“At Yemeni checkpoints from Sana’a to the port city of Hodeida, child soldiers stand guard, knowing full well it is American bombs that are falling from the skies."

Because we want to escape this bleak reality, we affirm.

**Our Sole Contention is Ending the War.**

A coalition of Saudi forces first intervened in the Yemen civil war in 2015 to fight against the Houthi rebels. Since then, the conflict has quickly devolved into a humanitarian catastrophe.

Hartung ‘18 of the Center for International Policy finds that Saudi Arabia’s coalition has directly escalated the conflict, launching attacks that have displaced or killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians.

The US is at fault. Weber ‘18 of the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs explains that most if not all of Saudi’s strikes use American made ammunition and equipment.

*Arms sales thus prevent meaningful negotiations in two ways.*

***First is by convincing Saudi Arabia they can win.***

Bazzi ‘18 of the Atlantic writes that sending arms to Saudi Arabia signals to Saudi leaders that a clear victory in Yemen is possible, emboldening Saudis to put aside negotiations and focus on a military victory.

However, Saudi forces would have no capability of fighting absent US arms.

Riedel ‘18 of the Brookings Institution finds that since Saudi Arabia directly depends on the US for munitions and spare parts, its forces would immediately be grounded if the US halted arms sales.

Because Saudi Arabia is so directly integrated with the US, Hartung reports that it would take decades for Saudi Arabia to transition away from U.S. equipment.

Thus, Bazzi furthers that Saudi Arabia is more likely to accept a peace process if it is clear that the US won’t provide the military assistance required to keep fighting the war.

***Second is forcing the Houthis to the table.***

*Saudi militarism justifies Houthi aggression.*

DePetris ‘18 of Defense One explains that the US-Saudi military campaign against the Houthis gives the rebels legitimacy by allowing them to claim that *they* are defending Yemen from outside aggression.

*Militarism does not force the Houthis to negotiate.* Lynch ‘18 of Foreign Policy concludes that most Saudi airstrikes target civilians rather than Houthi leaders, meaning they do not push the Houthis to the table.

*This delays peace talks.*

Stratfor ‘18 writes, “So long as the Houthis manage to portray the Saudi-led coalition as the aggressors, they can keep up their recruitment numbers and preserve their standing with the many tribes of north Yemen.”

*Conversely, ending support would force the Houthis to the negotiating table.*

Stratfor furthers that the “Houthis....could lose the legitimacy they have gained in northern Yemen if supporters believe that *they* are responsible for prolonging the conflict,” meaning that the Houthis’ legitimacy and political power will be on the line unless they lay down their arms along with Saudi Arabia.

Zvi Bar’el ‘15 of Ha’aretz explains that the Houthis need legitimacy to maintain their powerful leadership.

***For these two reasons...***

Griffiths ‘18 of the UN notes that “a negotiated political settlement through inclusive intra-Yemeni dialogue is the only way to end the Yemeni conflict and address the ongoing humanitarian crisis.”

*Absent a shift to dialogue, the conflict in Yemen will only intensify.*

The UN reports in 2018 that more than 17 million people—over 60 percent of Yemen’s population—are at immediate risk of famine. and Bazzi adds that absent measures right now, the war in Yemen will lead to the death of over 250,000 people from starvation and disease alone.

Overall, Jaber 18 of the Gulf International Forum adds that Western countries’ arms sales to parties involved in the Yemeni crisis have been the key factor keeping the war from ending.

*Even if negotiations are not successful,* Byman ‘18 of the Brookings Institute finds that simply the act of ending arms sales will reduce the scope and scale of violence in Yemen. Thus, Rio ‘17 of Williams College quantifies that US arms sales to Saudi Arabia are responsible for over 10,000 civilian casualties.

**Thus, we affirm.**