

The United States Should Stop Supporting the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement, Nov. 20, 2018

LA Jews for Peace calls on the United States to end its active military support of the Saudi Coalition fighting the Houthi insurgency in Yemen because U.S. support is a root cause of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The military intervention in Yemen was started in 2015 by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia with nine African and Middle East countries¹ to halt and reverse the Houthi insurgency. The United States plays a key role in supporting the Saudi Coalition by supplying weapons, aerial refueling of Saudi military aircraft, and providing strategic and tactical advice. Three years of fighting have produced the world's worst humanitarian crisis² as well as war crimes including both sides targeting innocent civilians.

LA Jews for Peace applauds and supports Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA-33) for his leadership in attempting to end the United States participation in the war on Yemen³. Congressman Lieu bases his objections to American participation mostly to end American complicity in war crimes committed by the Saudi Coalition.

- The **Cholera epidemic** was triggered because the conflict caused basic services like education, water, health and sanitation to deteriorate. As of February 2018, more than 1 million cholera cases were reported, and 9.6 million children are at risk⁴ (about two-thirds of the children in a total population of 28 million people).
- **Starvation** in Yemen is a direct result of actions by both the Saudi Coalition and Houthi forces. The Saudi Coalition blockades humanitarian aid⁵, and the Houthi level illegal taxes and try to divert international relief⁶. The result is that 70 percent of the population is in need of assistance and children face acute malnutrition.

LA Jews for Peace calls for the end of active American support for the Saudi Coalition to alleviate the humanitarian crisis caused by the war. The United States must:

- Stop providing the Saudi Coalition with active military support.
- Start humanitarian aid to fight the cholera epidemic and relieve mass starvation.

Besides ending American support for the Saudi coalition against Yemen, **LA Jews for Peace** calls for the end of American support of other human rights violating regimes.

¹ Countries participating in the Saudi Coalition include Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, and Sudan.

² *Al-Jazeera*, Aug. 5, 2018. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/08/yemen-worst-humanitarian-crisis-world-eu-180805070256555.html>.

³ Aug. 14, 2018. <https://lieu.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-lieu-calls-dod-investigation-uss-role-civilian-casualties-yemen>.

⁴ Catholic Relief Services, Oct. 2018. <https://support.crs.org/donate/yemen-crisis>.

⁵ *NY Times*, Oct. 27, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/27/world/middleeast/yemen-how-to-help.html>.

⁶ *NYTimes*, Oct. 29, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/10/26/world/middleeast/saudi-arabia-war-yemen.html>.