

# Never Ending War - Yemen

February 10, 2024  
Merchants of Death

Aisha Jumaan, PhD, MPH





# Beautiful Yemen!





# Houthis as Proxies for Iran?

- “These constant reports that the Houthis are working for the Iranians are nonsense” They’ve been fighting Al-Qaeda since at least 2012, and they’ve been winning. Why are we fighting a movement that’s fighting Al-Qaeda?” Michael Horton, Yemen Expert
- "The United States has (...) dissented from Saudi claims that Iran is controlling the Houthis.”
- “There is little evidence that the Iranians have provided significant military support to the Houthis or exercise significant control over the group” April Alley, a researcher with the International Crisis Group."



# Saudi Airstrikes and Blockade

- Saudi-led coalition is committing many apparent violations of the laws of war
  - Indiscriminate attacks on civilians
  - Use of internationally banned cluster munitions

“The coalition-imposed blockade may amount to starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, a war crime”.

# Air Strike on Fajj Attan, Sana'a



Faj Attan Base hit by Saudi Air strike on 20th  
April 2015 at Sanaa, Yemen



# Sanaa resident describes Saudi-led bombing as like 'being at the centre of an earthquake'

- Many parts of Yemen's capital city reduced to rubble
  - “Massive and huge explosions rocking the capital Sanaa many times, following intense Saudi jets soaring in the sky of Sanaa.”
  - “I swear the building is shaking like I'm in the center of an earthquake!! I guess these are the newest bombs now!”

A Yemeni Girls finding that her family home is destroyed



Independent. Dec 1, 2015

# Nothing was sacred for Airstrikes, even Mosques





# Destruction of Infrastructure, October, 2022

- 10 seaports
- 14 airports
- 190 electricity facilities
- 400 road and bridges
- 110 communications posts
- 105 water plants
- 70,000 houses of civilians
- 1248 school and educational centers
- 43 university
- 214 hospital and health clinics
- 564 industrial plants
- 52 tourist attractions
- 43 heritage site
- 29 sports arenas
- 472 food storage hangers
- 546 local markets
- 212 fuel stations
- 103 chicken hatchers

# Live Stock after Airstrike



Adam Bailes





It was filmed by a boy called Osama shortly before the attack.

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Mokhtar says all of the 50 children on board the bus that morning appeared to be in high spirits.



Mokhtar al-Jaradi says he does not want to go to school after so many of his friends were killed [Ahmad Alghobary/Al Jazeera]

A video taken by one of the boys on the bus, Osama al-Hamran, showed the children excited for the day ahead.





Fragments of the MK-82 bomb were found close the wreckage [Ahmad Alghobary/Al Jazeera]

## 'I hate buses'

A few days later, Al Jazeera received an image suggesting a US-made MK-82 bomb was used in the raid. A metal fin, bearing the [serial numbers of Lockheed Martin](#), was found nearby.

# Saudi Arabia rejoins world's top five military spenders, says report

Riyadh spends estimated \$75bn on its military in 2022, an increase of 16 percent from previous year



The US is the biggest supplier of weapons to Saudi Arabia (AFP/File photo)

By MEE staff

Published date: 24 April 2023 18:15 BST | Last update: 1 day 4 hours ago

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# US Role in Arming Saudi

- The Obama admin had over \$90 billion in arms deals with Saudi from 2010-2014 and well over \$11 billion in 2015
- Washington Post
- Reuters





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# Trump's weapons deal with Saudi Arabia includes \$24 billion in goods approved by Obama

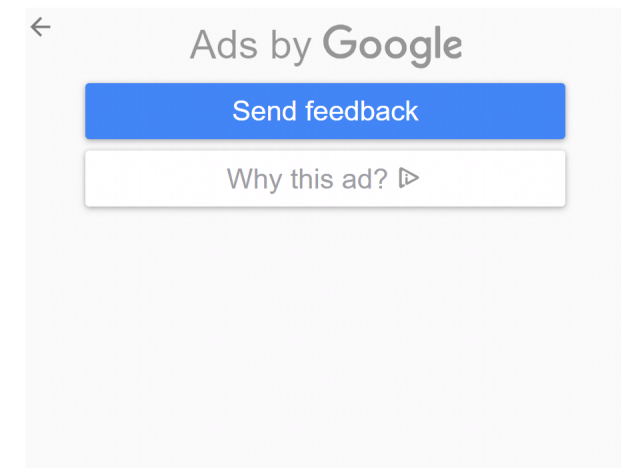
By Travis J. Tritten

May 22, 2017 6:04 pm



A significant portion of the Trump administration's \$110 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia includes billions of dollars worth of equipment that has already been approved by the State Department under the Obama administration, according to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

The State Department approved the kingdom's purchase of Freedom-class littoral combat ships, Abrams battle tanks, Chinook cargo helicopters, and a range of missiles and other ammunition between 2013 and January that will go forward as part of the deal announced by Trump, the agency said.



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# *U.S. Prepares to Lift Ban on Sales of Offensive Weapons to Saudi Arabia*

Some lawmakers are likely to oppose the move, but officials said the Biden administration has noted the kingdom's de facto cease-fire with the Houthi militia in Yemen.

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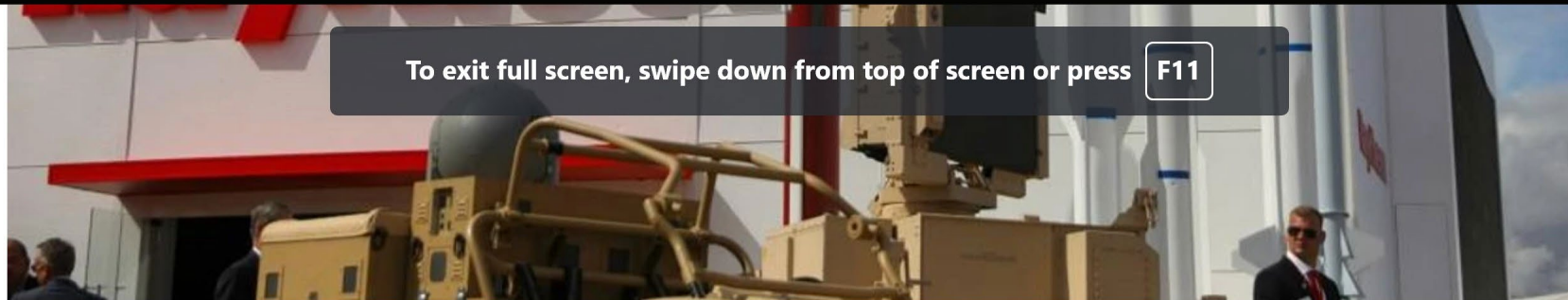
President Biden visited Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 2022. Mr. Biden, who once referred to Saudi Arabia as a “pariah” nation, earlier on expressed concerns about the kingdom’s human rights record. Doug Mills/The New York Times



By **Kate Kelly**, **Edward Wong** and **Vivian Nereim**

Kate Kelly and Edward Wong reported from Washington, and Vivian Nereim from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Dec. 21, 2023, 7:24 p.m. ET



Raytheon Technologies is the world's fourth-largest seller of weapons. (Photo: Simon Dawson/Bloomberg via Getty Images)

# Saying 'Peace Not Going to Break Out... Anytime Soon,' Raytheon CEO Sees 'Solid Growth' in Middle East

The head of the world's fourth-biggest arms maker showed no concern that the Saudis can't buy his bombs—for now.



By BRETT WILKINS

Jan 28, 2021



Sixty years to the month after President Dwight D. Eisenhower prophetically warned against the "unwarranted influence" of the "military-industrial complex" in his [farewell address](#), the chief executive of one of the world's biggest weapons makers affirmed that ongoing war in the Middle East is good for business.

*"Look, peace is not going to break out in the Middle East anytime soon. I think it remains an area where we'll continue to see solid growth."*

*--Greg Hayes, Raytheon CEO*

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“Look...peace is not going to break out in the Middle East anytime soon,” Hayes said. “I think it remains an area where we’ll continue to see solid growth.”

Similarly, Lockheed Martin CEO Jim Taiclet expected foreign arms sales to remain a priority in the Biden administration.

“As far as international business, including foreign military sales, the tendency of the people in the Biden administration [and] in the president’s own statements, reiterate his view that alliances are important that they need to be cultivated, and that they have real value in deterrence and national defense,” Taiclet said. “I do think that we’ll have a more open environment for [foreign military sales] and direct commercial sales to our international partners.”

Taiclet said foreign weapon sales are a way to generate American jobs and stimulate the U.S. economy.

“If jobs and the economy are important, the promotion of international defense sales, one would surmise, would also be important,” Taiclet said Tuesday morning on Lockheed’s quarterly earnings call.

While arms sales create jobs growth, a 2019 Center for International Policy



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# Saudi Arabia makes peace proposal for Yemen after Houthi talks

Key players in Yemeni coalition government ready to go along with minimum eight-month ceasefire

**Patrick Wintour**  
*Diplomatic editor*

Mon 10 Apr 2023 12.39 EDT



📷 Mahdi al-Mashat (l), the chair of the Houthis' political council, meets Muhammad al-Jaber, the Saudi ambassador to Yemen, in Sana'a on Saturday. Photograph: Xinhua/Shutterstock

Saudi Arabia has persuaded the key players in the Yemeni coalition

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WORLD NEWS

# Saudi Arabia praises 'positive results' after Yemen's Houthi rebels visit kingdom for peace talks

Sept 20, 2023



1 of 6 | In this photo released by the Saudi government, Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, right, meets with a delegation from Yemen's Houthi rebels in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023. Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, Sept. 20 praised the "positive results" of talks with Yemen's Houthi rebels after they visited the kingdom for peace talks. Read More



BY JON GAMBRELL

Updated 9:45 AM PST, September 20, 2023

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# Yemen warring parties commit to ceasefire, UN-led peace process, says envoy

*Rival groups commit to new ceasefire and engage in UN-led peace process to end the nine-year war, says UN special envoy for Yemen.*

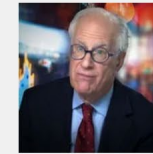


A man stands between the graves of people killed during the war in Yemen, at a cemetery in the Houthi-held capital Sanaa [File: Mohammed Huwais/AFP]

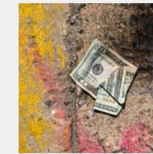
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# Peace Process Plans between two Yemeni Governments

- Permanent nationwide ceasefire,
- Commitment to resume oil exports,
- Pay all public sector salaries,
- Open roads in Taiz and other parts of Yemen
- “further ease restrictions on Sanaa Airport and the Hodeidah port”
- Engage in preparations for the resumption of an inclusive political process

# Houthis Position on War on Gaza

- All Israeli linked ships can't pass through Bab-Almandab until there is a ceasefire. (11/19)
- All ships going to Israel regardless of ownership, destined to Israel, can't pass through Bab-Almandab until humanitarian aid is allowed into Gaza.(12/3)



# U.S. Response to Red Sea Crisis

- U.S. military coalition began patrolling the Red Sea (11/22)
- U.S. established Operation Prosperity Guardian (12/18)
- U.S./UK military attacked Yemen (Jan 12)
- U.S. designates the Houthis a terrorist group (Jan. 17)
- U.S. decision to designate the Houthis a terrorist group temporarily blocked a crucial element of the peace process.
  - Salaries to public servants who have not been paid since August of 2016 can't be made until US grants a license authorizing it.


# US Designation of AA as SDGT

- “I think it’s a form of do-something-ism,” he told Al Jazeera. The reimposition of the SDGT designation, he added, is a reflection of Washington’s refusal to recognize that recent Houthi attacks are linked to the war in Gaza.
- “The Biden administration has put itself in a box ... where it doesn’t have good policy options.”
- Brian Finucane, a senior US programme adviser at the International Crisis Group think tank.

ALJAZEERA News | Joe Biden Israel War on Gaza Features Opinion Video More

## Biden ‘playing with fire’ by re-designating Yemen’s Houthis as ‘terrorists’

*Advocates say labelling the Houthis a ‘global terrorist group’ risks worsening an already dire humanitarian crisis in Yemen.*



Newly recruited Houthi fighters hold up firearms during a ceremony at the end of their training in Sanaa, Yemen, on January 11 [File: Khaled Abdullah/Reuters]

By Jillian Kestler-D’Amours and Joseph Stepansky  
17 Jan 2024

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# Houthi Attacks and U.S.-Led Strikes Dash Hopes for Quick Yemen Peace Deal

A U.N.-backed process to end Yemen's nine-year conflict appeared to be moving forward recently. But then the war in Gaza began and tensions spilled over.

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Newly recruited Houthi fighters protested on Thursday in Yemen's capital, Sana, against the U.S.-led military coalition pounding the country with airstrikes. Yahya Arhab/EPA, via Shutterstock



By **Vivian Nereim**  
Reporting from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Feb. 6, 2024 Updated 5:25 a.m. ET

Feb 6, 2024





A Yemeni boy walks past a mural depicting a U.S. drone in the capital Sanaa. (Photo: AFP/Getty Images)

# US Bombs Yemen After Years of Undermining Democracy in Yemen and Destabilizing... Yemen

Latest targeting of Houthis only adds to the suffering of Yemenis from years of bombing and civil war.



By STEPHEN ZUNES

Feb 10, 2024

The Progressive

There are a number of issues of concern regarding the U.S.-led [bombing campaign](#) against Houthi targets in Yemen, one of the [poorest countries](#) in the world. Like other military operations ordered by the President without Congressional authorization, it raises serious [constitutional questions](#). The strikes have thus far not had the intended effect of curbing Houthi attacks on international shipping. They have [undermined](#) the UN-led peace process to finally end that country's nine-year civil

# Future of Peace Process in Yemen

- Anti-Houthi groups in Yemen began calling for international support to start fighting.
- U.S. Ambassador met with the Minister of Defense in the IRG
- “The escalation in the Red Sea has resulted in the direct suspension of a deal that was anticipated to be announced in recent months,” Ahmed Nagi, a senior Yemen analyst at the International Crisis Group, a think tank.
- “The U.N.-led political discussions are presently at a standstill.”

# Thank you



For further questions:  
[Aisha@yemenfoundation.org](mailto:Aisha@yemenfoundation.org)





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# THE YEMEN TRIBUTE

A HISTORICAL AND HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW  
COMMEMORATING THE YEMENI FALLEN.

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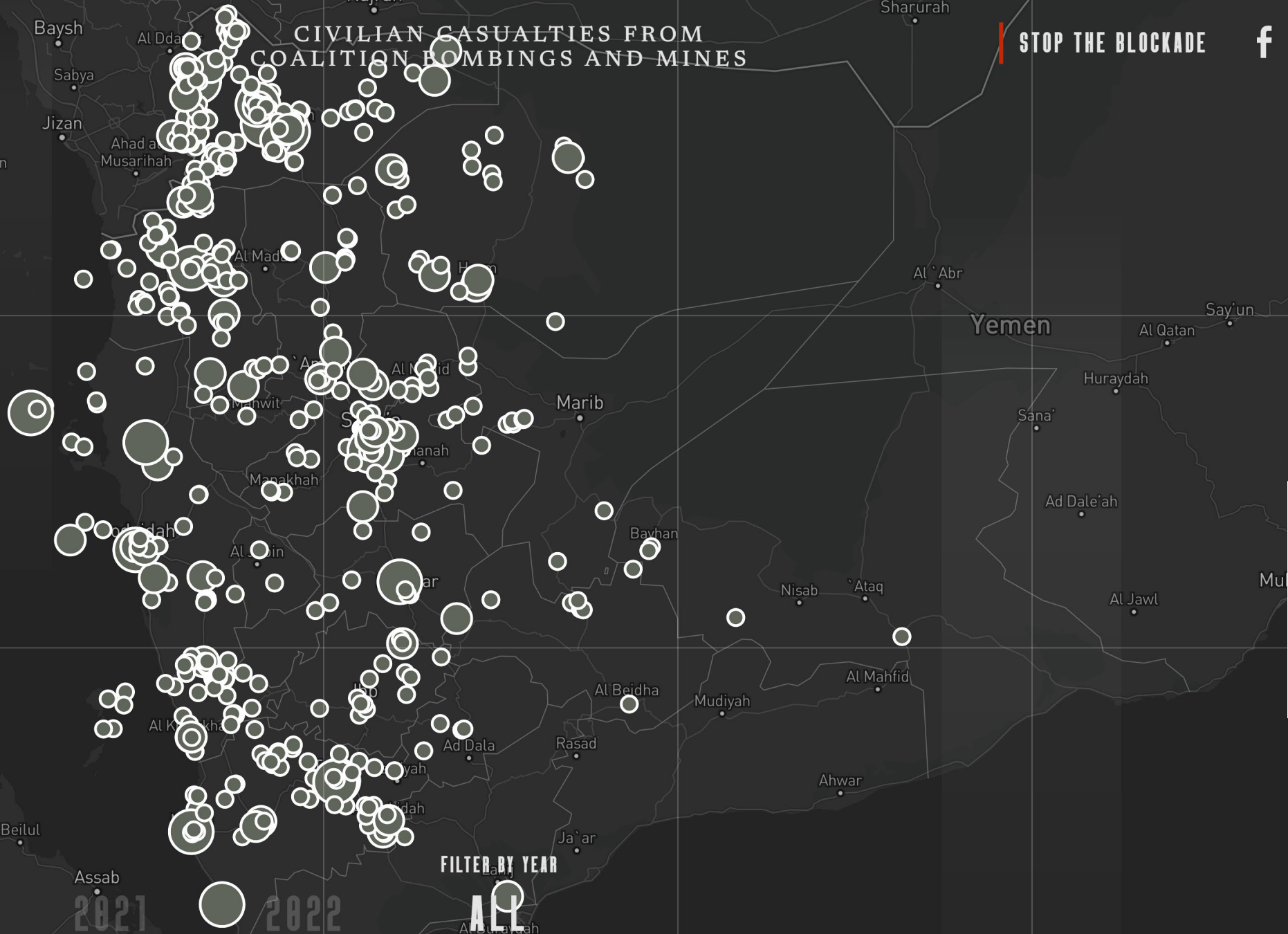


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STOP THE BLOCKADE



# CIVILIAN CASUALTIES FROM COALITION BOMBINGS AND MINES



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BACK TO MAP

DAHYAN - SAADA - SAADA

2018-08-09

51

FATALITIES

79

INJURIES

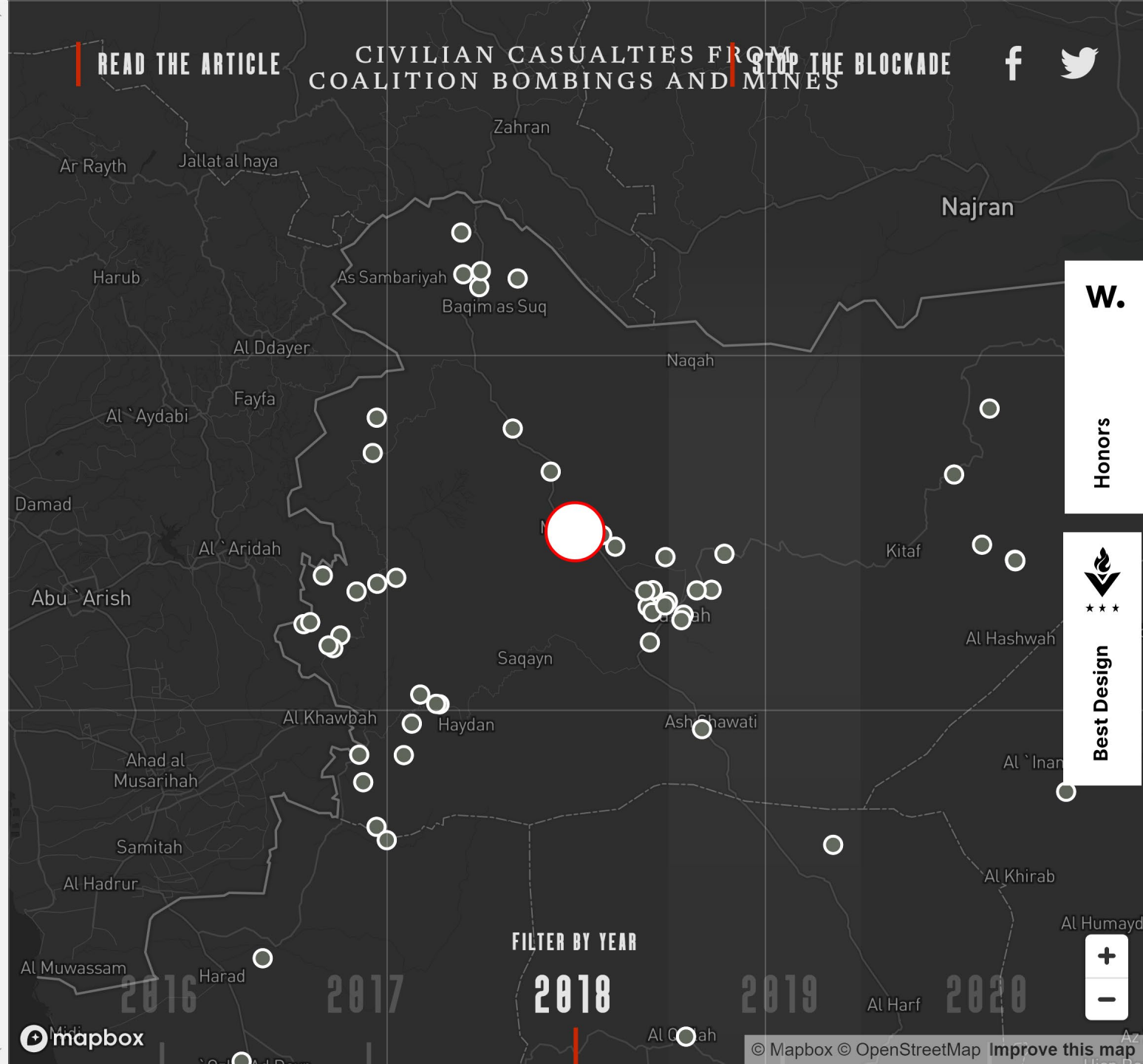
The number of martyrs of Dhahyan market massacre, which was committed by the Saudi-American aggression yesterday, has reached 51, including 40 children, and 79 others were wounded, including 56 children.

[LINK TO THE SOURCE](#)

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CIVILIAN CASUALTIES FROM COALITION BOMBINGS AND MINES

STOP THE BLOCKADE



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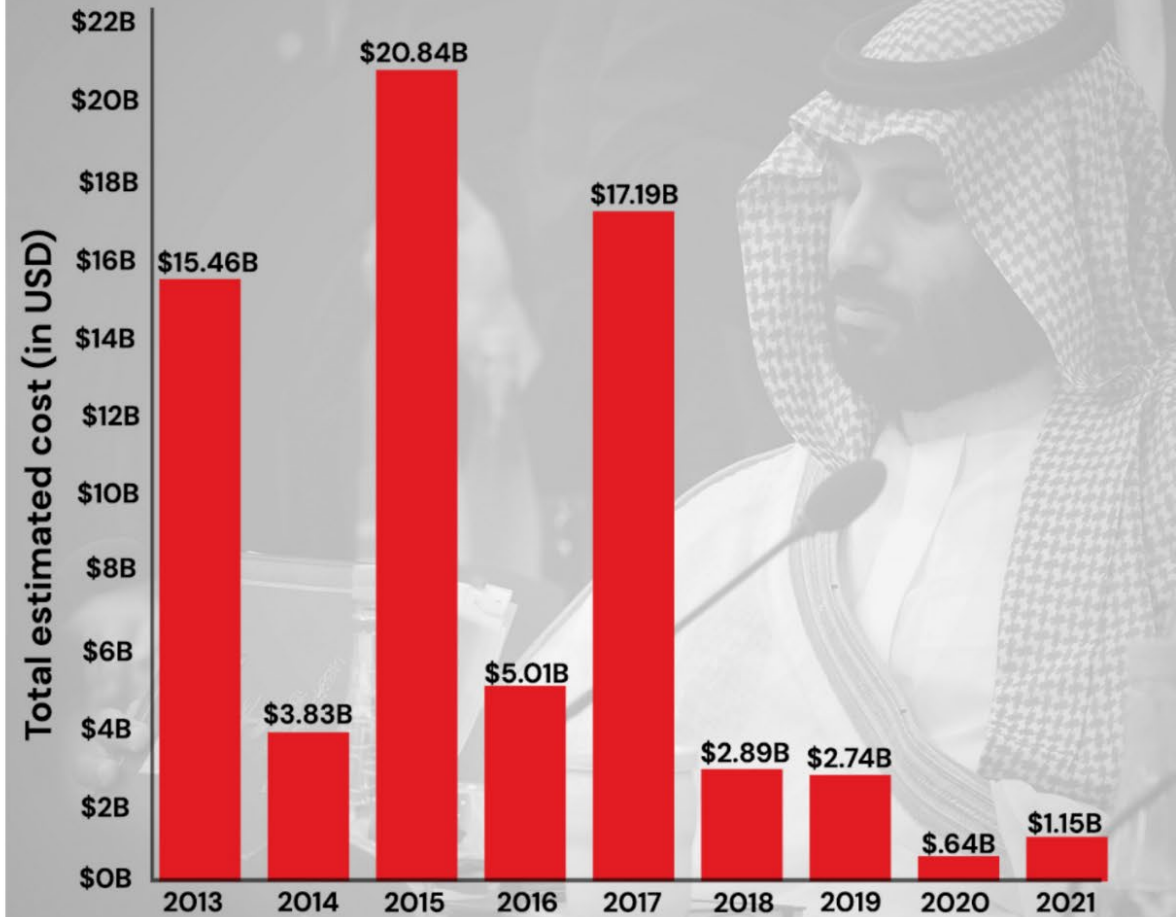
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- Executive Summary
- Overview
- The Biden administration's position on Yemen
- The coalition and Houthi transborder attacks
- The Houthi threat narrative and Saudi and Emirati objectives in Yemen
- The humanitarian crisis
- [History of U.S. support for the war](#)
- Conclusion

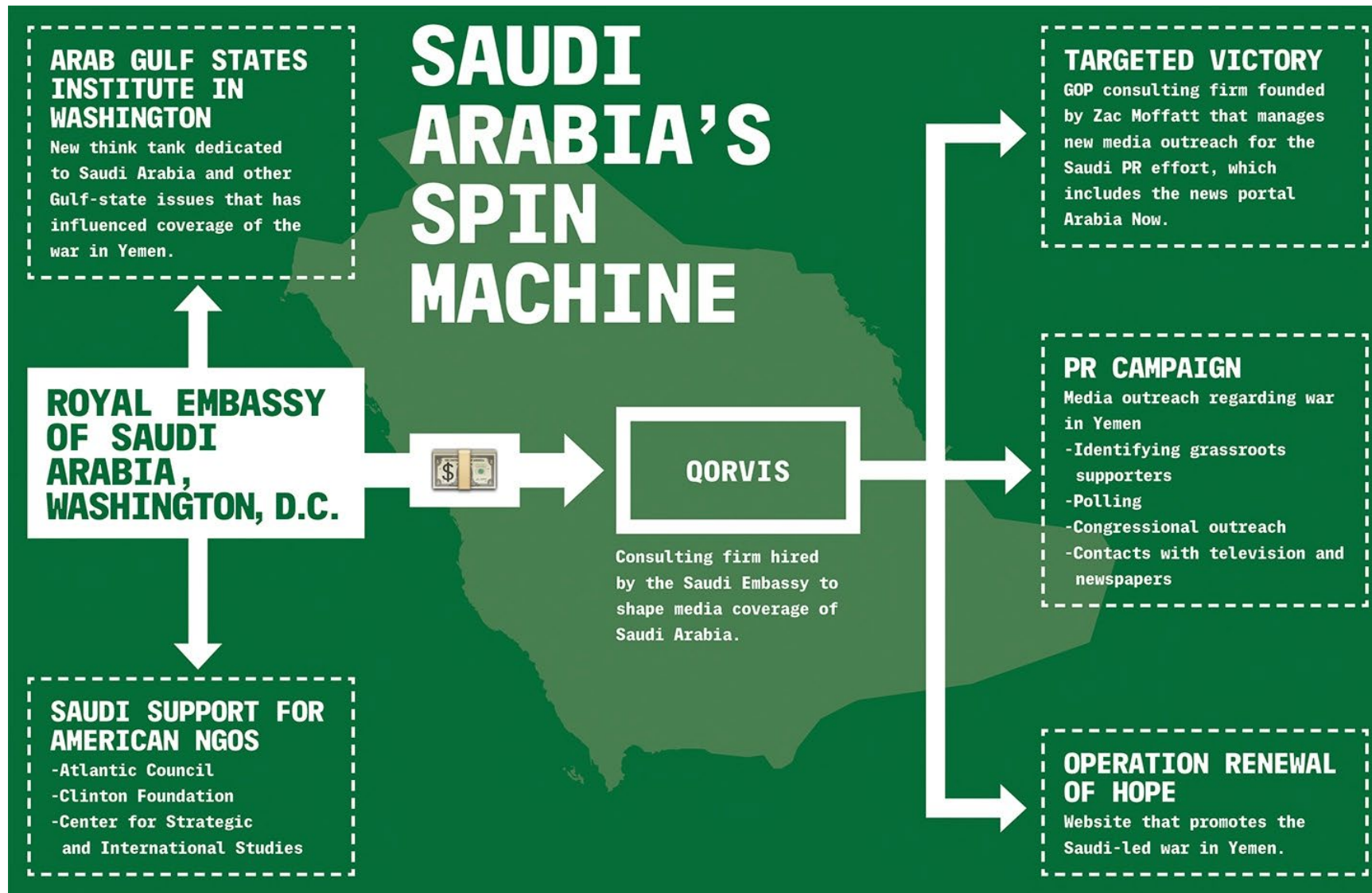
# U.S. Weapons Sales to Saudi Arabia



SOURCE: Forum on the Arms Trade, 2022.



# Inside Saudi Arabia's Campaign to Charm American Policymakers and Journalists



# New U.S. Weapons Deal for Saudi Arabia Sends Message of Impunity For Human Rights Violations



By Odeliya Matter | Tue, 10/17/2023 - 14:21

>> U.S. Wars & Militarism

On Sept. 21, the Biden administration announced that it is preparing a massive new [\\$500 million weapons sale](#) to Saudi Arabia. The deal could have troubling implications for human rights. Now, with just days left for Congress to intervene, it's critical that our lawmakers act to stop the cycle of impunity for Saudi Arabia's abuses.

Just a month before the announcement, on Aug. 21, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a damning [report](#) exposing atrocities committed by Saudi border guards against Ethiopian migrants and asylum seekers at the Saudi-Yemen border.

**End U.S. Complicity in  
Saudi Arabia's War  
and Blockade on  
Yemen**

**Write Congress** 