

Rebutting the Mattis and Pompeo Briefing on US Involvement in Yemen

FACT: The Saudi-led intervention was not launched to strengthen U.S. CT operations

- Ending the Saudi/UAE-coalition's intervention is essential to ending the war and undermining extremist groups' appeal in Yemen.
- U.S. military assistance to the coalition was launched as [as an attempt to influence Saudi Arabia's conduct](#) in the region, not to regain counter-terrorism capacity as Mattis alleges.
- The U.S. has been mounting drone strikes in Yemen since 2002 that have never ended during the civil war.
- A recent [AP investigation](#) revealed that UAE-backed forces have paid off and recruited AQAP fighters to fight against the Houthis, and [U.S. officials](#) have confirmed its accuracy.
- Advisors to President Hadi have included individuals sanctioned by the Treasury Department as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs).

FACT: U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition emboldens Iran

- The Saudi-led intervention gave Iran a foothold in Yemen and Iranian involvement has only increased throughout the course of the war, as civilian casualties continue to mount.
- [Katie Zimmerman, American Enterprise Institute](#): "Giving more bullets and bombs to the Saudis will make things worse [and] is likely to drive Yemeni rebel factions even further under Iranian control."
- [Richard Sokolsky and Perry Cammack, Carnegie](#): "By catering to the Saudis in Yemen, the United States has empowered al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, strengthened Iranian influence in Yemen, undermined Saudi security, and brought Yemen closer to the brink of collapse."

FACT: The War Powers Resolution (WPR) applies to U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition

- Secretary Mattis admits that the Trump administration expanded U.S. military support, including the provision of military advisors to coalition forces involved in hostilities -- the exact type of support the WPR of 1973 was passed to prevent.
- Section 8(c) of the WPR defines such operations as those that include U.S. advisers coordinating a foreign country's armed forces in hostilities – a situation similar to remaining U.S. material support for the coalition that [includes](#) U.S. personnel who use live intelligence feeds "to help Saudi Arabia decide what and where to bomb."
- As legal scholars have [noted](#), the U.S. military personnel assigned to the Riyadh Joint Combined Planning Cell to assist in anti-Houthi operations conducted in Yemen "clearly constitutes coordination of hostilities, once again representing the 'introduction of U.S. Armed Forces' into 'hostilities'" under the WPR.

FACT: The only way to end the war is for the Saudi-led intervention to end

- As the CEOs of five major humanitarian organizations [made clear](#): "By providing such extensive military and diplomatic support for one side of the conflict, the U.S. is deepening and prolonging a crisis that has immediate and severe consequences for Yemen, and civilians are paying the price."
- Former UN and U.S. official Jeffrey Feltman [affirmed](#) that the only way to end the war is for the coalition to "stop its military campaign unilaterally and challenge the Houthis to respond in kind."
- Ending U.S. support would not harm UN negotiations, but send a signal that the coalition must negotiate.
- If the coalition would wreak even greater damage absent U.S. support, the proper response is to cut off military assistance and push the coalition to de-escalate, NOT continue this support to appease a wayward security partner.