End U.S. Complicity in the Yemen War and Blockade

On May 31, 2022, Reps. Peter DeFazio (OR-4), Pramila Jayapal (WA-7), Adam Schiff (CA-28), and Nancy Mace (SC-1) introduced H.J.Res. 87, a bill to end U.S. involvement in the Saudi-led war and blockade in Yemen. On July 14, 2022, Sens. Bernie Sanders (VT), Patrick Leahy (VT), and Elizabeth Warren (MA) introduced an identical resolution (S.J.Res. 56) in the Senate. The war has created one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, and over 16 million people are on the brink of famine. While the warring parties have entered a temporary truce, Congress must ensure an end to U.S. support for the war and prevent the truce from breaking.

On Feb. 4, 2021, President Biden announced that the U.S. would end its support for the coalition’s offensive operations in Yemen, but important aspects of U.S. complicity remain. This includes ongoing maintenance and intelligence sharing for warplanes conducting airstrikes and enforcing an air and sea blockade of Yemen.

Bipartisan majorities in both chambers of Congress passed a Yemen War Powers Resolution in 2019 to end U.S. support for the Saudi-led war. President Trump vetoed this resolution, but United Nations officials say that congressional action helped promote peace negotiations. Now, Congress has an historic opportunity to help end U.S participation in one of the most devastating wars in the world.

We urge Congress to pass H.J.Res. 87 and S.J.Res. 56 to terminate unauthorized military involvement in the Saudi-led coalition’s war and blockade.

The War Powers Act must be invoked because:

» U.S. pressure will ensure Saudi Arabia remains at the negotiating table to turn the truce into a permanent end to the war.

» The war has led to a humanitarian disaster. Nearly 24 million people are in need of emergency assistance.

» The war and blockade are killing Yemeni civilians. The UN estimated that the Yemen war led to 377,000 deaths in 2021—nearly 60% of those due to indirect causes such as disruptions in access to food, clean water, and medicine.

» Yemen’s children are being starved. The UN warned in 2021 that 2.3 million children are suffering from acute malnutrition. 400,000 of these children could die of starvation without urgent action.


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