

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



## Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

*Intel for Advocacy*

### TOPLINE TAKEAWAYS

- *We must not ban and deport refuge-seekers fleeing a raging American-fueled war in Yemen.*
- *The Pentagon's priorities continue to trump the priorities of the American people.*

### TRUMP TO WORLD: IF WE BOMB YOU, WE BAN YOU

Instead of providing a check on Donald Trump's most dangerous and bigoted impulses, the Supreme Court voted to uphold the Muslim Ban this week – shamelessly endorsing discrimination against Muslims and handing the president a blank check for more hate and cruelty.

The Supreme Court's ruling comes on the heels of an expected decision by the Trump administration next week on whether to terminate or extend and/or redesignate [Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\) for Yemen](#) -- which allows Yemeni nationals fleeing their country's war and horrific humanitarian crisis to temporarily remain in the United States.

<http://thehill.com/policy/defense/394145-former-officials-advocacy-groups-urge-trump-administration-to-extend-protected>

Yemen is one of the countries [named in the Muslim Ban](#), and alongside this cruel policy – plus the barricades preventing Yemenis from entering the U.S. as refugees or receiving asylum – revoking TPS for Yemen would be tantamount to a death sentence as there is almost **no other pathway for those fleeing Yemen's war to seek refuge in the United States.**

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2018-06-27/i-lost-trust-system-says-us-citizen-who-struggling-reunite-his-yemeni-family>

For over three years, the U.S. has been fueling the world's largest humanitarian crisis by supporting the Saudi Arabia-led coalition's brutal war in Yemen and blocking meaningful pathways to humanitarian and refugee relief. Secretary of State Pompeo [sought this week](#) to lay the blame on Iran and wash his hands of any U.S. complicity in Yemen's suffering. If the Trump administration next week chooses to terminate TPS for Yemen, it will make nearly 1,200 Yemeni nationals vulnerable to deportation.

<https://twitter.com/KateKizer/status/1012493052013957121>

**The U.S. has a moral responsibility to the people of Yemen** and simply cannot continue to fuel and arm coalition jets that bomb schools, [cholera hospitals and humanitarian shelters](#) in

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Yemen, and restrict access to lifesaving assistance for millions, AND then simply expel those seeking shelter for the grave consequences of its immoral actions.

<https://www.justsecurity.org/58437/saudis-deceptive-email-congress-bombing-msf-cholera-hospital/>

“It would be unconscionable for our country to actively support this war and then refuse to protect those who flee from it,” [wrote](#) three former U.S. Ambassadors to Yemen this week.

<https://www.justsecurity.org/58459/trump-administration-extend-tps-yemenis/>

The Ambassadors’ pleas were joined this week by [60 national, state, and local organizations](#) representing tens of millions of Americans, and [nearly three dozen national security leaders](#), including former Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken and former U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power, in letters to the Trump administration making the case to save TPS for Yemen.

[http://winwithoutwar.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/TPS-for-Yemen\\_NGO-sign-on-ltr\\_06.26.182.pdf](http://winwithoutwar.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/TPS-for-Yemen_NGO-sign-on-ltr_06.26.182.pdf)

<https://www.yemenpeaceproject.org/blog-x/tps-letter>

You can read our statement on the Supreme Court’s Muslim Ban decision [here](#).

<http://winwithoutwar.org/scotus-decision-on-trumps-muslim-ban-undermines-our-value-of-religious-freedom-for-all/>

More resources and information on TPS for Yemen:

- 40 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives [tell Secretaries Nielsen and Pompeo](#), “Yemen remains in a constant state of war. For this reason, TPS for Yemen is not only deserved, but warranted under the law.”  
[https://debbiedingell.house.gov/sites/debbiedingell.house.gov/files/documents/180621LTR\\_YemenTPS.pdf](https://debbiedingell.house.gov/sites/debbiedingell.house.gov/files/documents/180621LTR_YemenTPS.pdf)
- [Letter by over 650 faith leaders and organizations](#) to Save TPS for Yemen  
<https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/Yemen-TPS-interfaith-Letter.pdf>
- TPS for Yemen [backgrounder](#) from CLINIC  
<https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/Temporary-Protected-Status-for-Yemen-Final.pdf>
- [TAKE ACTION](#): Call Congress to #SaveTPS for Yemen  
[https://act.winwithoutwar.org/act/national-call-day-save-tps-yemen?refcode=em20180626&t=3&ak\\_proof=1&akid=2266%2E150418%2EvJ1xH5](https://act.winwithoutwar.org/act/national-call-day-save-tps-yemen?refcode=em20180626&t=3&ak_proof=1&akid=2266%2E150418%2EvJ1xH5)

## [THE PENTAGON’S PAYDAYS KEEP ON COMIN’](#)

This week, the House voted overwhelmingly for a massive \$674.6 billion defense spending bill for fiscal year 2019, an increase of \$20 billion over last year’s level. Plain and simple: Pentagon

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spending is out of control and hurts our national security. Unfortunately, just [49](#) out of the 408 Representatives who voted on the bill agree (19 Reps. did not vote).

<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2018/roll313.xml#N>

**These spending bills matter. A lot. They're not just numbers on a page, they signify our values.** And they're telling us that America values spending on endless wars, nuclear weapons, fighter jets, aircraft carriers, and research on ever-more lethal ways to kill people more than it does diplomacy, education, affordable housing, and the environment, and much more. Even America's unaccountable war chest, known in budgetary language as overseas contingency operations, gets more money than the State Department. In fact, if OCO were a federal agency, it would be the [fourth largest](#), behind the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Health and Human Services.

<https://www.taxpayer.net/national-security/oco-federal-governments-4th-largest-agency-discretionary-budget/>

What this bill says about our values and what Americans actually value are two different things. In February 2018, a Gallup [poll](#) found that **65 percent of Americans believe the United States should not spend more money on defense** and over a third believe we already spend too much.

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/228137/americans-not-convinced-needs-spend-defense.aspx>

So why are we spending more and more? **We cannot ignore the influence of the military-industrial-congressional complex**, whereby Congressmembers' campaign coffers are stuffed with contractor contributions and those contractors are rewarded handsomely. Just one example in this year's bill was the 16 additional [F-35](#) joint strike fighters added above the DoD's request by defense appropriations chairwoman, Kay Granger. [Lockheed's F-35 assembly plant](#) is in Granger's Texas district.

<https://warisboring.com/the-f-35-is-a-terrible-fighter-bomber-and-attacker-and-unfit-for-aircraft-carriers/>

<https://www.taxpayer.net/national-security/how-much-is-that-f-35-in-the-window/>

You might hear from congressional party leaders that the spending bill adheres to the budget caps set for FY19. But that's not telling us much. The agreement struck by Republicans and Democrats raised the Pentagon's budget to egregiously high levels, especially given that the Pentagon cannot pass an audit and the ever-present evidence of waste, fraud, and abuse.

## **Some highlights from this week's consideration:**

- The House rejected a common-sense prohibition on developing space-based weapons in a mostly party-line vote. [See the Arms Control Association [explainer](#) for more details.] <https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2018-03-20/perils-space-based-missile-defense-interception>

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- Tiny silver lining: The House approved [two different](https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2018-03-20/perils-space-based-missile-defense-interception) amendments allocating money specifically for POW/MIA remains removals from North Korea, part of the confidence-building measure agreed to in the Singapore Summit joint declaration. <https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2018-03-20/perils-space-based-missile-defense-interception>  
<https://raskin.house.gov/media/press-releases/raskin-allen-pass-bipartisan-amendment-defense-appropriations-act>
- The House rejected three amendments that would have increased spending on weapons systems above the request level. Here's a [write-up](https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2018/06/28/house-oks-pentagon-spending-bill-with-dual-carrier-buy-sinks-submarine-proposal/) on one of them. <https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2018/06/28/house-oks-pentagon-spending-bill-with-dual-carrier-buy-sinks-submarine-proposal/>

See our defense appropriations tracker for all amendment action. [[LINK](#)]  
<http://winwithoutwar.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Amendment-Tracker-for-H.R.6157-Fiscal-Year-2019-Department-of-Defense-Appropriations-Act.pdf> And check out our FY19 Defense Appropriations one-pager for more on Pentagon waste. [[LINK](#)]  
<http://winwithoutwar.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Pentagon-Waste-Fact-Sheet-FY2019-DO-D-approps-2.pdf>

## **BURIED LEDES**

BFD Alert! SFRC Ranking Member Bob Menendez is [holding up arms sales](https://twitter.com/SenatorMenendez/status/1012395807306379264) to Saudi Arabia and the UAE for their misuse in Yemen.  
<https://twitter.com/SenatorMenendez/status/1012395807306379264>

In no surprise to anyone, Sheldon Adelson [rewarded anti-Iran deal candidates](https://www.cnbc.com/2018/06/25/adelson-backs-candidates-who-oppose-iran-deal-a-week-after-withdrawl.html) with thousands of dollars in campaign funds just one week after Trump violated the Iran deal.  
<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/06/25/adelson-backs-candidates-who-oppose-iran-deal-a-week-after-withdrawl.html>

Sorry, wrong question: Young Jewish American women [ask about the Occupation](https://theintercept.com/2018/06/29/birthright-israel-trip-palestine/), and their Birthright tour guide [gets angry](https://www.facebook.com/kfenster/videos/4301450534235).  
<https://theintercept.com/2018/06/29/birthright-israel-trip-palestine/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/kfenster/videos/4301450534235>

The government is essentially [maxing out credit cards](http://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2018/Cappella%20Zielinski_June%202018_War%20Financing%20and%20Inequality.pdf) to finance our endless wars. Bonus: Today's war-financing is also increasing social inequality.  
[http://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2018/Cappella%20Zielinski\\_June%202018\\_War%20Financing%20and%20Inequality.pdf](http://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2018/Cappella%20Zielinski_June%202018_War%20Financing%20and%20Inequality.pdf)

Trump's heartless policies [continue to harm Palestinians' rights](#) and make a sustainable peace impossible.

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<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/06/27/donald-trump-hurts-palestinians-middle-east-peace-prospects-column/729413002/>

Sig Hecker and co. [school hawks](#) on why their demands for complete, irreversible, verifiable denuclearization in North Korea are unattainable.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/06/25/total-denuclearization-is-an-unattainable-goal-heres-how-to-reduce-the-north-korean-threat/>

#FamiliesBelongTogether – and not in cages. Find an event near you and join us in the streets this weekend: [familiesbelongtogether.org](http://familiesbelongtogether.org).

Maybe genocide? [The history](#) that Guatemalan migrants are escaping.

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/qvnyzq/central-america-atrocities-caused-immigration-crisis](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/qvnyzq/central-america-atrocities-caused-immigration-crisis)

Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-Chair [Mark Pocan](#), at least 19 ICE [investigators](#), and Sen. Kirsten [Gillibrand](#) are seeking to #AbolishICE.

<https://twitter.com/repmarkpocan/status/1011290443676561408?s=19>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/28/us/politics/ice-immigration-eliminate-agency.html>

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/sen-kirsten-gillibrand-on-abolishing-ice-get-rid-of-it-start-over>

[Defense contractors](#), [private prisons](#), and [tech companies](#) (cough: all campaign donors) are all [profiting off](#) of Trump's cruel zero-tolerance policy. Perhaps that's why much of Congress has been silent.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/defense-contractors-cashing-in-on-immigrant-kids-detention>

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2018/06/28/452912/trumps-executive-order-rewards-private-prison-campaign-donors/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2018/06/26/salesforce-employees-petition-ceo-reconsider-government-contract/734907002/>

<https://news.littlesis.org/2018/06/21/who-is-profiting-from-incarcerating-immigrant-families/>

And finally, why are Senators [raining on the Saudi Crown Prince's reform parade](#)? Maybe it's because he's jailing the women activists he claims he wants to empower.

<https://www.sanders.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sanders-urges-pompeo-to-address-detention-of-saudi-activists>