The United States Should End Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia," International Affairs Review at the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University, <http://www.iar-gwu.org/content/united-states-should-end-arms-sales-saudi-arabia> //DF

Saudi-led coalition air strikes have led to the deaths of thousands of Yemeni civilians. Many of these strikes use imprecise munitions such as cluster bombs that deliberately target civilian sites such as hospitals, schools, markets, and mosques. These weapons that unnecessarily harm civilians are made and sold by the United States to Saudi Arabia for use in this conflict. The United States needs to re-evaluate, and limit, its strategy and instead focus its efforts on protecting suffering civilians through ending Saudi arms sales. Millions of Yemenis have become displaced due to the Yemeni civil war. These refugees strain an already destabilized Middle East region and increase the severity of the migrant crisis that began with the Syrian civil war. Displacement will put pressure on U.S. allies in Europe and spread across the Middle East and Africa. In addition, the famine caused by the civil war led to the deaths of 50,000 children and a cholera outbreak that killed over 2,000 Yemenis. The United States has been involved in this conflict from the outset because this conflict is a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Many, if not all, of these strikes used American-made munitions and equipment. Under President Obama, arms exports increased significantly, and Saudi Arabia was the second largest customer. Under President Trump, the arms trade with Saudi Arabia has increased again, including an agreement to sell the Saudi government over \$100 billion worth of military equipment. The United States also has helped the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen by sharing intelligence, assisting with air strikes, and even putting U.S. troops on the ground. Other U.S. interventions in the Middle East to promote democracy and state-building have proven ineffective at best. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were intended to end the threat of terrorism and build democratic states but have not achieved their goals. The Taliban still controls a great deal of Afghanistan. In Iraq, Al-Qaeda and ISIS continue their incursion. Both of the latter groups have become widespread in Yemen because of the war. Although it is reasonable that the United States would want to prevent these groups from gaining more power in the region, similar U.S. interventions in the Middle East have failed. Ground troops, special forces operations, and air strikes are not long-term solutions for preventing the spread of these non-state actors.

## **The war in Yemen has killed more than 16,000 civilians, mostly because of airstrikes**

**Raghavan 18** Sudarsan Raghavan, 7-26-2018, "U.S. allies have killed thousands of Yemeni civilians from the air. After 22 died at a wedding, one village asks, 'Why us?'," Washington Post, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/us-allies-have-killed-thousands-of-yemenis-from-the-air-after-22-died-at-a-wedding-one-village-asks-why-us/2018/07/25/3c3e4801-164e-42ae-ac08-bec09044e52a\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.359d91982d24](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/us-allies-have-killed-thousands-of-yemenis-from-the-air-after-22-died-at-a-wedding-one-village-asks-why-us/2018/07/25/3c3e4801-164e-42ae-ac08-bec09044e52a_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.359d91982d24) //DF

The ground where the wedding tent once stood was covered with children's slippers, broken musical instruments, pieces of festive clothing and other detritus of destroyed lives. Teeth, still attached to the jawbone, lay near some tattered decorations. "There is even some flesh left," said Elan Yahya, the bride's father, pointing at blackened shards hanging from a tree branch. An airstrike hit the wedding in this remote mountain village on April 23, killing 22 civilians, including eight children, and injuring dozens, according to interviews with 17 villagers in late May. More than three years into Yemen's civil war, more than 16,000 civilians have been killed and injured, the vast majority by airstrikes, the U.N. human rights office estimates, adding that the figures are likely to be far higher. The deaths are continuing unabated, with as many as hundreds of casualties per month, despite assurances by a U.S.-backed regional coalition of better protection of civilians amid mounting criticism within the United States and the international community. That coalition, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, is backing Yemen's exiled government in its conflict against rebels known as the Houthis, who dominate the capital and the north. The United States is playing an essential role in the war, supporting the coalition with intelligence, refueling, technical assistance and billions of dollars in bombs and other weaponry.

## **The war in Yemen has been absolutely and horrifically destructive to an entire generation of children, causing mass hunger and death**

**Talmazan 18** Yuliya Talmazan, 10-28-2018, "Three stats that reveal the scale of the world's worst humanitarian crisis," NBC News,

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/yemen-crisis-three-stats-reveal-scale-world-s-worst-humanitari-an-n923741> //DF

The U.N.'s humanitarian chief warned last week that 14 million people in Yemen — or half of the country's population — need aid to survive amid fears of an "imminent and great big famine." Mark Lowcock told the Security Council that this potential famine would be "much bigger than anything any professional in this field has seen during their working lives." Only two famines have been declared in the past two decades — the one that took the lives of a quarter of a million Somalis in 2011 and another one last year in South Sudan. Here are three statistics that shed light on the situation on the ground in one of the Arab world's poorest countries. 130: THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 WHO DIE EACH DAY FROM HUNGER AND DISEASE A total of almost 50,000 kids are believed to have perished from such causes during 2017, with a similar number expected this year, according to Save the Children and the U.N. Save the Children spokesman Bhanu Bhatnagar called the situation in Yemen "a stain on the world's conscience." UNICEF's operation in Yemen estimates there are 1.8 million children currently facing malnutrition, including 400,000 who are severely malnourished and at risk of death if not urgently treated. More than 8 million children are cut off from regular access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene services. Bhatnagar says **the fighting that is raging in Yemen is killing an "entire generation of children," who are bearing the brunt of the violence. "Thousands are so malnourished they don't even have the energy to cry,"** he said. U.N. is assessing whether the crisis in Yemen can officially be declared a famine, with initial results expected next month. "An official famine declaration would only confirm what we already know: Children are already dying from starvation," said Frank McManus, the International Rescue Committee's country director in Yemen. "Famine, by definition, means it's too late."

## **Tawakkol Karman, the 2011, Nobel Peace Prize winner, remarked that children are falling like the leaves of autumn under the bombardments of the Saudi-led coalition.**

**Vertin 18** Zach Vertin, conversation with Tawakkol Karman, the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, 11-6-2018, "From war to famine: How to end Yemen's violent conflict?," Brookings,

<https://www.brookings.edu/events/from-war-to-famine-how-to-end-yemens-violent-conflict/> //DF

She argued that this resulted in a strategy to destroy and control Yemen and to sabotage the legitimacy behind the peaceful revolution. She believes that the coalition-led war is fragmenting the Yemeni state through famine and violence. This keeps the people of Yemen disunited and disenfranchised. She described how both the Houthis and the coalition forces are guilty of crimes against humanity. On top of these war crimes, the humanitarian situation remains bleak. People are in urgent need of health care services, clean water, and food. More than eight million people are suffering from malnutrition, and this number continues to grow every day. The effect is especially acute for children. She remarked that "Children are falling like the leaves of autumn under the bombardments of the Saudi-led coalition." To begin to alleviate this level of suffering, Karman observed that Yemen needs a clear decision from the international community to stop this war. For her, arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE need to be stopped, and Iran needs to be prevented from sending weapons to the Houthis. For peace to happen, Yemen must be an independent, unified, sovereign state. Any political solution to the crisis requires the halting of foreign arms sales in the country. Only the state should have a monopoly of arms. She does not believe that the idea of creating autonomous zones for the Houthis will lead to peace because it will entrench permanent, sectarian divisions. The constitution that was drafted during the revolution envisioned regional autonomy within the country because this would enable groups like the Houthis and others to achieve political representation within the

framework of a unified country. Yemenis want to build a state of justice, freedom, and democracy. This requires a national government that is technocratic and includes the various components of society. Regional and national elections need to take place, and efforts to compensate victims and rebuild the country need to be made.

## **America's supply of arms to the Saudis in Yemen makes it culpable for the deaths of tens of thousands of children from starvation**

**Kizer and Depetris 18** Kate Kizer, Daniel Depetris, 11-29-2018, "The Senate Takes a Step to Void America's Blank Check to the Saudis," Defense One,

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2018/11/senate-takes-step-void-americas-blank-check-saudis/153143/?oref=d-river> //DF

The United Nations has called Yemen the world's most urgent humanitarian crisis. This, however, is actually a mild description to what millions of Yemenis face every single day. The conflict has upended day-to-day life on an unimaginable scale: wiping out the country's public health industry; raising the price of necessities such as food and fuel; sending the economy into a tailspin; and forcing parents to travel hundreds of miles through battlefronts in the hope of saving their children from starvation and disease. Some 85,000 children are estimated to have perished from starvation since the war began. Some 14 million people, nearly half of Yemen's population, are now at severe risk of famine from the war – a man-made famine in which the U.S. would be culpable. If the Saudi-led coalition continues its attack on Hodaydah through which roughly 70 percent of the country's food and fuel pass, the world could witness starvation on a scale it has not seen in decades. As a primary supplier of arms, munitions, and logistical support to the Saudi and UAE coalition, the United States is directly complicit in the sorry state Yemen now finds itself. While the parties to the conflict bear primary blame for its effects, Washington's unconditional assistance to Riyadh has undoubtedly served as kindling and prolonged the bloodshed. The Trump administration's decision to terminate mid-air refueling to the coalition was a welcome, yet reversible, step in the right direction, even if the U.S. should never have provided such capability in the first place.

## **The war has caused mass destructive economic impacts**

**Talmazan 18** Yuliya Talmazan, 10-28-2018, "Three stats that reveal the scale of the world's worst humanitarian crisis," NBC News,

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/yemen-crisis-three-stats-reveal-scale-world-s-worst-humanitarian-n923741> //DF

The conflict in Yemen began with the 2014 takeover of the capital, Sanaa, by Iran-backed Houthi rebels, who toppled the internationally recognized government. A Saudi-led coalition allied with the government has been fighting the Houthis since 2015. The fighting has left 6,800 civilians dead and more than 10,000 injured, sparking the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Yemen's gross domestic product has been cut in half since 2015, with more than 600,000 jobs lost and a least 80 percent of the population living below the poverty line, according to U.N. numbers. "It's astounding that today, the international community can sit on its hands and, in fact, allow and facilitate this famine," said Oxfam's Richard Stanforth.

## **Huge disease outbreaks**

**Talmazan 18** Yuliya Talmazan, 10-28-2018, "Three stats that reveal the scale of the world's worst humanitarian crisis," NBC News,



<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/yemen-crisis-three-stats-reveal-scale-world-s-worst-humanitarian-n923741> //DF

**1 MILLION: THE NUMBER OF CHOLERA CASES** Against the backdrop of the conflict, Yemen has suffered from the largest cholera outbreaks in recent history. The World Health Organization says there have been 1.2 million cases of suspected or confirmed cholera in Yemen since April 2017, including over 154,000 cases this year. More than 2,500 people are reported to have died from the preventable disease. An entire country and its health infrastructure has been brought to its knees, according to Dr. Ahmed Al Mandhari, WHO's regional director for the Eastern Mediterranean. While medical care is free in public health facilities, many Yemenis can barely afford the cost of public transport to get to these facilities, Al Mandhari said, and families are forced to sell all their belongings to buy medicines. "People in Yemen are dying today not just because of the bullets and bombs, but because they are unable to receive the medical care they need to stay alive," he added.

## **Endless airstrikes mean kids grow up in a hellish, conflict-ridden world**

**Talmazan 18** Yuliya Talmazan, 10-28-2018, "Three stats that reveal the scale of the world's worst humanitarian crisis," NBC News,

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/yemen-crisis-three-stats-reveal-scale-world-s-worst-humanitarian-n923741> //DF

**18,000: THE NUMBER OF AIR RAIDS A 3-YEAR-OLD CHILD IN YEMEN HAS LIVED THROUGH** The independent Yemen Data Project has tracked the number of air raids since the start of the war — more than 18,000 since spring of 2015. Save the Children says that means a child in Yemen who was born as the conflict broke out has lived through an average of about 14 air raids per day. "Yemen is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a child today," said Bhatnagar. "The ongoing brutality means children are being consistently exposed to extreme violence, further heightening the risk of psychological damage." In August, dozens of Yemeni children were killed in a Saudi-led coalition airstrike on a bus in northern Yemen, one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in the three-year-old war. The U.N. has said that all parties in the conflict have been responsible for attacks on civilians, underscoring how targets have included homes, medical facilities, schools, farms and weddings. The people of Yemen "live under fear of continuous bombardment," said McManus, of the International Rescue Committee. "Despite almost four years of airstrikes and use of heavy weapons, neither side is any closer to achieving their strategic objectives."

## **Impact – Terrorism**

**The chaos caused by the war in Yemen has enabled al Qaeda to spread. They're fighting the Houthis with the US-backed coalition!**

**Ahmed 17** Akbar Shahid Ahmed, 5-1-2017, "Trump's War In Yemen Is A Gift For Al Qaeda," HuffPost, [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-yemen-al-qaeda\\_us\\_5907641de4b05c397680fff7](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-yemen-al-qaeda_us_5907641de4b05c397680fff7) //DF

The terrorist group al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is working alongside a U.S.-backed coalition in Yemen, the group's leader claimed Sunday, in the latest sign that the Trump administration's plan for a greater U.S. role in the country could be a strategic mistake. Qasim al-Rimi made the comments in a conversation with the media arm of AQAP, according to The

Associated Press. "We fight along all Muslims in Yemen, together with different Islamic groups," al-Rimi said. He said the group's allies include armed supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood and tribes loyal to the Sunni school of Islam. Their target, he said, is an Iran-backed rebel militia called the Houthis, who are loyal to a school of the rival Shiite branch of Islam. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other U.S. partners in the region have been fighting the Houthis for over two years. Activists blame that bloody campaign for the majority of the more than 10,000 deaths in Yemen since the civil war began. Members of the coalition say their campaign is justified because they are aligned with Yemen's internationally recognized government, which the Houthis pushed out of the Yemeni capital in 2014, and because of Iran's role in worsening the war. They also point to reported abuses by the Houthis, including indiscriminate attacks on civilians in Yemen and across the border in Saudi Arabia. Then-President Barack Obama authorized U.S. support for the campaign as soon as it began in 2015, but the Obama administration tried to distance itself from the Saudi-led coalition as allegations of war crimes piled up. President Donald Trump, who has expressed a strong desire to counter Iran, wants to boost the American presence in Yemen, according to administration officials, humanitarian workers and analysts. Yemen's al Qaeda franchise has gained significant territory and support amid the chaos of the war. The U.S.-backed coalition has fought it at times, pushing it out of a major port city last year, and the controversial U.S. drone campaign against the group is ongoing. The Pentagon believes the group "presents a very significant threat to the United States," a spokesman said on April 3; it sees it as one of the few foreign terror organizations with a major and proven capacity to hit the homeland. The U.S. has launched more than 75 strikes (and a major raid) against AQAP since the beginning of the year, according to Bill Roggio at the hawkish think tank Foundation for Defense of Democracies, in a sign that the military sees the group as a serious target. But the terror group continues to thrive — in large part, it appears, because of the U.S.'s own policies. The latest Yemen update from the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank, notes that al Qaeda operates alongside a brigade in the key city of Taiz that receives Saudi and UAE support. The U.S.-backed Yemeni government has failed to strengthen itself in a way that would allow it to compete with AQAP for popular support instead of relying on the group, the update says.

Still, a parsing of Trump's words is terrifying; when he visited Riyadh, he made no mention of human rights. As the senior State Department official told me, "The Trump Administration has decided to de-link the human-rights dialogue from the security-support dialogue."

## **The longer the US provides arms to this war, the more blame it will face from disaffected Yemenis, which could lead to violence**

**Niarchos 18** Nicolas Niarchos, 1-22-2018, "How the U.S. Is Making the War in Yemen Worse," New Yorker,

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/01/22/how-the-us-is-making-the-war-in-yemen-worse>  
//DF

Senator Murphy told me that the U.S.'s support for the coalition will prove detrimental to the country's interests. "Our first job is to protect our citizenry, and, to me, these arms sales put U.S. lives in jeopardy," he said. Dafna H. Rand, a Middle East expert who covered Yemen for the State Department under Obama, said, "The longer this war goes on, the longer there's a risk of deep resentment against the United States that will be radicalizing and lead to full-strain extremism." The Yemenis I spoke to expressed frustration with the U.S.'s role in the war. "We used to love and appreciate the U.S., because a large number of Yemenis live there," Hebari, the chanter, told me. The war has now changed that calculus. "What appears to me is that the U.S. is funding and Saudi Arabia is the implementer." In August, the alliance between the Houthis and Saleh began to show cracks. The Houthis murdered a top Saleh aide at a checkpoint; in response, to prove his popularity, Saleh threw a huge celebration in Sana'a, with giant banners and blaring music. Sixteen hundred poems were composed in his honor for the event. But his power had been diminished by the conflict. "President Saleh used to say that ruling Yemen was like dancing on the heads of snakes," Nadwa Al-Dawsari, a Yemeni expert in conflict resolution, told me. "Well, now one of the snakes—the Houthis—has bitten him." On the morning of December 4th, a group of Houthi soldiers raided Saleh's house in Sana'a; later that day, a video was released showing his dead body in the bed of a pickup truck.

## **US involvement in the Yemeni civil war is having similar harmful effects on terrorism as other interventions in the Middle East by destabilizing nations and creating hotbeds for extremist groups**

**Weber 18** Emily Weber, 11-20-2018, "The United States Should End Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia," International Affairs Review at the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University, <http://www.iar-gwu.org/content/united-states-should-end-arms-sales-saudi-arabia> //DF

The United States has been involved in this conflict from the outset because this conflict is a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Many, if not all, of these strikes used American-made munitions and equipment. Under President Obama, arms exports increased significantly, and Saudi Arabia was the second largest customer. Under President Trump, the arms trade with Saudi Arabia has increased again, including an agreement to sell the Saudi government over \$100 billion worth of military equipment. The United States also has helped the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen by sharing intelligence, assisting with air strikes, and even putting U.S. troops on the ground. Other U.S. interventions in the Middle East to promote democracy and state-building have proven ineffective at best. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were intended to end the threat of terrorism and build democratic states but have not achieved their goals. The Taliban is still controls a great deal of Afghanistan. In Iraq, Al-Qaeda and ISIS continue their incursion. Both of the latter groups have become widespread in Yemen because of the war. Although it is reasonable that the United States would want to prevent these groups from gaining more power in the region, similar U.S. interventions in the Middle East have failed. Ground troops, special forces operations, and air strikes are not long-term solutions for preventing the spread of these non-state actors. The United States should end its current level of military involvement and instead focus on humanitarian efforts and stabilizing Yemen. Yemen's civil war has led to immense destruction and instability in what is essentially a Shia and Sunni proxy war. Additionally, the United States should limit its role in this conflict by suspending current and future arms sales and instead, increase its humanitarian presence. It is time to re-evaluate what role the United States will play, since its current strategy in Yemen and the Middle East is not working.

## **The weapons the Saudis use to combat terror makes the problem worse because the attacked groups backlash**

**Hartung 10** William Hartung [Director of the Arms and Security Initiative, New America Foundation], in an article written by Andrew Chatzky, 9-24-2010, "Is Big Saudi Arms Sale a Good Idea?," Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/expert-roundup/big-saudi-arms-sale-good-idea> //DF

"Congress and the public should think twice before signing off on what may be the first stage of a new Mideast arms race." Is the Middle East really suffering from a dearth of advanced weaponry? In the past three years alone, the United States has offered over \$30 billion in armaments to Persian Gulf states, counterbalanced by offers of a similar amount to Israel. The United Kingdom and Russia have supplied billions more to the Persian Gulf states. Attempting to create a balance at higher and higher levels of weaponry is both dangerous and unnecessary. In addition, how stable is Saudi Arabia? In the short run, there may be no major cause for concern, but the combat planes, helicopters, missiles, and bombs that are part of the deal will last for decades. Would anyone have predicted in the mid-1970s that the heavily armed regime of the Shah of Iran would be toppled by a group of Islamic fundamentalists? The Saudi deal will no doubt go through, but it shouldn't. It consists primarily of offensive weapons--fighter planes, attack helicopters, and guided bombs--that serve no constructive purpose. Fighter planes and guided bombs aren't relevant to addressing the potential threat posed by Iranian missiles, nor are they likely to dissuade Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Combat aircraft and attack helicopters might be used in Saudi strikes against terrorists and separatist groups in northern Yemen, but doing so would be counterproductive, more likely to inflame passions against Riyadh than to solve its border security problems. Congress and the public should think twice before signing off on what may be the first stage of a new Mideast arms race.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/world/why-yemen-matters/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.380e04bcefa0](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/world/why-yemen-matters/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.380e04bcefa0)

Yemen, the ancestral homeland of Osama bin Laden, has been the source of several prominent terrorist attacks against the United States and its allies, including al-Qaeda's bombing in 2000 of the USS Cole in the harbor at Aden, Yemen. The local al-Qaeda affiliate, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), also was responsible for the attempted Christmas Day 2009 bombing of a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit, and the group asserted responsibility for the 2015 attack on the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris. The United States has waged a campaign of drone strikes against the group.

## Impact – Humanitarian Aid

### **Ending US intervention in Yemen is crucial to create the stable conditions necessary for humanitarian aid to reach populations in need**

**Weber 18** Emily Weber, 11-20-2018, "The United States Should End Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia," International Affairs Review at the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University, <http://www.iar-gwu.org/content/united-states-should-end-arms-sales-saudi-arabia> //DF

U.S. supporters of arms deals with Saudi Arabia argue that the revenue generated from these sales are too beneficial to end. However, the arms sales and continued conflict create larger and farther-reaching costs. The U.S. government should redirect its involvement towards humanitarian actions in Yemen. This policy would help to stabilize Yemen and enhance U.S. soft power in the region. Additionally, the United States should focus on relieving the famine and disease ubiquitous throughout the country. The danger from both Saudi forces and terrorist organizations makes aidwork nearly impossible. The United States should try to create safe zones for aid organizations. These zones would be in a few areas throughout the country providing food and medical care to civilians caught in the crossfire. These areas would allow the United States to target aid depending on civilians' changing needs. Since the UN already provides designated refugee areas, safe zones could use existing UN aid management infrastructure. By limiting its interventions in Yemen to delivering humanitarian aid, the United States would create more stabilization in the region and work more effectively to end the civil war. U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia along with U.S.- led military interventions create chaos and unnecessarily involve the United States in a proxy war. Ending arms sales to Saudi Arabia would improve relations with other countries in the Middle East and would force other countries we consider our allies to ensure their actions were in line with international and U.S. norms. Overall, this action would improve our entire strategy for managing conflicts across the region.

## Impact – Regional Destabilization

### **There is a real risk of state collapse and turning into a Somalia**

**Kristof 18** Nicholas Kristof, 12-29-2018, "Your Tax Dollars Help Starve Children," NYT, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/07/opinion/sunday/yemen-famine-war-saudi-arabia.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article> //DF

And while I felt reasonably secure in Houthi-controlled areas, I was perpetually nervous in Aden. Abductions and murders occur regularly there, and my guesthouse offered not a mint on the pillow, but a bulletproof vest; at night, sleep was interrupted by nearby fighting among unknown gunmen. What limited order exists in Aden is provided by soldiers from the United Arab Emirates and allied militias, and I worry that the U.A.E. is getting fed up with the war and may pull them out without alternative arrangements for security. If that happens, Aden may soon plunge into Somalia-like chaos. Mohamed Zemam, the governor of the central bank, believes that there are ways to shore up the economy and prevent starvation. But he cautions that the risk of another Somalia is real, and he estimates that there

may be two million Yemenis in one fighting force or another. "What they have is the way of the gun," he said. "If we don't solve that, we will have problems for 100 years." Another danger is that the Saudi coalition will press ahead so that fighting closes the port of Hudaydah, through which most food and fuel come.

## Regional Arms Race

### **Saudi arms sales risk creating an arms race in a region already oversaturated with weapons**

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Or so it would seem. But the reality is much more complicated. First, to the extent that the deal is about jobs, as Boeing and the Obama administration claim, that is the wrong criterion for making a major arms sale. Security considerations must come first. And on this front, there are serious questions that have not been addressed by the boosters of the deal. By throwing weapons at Saudi Arabia with one hand while giving them to Israel with the other, are we not simply arming both sides of a nascent arms race? Is Iran likely to be cowed by the Saudi mega-deal, or will it simply seek a way to ratchet up its own military capabilities? Is the Middle East really suffering from a dearth of advanced weaponry? In the past three years alone, the United States has offered over \$30 billion in armaments to Persian Gulf states, counterbalanced by offers of a similar amount to Israel. The United Kingdom and Russia have supplied billions more to the Persian Gulf states. Attempting to create a balance at higher and higher levels of weaponry is both dangerous and unnecessary. In addition, how stable is Saudi Arabia? In the short run, there may be no major cause for concern, but the combat planes, helicopters, missiles, and bombs that are part of the deal will last for decades. Would anyone have predicted in the mid-1970s that the heavily armed regime of the Shah of Iran would be toppled by a group of Islamic fundamentalists? The Saudi deal will no doubt go through, but it shouldn't. It consists primarily of offensive weapons--fighter planes, attack helicopters, and guided bombs--that serve no constructive purpose. Fighter planes and guided bombs aren't relevant to addressing the potential threat posed by Iranian missiles, nor are they likely to dissuade Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Combat aircraft and attack helicopters might be used in Saudi strikes against terrorists and separatist groups in northern Yemen, but doing so would be counterproductive, more likely to inflame passions against Riyadh than to solve its border security problems. Congress and the public should think twice before signing off on what may be the first stage of a new Mideast arms race.

## Saudi Arabia is Unstable

### **Giving lots of weapons to a nation that could go belly up, like Iran, is a big risk**

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