

**VIGIL FOR PEACE Monday's Noon-1pm Corner MLK Jr. Blvd. & Doty St. Madison City-County Bldg. WK 1605 10.1.2018**  
Our focus today as promised is on U.S. military intervention specifically in Yemen (3x 2000-2018) and action to take.  
(<https://sites.evergreen.edu/zoltan/interventions/>) **Note**, in Friday's (9.28.2018) **WSJ** this brief clip about Yemen:

**UN rushes aid to hunger-stricken Yemeni district By Maggie Michael, AP September 25, 2018 CAIRO**

*The United Nations and individual donors are rushing food to a desperate corner of northern Yemen where starving villagers were found to be living off leaves. Aid officials are searching for ways to ensure aid reaches those in need amid alarm that the country's hunger crisis is worsening beyond the relief effort's already strained capabilities.*

*The aid push was directed at a district called Aslam where The Associated Press recently found some families eating leaves, partially due to local authorities manipulating aid distribution and resisting requests to set up biometric registration for those receiving assistance. In a sign of the difficulties in tracking Yemen's near-famine, conditions appeared to be as bad or worse in a neighboring district, Khayran al-Maharraq.*

*On a recent day, Shouib Sakaf buried his 3-year-old daughter, Zaifa, the fifth child known to have died in the district this year from malnutrition-related illness. Sakaf prayed over a grave marked by piles of stones and tangled, dry branches from the surrounding mountain shrubs.*

The following article by Rep. Ro Khanna is not a pretty story. Many of us will want to turn away from it. But neither is it 'pretty' to see Yemeni families eating leaves and their children dying of cholera and malnutrition-related illnesses.

**Congress Must Act to Stop US Involvement in the Yemen War:**  
**By partnering with conservatives to rein in presidential overreach, progressive advocates for peace are laying the groundwork for a sea change in US foreign policy.**

By Rep. Ro Khanna June 18, 2018. Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA) is the sponsor of H.Con.Res. 81, a measure with 53 co-sponsors that utilizes a provision of the **War Powers Resolution** to end the unauthorized US participation in the Saudi-led war against Yemen's Houthis. He is a vice chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

*"8 million teeter on the brink of famine. America is complicit,"* warned the headline for a *Washington Post* editorial on June 13, as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates launched a military assault on Hodeida, the major port city in Yemen, despite pleas from relief agencies and the United Nations. The United States provided diplomatic cover and military intelligence for this catastrophic attack on the lifeline for nearly 80 percent of Yemen's food imports.

The **Trump administration's** hand in this gruesome new chapter of the world's worst humanitarian crisis highlights the urgency for Congress to act. After all, the Saudi-led conflict in Yemen could not continue without unauthorized US support. Congressional efforts to end this war may not only help to avert a famine in the Arab world's poorest country; it could also fundamentally change how Washington works. By drawing on the Constitution and partnering with conservatives to rein in decades-old presidential overreach, progressive advocates for peace and restraint are laying the groundwork for a potential sea change in US foreign policy.

In 2015, the United States began fighting alongside Saudi Arabia in its war against the indigenous Houthi rebels of Yemen. Even before the attack on Hodeida, the conflict had pushed nearly a third of the population to the brink of starvation. The Saudi-led coalition has imposed an air, land, and sea blockade on a country almost entirely reliant on food imports, deliberately starving millions. The United States has participated in these horrors by providing targeting assistance for Saudi air strikes and by deploying US military aircraft to refuel Saudi



warplanes in midair. The Saudis have bombed schools, a funeral, a wedding, and hospitals, including a cholera-treatment center.

**President Obama** never obtained congressional authorization for active US involvement in this war. His administration made a unilateral decision in 2015 to engage in these hostilities to reassure the Gulf monarchies of the US strategic alliance in light of the Iran nuclear deal, which was signed that year, though administration officials did not anticipate the scale of the Saudi atrocities. Now, under **President Trump**—whose shadowy campaign ties with the Saudis and Emiratis are only now emerging—these countries have felt emboldened to intensify the conflict. American military participation has even expanded to include secretive on-the-ground operations by **Army Green Berets**.

**The Constitution’s framers sought to prevent exactly this sort of situation. As James Madison wrote to Thomas Jefferson in 1798, “The Constitution supposes what the History of all Governments demonstrates, that the Executive is the branch most interested in war and most prone to it. It has accordingly with studied care vested the question of war in the Legislature.” Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution gives Congress the sole authority over the use of offensive force.**

In 1973, horrified by the sprawling US wars in Indochina and determined to reassert its constitutional authority, Congress enacted the **War Powers Resolution** with the specific intent to “prevent secret, unauthorized military support activities” and to avert “ever deepening ground combat involvement” in foreign conflicts. Today, by invoking the **War Powers Resolution** and partnering with constitutional conservatives, progressives in Congress are forcing debates and votes to end US military participation in the Saudi-led war in Yemen. End.

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### **House Armed Services Ranking Member Adam Smith, Rep. Ro Khanna, CPC Co-Chair Mark Pocan Introduce War Powers Resolution to End U.S. Military Involvement in Yemen--9.26.2018**

**Press Release:** *Washington, DC – Today, House Armed Services Ranking Member Adam Smith joined more than a dozen of his colleagues in the House of Representatives in introducing a bipartisan **privileged resolution** to withdraw U.S. Armed Forces from engaging in the Saudi-led coalition’s conflict with the Houthis in Yemen. (Excerpted.) “The Committee for Responsible Foreign Policy commends Reps. Ro Khanna, Adam Smith, and Mark Pocan for their leadership on this issue, and for their commitment to the Constitution’s Article I Congressional War Powers,” said George O’Neill, Jr., founder of the Committee for Responsible Foreign Policy. “The decision to go to war is one of the most important decisions a nation can make, and it is appropriate for Congress to vote on the United States’ partnership with Saudi Arabia in the war in Yemen, which has created the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.” (Excerpted.)*

The cosponsors of the resolution are: Reps Adam Smith (WA-09), Ro Khanna (CA-17), Steny Hoyer (MD-05), **Mark Pocan (WI-02)**, Jim McGovern (MA-02), Eliot Engel (NY-16), Raul Grijalva (AZ-03), Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02), Thomas Massie (KY-04), Michael Capuano (MA-07), Yvette Clarke (NY-09), Ted Lieu (CA-33), Barbara Lee (CA-13), Beto O’Rourke (TX-16), Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), Joe Kennedy (Ma-04), Joe Courtney (CT-2), Gwen Moore (WI-04), Walter Jones (NC-03), Debbie Dingell (MI-12), Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), Peter DeFazio (OR-04) and Earl Blumenauer (OR-03). **Full Legislative text can be found at:**

**<https://adamsmith.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/hasc>**. We ask that viewers please contact Rep. Mark Pocan with your support for the **War Powers Resolution** to end the unauthorized US participation in the Saudi-led war against Yemen’s Houthis.

**Congressman Mark Pocan | Representing the 2nd District of Wisconsin. Address:**  
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THANK YOU!

