

We negate, resolved: The United States should end arm sales with Saudi Arabia.

Our sole Contention is Preserving Peace

According to the BBC in 2018, the civil war in Yemen is a proxy war. The United States backs Saudi Arabia who's military supports the Yemeni government, while Iran backs the Shiite Houthi rebels.

Cambanis '18 The Century Foundation finds that the war has made 22 million Yemenis dependent on humanitarian assistance and 8 million on the brink of famine.

Critically, Doucet '18 of the BBC explains that after 5 years of talks, a breakthrough deal was agreed to between the Hadi government and the Houthi rebels, including a ceasefire in the port city of Hodeidah, a lifeline for humanitarian aid feeding two-thirds of Yemen's population

Unfortunately, halting U.S arm sales to Saudi Arabia exacerbates the conflict in two key ways:

Subpoint A is ending the ceasefire,

First, is by stopping pressure on Saudi Arabia,

Rogin '18 Washington Post explains that because Saudi Arabia is entirely dependent on U.S arms to fight in Yemen, threatening to halt arm sales gives us enormous leverage. Indeed, Bruton '18 NBC News confirms that the best way to force Saudi Arabia's hand to negotiate and continue the ceasefire is to threaten taking away arms until Saudi Arabia fulfils required tasks.

The U.S has exercised this leverage. Rogan '18 Washington Examiner reports that the only reason the Saudis have agreed to the ceasefire is the Trump administration's pressure, and pulling U.S support will end the Saudis interest.

Historically, Thrall '18 notes that the U.S has continually used the threat of denying arm sales across the Middle East to force nations to negotiate peace.

Unfortunately, by immediately ending arm sales, the affirmation would eliminate the U.S' ability to leverage arms to force Saudi Arabia to preserve the ceasefire.

Second, is by emboldening the Houthi rebels,

Carafano '18 [Heritage Foundation](#) explains that ending U.S military support to Saudi Arabia would suddenly weaken the coalition military, emboldening the Houthis and Iran to double-down on attacks and expansion.

Indeed, Posey '18 [Heritage Foundation](#) finds that undermining the military power of the Yemeni government and Saudi coalition will derail efforts to contain the Houthis, making political settlement impossible, and Haqqani '18 [American Interest](#) concludes that the Yemeni war can only end if the U.S actively contains Iran and forces the Houthis to negotiate.

If the Houthis are emboldened absent U.S military pressure, the ceasefire would end - resulting in two devastating impacts:

1. First, is halting the flow of humanitarian aid

Wintour '18 [Guardian](#) explains that the ceasefire opens the port, allowing for humanitarian aid to enter the country, which is crucial, as

Sirgany '18 adds that Saudi Arabia's prior blockade of the port deprived 18 million people of food.

2. Second, is bombing Hodeidah

McKernan '18 [Guardian](#) explains that Saudi Arabia halted their assault on Hodeidah to pursue the ceasefire. However, they have vowed to resume their offensive if the Houthis attack.

BBC '18 explains that this offensive could kill up to 250,000 civilians,

And the IRIN furthers last week that an assault on the city would permanently damage the port, halting the flow of 80% of Yemen's food and humanitarian assistance.

Subpoint B is giving the Houthis the Upper Hand;

The Houthis are strong. Mee '18 explains that the Houthis' elite guerilla fighters are superior to the Saudi coalition on the ground.

However, The United States backed Saudi Air Force has been able to gain the upper hand in the conflict.

Hudson '18 head of counterterrorism at the CIA reports that because of strategic airstrikes, Saudi Arabia was on the verge of a major victory that could push the rebels into an enduring ceasefire.

Unfortunately, ending arms sales to Saudi Arabia would reverse this narrative as the World Peace Foundation concludes in '18 that the Saudi military is highly dependent on U.S weapons and support, and could not operate without them. In fact, Brookings '18 explains that without continual American tech upgrades and spare parts, the Saudi air force would be grounded in days.

There are two devastating impacts to a houthi takeover:

1st is Losing Yemeni Lives

Houthi expansion is disastrous. Wam '19 *Khaleej Times* explains that Houthi rebels have seized 65% of Humanitarian aid, preventing it from getting to the 8 million people on the brink of famine.

And Mathews '18 of *The National Post* continues that the Houthi takeover in Northern Yemen has been accompanied by the oppression of the Baha'is minority with the end goal of extermination and genocide.

2nd is Emboldening Iran,

Anvi '18 of the *New York Post* explains that abandoning the coalition in Yemen, would hand control of the nation to Iran, emboldening them to create more regional instability and “an even worse regional catastrophe.”

Emboldening Iran would be disastrous, the Center for International Crisis '19 found that Iran could potentially start 9 new conflicts in the Middle East, harming millions.

Negate.

Paul Iddon, 1-4-2019, "Saudi Arabia Can't Win Its Own Battles," No Publication, <https://warisboring.com/saudi-arabia-cant-win-its-own-battles/>
Saudi Arabia has relied heavily on air power since its campaign against the Houthis in Yemen began more than two years ago. The kingdom has also sought help from other countries for the ground war—because Saudi Arabia cannot win wars on its own.

In short, the kingdom cannot meaningfully sustain a bombing campaign over its impoverished southern neighbor without the logistical, and military support, of the United States. Which is one reason—of many—why it should opt not to do so. And if Saudi Arabia thinks it can wage an air war over Iran ... forget about it.

James Phillips, xx-xx-xxxx, "Senate Vote on War in Yemen Risks Undermining U.S. and Yemeni Interests, While Boosting Iran's," Heritage Foundation, <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/senate-vote-war-yemen-risks-undermining-us-and-yemeni-interests-while>
An end to U.S. support could also [benefit Iran](#), the Houthis' chief source of support. Iran has sought to transform the Houthi Ansar Allah movement into the "Hezbollah of Yemen"—a permanent threat to regional stability and security that directly conflicts with U.S. interests.

Fisher (3) writes, Max Fisher, 11-5-2013, "Peaceful protest is much more effective than violence for toppling dictators," https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2013/11/05/peaceful-protest-is-much-more-effective-than-violence-in-toppling-dictators/?utm_term=.99e9ea685b2e

Violent resistance movements, even if they do succeed, can create a lot of long-term problems. "It turns out that the way you resist matters in the long run, too," she says, explaining that her data suggest that countries with nonviolent uprisings "were way more likely to emerge with democratic institutions." They were also 15 percent less likely to "relapse" into civil war. After all, a nonviolent movement is often inherently democratic, a sort of expression of mass public opinion outside of the ballot box. A violent movement, on the other hand, no matter what its driving ideals, is all about legitimizing power through force; it's not hard to see how its victorious participants would end up keeping power primarily through violence, as well

IRIN

<https://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2019/02/06/whatever-happened-ceasefire-deal-yemen>

If the Stockholm Agreement – particularly the Hodeidah deal – falls apart, it could precipitate the sort of large-scale battle humanitarians have [warned](#) could lead to massive civilian casualties, including a possible siege on the city and the destruction of Hodeidah's vital port.

Benny Avni, 11-14-2018, "US must be careful not to hand Yemen to Iran," New York Post, <https://nypost.com/2018/11/14/us-must-be-careful-not-to-hand-yemen-to-iran/>

Worse: **Iran, which according to a new Reuters report is ramping up its military support in Yemen, is tightening its grip in the neighborhood — a recipe for endless regional instability.**

Of course, these are the same officials who sent pallets of cash to Tehran in the lead-up to the nuclear deal, **enabling — even encouraging — Iran’s regional aggression. Should we now do something similar in Yemen?**

The war is obviously a nightmare for Yemenis. But so are **the Houthis’ tactics. And handing them — and Iran — victory now will likely lead to future unrest that no one can guarantee will be less cruel or deadly.**

Instead, **America should deepen its support for the Saudi-led coalition and help — heck, force — it to pursue a smarter, more effective and less cruel war strategy.**

As Foundation for Defense of Democracies vice president Jonathan Schanzer puts it, we must **“find a way to address Saudi inadequacies without ceding ground to Iran.”** Washing our hands of Yemen may feel good, but it won’t guarantee peace — and will likely only lead to **an even worse regional catastrophe.**

Wam, 1-6-2019, "Houthis loot 65% of aid sent through Hodeida," Khaleej Times,
<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/region/mena/houthis-loot-65-of-aid-sent-through-hodeida>

The Houthi militia has seized and looted 65 per cent of the humanitarian aid sent for the people of Yemen through the port of Hodeida, according to Yemen Minister of Local Administration Abdul Raqeeb Fatah.

, National Post, 6-5-2018, "Iran’s allies are preparing a genocide in Yemen. But there’s still time to stop it,"
<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/irans-allies-are-preparing-a-genocide-in-yemen-but-theres-still-time-to-stop-it>

In the midst of a devastating civil war in Yemen, the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have asserted control over the country’s northern region, which includes the capital of Sana’a. **Iran’s support for the Houthis has been accompanied by an alarming pattern of persecution and hateful rhetoric aimed at Yemen’s peaceful Baha’i minority.**

Baha’is have been brutally oppressed in Iran, a policy that has been pushed by hardline Shia clerics. Confidential documents released to the United Nations have now revealed the Iranian theocracy is not just content with persecuting this minority within its own borders. The Iranian government has put in place a policy “to confront and destroy their cultural roots outside the country.” Now, it appears that **this policy is being implemented in Yemen under the cover of war.**

Abdel-Malek al-Houthi, the leader of the Houthis in Yemen, has begun to publicly incite hatred against Baha’is. His inflammatory remarks have unmistakable genocidal intent. When viewed in light of the Houthi authorities’ actions against Yemeni Baha’is, his goal can only be seen as one of extermination and possible genocide.

The Iranian-backed Houthi takeover in northern Yemen has been accompanied by the systematic oppression of Yemeni Baha’is. In 2016, dozens of Baha’is, including children, were arrested for participating in an educational gathering. In 2017, several prominent Baha’is were targeted for arrest. In January 2018, Hamed bin Haydara, a Baha’i detained since 2013 for his religious beliefs, was sentenced to public execution. The government also announced the dissolution of all Baha’i administrative bodies in Yemen. The Houthis are also monitoring and seeking to identify Baha’is.

According to credible reports, **the Houthi efforts to persecute Baha’is are being directed by Iranian authorities.** A number of prominent Yemenis, include some among the Houthis, have appealed for the release of imprisoned Baha’is. However, **high-ranking officials in the government’s National Security Bureau appear to be resisting pressure because of instructions from Iran.**

Haqqani '18

<https://www.the-american-interest.com/2018/10/04/ending-the-not-so-futile-war-in-yemen/>

The Houthi movement comprises well-armed and well-trained fighters, and since 2003 has adopted the slogan: "God is great, death to the U.S., death to Israel, curse the Jews, and victory for Islam." The group officially calls itself Ansar Allah, or supporters of God. Its insistence on seeking power through military means indicates that it is not confident of support, even among Yemen's Shi'a population.

Hezbollah, the Lebanese militia, serves as the role model for the Houthis. **They have accumulated sophisticated weaponry from Iran** and have boldly threatened Saudi Arabia with missile attacks, much as Hezbollah attempted to show strength and harness support by attacking Israeli civilians.

Hudson, head of counterterrorism CIA., "America Wins if Houthi Rebels Lose in Yemen," No Publication,

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2018/07/03/america_wins_if_houthi_rebels_lose_in_yemen_137412.html

The deadly civil war in Yemen has reached a climax after three ugly years. No one can know for sure, but it looks like **the coalition led by Saudi Arabia is on the verge of a major victory that could push the Iranian-backed rebels into an enduring cease-fire.**

Houthis took control of Hodeidah early in the war. They have been able to ration food and medicine using this chokepoint. But the Saudi-Emirati coalition and its Yemeni allies refuse accept this status quo. All sides know how important the port is and that losing it would be the greatest military setback the Houthis have suffered. Indeed, if the Houthis were to lose Hodeidah, they might be forced to sue for peace or at least allow Yemeni government forces to reopen the vital artery.

But expelling the Houthi movement from Hodeidah would be an important step toward returning control to the legitimate government. At the very least, a coalition victory in the port city will diminish the Houthi's military capacity and prevent them from manipulating the flow of humanitarian aid so badly needed in the rest of Yemen.

Western and U.S. interests would come out winners if the Houthis were defeated. Iran's obsession with meddling in its neighbors' business would be seriously set back. Saudi Arabia would no longer fear for its safety on its southern border. Commerce in the Red Sea could go back to normal.

The battle for Hodeidah underway on Yemen's west coast is pivotal to that outcome. Short of joining the actual fighting, **the U.S. should support efforts to help our allies in this cause.**

CARDS:

A Civil, 12-18-2018, "Yemen crisis: Why is there a war?," BBC News, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423>

Campanis, Thanassis and Michael Wahid Hanna, The Century Foundation, "The War in Yemen Is a Tragedy—and America Can End Its Complicity", 24 October 2018, <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/war-yemen-tragedy-america-can-end-complicity/?session=1>

The war quickly distinguished itself as a humanitarian fiasco even in a region already host to some of the most violent crises of our time, namely in Libya and Syria. The scope of destruction and human suffering in Yemen is staggering. Some estimates hold that 50,000 have died in Yemen as a direct consequence of military action, half of them civilians; perhaps many more have died from war-related disease and malnutrition. At least 2.3 million Yemenis have been displaced according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. More than 22 million Yemenis require some form of humanitarian assistance; 8 million are on the brink of famine; and 16 million do not have access to safe drinking water. In October 2016, Yemen suffered an outbreak of cholera affecting nearly a million people, only to be further exacerbated by the war. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, of preventable causes.⁸

U.S LEVERAGE LINK

Tom Rogan, 2-9-2019, "Ending US support for Saudi Arabia would make things much worse in Yemen," Washington Examiner, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/ending-us-support-for-saudi-arabia-would-make-things-much-worse-in-yemen#>

But the problem is that the senators are wrong. **If the U.S. pulls its functional support for the Saudi alliance**, two negative consequences will immediately follow. First, the Saudis will lose all the inhibitions about accurate targeting of Houthi formations that American intervention has forced. Second, **Riyadh will lose interest in energetic efforts by Washington to reach a durable cease fire.**

Both of those developments will be disastrous for Yemeni civilians. For a start, **the only reason the Saudis are now moving toward a cease fire is the [Trump administration's pressure](#).** Trump has earned Saudi trust and their corresponding deference on issues negatively affecting America: in this case, the human suffering of the Yemeni civil war.

Lyse Doucet, 12-29-2018, "What will the new year hold for Yemen?," BBC News, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-46524251>

As 2018 drew to a close, the image of a Yemeni government minister and a senior Houthi official shaking hands on a **deal, which included a surprising ceasefire in the strategic port city of Hudaydah**, shot like an electric current around the world.

The process, led by the UN's third Yemen envoy Martin Griffiths, **marked the most significant breakthrough in five years of talks. Other breakthroughs included the mechanics of a mass prisoner exchange which, if implemented, will bring joy and relief to thousands of families.** An "understanding" was also reached to discuss a punishing siege on the south-western city of Taiz.

A major litmus test will be the critical ceasefire in the port city of Hudaydah, the vital lifeline for humanitarian aid which helps feed nearly two-thirds of Yemen's population.

"The establishment of a ceasefire in Hudaydah is a crucial first step toward averting outright famine in Yemen and perhaps even toward ending the war," says Joost Hiltermann of the International Crisis Group, "yet the good intentions of the fighting parties should not be taken for granted."

Enhanced US engagement in this process has been pivotal. The murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October has concentrated minds in Washington on its relationship with the kingdom, including its military support in Yemen.

As anger mounted in the US Congress, both Secretary of State Mike **Pompeo** and Secretary of Defence Jim **Mattis** **called for a ceasefire and a commitment to the Stockholm process.**

The next round of talks, set for late January, will be tougher. Yemen's year ends with less pessimism, even if a new one is certain to start with more surprises as well as setbacks.

Rubin, Michael. [Resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. A former Pentagon official, he teaches classes on terrorism for the FBI and on security, politics, religion and history for U.S. and NATO military units. He has a Ph.D. in history from Yale University]. "It's time to move the US Embassy to Yemen out of Saudi Arabia". The Hill, Nov 14, 2018. <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/416498-its-time-to-move-the-us-embassy-to-yemen-out-of-saudi-arabia>

Many in Washington blame Saudi Arabia. **On October 31, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called for a ceasefire within 30 days so that peace talks can convene. On November 10, Mattis announced a cessation of U.S. refueling support for Saudi aircraft operating over Yemen and, the following day, 30 Obama administration national security officials published a letter demanding "a suspension of all U.S. support for the campaign in Yemen" due to "the Saudi leadership's prosecution of the war."** It is a demand with which many Republicans agree. **The murder by Saudi agents of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi six weeks ago has only heightened broad bipartisan unease with Saudi Arabia** and its ambitious but erratic Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Thrall, A. Trevor, and Dorminey, Caroline. [Thrall is an associate professor at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University and a senior fellow at the Cato Institute. Dorminey is a policy analyst at the Cato Institute]. "Risky Business". Cato Institute, Mar 13, 2018. <https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/pa-836.pdf>

THE CASE FOR ARMS SALES Few tools have been used in pursuit of so many foreign policy objectives as arms sales. The United States has sold weapons to its NATO allies to ensure their ability to defend Western Europe; to friendly governments around the world facing insurgencies and organized crime; to allies in the Pacific (buffering them against China's rising military power); and to both Israel and many of its Arab neighbors in efforts to maintain regional stability and influence over Middle Eastern affairs. **The United States has used arms sales, as well as the threat of denying arms, in efforts to influence human rights policies, to help end conflicts, to gain access to military bases, and to encourage fair elections.** Since 9/11, the new central focus of U.S. weapons sales has been to bolster the global war on terror.³⁶ Despite their many uses, arms sales impact foreign affairs through two basic mechanisms. The first involves using arms sales to shift the balance of power and capabilities between the recipient and its neighbors, thereby helping allies win wars or deter adversaries, promote local and regional

stability, or buttress friendly governments against insurgencies and other internal challenges.³⁷ During the Cold War, American arms sales became part of a broader strategy to deter the Soviet Union from invading Western Europe. In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the United States sold weapons to Afghanistan and Iraq to bolster their ability to defeat the Taliban, al Qaeda, and the Islamic State. By selling advanced weaponry to Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and Australia, the United States hoped to balance rising Chinese power and promote regional stability. Although the specific objectives differ, at root the causal mechanism is the same: using arms sales to shift the balance of power in a direction more favorable to American interests.³⁸ Figure 1 Distribution of U.S. arms sales, 2002–2016 Source: Security Assistance Monitor, <https://securityassistance.org/>. Note: The size of the circles indicates the frequency of arms deals struck, not the quantity or price, and is intended to show which nations have long-standing buyer-seller relationships with the United States. “Few tools have been used in pursuit of so many foreign policy objectives as arms sales.”¹⁰ The second mechanism involves using arms sales to generate leverage over the conduct of other nations. As the producer of the world’s most advanced and sought-after weaponry, the United States can dictate, at least to some degree, the conditions under which it will agree to sell certain weapons.³⁹ As Andrew Shapiro puts it, “When a country acquires an advanced U.S. defense system, they are not simply buying a product to enhance their security, they are also seeking a relationship with the United States. This engagement helps build bilateral ties

and creates strong incentives for recipient countries to maintain good relations with the United States.”⁴⁰ American influence is thought to be most potent in cases where the United States provides a nation with a large share of its military capabilities. In the wake of U.S. pressure to halt Israeli defense exports to China, for example, an Israeli official acknowledged, “If the United States, which provides Israel with \$2 billion in annual military aid, demands that we will not sell anything to China—then we won’t. If the Americans decide we should not be selling arms to other countries as well—Israel will have no choice but to comply.”

Josh Rogin, 10-16-2018, "Opinion," Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/josh-rogin/wp/2018/10/16/trump-has-it-totally-and-completely-backwards-on-saudi-arms-sales/?noredirect=on>

When President Trump argues that the United States can’t halt arms sales to Saudi Arabia over the Saudis’ alleged murder of journalist and Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi, he’s giving up a key piece of leverage over Riyadh for no reason at all. What’s worse, Trump is also turning one of America’s best strategic assets into a liability, a massive unforced error that could weaken the United States worldwide.

Trump has said repeatedly he doesn’t want to halt — or even threaten to halt — U.S. arms sales to the Saudi regime because (he says) it would cost U.S. jobs and hand over a sweet contract to Moscow or Beijing.

Set aside that Trump’s claim of \$110 billion of arms sales to Saudi Arabia as announced last year is hugely exaggerated, considering that number [mostly refers to](#) deals struck during the Obama administration and new deals that haven’t yet materialized. **The significant arms-sales relationship we do have with Saudi Arabia gives us enormous leverage over them,** leverage Trump should use to pressure King Salman to reveal what his regime knows about Khashoggi’s disappearance.

U.S. arms sales are not simply a financial deal or a jobs program; **they represent a strategic advantage of the United States. Countries want U.S. weapons because they are the best. That gives us connections, influence and, yes, leverage over these countries.** That’s how arms sales have always worked, until Trump flipped the script.

Bruton, F. Brinley. [London-based senior editor for NBC News Digital. She focuses on news from the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan]. “The U.S. wants the Yemen war to end. Will it stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia?”. NBC News, Nov 5, 2018. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-wants-yemen-war-end-will-it-stop-selling-n929921>

Senior U.S. officials have gone further than ever before in calling for an end to the Saudi-led war in Yemen — a conflict that has pushed 14 million people to the brink of starvation. **“Coalition airstrikes must cease in all populated areas in Yemen,” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last Tuesday.** The same day, **Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said all sides needed to take meaningful steps toward a cease-fire and begin negotiations in**

the next 30 days. The comments raised the prospect that the Trump administration is getting tougher with the Saudis over their military campaign against Iran-linked Houthi rebels, which has killed more than 10,000 people in the desperately poor country since 2015. All sides have been accused of violating international law and committing war crimes. A girl suffering from severe malnutrition is weighed at a treatment center in a hospital in YemenA girl suffering from severe malnutrition is weighed at a hospital in Yemen on Oct. 25.Essa Ahmed / AFP - Getty Images Washington supports Saudi Arabia and its ally, the United Arab Emirates, through billions in arms sales. It also refuels their jets mid-air, provides training and shares intelligence. **So if the U.S. wants to try to force the Saudis’ hands, it has leverage. The best way to force the**

Saudis to change their ways is to stop sending weapons, according to Human Rights Watch's Yemen researcher Kristine Beckerle. "You've gotten so many violations already over the past three and a half years, so what Pompeo and Mattis should be doing is saying, 'These are the benchmarks. We're going to hold up weapons sales until you actually fulfill these tasks,'"

"We hope that the current pressure can serve as a turning point. For far too long, arms-dealing governments have prioritized arms company profits over the rights and lives of Yemeni people."

HOUTHI EMBOLDEN

James Carafano, 3-8-2018, "Chaos Will Erupt in the Middle East If U.S. Leaves Yemen," Heritage Foundation, <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/chaos-will-erupt-the-middle-east-if-us-leaves-yemen>

Legal scholars debate the constitutionality of the War Powers Act. Still, even if the Hill could tell the president to pull out of Yemen, it should not. **If America walks away, it will only bring more war, not peace.**

America is there for a reason: to keep the region from falling apart. The collapse of any friendly regime there is bad for us.

If Congress forces the administration to abandon our allies, Tehran, ISIS, and al-Qaida would feel emboldened and likely double-down on expanding the war.

Instead of turning our back on Yemen, the U.S. should focus on ending the war. The longer the conflict persists, the more the chaos benefits terrorist groups in the region and the more the main rebel group, the Houthis, becomes dependent on Iran.

Rather than pull out, the U.S. should continue to use its presence and influence to establish the conditions that will allow for the delivery of humanitarian aid and the start of real peace negotiations that put the people of Yemen first.

Instead of turning our back on Yemen, the U.S. should focus on ending the war. The longer the conflict persists, the more the chaos benefits terrorist groups in the region and the more the main rebel group, the Houthis, becomes dependent on Iran.

Pressing the regime overall will strain its capacity to support the rebels in Yemen – and that may lead to all sides in the conflict coming to the peace table sooner rather than later.

Husain Haqqani, 10-4-2018, "Ending the Not-So-Futile War in Yemen," American Interest, <https://www.the-american-interest.com/2018/10/04/ending-the-not-so-futile-war-in-yemen/>

The conflict in Yemen is unlikely to end any time soon unless interested outside powers, especially the United States, play an active role in containing Iran and forcing the Houthis to the negotiating table.

Madysen Hutchinson Posey, 1-22-2018, "Ending U.S. Military Support for Saudi Arabia in Yemen Would Trigger Dangerous Consequences," Heritage Foundation, <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/ending-us-military-support-saudi-arabia-yemen-would-trigger-dangerous>
The killing of Khashoggi was certainly abhorrent, but **ending U.S. support for the multinational coalition in Yemen is not the proper solution. It risks dangerously conflating two separate issues and would inevitably trigger unintended consequences that would undermine U.S. national security interests in the region.**

Senators must remember that Saudi Arabia is not the only belligerent in Yemen. **A cutoff of U.S. support would also hurt the elected and internationally recognized government of Yemen, which was ousted by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in 2015 in a bloody coup that violated a [U.N.-brokered ceasefire](#).**

Withdrawing U.S. support would also harm the interests of other U.S. allies fighting in Yemen, including the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. The war in Yemen is complex. Those who rush to blame Saudi Arabia entirely for the suffering of the Yemeni people ignore the war crimes and heavy-handed treatment meted out by the Houthis to their opponents and the ruthless role that Iran plays in supporting the Houthi Ansar Allah ("Supporters of Allah") movement, a Shia Islamist extremist group.

Those who advocate withdrawing support for Saudi Arabia apparently believe that they can somehow end the current conflict in Yemen through a one-sided strategy that penalizes allies and boosts Ansar Allah, a group that chants "Death to America" and looks more like Hezbollah, Iran's Lebanese proxy group, every day.

Never mind that Saudi Arabia is supporting the internationally recognized government of Yemen in this effort. Never mind that leaving Ansar Allah to run amuck will not bring an end to the humanitarian suffering, but only prolong it.

The Trump administration already has stopped the aerial refueling of Saudi warplanes involved in the Yemen conflict and called for a negotiated settlement. But the United States cannot afford to abandon its allies and hope for the best. Undermining the Yemeni government and the Saudi-led coalition would make an acceptable political settlement impossible.

The Yemeni government and Saudi Arabia will continue to fight this war with or without U.S. support. Those who would connect two unrelated issues, condemn Saudi involvement, and ignore Iran's hostile role inside Yemen will only do more harm to innocent Yemeni civilians and empower Iran and its Yemeni proxies.

CURBING HUMANITARIAN AID

Bethan McKernan, 11-15-2018, "Yemen: Saudi-led coalition orders halt to Hodeidah offensive," Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/15/yemen-saudi-led-coalition-orders-halt-to-hodeidah-offensive>

The Saudi-led coalition has ordered a temporary halt to its offensive against Houthi rebels occupying **Yemen's** main port city, Hodeidah, officials have said, raising hopes that a more lasting ceasefire can be reached to end fighting that threatens to push the country into **full-blown famine**.

Humanitarian workers fear damage to Hodeidah's Red Sea port – through which an estimated 80% of Yemen's food, fuel and aid flows – will lead to the UN having to declare a mass famine.

Several coalition attempts to retake the city have been postponed over fears of a humanitarian disaster for both the city's 600,000 residents and the rest of the country if aid supplies are cut off. Commanders believe that driving the Houthis out of Hodeidah will clear a path to Sana'a and bring the war to an end.

BBC News, 12-18-2018, "Ceasefire takes effect in key Yemen port," <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-46600430>

The UN has warned that in a worst-case scenario, the battle for Hudaydah could cost up to 250,000 lives and cut off aid supplies to millions elsewhere.

Humanitarian workers fear damage to Hodeidah's Red Sea port – through which an estimated 80% of Yemen's food, fuel and aid flows – will lead to the UN having to declare a mass famine.

Patrick Wintour, 12-13-2018, "Yemen: ceasefire agreed for port city of Hodeidah," Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/13/yemen-ceasefire-agreed-for-vital-port-city-of-hodeidah>

Yemen's warring parties have agreed to an immediate ceasefire in the Red Sea port of Hodeidah, the UN secretary general has said, in a potential breakthrough at the end of a week of peace talks in Sweden.

Antonio Guterres said the agreement included the future deployment of UN-supervised neutral forces and the establishment of humanitarian corridors. Troops from both sides will withdraw from the entire Hodeidah area within a maximum of 21 days in a process overseen by a UN-chaired committee.

A political framework for [Yemen](#) will be discussed in a next round of meetings, scheduled for late January.

If implemented on the ground, the deal would represent a breakthrough because the port is the gateway for the bulk of humanitarian aid coming into the country, and has been the subject of intense fighting. Ceasefires have also been agreed at two other ports, Salif and Ras Issa.

Guterres said the UN would play a key role when the troops withdrew. "It is obvious the UN will play an important role in the port, probably a monitoring role and the management of that port," he said. **This would help "facilitate the humanitarian flow of goods to the civilian population and it will improve the living conditions for millions of Yemenis".**

The UN special envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, said troops would withdraw from the port within days, and from the wider city in a second phase. **He said the ceasefire was designed to open up the east-west road that connects Hodeidah to the capital, Sana'a "so that the humanitarian pipeline, which is crucial to the people of Yemen, can start delivering aid".**

Sarah El Sirgany, Tamara Qiblawi and Nicole Gaouette, Cnn, 11-19-2018, "Saudi-backed Yemen government agrees to peace talks," CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/19/middleeast/yemen-government-peace-talks-intl/index.html>

Saudi Arabia's partial blockade of the country has deprived 18 million people of reliable access to food, creating the conditions for the worst famine in 100 years, according to the UN.

Patrick Wintour, 1-30-2019, "Yemen ceasefire looks dire but is holding, says UN envoy," Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/30/yemen-ceasefire-is-holding-says-un-envoy>

Yemen's fragile ceasefire is holding and [Saudi Arabia](#) remains intent on reaching a negotiated end to the four-year-old civil war, Martin Griffiths, the UN special envoy for the country, has said.

Admitting the state of the ceasefire looked dire from the outside, he nevertheless said the **key metric for the UN was the absence of offensive military operations to take territory and the end of Saudi airstrikes in the area.**

Griffiths said **the vital next steps were gaining access to grain in Hodeidah's mills,** and a UN-sponsored meeting between the warring factions to start the process of redeploying Houthi troops.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4, he said **the UN world food programme needed access to the mills in which enough grain to feed nearly 4 million Yemenis** for a month had remained since October. Houthis claimed on Wednesday they were fired on by government forces as they tried to de-mine the route to the mills.

Griffiths refused to disclose the proposed venue or agenda for the next critical meeting but said: "It is the redeployments out of the port and out of the city which are the essential aim of the Stockholm agreement – **to demilitarise the entire port and city area. If we don't, the ceasefire will inevitably fray and disappear.**"

LOSING WAR

Mee Correspondent, 7-26-2018, "Stalemate in Yemen: Why has the battle for Hodeidah ground to a halt?," Middle East Eye, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/stalemate-yemen-why-has-battle-hodeidah-ground-halt>

But then, after just a week, the forces ground to a halt, **turning Hodeidah into another battlefield stalemate.**

One problem, according to a pro-government fighter who spoke to Middle East Eye on condition of anonymity, is **the number of landmines that the Houthis have laid on the city's outskirts.**

The soldier said the fighting had come to a halt at the airport, an early battleground in the conflict and a key target for attacking forces. There had been no further instructions to advance, he said, because **the Houthis have already dug in, ready for battle.**

"The Houthis heavily planted landmines and their snipers are spread everywhere," he said. "Moreover, **huge reinforcements have been arriving for the Houthis in Hodeidah, including their elite fighters.**"

"When the Houthi militia backed by Iran took over the capital, Sanaa [in September 2014], they seized all the army units and their arms," he said. "So the government has been forced to establish a new army over the last three years."

But while battles are ongoing on the outskirts of the province, including near al-Boqe, **there has yet to be any major pro-government breakthrough in two years.**

"The coalition does not want to admit that **the Houthis have equivalent forces on the ground. The Houthis are stronger on the ground, but the Saudi-led coalition use the air strikes and battleships to stop the advance of the Houthis and to support the pro-Hadi fighters.**"

FORCE HOUTHIS TO NEGOTIATE

DIVERTING HUM AID / GENOCIDE

