

June 12, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
The Capitol S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
The Capitol S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Capitol H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
House Majority Leader  
1705 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As Christian faith leaders from across the United States, we write to you about the war in Yemen. Now entering its fifth year, it has brought unimaginable horrors upon the Yemeni people, especially children. Collectively, we represent tens of millions of constituents in every state. We thank you and Congress for playing a key role in pushing for humanitarian relief and ensuring the U.S. government does more to apply pressure to the warring parties, as most recently demonstrated through its unprecedented passage of the Yemen War Powers Resolution. We believe that the President's veto of that Resolution must strengthen the resolve of Congress to ratchet down the fighting and help broker peace.

We therefore urge you, as elected leaders, to exhaust every possible legislative option to end U.S. support for the war in Yemen; hold all warring parties accountable; and help foster peace that people of Yemen desperately need and deserve. Given the magnitude of human suffering as a result of this war, we call for the immediate end to any policy that continues military support in the form of intelligence, logistical support and through the sale and transfer of weapons.

The war in Yemen has sparked the world's largest humanitarian crisis and all parties are to blame. The fighting has killed innocent civilians, destroyed health clinics, schools, factories, farms, and precipitated a severe cholera epidemic that has spiked in the number of confirmed cases in recent months. Yemen's economy has been halved since 2015. Food prices have soared even as household incomes have dwindled. 80% of Yemenis now live below the poverty line, and as a result, nearly 16 million Yemenis do not know where their next meal is coming from. Children, in particular, are among the most vulnerable; with more than one million children malnourished. Given the incredibly bleak humanitarian situation, we call upon Congress to support robust humanitarian assistance to the people of Yemen.

A recent report by the United Nations Development Program reveals perhaps the grimmest statistic to date: nearly 250,000 Yemenis will have died as a result of this war by the end of this year; “of the dead, 60 percent are children under the age of five.”<sup>1</sup>

We ask that you take advantage of the political momentum built in Congress to push for an end to the fighting and to help broker peace.

Our faith compels us to care for the most vulnerable and work for peaceful ends to conflict. Like the prophet Amos, we long for the day when “justice will roll down like waters” (Amos 5:24) for the people of Yemen and throughout the world. As people of faith we will continue to pray for peace in Yemen, and a future for her children, but we call on you, our elected leaders, to make the tangible actions to put an end to this conflict.

Sincerely,

Rev. Eddy Alemán  
General Secretary  
Reformed Church in America

Joyce Aljouny  
General Secretary  
American Friends Service Committee

Toufic Baaklini  
President and Chairman of the Board of Directors  
In Defense of Christians

Rev. David Beckham  
President  
Bread for the World

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon  
Executive Director  
Churches for Middle East Peace

Rev. Dr. Susan Henry Crowe  
General Secretary  
General Board of Church and Society, The United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer  
General Minister and President  
United Church of Christ

Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/yemen/General/Docs/ImpactOfWarOnDevelopmentInYemen.pdf>

Susan Gunn  
Director  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Dr. Mimi Haddad  
President  
Christians for Biblical Equality

His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph  
Archbishop of New York & Metropolitan of All North America  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. Teresa Hord Owens  
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Friends Committee on National Legislation

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Founder, President  
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Jim Winkler  
General Secretary  
National Council of Churches

Cc:

Senate Foreign Relations Chairman, the Honorable Jim Risch

Senate Foreign Relations Ranking Member, the Honorable Bob Menendez

House Foreign Affairs Chairman, the Honorable Eliot Engel

House Foreign Affairs Ranking Member, the Honorable Michael McCaul

Senate Armed Services Chairman, the Honorable Jim Inhofe

Senate Armed Services Ranking Member, the Honorable Jack Reed

House Armed Services Chairman, the Honorable Adam Smith

House Armed Services Ranking Member, the Honorable Mac Thornberry