**We Affirm**

**Resolved:** The US should end its arms sales to Saudi Arabia

**Our Sole Contention is Correcting the Yemen Atrocity**

Right now, the war in Yemen is leaving the region in ruins as **Kanna[[1]](#endnote-1) 18** writes that with the help of US military support, Saudi Arabia has launched over 18,000 airstrikes on Yemen since 2015, attacking critical infrastructure, creating a blockade on food and medicine, ultimately culminating in mass starvation. In the midst of this conflict, the Trump administrations actions are exacerbating this as **Bazzi[[2]](#endnote-2) 18** writes that that Trump recently signed a new series of arms sales, totaling $110 billion. Luckily, cutting off arms sales would end the conflict entirely for 4 reasons

**First, is Handicapping the Saudi Military**

**Reidel[[3]](#endnote-3)** explains that the cancelation of US jet fighter sales to Saudi Arabia, would leave their air force without support and entirely grounded, ending bombing campaigns. Additionally, **Caverly 18** explains that the US supplies Saudi Arabia with 60% of its arms and nearly all military training and assistance, meaning that any transition away from the US would take decades, crippling the Saudi military, forcing it to step down.

**Second, is Disempowering Saudi Warhawks**

**Al Jazeera[[4]](#footnote-1)** reports in January that due to recent clashes between the Saudi’s and Houthi’s, the recent ceasefire is on the verge of collapse. [**Pamp 17**](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322849085_The_build-up_of_coercive_capacities_Arms_imports_and_the_outbreak_of_violent_intrastate_conflicts) finds that in high tension regions, such as the Middle East, arms sales increase probability of violent conflict by increasing government's willingness and ability to resolve conflicts through violent means. This is apparent in Yemen as **The Atlantic[[5]](#footnote-2) 18** explains that as long as Saudi Arabia has the full military backing of the US, they will never fully participate in a peace agreement because they know they will always have support. Thus, Thrall concludes that Saudi arms sales empirically embolden warhawks to press for military approaches in conflicts now, such as Yemen, as well as future conflicts.

**Third, is Disincentivizing Profiteering**

**Benjamin and Davies[[6]](#endnote-4) 18** explain that private military companies are gaining prominence and profit from US conflict and using their newfound power to exert influence over US policymaking. Companies gain this influence through the highly profitable US arms exports business. Indeed, **Benjamin and Davies**[[7]](#endnote-5) detail that private companies derive a large amount of their power from Saudi arms sales, which is why companies like Lockheed Martin[[8]](#endnote-6) promote war in Yemen to ensure that there is constant demand for their weapons. However, **Ivanova[[9]](#endnote-7) 18** explains that Saudi Arabia is “by far the US [Industrial Complex’s] largest arms client”, bringing in $18 billion in revenue and accounting for 1/5 of US weapons exports. Luckily, by cutting off arms sales, you cripple the military industrial complex and its influence.

**Fourth, is Restructuring US Diplomatic Policy**

**Thrall** states that because arms sales force the US to take sides in regional disputes, we lose the ability to effectively mediate peace agreements. Indeed, [**Bercovitch of the University of Colorado**](https://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/med_intractable_conflict) notes that, “mediation involves the intervention of an outsider.” With too much bias towards Saudi Arabia, the US is left unable to peacefully settle the conflict. According to **Thrall**, “This, in turn, leaves the United States even more reliant on military tools.”

Ultimately, **Daalder and Lindsay[[10]](#endnote-8)** conclude that ending US arms sales would functionally end the Yemen conflict.

**Ending the War enables the rebuilding of Yemen in two ways**

**First, is Providing Humanitarian Aid**

Currently, **Bazzi** notes that 8 million Yemeni civilians are on the brink of famine and 1 million have been infected with cholera. Failure to act now ensures catastrophe as **Hiatt[[11]](#endnote-9)** explains in November, that Saudi airstrikes have now begun to target the port of Hodeida which supplies Yemen’s 28 million civilians with 70% of their food and medicine. Luckily, **Wintour** furthers that a durable ceasefire would open numerous ports which are crucial to creating a pipeline of humanitarian aid.

**Second, is Reviving Infrastructure**

**Watson[[12]](#endnote-10) 18** that because of targeted Saudi airstrikes, critical infrastructure has been reduced to rubble with less than 45% of Yemen’s medical facilities still in operation. This is catastrophic as the **Sanger Institute[[13]](#endnote-11)** finds that Yemen is now facing history’s worst cholera epidemic with over 1 million people infected. **Osman[[14]](#endnote-12)** continues that with 62%[[15]](#endnote-13) of Yemen’s population in poverty, without proper infrastructure, Yemen will look and feel like a war zone, even decades after the conflicts end.

Because funding a conflict ensures it will never end, we strongly urge a pro ballot.

1. #### Statistics show that US military aid has played a huge role in Saudi offensives. [Saudi arabia blocked]

   Kanna 10/20/18 Rohit Khanna is an American academic, lawyer, and politician serving as the U.S. Representative from California's 17th congressional district, since 2017. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/Congress-must-end-U-S-military-aid-to-Saudi-war-13319536.php>. JY

   Every ghastly new detail we learn about the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi suggests that this was a premeditated murder, carried out at the direction of the highest level of the Saudi dictatorship. The cascading revelations rival the gore of horror films, from the 15 Saudis who flew into Turkey, lying in wait for Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, to the bone-saw-equipped forensics specialist who reportedly dismembered Khashoggi’s body wearing headphones and recommending that others listen to music as well. Just weeks before, Khashoggi had publicly pleaded with the de facto ruler of the Saudi regime, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to curb his propensity for violence. Khashoggi’s September column for the Washington Post was headlined “Saudi Arabia’s crown prince must restore dignity to his country — by ending Yemen’s cruel war.” “Cruel” is, if anything, an understatement. Since 2015, the Saudis have launched an estimated 18,000 air strikes on Yemen, attacking hospitals, schools, water treatment plants, funerals, markets and even farms. The Saudis also imposed a blockade on food, fuel and medicine from freely entering the country in what can only be described as a deliberate effort to starve the civilian population into submission. Buried by the news of Khashoggi’s slaying was a grim new warning by Lise Grande, the U.N.’s humanitarian coordinator for Yemen: The nation could experience the world’s worst famine in 100 years, with 12 million to 13 million innocent civilians at risk of dying from the lack of food within months. As early as 2015, Foreign Policy magazine reported the Saudi coalition’s “daily bombing campaign would not be possible without the constant presence of U.S. Air Force tanker planes refueling coalition jets.” Yet there was never a debate or vote by the people’s elected congressional representatives, as required by the Constitution, as to whether the U.S. military should participate in the Saudi government’s genocidal war. As the architect of this hideous military strategy, Mohammed bin Salman reacted to Khashoggi’s criticisms the way he knew best. MbS, as he’s known, probably ordered the assassination of Khashoggi and then — just as the Saudi regime did after bombing a school bus filled with Yemeni children last month — issued ever-shifting and contradictory lies, relying on the Trump administration’s full backing and clumsy assistance in the cover-up. MbS’ campaign of killing Yemenis and Saudis alike must come to an end. Congressional Progressive Caucus co-chair Mark Pocan, D-Wis., and I are leading dozens of our colleagues, including top House Democrats, in demanding answers from the Trump administration about its possible complicity in Khashoggi’s killing. We also are working to force a vote in Congress to decisively shut down unconstitutional U.S. participation in the Saudi regime’s gruesome war in Yemen within weeks. Partnering with Sen. Bernie Sanders, independent-Vermont, we aim to secure majorities in both chambers of Congress as soon as we return to Washington to direct the president to remove U.S. forces from unauthorized hostilities in Yemen. We are invoking the War Powers Resolution with the aim of passing House Congressional Resolution 138 and Senate Joint Resolution 54. These resolutions have priority over other foreign policy considerations in the chambers, and the votes on them cannot be blocked by Republican leadership. Never before has such a feat been attempted in both houses of Congress at once — but the War Power Resolution allows members of Congress to force votes to end illegal U.S. military participation in this war. When we succeed, the Saudi campaign will inevitably collapse. If our moral compass is to guide our country after the butchering of Jamal Khashoggi, the incineration of thousands of Yemenis in U.S.-Saudi air strikes, and the quiet deaths of more than 100,000 Yemeni children who succumbed to war-triggered hunger and disease over the past two years, Congress must pass these resolutions. America’s founders deliberately broke with the unchecked power enjoyed by Europe’s monarchs by vesting Congress with the sole authority over the question of war and peace. By forcing long-overdue sunlight and public participation into the now-secret realm of war, these resolutions will help restore our republic and end America’s complicity in such incomprehensibly immense human suffering. Today’s leaders owe it to all those who have sacrificed for a fairer world to bring an end to the worst humanitarian crisis on Earth. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. #### The Saudi-led war on Yemen has caused tens of thousands of Yemenite deaths and has displaced millions more – the Trump administration has become directly responsible for exacerbating the situation

   Bazzi 6/11/18 Mohamad Bazzi, a journalism professor at New York University, is a former Middle East bureau chief at Newsday. He is writing a book on the proxy wars between Saudi Arabia and Iran. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/11/trump-yemen-saudi-arabi-war-us-involvement-worsening-crisis>. JY

   Donald Trump is quietly escalating America’s role in the Saudi-led war on Yemen, disregarding the huge humanitarian toll and voices in Congress that are trying to rein in the Pentagon’s involvement. Trump administration officials are considering a request from Saudi Arabia and its ally, the United Arab Emirates, for direct US military help to retake Yemen’s main port from Houthi rebels. The Hodeidah port is a major conduit for humanitarian aid in Yemen, and a prolonged battle could be catastrophic for millions of civilians who depend on already limited aid. With little public attention or debate, the president has already expanded US military assistance to his Saudi and UAE allies – in ways that are prolonging the Yemen war and increasing civilian suffering. Soon after Trump took office in early 2017, his administration reversed a decision by former president Barack Obama to suspend the sale of over $500m in laser-guided bombs and other munitions to the Saudi military, over concerns about civilian deaths in Yemen. The US Senate narrowly approved that sale, in a vote of 53 to 47, almost handing Trump an embarrassing defeat. In late 2017, after the Houthis fired ballistic missiles at several Saudi cities, the Pentagon secretly sent US special forces to the Saudi-Yemen border, to help the Saudi military locate and destroy Houthi missile sites. While US troops did not cross into Yemen to directly fight Yemen’s rebels, the clandestine mission escalated US participation in a war that has dragged on since Saudi Arabia and its allies began bombing the Houthis in March 2015. The war has killed at least 10,000 Yemenis and left more than 22 million people –three-quarters of Yemen’s population – in need of humanitarian aid. At least 8 million Yemenis are on the brink of famine, and 1 million are infected with cholera. The increased US military support for Saudi actions in Yemen is part of a larger policy shift by Trump and his top advisers since he took office, in which Trump voices constant support for Saudi Arabia and perpetual criticism of its regional rival, Iran. The transformation was solidified during Trump’s visit to the kingdom in May 2017, which he chose as the first stop on his maiden foreign trip as president. Saudi leaders gave Trump a grandiose welcome: they filled the streets of Riyadh with billboards of Trump and the Saudi King Salman; organized extravagant receptions and sword dances; and awarded Trump the kingdom’s highest honor, a gold medallion named after the founding monarch. The Saudi campaign to seduce Trump worked. Since then, Trump has offered virtually unqualified support for Saudi leaders, especially the young and ambitious crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is the architect of the disastrous war in Yemen. By blatantly taking sides, Trump exacerbated the proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and inflamed sectarian conflict in the region. During his visit to Riyadh, Trump announced a series of weapons sales to the kingdom that will total nearly $110bn over 10 years. Trump, along with Jared Kushner, his son-in-law and senior adviser, who played a major role in negotiating parts of the agreement, were quick to claim credit for a massive arms deal that would boost the US economy. But many of the weapons that the Saudis plan to buy – including dozens of F-15 fighter jets, Patriot missile-defense systems, Apache attack helicopters, hundreds of armored vehicles and thousands of bombs and missiles – were already approved by Obama. From 2009 to 2016, the Obama administration authorized a record $115bn in military sales to Saudi Arabia, far more than any previous administration. Of that total, US and Saudi officials signed formal deals worth about $58bn, and Washington delivered $14bn worth of weaponry. Much of that weaponry is being used in Yemen, with US technical support. In October 2016, warplanes from the Saudi-led coalition bombed a community hall in Yemen’s capital, Sana’a, where mourners had gathered for a funeral, killing at least 140 people and wounding hundreds. After that attack – the deadliest since Saudi Arabia launched its war – the Obama administration pledged to conduct “an immediate review” of its logistical support for the Saudi coalition. But that review led to minor changes: the US withdrew a handful of personnel from Saudi Arabia and suspended the sale of some munitions. Toward the end of the Obama administration, some American officials worried that US support to the Saudis – especially intelligence assistance in identifying targets and mid-air refueling for Saudi aircraft – would make the United States a co-belligerent in the war under international law. That means Washington could be implicated in war crimes and US personnel could, in theory, be exposed to international prosecution. In 2015, as the civilian death toll rose in Yemen, US officials debated internally for months about whether to go ahead with arms sales to Saudi Arabia. But these concerns evaporated after Trump took office. Like much of his chaotic foreign policy, Trump is escalating US military involvement in Yemen without pushing for a political settlement to the Saudi-led war. His total support for Saudi Arabia and its allies is making the world’s worst humanitarian crisis even more severe. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. 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/>

   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. Related Books Book cover: Kings and Presidents Kings and Presidents By Bruce Riedel 2017 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. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. **In the status quo, Al Jazeera describes how-**

   [**https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/aid-group-warns-yemen-truce-verge-collapsing-190129123045611.html**](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/aid-group-warns-yemen-truce-verge-collapsing-190129123045611.html)

   A humanitarian group has warned that **a ceasefire agreed in Yemen**'s key port city of Hodeidah **is on the verge of collapsing,** as a retired Dutch general in charge of the truce stepped down from his role. The US-based International Rescue Committee said on Tuesday that **recent clashes in the city between Houthi rebels** who control it **and** pro-government forces backed by **a Saudi-led coalition have increased dramatically** since last week. "In recent days, with clashes erupting inside Hodeidah and both parties accusing each other of violations, the agreement is increasingly in peril," Frank McManus of the group said. The developments threaten to unravel a ceasefire and prisoner swap signed in December, the group said, urging the international community to step up pressure on the warring parties to stick to their commitments. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
5. [**https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/09/iran-yemen-saudi-arabia/571465/**](https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/09/iran-yemen-saudi-arabia/571465/)

   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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
6. **The Military-Industrial Complex, a.k.a the MIC, has been gaining massive influence over U.S. foreign policy, and arms sales are key to this increasing power. Medea Benjamin and Nicolas Davies explain in 2018:**

   [Medea Benjamin, author and political activist who founded women-led peace organization Code Pink and fair-trade advocacy group Global Exchange, and Nicolas Davies, author of *Blood On Our Hands: the American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq*, 9-26-2018, "In Yemen and Beyond, U.S. Arms Manufacturers Are Abetting Crimes against Humanity," Foreign Policy In Focus, <https://fpif.org/in-yemen-and-beyond-u-s-arms-manufacturers-are-abetting-crimes-against-humanity/>, ]

   Pope Francis has publicly blamed the “**industry of death**” for fueling **a “piecemeal World War III.”** The U.S. military-industrial complex wields precisely the “**unwarranted influence**” over U.S. foreign policy that President Eisenhower warned Americans against in his farewell address in 1961. The U.S. wars on Afghanistan and Iraq and the “global war on terror” served as cover for a huge increase in U.S. military spending. Between 1998 and 2010, the U.S. spent $1.3 trillion on its wars, but even more, $1.8 trillion, to buy new warplanes, warships, and weapons, most of which were unrelated to the wars it was fighting. Five U.S. companies — Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and General Dynamics — dominate the global arms business, raking in $140 billion in weapons sales in 2017, and export sales make up a growing share of their business, about $35 billion in 2017. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
7. **And there is a unique relationship between the MIC and Saudi Arabia. Benjamin and Davies (in 2018) detail that:**

   [Medea Benjamin, the co-founder of the women-led peace group CODEPINK and the co-founder of the human rights group Global Exchange, and Nicolas J.S. Davies, the author of Blood On Our Hands: the American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq. He also wrote the chapters on "Obama at War" in Grading the 44th President: a Report Card on Barack Obama’s First Term as a Progressive Leader, Foreign Policy in Focus, “In Yemen and Beyond, U.S. Arms Manufacturers Are Abetting Crimes against Humanity,” <https://fpif.org/in-yemen-and-beyond-u-s-arms-manufacturers-are-abetting-crimes-against-humanity/>. September 26, 2018]

   The U.S. sells weapons to Saudi Arabia and other allies to project U.S. military power by proxy without the U.S. military casualties, domestic political backlash, and international resistance that result from direct uses of U.S. military force, while U.S. military-industrial interests are well-served by ever-growing arms sales to allied governments. These policies are driven by the very combination of military-industrial interests that Eisenhower warned Americans against, now represented by Secretary Pompeo, Acting Assistant Secretary Faulkner, and a cabal of hawkish Democrats who consistently vote with Republicans on war and peace issues. They ensure that the “war party” always wins its battles in Congress no matter how catastrophically its policies fail in the real world. Republicans derided President Obama’s doctrine of covert and proxy war as “leading from behind.” But the Trump administration has doubled down on Obama’s failed strategy, surrendering even more power over U.S. policy to foreign clients like Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Egypt, and to the “unwarranted influence” of the U.S. military-industrial complex. Lockheed Martin is earning $29.1 billion in sales from the $110 billion Saudi arms package announced in May 2017, a deal struck as the war on Yemen was already killing thousands of civilians. Yet no conflict of interest is too glaring for Lockheed executives like Ronald Perrilloux Jr., who has taken part in public events to promote the war and defend Saudi Arabia and its allies, arguing that the U.S. should “help them finish the job” in Yemen. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
8. **Companies like Lockheed Martin are encouraging warfare to justify more arms sales. Benjamin and Davies continue:**

   [Medea Benjamin, author and political activist who founded women-led peace organization Code Pink and fair-trade advocacy group Global Exchange, and Nicolas Davies, author of *Blood On Our Hands: the American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq*, 9-26-2018, "In Yemen and Beyond, U.S. Arms Manufacturers Are Abetting Crimes against Humanity," Foreign Policy In Focus, <https://fpif.org/in-yemen-and-beyond-u-s-arms-manufacturers-are-abetting-crimes-against-humanity/>, ]

   Lockheed Martin is earning $29.1 billion in sales from the $110 billion Saudi arms package announced in May 2017, a deal struck **as the war on Yemen was already killing thousands of civilians**. Yet no conflict of interest is too glaring for Lockheed executives like Ronald Perrilloux Jr., who has taken part in public events to **promote the war** and defend Saudi Arabia and its allies, arguing that the U.S. should “help them finish the job” in Yemen. Not to be outdone, Boeing, the second largest arms producer in the U.S. and the world after Lockheed Martin, has also been linked to the deaths of hundreds of civilians in Yemen. Fragments of Boeing JDAM bombs were found in the debris of a 2016 attack on a marketplace near the Yemeni capital of Sana’a that killed 107 civilians, including 25 children. Human Rights Watch found that the airstrike caused predictably **indiscriminate and disproportionate civilian deaths, in violation of the laws of war**, and called for a suspension of arms sales to Saudi Arabia. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
9. **However, ending the arms sale in Saudi Arabia will put a massive dent in the MIC and reduce the violence it’s causing. Irina Ivanova writes:**

   [Irina Ivanova, CBS Money Watch reporter, article quoting Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, an international institute based in Sweden, dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament, 10-13-2018, "Saudi Arabia is America's No. 1 weapons customer," *CBS News*, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/saudi-arabia-is-the-top-buyer-of-u-s-weapons/>]

   The U.S. sold a total of $55.6 billion of weapons worldwide in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 — up 33 percent from the previous fiscal year, and a near record. In 2017, the U.S. cleared some **$18 billion** in new Saudi arms deals. Mr. Trump has dismissed the idea of suspending weapons sales to Saudi Arabia to punish its crown prince, Mohammad bin Salman, for any involvement in the alleged murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. "I don't like the concept of stopping an investment of $110 billion into the United States," Mr. Trump said this week. Last year in May, President Trump used his first foreign trip as an occasion to visit the kingdom and sign an arms deal advertised as $110 billion — a figure experts have since disputed as inflated, since it was not based on actual, signed contracts and included at least $23 billion previously approved by the Obama administration, according to Defense One. But even before that announcement, Saudi Arabia was **by far the U.S.' largest arms client**, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Over the five years ending in 2017, nearly **one-fifth** of American weapons exports went to Saudi Arabia, SIPRI reports. Overall, half went to the Middle East and North Africa. In the 2017 calendar year alone, some $18 billion in new Saudi arms deals were cleared by the U.S. Bombs away The current White House has shifted the type of weapons exports the U.S. favors. Prior to this year, aircraft was the largest component of U.S. arms sales, according to the Security Assistance Monitor. Under the first year of the Trump administration, sales of bombs and missiles dominated. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
10. **Withdrawal of US military support will end the war in Yemen. Daalder and Lindsay ‘18**

    **Daalder and Lindsay 10/26** - Ivo Daalder (president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs) and James Lindsay (senior vice president at the Council of Foreign Relations), 10-26-2018, "How Trump should, but probably won't, confront Saudi Arabia," Chicago Tribune, https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-perspec-american-leadership-saudi-arabia-jamal-khashoggi-murder-mbs-1029-story.html SD

    • Second, until such an investigation has been completed and those guilty are brought to justice, **the United States should suspend all arms sales to Saudi Arabia**, and convince its allies to do the same. **The kingdom depends almost entirely upon U.S.**, British and French **arms supplies, including for maintenance and training. That provides real leverage. The Saudis have too much invested in U.S.** and Western **weapons to quickly switch to** Russian or Chinese **substitutes.**∂ • Third, the time has come to pressure Riyadh to end its indiscriminate bombing and brutal war in Yemen. Prince Mohammed started this ill-fated military mission two years ago, ostensibly to prevent Iranian inroads onto the Arabian Peninsula. But the conflict has done little to blunt Iran while killing tens of thousands of Yemenis, wounding hundreds of thousands of others and leaving millions destitute, facing wide-scale famine and disease with no help in sight. **Without U.S. intelligence and weapons supplies, the** Saudi and United Arab Emirates **bombing** effort **would quickly end.**∂ Real leadership would begin with Washington reminding Riyadh that the U.S.-Saudi relationship isn’t one of equals. The White House holds most of the cards, and it is high time to use them. Doing anything less will embolden Prince Mohammed to continue his reckless behavior — and risk triggering an even greater crisis — while deeply damaging America’s credibility as a defender of human rights. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
11. #### Cutting all military aid now is key – failure to do culminates in millions of deaths and massive structural violence

    Hiatt 11/12/18 Fred Hiatt is the editorial page editor of The Post. He writes editorials for the newspaper and a biweekly column that appears on Mondays. Hiatt has been with The Post since 1981. Earlier, he worked as a reporter for the Atlanta Journal and the Washington Star. At The Post, he covered government, politics, development and other issues in Fairfax County and statewide in Virginia, and later military and national security affairs on the newspaper's national staff. From 1987 to 1990, he and his wife were co-bureau chiefs of The Post's Northeast Asia bureau in Tokyo, and from 1991 to 1995 they served as correspondents and co-bureau chiefs in Moscow. He joined the editorial board in 1996 and became editorial page editor in 2000. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/to-rescue-yemen-the-us-must-end-all-military-support-of-the-saudi-coalition/2018/11/12/aca29358-e6ad-11e8-b8dc-66cca409c180_story.html>

    TWO WEEKS ago, the Trump administration took a first step toward reining in the reckless Saudi regime under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, calling for a cease-fire in the war Saudi Arabia has been waging in Yemen — a military failure that has created the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. The Saudi response: a new offensive with its allies against the port of Hodeida, through which flows 70 percent of the food and medicine for Yemen’s 28 million people — half of whom are on the brink of starvation. An attack on the city was suspended earlier this year under pressure from the United States and the United Nations. Now Saudi planes are again bombing, probably using U.S.-supplied munitions; according to Amnesty International, there were explosions Sunday close to Hodeida’s most important hospital. On Friday, the Pentagon took another step, ending refueling operations for Saudi planes fighting in Yemen. But that also did not stop the offensive. The BBC said street fighting was reported to be continuing Monday. Mohammed bin Salman launched the Yemen intervention in 2015, not long after he took over the Saudi defense ministry. It was supposed to lead to a quick rout of Houthi rebels who had driven Yemen’s government out of the capital, Sanaa. Instead it has become a quagmire in which more than 16,000 civilians have been killed or injured, mostly in Saudi airstrikes that have hit schools, mosques, markets, weddings, funerals and, in August, a bus full of children. Unchastened by that record, the crown prince has since pursued a series of further misadventures, culminating with the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi on Oct. 2. Mohammed bin Salman’s apologists whisper that he has been chastened by the backlash against the Khashoggi murder; that his wings have been clipped; that his militant advisers have been replaced by older and wiser heads. If so, there is no evidence of it in Yemen. On the contrary, the Riyadh regime is all but spitting in the face of one of its last defenders — the Trump administration, which has been trying to protect the crown prince. On Sunday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Mohammed bin Salman and “reiterated the United States’ calls for a cessation of hostilities,” according to the State Department. But at the same time, Mr. Pompeo continues to pretend that Mohammed bin Salman can “hold all of those involved in the [Khashoggi] killing” responsible — even though the crown prince himself is a prime suspect. The United States is rightly supporting a U.N. effort to launch peace negotiations on Yemen by the end of the year. But it has become clear that the only way to force a cease-fire and rescue the millions facing famine and cholera is to end all military support for both Saudi forces and those of its United Arab Emirates allies. There should be no more sales or deliveries of munitions and spare parts; all U.S. intelligence and technical support should be frozen. If the Trump administration will not get tough on the crown prince, on whom it has unwisely pinned much of its Middle East strategy, Congress should act in its place. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
12. Ben Watson of the Atlantic finds in 2018 that,

    Nearly a third of the Saudi-led coalition airstrikes have hit what local observers at the Yemen Data Project, an independent group that collects information on the war, call “non-military” targets [including]. That category includes marketplaces, water and electricity sites, food storage, hospitals, [and] medical centers, mosques and all those kind of things, Craig said. “Less than 45 percent of Yemen’s medical facilities are now operating because of the conflict. People can’t, a lot of the time, afford to get there.” **Since the war** began in March 2015, **Saudi aircraft have bombed water and electrical infrastructure more than 100 times. Beyond that, “there have been 68 air raids that have targeted medical facilities; 183 that have targeted marketplaces,”** Craig said. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
13. Scientists, 1-2-2019, "Mystery of Yemen cholera epidemic solved: The most likely source of the cholera epidemic in Yemen has been discovered by scientists," ScienceDaily, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/01/190102140745.htm>

    The results, [published today (2 January) in Nature](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0818-3) show that genomic data and technologies can enable researchers to estimate the risk of future cholera outbreaks in regions like the Yemen and ultimately be used to better target interventions. Yemen is facing the worst epidemic of cholera since records began. The disease has affected over 1 million people and caused almost 2,500 deaths\*. The United Nations estimate that 16 million of the 29 million people in Yemen lack access to safe water and basic sanitation\*\*. The population in Yemen has experienced two outbreaks of cholera; the first occurred between September 2016 and April 2017, and the second began later in April 2017 and has since resulted in more than 1 million suspected cases. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
14. Second is poverty. Hassan Osman Gaal of Benadir University finds that preserving infrastructure is crucial to preventing poverty in Yemen.

    The purpose of this study is to investigate lack of infrastructure: the impact on economic development as a case of Benadir region and Hir-shabelle in Somalia. A survey research method was adopted to examine the impact of lack of infrastructure on economic development. The data were collected through questionnaires filled by the respondents equally. The results of the questionnaire were analyzed by using SPSS version 16.0. The results showed that lack of infrastructure brings poor standard living, economic deficit and improves poverty. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
15. Importantly, the Borgen Project finds in 2017 that 62% of Yemen’s population is in poverty.

    Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the Arab Region and is home to ongoing civil conflict – which turned to Civil War in 2015. Of Yemen’s 26.8 million people, half of the population lives in areas directly affected by conflict. Basic services like healthcare and education are on the verge of collapse. This unrest has taken a toll on the Yemen poverty rate. Before 2015, nearly half of Yemenis lived below the poverty line. As of 2017, the World Bank estimates that number has increased to 62 percent. Nearly 60 percent of Yemenis are food insecure. Since 2015, malnutrition has increased by 57 percent. About 14.4 million Yemenis do not have access to safe drinking water or sanitation. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)