

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

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TOPLINE TAKEAWAY

- *Yemen is burning. The United States is complicit. And we have to a chance to change it.*

BIPARTISAN GROUP OF SENATORS PUSH FOR VOTE ON U.S. PARTICIPATION IN YEMEN'S CIVIL WAR

Saudi Arabia's military intervention into Yemen against Houthi rebels, ongoing since March 2015, has **caused one of the worst humanitarian disasters this planet has ever known**. U.S. supported, Saudi-led coalition airstrikes are the leading cause of civilian casualties in the conflict and a key driver of the humanitarian crisis according to the UN. Over 3 million people have been displaced, millions more lack clean water and sanitation, and roughly [22 million](#) of the country's 27 million people are in acute need of humanitarian aid to survive.

Due to the Saudi-led coalition's blockade of Yemen, 8.4 millions are on the brink of starvation, while airstrikes on vital civilian infrastructure have facilitated the outbreak of the largest and fastest-growing cholera outbreak in modern history. A diphtheria outbreak is now also sweeping the country. That's why a Yemeni child under 5 [dies](#) from starvation or preventable disease every 10 minutes.

The United States has literally fueled this tragedy, as the U.S. military has provided the Saudi-led coalition with mid-air refueling that are essential to the coalition's bombing runs inside Yemen, as well as intelligence for targeting and other logistical matters. **Yet Congress has never debated or authorized U.S. military involvement in this war against the Houthis, that's not covered by any current AUMF.**

Now, **we have the opportunity to end the U.S. role and complicity in Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen**, and help alleviate the suffering in this war torn country.

This week, a bipartisan group of Senators led by Bernie Sanders and Mike Lee has forced Congress to have this long overdue debate by introducing a joint resolution ([S.J.Res. 54](#)) forcing

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a vote to terminate U.S. participation in this war. Senators Sanders, Lee, and Murphy [explain](#) why this introduced this resolution to force a vote.

If passed, this resolution will:

- Remove U.S. forces from unauthorized military operations in Yemen within 30 days unless Congress acts to authorize such actions.
- This resolution would specifically end U.S. mid-air refueling, targeting assistance, logistical support, and withdraw U.S. military personnel from the joint command center that supports the coalition's war against the Houthis.
- The resolution does not affect counterterrorism operations authorized by the 2001 AUMF.

Key contextual facts:

- Congress has never declared war or passed a statutory authorization for the use of force against the Houthis in Yemen, making this war unconstitutional.
- The Department of Defense's legal justification for U.S. military support to the coalition relies on overly expansive interpretation of Article II powers, and [a discredited interpretation of the legal definition of hostilities](#).
- U.S. targeting assistance and refueling for Saudi-led airstrikes against Houthi rebels in Yemen qualify as "coordination", "accompaniment", and "participation in the movement of" forces engaged "imminently engaged in hostilities," as defined by Section 8(c) of the War Powers Resolution of 1973, and therefore require congressional authorization.
- [Experts from across the political spectrum agree](#): The Saudi-led intervention in Yemen's civil war, and U.S. political and military support, have prolonged the conflict, emboldening Iran and strengthening Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. Only a descalatory strategy to pushes an inclusive peace deal can undermine the influence of these actors and fully address the humanitarian nightmare the war has created.

RESOURCES

One-pager with facts and messaging [[LINK](#)]

Press Conference: Sens. Bernie Sanders and Mike Lee [[LINK](#)]

STAND hosts YemenCantWait webinar with Kate Gould and Kate Kizer [[LINK](#)]

SHARE

Video: Mark Ruffalo: Call your Senator to #StopTheWar [[Twitter](#)] [[Facebook](#)] [[Instagram](#)]

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Video: Explainer by Matthew Duss, Sen. Bernie Sanders' Foreign Policy Adviser [[Twitter](#)]

Video: Avaaz: Save Yemen's Children [[Facebook](#)]

Video: MoveOn & MPower Change: Mokhtar Alkhanshali on escaping Yemen when the airstrikes began and the effect of the war. [[Facebook](#)]

Video: Common Defense: Veterans explain why they support S.J.Res.54 [[Twitter](#)] [[Twitter](#)]
[[Twitter](#)] [[Twitter](#)]

TAKE ACTION

Tell Congress: Stop Fueling War in Yemen [[LINK](#)]

- (Win Without War in collaboration and partnership with: Common Defense, Daily Kos, Demand Progress, Democracy for America, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Just Foreign Policy, The Nation, Peace Action, Progressive Congress Action Fund, Roots Action, Stand, WAND, World Beyond War, CodePink, CREDO, MPower Change, Our Revolution, United for Peace and Justice, The Yemen Peace Project)

Indivisible - Tell Your Senators: End our authorized war in Yemen [[LINK](#)]

PRESS REPORTS

[[Washington Post](#)] [[HuffPost](#)] [[The Intercept](#)] [[Stars and Stripes](#)] [[The Guardian](#)] [[Reuters](#)]

BURIED LEDES

General Milley [noted](#) that “the brutality of [war with North Korea] will be beyond the experience of any living soldier” – an issue either overlooked or disregarded by regime-change advocates Lindsey Graham and John Bolton as they beat the war drums.

The [first openly transgender](#) recruit **signed a contract to join the U.S. military**, since a federal court ruled that the military would have to accept openly transgender people.

VoteVets is [asking for help](#) to **pressure Congress to not fund Trump's military parade**.

The [Pentagon's budget](#) is **corporate welfare for weapons makers**.

Former Obama and Clinton aides have joined forces to take on Trump and [his disastrous national security policy](#).

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We've seen [this before](#), but ... the Afghan government wants to talk to the Taliban, and **the Taliban wants to talk to the United States**.

The [retirement](#) of the State Department's special envoy on North Korea is just the latest example that **the Trump Administration isn't even trying to use diplomacy** to address North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

And finally, Lindsey Graham [lends his voice](#) to the "Let's start a war with Iran in Syria" [caucus](#).