

## The United States Must End Its Involvement in the War in Yemen

Comment to: [info@LAJewsforPeace.org](mailto:info@LAJewsforPeace.org); Statement, August 16, 2018

**LA Jews for Peace** applauds Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA-33) for leading the effort since 2015 to impose Congressional oversight on the United States war effort in Yemen. But oversight is just the first step; the goal must be to end U.S. involvement in this war.

Saudi Arabia is leading a coalition, including the Yemeni government, fighting the Houthi rebels in Yemen. The United States provides mid-air refueling, arms sales, and daily operational logistics. The U.S. role was made clear in the July 2018 PBS News Hour series, "The War in Yemen," that showed unexploded bombs labeled, "Made in Garland, Texas."

Coalition military operations have pushed an estimated 8 million people to the brink of starvation and created the largest cholera epidemic in the world. International relief organizations call it the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today<sup>1</sup>. The Yemeni people are suffering daily deliberate attacks on civilians, children, homes, schools, hospitals, drinking water installations, food supplies, and other critical infrastructures.

Congressman Lieu, who taught the law of war in the Air Force, said the U.S. "should not be helping a coalition that is dropping bombs on civilian neighborhoods that is [are] nowhere near military targets," and "some of these strikes look like war crimes." He asks "why the U.S. appears to be assisting in the execution of war crimes."<sup>2</sup>

Those military operations violate the Geneva Convention's restrictions against military attacks on civilians. The United States support for these crimes violates the U.S. *Foreign Assistance Act* and the U.S. *Arms Export Control Act*, both amended by the *Leahy Law*.<sup>3</sup> These laws are designed to assure that the United States is not complicit in war crimes that may be committed using American-made and supplied weapons.

Perhaps most important, there is no legal basis for United States involvement in the military actions in Yemen.<sup>4</sup> The Congress has not declared war on Yemen, nor has it passed a "Use of Military Force" resolution as required under the "War Powers Resolution." The administration bases its action on the 2001 "Authorization for the Use of Military Force" resolution passed three days after 9-11, and that is problematic.

**LA Jews for Peace** urges the entire California Congressional Democratic delegation to make good on its support of human rights by joining Congressman Lieu in speaking out against the United States role in the ongoing Yemen war. Join with Senators Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.), Mike Lee (R-Ut.), and Chris Murphy (D-Ct.) to revive their joint resolution, S.J.Res.54, calling for the removal of U.S. armed forces from hostilities in Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

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<sup>1</sup> "World faces worst humanitarian crisis since 1945, says U.N. official." *The Guardian*, March 10, 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/11/world-faces-worst-humanitarian-crisis-since-1945-says-un-official>.

<sup>2</sup> "Look like war crimes to me': Congressman raises concerns over U.S. support for Saudi war in Yemen." *Salon*, March 17, 2016. [https://www.salon.com/2016/03/17/look\\_like\\_war\\_crimes\\_to\\_me\\_congressman\\_raises\\_concerns\\_over\\_u\\_s\\_support\\_for\\_saudi\\_war\\_in\\_yemen/](https://www.salon.com/2016/03/17/look_like_war_crimes_to_me_congressman_raises_concerns_over_u_s_support_for_saudi_war_in_yemen/)

<sup>3</sup> "U.S. Support for Saudi Strikes in Yemen Raises War Crime Concerns." *Foreign Policy*, Oct. 15, 2015. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/10/15/u-s-support-for-saudi-strikes-in-yemen-raises-war-crime-concerns/>

<sup>4</sup> "The Legality of U.S. Support for the Saudi-Led Campaign in Yemen." *Just Security*, March 1, 2018. <https://www.justsecurity.org/53226/legality-u-s-support-saudi-campaign-yemen/>