

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Strongly condemning human rights violations, violence against civilians, and cooperation with Iran by the Houthi movement and its allies in Yemen.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Strongly condemning human rights violations, violence against civilians, and cooperation with Iran by the Houthi movement and its allies in Yemen.

Whereas, in 2014 and 2015, the Houthi movement, also known as Ansar Allah, and its allies attacked Yemen's internationally recognized government and seized control of the capital, Sana'a, and the port city of Aden;

Whereas, since 2015, the Houthis have expanded their armed campaign beyond Yemen's borders to target civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia and possibly beyond, including hundreds of missile and drone attacks against civilian targets in Saudi Arabia that have killed innocent civilians;

Whereas the Houthi movement's slogan is, "God is great! Death to America! Death to Israel! Curse upon the Jews! Victory to Islam!";

Whereas al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria—Yemen Province have taken advantage of the Yemeni civil war to expand their territory and resources;

Whereas Iran and its proxies have provided direct financial, material, and logistical support to the Houthis for at least a decade;

Whereas the United Nations Panel of Experts on Yemen has found that Iran is in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015) for supplying the Houthis with missiles and drones;

Whereas the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait between Yemen, Djibouti, and Eritrea, which connects the Suez Canal and Red Sea to the Indian Ocean, is a strategically important transit point for a significant amount of global trade each year;

Whereas the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait is the world's fourth-largest transit point for oil shipments;

Whereas, in its January 2018 and January 2019 reports, the United Nations Panel of Experts on Yemen expressed concern that Houthi missile attacks and sea mines released in the Red Sea and Bab-el-Mandeb Strait threatened commercial shipping and humanitarian aid;

Whereas, in October 2016, the Houthis launched multiple cruise missiles at United States Navy warships while they were in international waters near the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait;

Whereas, in July 2018, the Houthis attacked two Saudi oil tankers transiting through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait;

Whereas, on May 23, 2018, a Houthi missile hit a Turkish-flagged ship carrying wheat to a Yemeni port;

Whereas the United Nations warned on February 14, 2019, that approximately 24,000,000 people in Yemen are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, with most living in territory currently held by the Houthis;

Whereas the United Nations also estimates that 7,400,000 people in Yemen are in need of treatment for malnutrition, including 2,000,000 children under 5 years of age;

Whereas according to Human Rights Watch, the extensive use of land mines by the Houthis has killed and maimed hundreds of civilians and cut off entire communities from their crops, clean water, and humanitarian aid;

Whereas, on June 21, 2019, the World Food Programme announced that it was partially suspending aid to parts of Yemen controlled by the Houthis because of interference with food distribution and aid convoys and the misappropriation of food by Houthi officials;

Whereas Reporters Without Borders estimated that, as of March 2019, at least 16 journalists were being held hostage by the Houthis, with 10 of them facing possible execution following years of torture and starvation;

Whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, the Houthis have undertaken a deliberate campaign of kidnapping, torture, and abuse against students, human rights defenders, political opponents, and religious minorities;

Whereas Houthi missile and drone attacks on June 12, 2019, and June 23, 2019, killed 1 civilian and injured 47 others at Abha International Airport in southern Saudi Arabia;

Whereas, according to United States Central Command, on June 6, 2019, a Houthi surface to air missile shot down a United States MQ–9 Reaper drone over Yemen, demonstrating a new Houthi capability that United States Central Command assessed was enabled by Iranian assistance;

Whereas, on December 18, 2018, a cease-fire took effect in the port of Hodeidah, Yemen, which is the entry point for 70 percent of humanitarian aid in the country;

Whereas the Houthis did not begin removing their forces from Hodeidah and two other ports, part of phase one of the December 2018 ceasefire and withdrawal agreement agreed to in Stockholm, Sweden, until May 2019;

Whereas according to the United Nations monitoring mission in Hodeidah, the Houthis had not removed many of their military installations and equipment from the port city as of June 12, 2019; and

Whereas, on June 24, 2019, the United States, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates released a joint statement that raised concerns that Iranian activities were destabilizing both Yemen and the broader region, reaffirmed support for the efforts of United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths, and called on all parties in Yemen to accelerate implementation of the Stockholm agreement: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2       *concurring)*, That Congress—
- 3               (1) condemns the Houthi movement in Yemen
- 4       for—

1 (A) its blatant disregard for human rights  
2 and innocent life;

3 (B) its ideology of hate toward Israel and  
4 Jewish people both in Yemen and around the  
5 world;

6 (C) preventing critical humanitarian aid  
7 from reaching people in Yemen;

8 (D) the targeting of international com-  
9 merce in the Red Sea and Bab-el-Mandeb  
10 Strait; and

11 (E) missile and drone attacks against civil-  
12 ians;

13 (2) expresses concern about Iran's extensive  
14 support for the Houthis and the economic and secu-  
15 rity consequences for the region of an Iranian foot-  
16 hold on the Arabian Peninsula;

17 (3) urges the Houthis and other parties in the  
18 Yemeni civil war to uphold the terms of the Decem-  
19 ber 2018 ceasefire and withdrawal agreement agreed  
20 to in Stockholm, Sweden; and

21 (4) urges the United States Government to sup-  
22 port a peace process to end the civil war and human-  
23 itarian crisis in Yemen while preventing Iran and  
24 terrorist groups, including al Qaeda in the Arabian  
25 Peninsula and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria—

- 1 Yemen Province, from gaining a permanent foothold
- 2 on the Arabian Peninsula.