

February 7, 2022

Dear President Biden,

The world watched in horror as Saudi airstrikes destroyed a migrant detention facility in Yemen last month, *killing* at least 90 civilians and wounding over 200 more. These attacks helped make January one of the deadliest months in the seven-year conflict. Saudi warplanes also destroyed vital communications infrastructure and triggered a nationwide internet *blackout* for several days. Maintenance contracts approved by the United States government sustain these Saudi fighter jets. It is time for your administration to end those contracts and all forms of U.S. involvement in the war.

After you *announced* an end to U.S. support for “offensive” operations in the Saudi war on Yemen, the Pentagon later *acknowledged* that the United States is still providing spare parts, maintenance, and logistical support for Saudi warplanes which are carrying out airstrikes and enforcing a blockade of Yemen’s ports.

In 2021, U.S.-enabled Saudi warplanes conducted *roughly as many airstrikes* as they did in 2020 under former-President Trump. Rather than engage in realistic diplomacy, Saudi Arabia has doubled down on its failed strategy of collective punishment through its *airstrikes* on civilians and civilian infrastructure and its *blockade*.

The World Food Program *warned* last year that the Saudi blockade was restricting access to vital commodities and helping to create the conditions for the worst famine in modern history. Roughly *16.2 million* people in Yemen are at risk of famine. The United Nations Development Program projected that by the end of 2021 over *377,000* Yemeni civilians will have been killed in the war so far – the majority of them indirectly by starvation and disease, exacerbated by the Saudi blockade and the destruction of civilian infrastructure by coalition airstrikes.

Our groups applaud Representatives Jayapal and DeFazio for recently *calling* for an end to U.S. involvement, in light of new escalations by Saudi Arabia. To build on those efforts, we will be urging Congress to pass a new Yemen War Powers Resolution, to terminate ongoing U.S. participation in the Saudi-led war.

Now is not the time for sustaining Saudi warplanes. Now is the time for leveraging U.S. military aid to persuade the Saudis to end their devastating war and blockade. Again, we urge your administration to end all forms of U.S. support, including logistical support, spare parts, and maintenance contracts, for the Saudi war effort against the Houthis in Yemen. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Concerned Veterans for America
Defense Priorities
Demand Progress
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation