

The Crisis in Yemen and U.S. Complicity

The war began in 2015 when Iran-backed Houthi rebels ousted Yemen's leader, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi. Saudi Arabia fought back in support of re-instating Hadi. Al Qaeda and ISIS also have a presence there.

Saudi Arabia has been accused of targeting civilians, with airstrikes being the cause of 60% of civilian deaths. **There have been airstrikes on schools, hospitals, water infrastructure, and farms. More than 10,000 civilians have died in the civil war.**

According to the U.N., Yemen is experiencing the fastest growing cholera epidemic ever recorded. Between April and November of 2017, there were 895,000 cases and 2,200 associated deaths. More than half of those affected are children. Much of this outbreak can be traced back to the conditions created by the Saudis through the destruction of infrastructure and of hospitals.

Saudi Arabia has inflicted even more damage on the Yemen people through its blockade, a two-year attempt to starve out the rebels. They've even been accused of blocking humanitarian aid.

60% of the population is food insecure. 8 million people are severely food insecure. 2.2 million children are affected by either moderate or severe malnutrition.



Currently, the U.S. provides midair refueling for Saudi and UAE warplanes that are conducting air attacks in Yemen. These capabilities allow the pace of the war operations to be kept high, since jets don't have to return to a base to be fueled.

The U.S. also sells weapons to Saudi Arabia. In 2017, that included \$500m worth of precision-guided bombs. The U.S. also supplies logistical guidance and intelligence.



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