



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

TRUMP CONTINUES TO SHIELD SAUDI ARABIA WITH A VETO



ICSFT categorically denounces the decision taken by President Donald Trump to veto the bill Congress passed to end the USA's military assistance to the Saudi Arabia-led war in Yemen. Although the congress voted for the first time to invoke the War Powers Resolution to try and stop USA involvement in a foreign conflict, the president showed his unwavering support to Saudi Arabia and allies by vetoing this crucial bill that would have had a substantial impact in stopping the war in Yemen. "House approval of the resolution came earlier this month on a 247-175 vote. The Senate vote last month was 54-46."

By vetoing this bill the president is giving an effective green light to Saudi-led coalition to continue the war in Yemen that has killed and wounded thousands of Yemenis and created the world's worst humanitarian crisis. It is also worth mentioning that the USA has been involved in the Saudi-led war without the authorization of Congress as mandated by their Constitution.

ICSFT in special consultative status with the ECOSOC / Center Oecumenique des eglise 150, Route de Ferney 1211, Offices: 191&192, Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: +41227884808/ 5&6- Fax:+ 41227884807- Website: www.icsft.net- Email: uncoordinator@icsft.net / info@icsft.net



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Following this decision the International Rescue Committee (IRC) president and CEO David Miliband said "Yemen is at a breaking point with 10 million people on the brink of famine. There are as many as 100 civilian casualties per week, and Yemenis are more likely to be killed at home than in any other structure."

Senator Bernie Sanders, who sponsored the bill in the Senate, said: "I am disappointed, but not surprised, that Trump has rejected the bipartisan resolution to end US involvement in the horrific war in Yemen. The people of Yemen desperately need humanitarian help, not more bombs."

The USA provides billions of dollars of arms to the Saudi-led coalition, and provides the aerial refueling of jets, technical and intelligence information to Saudi-led coalition. USA has been providing the bombs that the Saudi-led coalition is using in the war in Yemen. In too many cases USA weapons are being used to kill civilians. To illustrate, in August 2018 a bomb manufactured by Lockheed Martin killed 40 Yemeni students aboard a school bus.

According to official reports indiscriminate air raids by the Saudi-led coalition have hit civilians, hospitals and infrastructures. Aid groups estimate as many as 60,000 civilians have been killed in the war and as many as 85,000 children starved to death, with millions more at the brink of famine. According to the world body, Yemen is suffering from the worst global famine in more than 100 years.

A Saudi blockade keeps drastically needed food and medical aid from reaching Yemenis. USA assistance makes the Saudi devastation of Yemen possible.

This veto is morally wrong and will only mean more suffering and death.

ICSFT urges the congress and other stakeholders to put peace before political and economic gains by voting to override this veto.

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