

December 7, 2022

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned 105 organizations, welcomed news earlier this year that Yemen's warring parties agreed to a nationwide truce to halt military operations, lift fuel restrictions, and open Sana'a airport to commercial traffic. Unfortunately, it's been almost two months since the UN-brokered truce in Yemen expired, violence on the ground is escalating, and there is still no formal mechanism preventing a return to all-out war. In an effort to renew this truce and further incentivize Saudi Arabia to stay at the negotiating table, we urge you to bring the war powers resolutions to end U.S. military participation in the Saudi led coalition's war on Yemen – led by Representatives DeFazio, Jayapal, Schiff, Mace, and Senator Sanders, and cosponsored by over 130 members of the House and Senators – to the floor of your respective chambers during the 117th Congress. We applaud Senator Sanders for [announcing](#) he will bring this resolution to the floor for a vote in the lame-duck and our groups are ready to support its passage.

March 26th, 2022, marked the start of the eighth year of the Saudi-led war and blockade on Yemen, which has helped cause the deaths of nearly half a million people and pushed millions more to the edge of starvation. With continued U.S. military support, Saudi Arabia escalated its campaign of collective punishment on the people of Yemen in recent months, making the start of 2022 one of the deadliest time periods of the war. Earlier this year, Saudi airstrikes targeting a migrant detention facility and vital communications infrastructure [killed](#) at least 90 civilians, wounded over 200, and triggered a nationwide internet [blackout](#).

After seven years of direct and indirect involvement in the Yemen war, the United States must cease supplying weapons, spare parts, maintenance services, and logistical support to Saudi Arabia to ensure that there is no return of hostilities in Yemen and the conditions remain for the parties to achieve a lasting peace agreement.

All agree that the Houthis share blame for much of the violence and human rights abuses in Yemen today. Continued U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's war, however, furthers the Houthi narrative about foreign intervention in Yemen, inadvertently strengthening the Houthis and undermining America's ability to act as a credible mediator between the warring parties.

While the truce had a positive impact on Yemen's humanitarian crisis, UN officials have [warned](#) that millions are still in need of urgent assistance. In Yemen today, roughly [20.7 million people](#) are in need of humanitarian aid for survival, with up to [19 million](#) Yemenis acutely food insecure. A [report](#) indicated that 2.2 million children under the age of five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition over the course of 2022 and could perish without urgent treatment.

The war in Ukraine has only exacerbated the humanitarian conditions in Yemen by making food even more scarce. Yemen [imports](#) over 27% of its wheat from Ukraine and 8% from Russia. The UN reported that Yemen could see its famine numbers increase [“five-fold”](#) in the second half of 2022 as a result of wheat import shortages.

According to reports from [UNFPA](#) and the [Yemeni Relief and Reconstruction Foundation](#), the conflict has had especially devastating consequences for Yemeni women and children. A woman dies every two

hours from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, and for every woman who dies in childbirth, another 20 suffer preventable injuries, infections, and permanent disabilities.

In February 2021, President Biden announced an end to U.S. participation in the Saudi-led coalition's offensive operations in Yemen. Yet the United States continues to provide spare parts, maintenance, and logistical support for Saudi warplanes. The administration also has [never defined](#) what constitutes "offensive" and "defensive" support, and it has since approved over a billion dollars in arms sales, including new [attack helicopters](#) and [air-to-air](#) missiles. This support sends a message of impunity to the Saudi-led coalition for its bombardment and siege of Yemen.

Representatives DeFazio, Schiff, Jayapal, Mace, and Senator Bernie Sanders have consistently [stated their intent](#) to pass a new Yemen War Powers Resolution to end unauthorized U.S. involvement in Saudi Arabia's brutal military campaign.

This is more essential than ever to maintain momentum for peace in Yemen, and to prevent backsliding by blocking U.S. support for any renewed hostilities. The lawmakers wrote, "As a candidate, President Biden [pledged](#) to end support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen while many who now serve as senior officials in his administration [repeatedly called](#) for shutting down precisely the activities the U.S. is engaged in that enable Saudi Arabia's brutal offensive. We call on them to follow through on their commitment."

While members of both chambers have proposed a range of potential legislative actions aimed at reining in U.S.-Saudi cooperation, the Yemen WPR is the most viable, for several reasons. First, it only needs a simple majority in the House and Senate to pass, while other proposed legislation would require 60 votes in the Senate to defeat a filibuster. Thanks to the expedited procedures under the 1973 Act, it can also be brought to the floor without delay and, if passed, would go directly to the president's desk.

In conclusion, the undersigned organizations representing millions of Americans, urge Congress to reassert its Article I war powers by finally terminating all U.S. participation in Saudi Arabia's war and blockade, which is the best way for Congress to reduce the likelihood or intensity of a resumption of hostilities in Yemen. Our organizations support the Yemen War Powers Resolutions, and urge Members of Congress to cosponsor, insist on a vote on the floor before the end of the 117th Congress, and ultimately vote yes to adopt this bill in Congress and send it to President Biden's desk. We call on all members of Congress to say "no" to Saudi Arabia's war of aggression by fully ending all U.S. support for a conflict that has caused such immense bloodshed and human suffering.

Sincerely,

Action Corps

Afghans For a Better Tomorrow

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

American Muslim Bar Association (AMBA)

American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN)

Amie Bishop Consulting

Antiwar.com

Ban Killer Drones

Benedictines for Peace  
Beyond the Bomb  
Bridges Faith Initiative  
Bring Our Troops Home  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Economic Policy and Research (CEPR)  
Center for International Policy  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Center on Conscience and War  
Central Valley Islamic Council  
Charity & Security Network  
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy  
Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)  
CODEPINK  
Common Defense  
Community Peacemaker Teams  
Concerned Veterans for America  
Daily Kos  
Daughters of Wisdom (US Province)  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Defense Priorities Initiative  
Demand Progress  
Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)  
Detention Watch Network  
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Peace and Justice Office  
Environmentalists Against War  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom Forward  
FreedomWorks  
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)  
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ  
Global Zero  
Health Alliance International  
Historians for Peace and Democracy  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC  
ICNA Council for Social Justice  
If Not Now  
Indivisible  
Institute for Policy Studies New Internationalism Project  
Interfaith Community Sanctuary  
Islamophobia Studies Center

Jewish Voice for Peace Action  
Just Foreign Policy  
Just Futures Law  
Justice Democrats  
Justice Is Global  
MADRE  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Medical Mission Sisters  
MoveOn  
MPower Change  
Muslim Justice League  
Muslims for Just Futures  
National Council of Churches  
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies  
National Religious Campaign Against Torture  
Neighbors for Peace  
Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes  
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth  
Our Revolution  
Pax Christi USA  
Peace Action  
Peace Direct  
Peace Education Center  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Project Break the Cycle  
Project South  
Public Citizen  
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft  
R Street Institute  
ReThinking Foreign Policy  
RootsAction.org  
Saferworld  
Secure Justice  
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team  
Spin Film  
Srs. of St. Joseph of Cluny Province of USA/Canada  
Sunrise Movement  
The Episcopal Church  
The Libertarian Institute

The United Methodist Church -- General Board of Church and Society  
Union of Arab Women  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries  
United for Peace and Justice  
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR)  
Veterans For Peace  
Win Without War  
Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)  
World BEYOND War  
Yemen Freedom Council  
Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation  
Yemeni Alliance Committee