Churches for Middle East Peace Supports the Yemen War Powers Resolution

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) supports the bipartisan Yemen War Powers Resolution, HJRes 87, introduced to Congress on June 1, 2022. The resolution, which was put forth by Representatives Jayapal, DeFazio, Schiff, and Mace, calls for an end to U.S. involvement in the war on Yemen. The resolution would ensure that the U.S. weapon supplies to Saudi Arabia, including firearms, helicopters, and air-to-air missiles, would be halted. Furthermore, ending U.S. involvement in the Yemen war would encourage Saudi Arabia to end its brutal siege of Yemen.

Saudi Arabia has been leading a war and blockade on Yemen for the last seven years. This has led to a devastating humanitarian crisis in Yemen, as up to 19 million Yemenis face food and water insecurity. UN reports predict a drastic increase in famine numbers if the siege does not end. The war has also had detrimental effects on women and children, many of whom suffer from malnutrition and struggle to survive amidst the current realities. Kyle Cristofalo, CMEP's Senior Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, said: "Saudi Arabia's blockade has been brutal on Yemen. Congress ought to reassert its war powers and cease U.S. military support for Saudi Arabia, ensuring an end to American complicity in Yemen's devastating humanitarian crisis and working toward lasting peace and justice for Yemenis."

CMEP is grateful for the 41 Representatives who are original cosponsors of the legislation and calls on all members of the House to cosponsor <u>HJRes 87</u> today. We also call on the Biden administration to support the resolution and end U.S. complicity in the Saudi-led war and blockade on Yemen.

Formed in 1984, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a coalition of more than 30 national church communions and organizations, including Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Evangelical traditions, that works to encourage US policies that actively promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. CMEP works to mobilize US Christians to embrace a holistic perspective and to be advocates of equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East.