

The U.S. must end military involvement in Yemen, support multilateral diplomacy to resolve the conflict and ensure accountability, and lead efforts to depoliticize Yemen's post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction.

Ongoing U.S. policies in Yemen have destabilized the country and prolonged the conflict. We must take a new approach to the country that puts diplomacy first and focuses on addressing local drivers of conflict and building inclusive post-conflict governance.

- President Biden's announcements that the U.S. will end offensive military support for the Saudi- and UAE-led intervention in Yemen, appoint a Special Envoy, resume humanitarian assistance to the entire country, and reverse the terror designations of the Houthi movement, are positive. Still, greater clarity is needed on this policy shift, as well as on the long-term U.S. strategy for helping build sustainable peace and provide reparations for the harms it has created in Yemen.
- The U.S. must push Saudi Arabia and the UAE to agree to a nationwide ceasefire, fully end the de facto blockade and fund the humanitarian response, and support an inclusive political settlement to the war.
- Congress must end U.S. counterterrorism operations and U.S. funding for partners' operations in Yemen, which drive insecurity and undermine sustainable peace.

ENDING U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

The U.S. halted in-flight refueling and paused arms sales, but it has failed to publicly define whether this pause also ends other logistical support and intelligence to the Saudi- and UAE-led coalition that have been repeatedly used to kill Yemeni civilians.



- Coalition airstrikes, supported by the U.S., are the leading cause of civilian casualties in the war and destroy vital civilian infrastructure.
- Continuing any form of military or political support for the intervention sends the message that the coalition can continue the war indefinitely.
- It is becoming increasingly concerning that the Biden administration is defining its support for Saudi Arabia and the UAE as defensive in nature in order to claim that it is ending U.S. involvement in the war. Truly ending U.S. support for the coalition means suspending all [arms sales, equipment, training, services, and maintenance](#) from the U.S. to any parties engaged in the conflict.

U.S. COMPLICITY IN STARVATION AS A WEAPON

Since the Saudi- and UAE-led intervention in Yemen's civil war in March 2015, the economic and social collapse of the country, plus the spread of COVID-19, threatens 20 million people with famine and food insecurity.



- The Saudi- and UAE-led coalition's airstrikes have destroyed civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, and its ongoing de-facto blockade of the country has severely exacerbated the humanitarian crisis.
- The economic crisis and blockade has caused the price of food and fuel to skyrocket. Along with the Yemeni government's failure to pay civil servant salaries since 2016 and the Houthis' manipulation of Central Bank reserves, Yemenis cannot buy food even if markets are fully stocked.

U.S. COUNTERTERRORISM (CT) STRATEGY

Decades of drone strikes and alleged human rights abuses committed by U.S. CT partners in Yemen have failed to eradicate Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).



- The Saudi- and UAE-led intervention into the civil war has made AQAP stronger than ever, including through UAE payments to AQAP militants.
- Congress must end CIA authority to conduct drone strikes, investigate allegations of abuse, and cut off funding for U.S. CT partners in Yemen found to be responsible for gross violations of human rights and international law – including the UAE.
- The Trump administration maintained the failed U.S. CT strategy, which has not addressed violence and has caused decades of harm. The Biden administration must reverse this course of action and at a minimum, release its rules of engagement in areas of active hostilities, including in Yemen, to implement controls to prevent civilian casualties.

THE WORLD'S
LARGEST
HUMANITARIAN
CRISIS - FUELED
BY THE U.S.



24 MILLION

people in Yemen, over
80% of the population,
need humanitarian
assistance

27%

mortality rate for Yemenis
with COVID-19, more
than five times the global
average

Half

of pre-war medical
facilities are no longer
functional



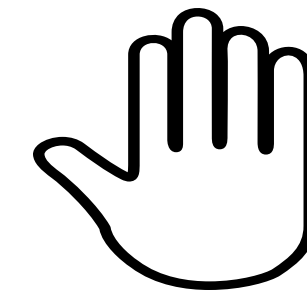
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESS

Members of Congress must ensure the U.S. truly ends its military support for the Saudi and UAE-led coalition in Yemen and invests in peace. Congress can build on previous action to help bring an end to the war and address the humanitarian crisis by enacting the following policy recommendations:



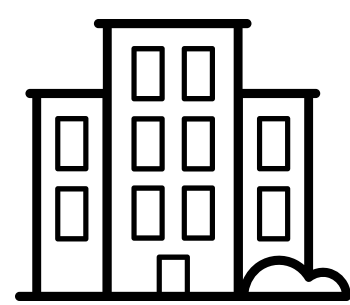
SUPPORT AN EFFECTIVE END TO U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN YEMEN

Defund the provision of intelligence sharing and other logistical support for the Saudi and UAE-led coalition. Co-sponsor or vote in support of legislation to end *all* U.S. military involvement in Yemen, including U.S. support for abusive UAE counterterrorism forces.



BLOCK ANY ONGOING OR FUTURE ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UAE

Until a diplomatic settlement is negotiated in Yemen, cancel any pending and future arms sales to Saudi Arabia or the UAE, including the pending \$23 billion sale of advanced armed drones, precision weapons, and F-35 jets to the UAE.



INCREASE HUMANITARIAN AID & SUPPORT YEMEN'S RECONSTRUCTION

Increase humanitarian assistance funding, including the provision of aid to slow the spread of COVID-19 and ensure vaccine distribution. Support multilateral efforts to establish a pooled fund for reconstruction, and urge Saudi Arabia and the UAE to distribute assistance through the fund to avoid the politicization of aid.



END CIA AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT DRONE STRIKES

Prohibit funding and authorization for CIA drone strikes in Yemen, and other areas of hostility, including Somalia, Libya, and Pakistan.

SELECT PAST LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON YEMEN

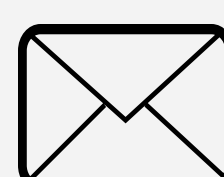
- **June 2016:** House votes on amendment to Defense Appropriations to block cluster bombs to Saudi Arabia.
- **August 2016:** Senate votes on resolution of disapproval to block tank sale.
- **June 2017:** Senate votes on resolution of disapproval to block PGM sale.
- **March 2018:** Senate votes on War Powers Resolution.
- **December 2018:** Senate **passes** War Powers Resolution, S.J. Res. 54; Speaker Paul Ryan blocks vote on House War Powers Resolution.
- **April 2019:** House **passes** War Powers Resolution; Trump subsequently vetoes it.
- **May 2019:** Senate **fails** to override presidential veto of War Powers Resolution.
- **July 2019:** Multiple amendments to H.R. 2500 and the FY20 NDAA pass, effectively prohibiting funds or weapons support to the Saudi- and Emirati-led war in Yemen.
- **Jan. 2020:** The Trump administration designates Yemen's Houthi movement a terrorist organization. Weeks later, the Biden administration reverses this decision.
- **March 2020:** The Biden administration resumes U.S. humanitarian assistance to Yemen.



For further questions and additional resources:



ERIC EIKENBERRY, Govt. Relations Director
eric@winwithoutwar.org



SAM RATNER, Policy Director
sam@winwithoutwar.org

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