

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

SL: How a vote on wolves became a vote on Yemen

[CONGRESS WILL ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY ON YEMEN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER](#)

On [Wednesday](#), the House of Representatives was meant to be voting on procedure for an act that would (wrongly) remove grey wolves from the endangered species list. As if that alone didn't meet the threshold of villainy, House Republican leadership decided to throw famine and widespread human suffering into the mix. They slyly slid a [measure](#) into the rules procedure for the "Manage Our Wolves Act" that would de-privilege a bipartisan bill to end U.S. military support for the Saudi and UAE-led war in Yemen, denying its guarantee to receive a vote on the floor. Suddenly, a conversation about wolves became a conversation about Yemen, and Republicans narrowly avoided a vote to end U.S. complicity in a humanitarian catastrophe.

While wolves and the war in Yemen seem to have little in common, it's rather fitting seeing that the 115th Congress has been dismantling environmental protections and perpetuating U.S. military involvement in the Middle East as of late. And this [isn't the first time](#) House Speaker Paul Ryan has used a backhanded Rules Committee maneuver to prevent debates on war and peace.

However, the maneuver to block the Yemen vote nearly failed, surviving only by fourteen votes. Fifteen Republicans broke with the party line to oppose the measure, demonstrating the growing opposition to U.S. involvement in the war in Yemen. And with new leadership coming to the House in January, those who want to cover for the Saudi Government's abuses and continue this senseless war will lack any sly tricks to hold back the tide.

WHY THE YEMEN WAR MUST END

U.S. military assistance to the Saudi/UAE-led war in Yemen has only served to prolong an unnecessary and immoral war that has caused unending human suffering:

- **The Saudi/UAE coalition has committed gross human rights abuses and war crimes**, including using starvation as a weapon of war and deliberately targeting civilians.

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- Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed and **Yemen is the world's largest humanitarian crisis**, with 22 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Eight million Yemeni children do not have access to basic water, sanitation, and hygiene services and 14 million are on the brink of famine.
- **Congress has not authorized** the U.S. military to participate in the Saudi-UAE war.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT CONGRESS TO ACT

After the Saudi government murdered, dismembered, and [reportedly](#) chemically dissolved *Washington Post* journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the consequences of the Saudi and UAE-led intervention in Yemen have made national headlines. And in the wake of corresponding [pressure to end the war](#), the Trump administration has called for a conditional ceasefire and announced an end to U.S. refueling of Saudi coalition jets.

But these half-measures are not enough. The U.S. must end all material and logistical support for the Saudi and UAE-led coalition to stop the war, including blocking arm sales. Even the former Obama officials who originally decided to provide them with military support [agree](#). What's more, the American public agrees as well.

Over the past two years, Win Without War activists have taken more than 255,000 actions demanding an end to U.S. support for the Saudi and UAE-led war in Yemen. More than 100,000 individuals from across the United States have made more than 2,500 phone calls and sent more than 129,000 emails to Congress in addition to over 85,000 signing a petition demanding an end to this war.

More generally, a [recent survey](#) conducted by the bipartisan Committee for a Responsible Foreign Policy found that the majority of Americans surveyed overwhelmingly wanted Congress to reassert its oversight over U.S. military engagement and felt that military force should only be used as a last resort. Sixty-seven percent [said the U.S. military should not participate in conflicts overseas without congressional authorization](#) (Congress has not authorized the U.S. role in the Yemen war). And nearly two-thirds of those surveyed also said that military aid should not be provided to countries like Saudi Arabia.

THE FIGHT TO END THE WAR IN YEMEN CONTINUES

The House vote this week will not stop efforts to end U.S. military support for Saudi and UAE-led coalition's intervention in Yemen. Instead, there are [alternative paths](#) for legislators to pursue in both the House and the Senate.

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In the House:

- While the bipartisan legislation introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna no longer has a guaranteed path to the House floor, Khanna will likely reintroduce the legislation in the next Congress. And with new leadership, that legislation is much more likely to not only find its way to the floor, but also pass.

In the Senate:

- Sen. Bernie Sanders is expected to bring a similar bipartisan bill to the Senate floor later this month. The legislation still has its privileged status. Check out where each Senator stands on this issue [here](#).

As long as the U.S. continues to provide military support and legitimacy to the Saudi and UAE-led coalition, the war and human suffering will continue with no end in sight. It's up to the Senate and the new House leadership to finally reassert their constitutional war powers in the next Congress and bring this issue to the forefront as soon as they are able, because Yemen can't wait.

BURIED LEDES

The so-called “war on terror” will have cost us \$6 trillion by next year and will reach [\\$7 trillion](#) if these wars continue into the 2020s.

A recent investigation [found](#) that this year alone, **U.S. drone strikes in Yemen killed at least 205 civilians**. Trump has carried out 176 drone strikes in Yemen so far, while President Obama conducted 154 throughout his entire presidency.

The U.S. [has](#) **dropped more bombs in Afghanistan in 2018 than in any other year of our nation's longest war.**

Meanwhile, the AP [reported](#) this week that “after 17 years of war, the Taliban have retaken half the country, security is worse than it's ever been, and **many Afghans place the blame squarely on the Americans.**”

The horror show that is the murder of Jamal Khashoggi rolls on, as the Saudi government [announced](#) this week that **they'll potentially murder five more people because of it.**

In other Khashoggi news this week, [this story](#) is so insane we'll just quote this reporter's [take](#): Trump is “considered shipping a U.S. green card holder to likely torture and death in exchange

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for a cover-up of the murder of another U.S. green card holder **to preserve a weapons deal with a country that spends money at the president's hotel.**

[SHOCKING](#): The Pentagon badly failed its first attempt at a financial audit.

A new report claiming we need to **cut funding on social programs to throw MORE money at the Pentagon** [might as well have been written by the defense industry](#).

In 2017, Canada [saw](#) a **six-fold increase in the number of people seeking asylum from ... the United States.**

Back here at home, **anti-Jewish hate crimes rose 37 percent** [in the same year](#).

[Find out how](#) the nuclear disarmament movement led to the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

[The](#) strategic folly of reimposing sanctions on Iran.

Amnesty International [announced](#) it has **withdrawn its Ambassador of Conscience Award from Aung San Suu Kyi** because of her failure to speak out against the atrocities committed against the Rohingya population and her “shameful betrayal of the values she once stood for.”

One U.S. senator this week called BS on the idea that there are “small” nuclear weapons: **“There is no such thing as a zero-calorie chocolate fudge sundae,”** Sen. Ed Markey [said](#), “and there is no such thing as a low-yield nuclear weapon.”

And finally, have you ever heard of a “[marticle](#)”? Well **the Financial Times** has [come up](#) with an interesting way to prevent it.