



## DEBATE PACK

Number 2015/0077 | 19 October 2015

# Conflict in Yemen

Tim Robinson

President Ali Abdallah Saleh had been in power since 1978, an experience that he famously likened to “dancing on the heads of snakes.”

As the position of Saleh became increasingly precarious, Saudi Arabia was one of the leaders in brokering a deal for a transition. The deal, backed by the UN, involved a transfer of power to Saleh’s deputy, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, which finally took place in November 2011 after months of deadly clashes between protesters and the security forces.

The transfer of power to Hadi appeared to be having some success in establishing stability, but the Yemeni armed forces remained sharply divided after the defection in March 2011 of General Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar from the government to the uprising. The manoeuvrings of tribal forces were behind many clashes between different parts of the official armed forces. Throughout 2012 and 2013 Hadi continued to struggle with the various challenges to central authority including the Houthis and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

More broadly, the 2011 ‘revolution’ did not lead to a thorough change in the leadership of the country. Huge economic and social problems continued to afflict the population and Hadi was seen by many Yemenis as ineffective.

In September 2014, Houthi armed forces took control of the capital Sana’a, culminating in a simmering and often violent dispute over the drafting of a new constitution, which was plagued by disagreements, particularly over its crucial decentralisation clauses.

Sunni governments in the region saw Iranian interference in the success of the Houthis (although it probably had at least as much to do with support from elements loyal to the old president, Ali Abdallah Saleh).

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia led a coalition of nine Arab states in imposing a naval blockade on Yemen and bombing Houthi positions. The air operation has caused a lot of destruction and killed many civilians but has not decisively reversed gains made by the Houthis.

The blockade has sharply worsened Yemen’s already very fragile humanitarian situation. The UN has warned that Yemen is on the edge of famine, with the worst affected being the 1.3 million internally displaced. As many as 6 million Yemenis are thought to be food insecure. The WFP blames both sides for impeding the distribution of vital food aid.

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most, but not all, non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

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# 1. Press Articles

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The Guardian

**Saudis strike in response to Houthi Scud attack as forgotten war rages on**

Ian Black

15 October 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/15/saudi-arabia-strike-response-houthi-scud-attack-forgotten-war>

al-Araby al-Jadeed

**The weapons used in Yemen should spark international outrage**

Sophia Akram

13 October 2015

<http://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/comment/2015/10/13/the-weapons-used-in-yemen-should-spark-international-outrage>

The Guardian

**Britain seems to have outsourced foreign policy to Saudi Arabia**

Andrew Mitchell

8 October 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/oct/08/britain-guilty-silence-yemen-saudi-arabia>

The Independent

**Houthi rebels inform UN they are ready to join talks to end conflict**

Charlene Rodrigues

9 October 2015

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/yemen-crisis-houthi-rebels-inform-un-they-are-ready-to-join-talks-to-end-conflict-a6688676.html>

Al-Monitor

**Oman breaks from GCC on Yemen conflict**

Giorgio Cafiero

7 May 2015

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/05/oman-response-yemen-conflict.html>

Muftah

**The Yemen crisis isn't about Yemen. It's about Saudi Arabia and its desire for regional power**

Mend Mariwany

30 March 2015

<http://muftah.org/the-yemen-crisis-isnt-about-yemen-its-about-saudi-arabia-and-iran/#.Vh-8Zsp0zcs>

Yemen Times

**Yemen is more nuanced than 'Sunni' & 'Shia'**

Abubakr Al-Shamahi

27 February 2014

<http://www.yementimes.com/en/1759/opinion/3540/Yemen-is-more-nuanced-than-%E2%80%98Sunni%E2%80%99-amp;%C2%A0%E2%80%98Shia%E2%80%99.htm>

## 2. Press releases

UN News centre

### **Houthis reaffirm acceptance of Security Council resolution aimed at ending violence in Yemen – UN**

7 October 2015

The United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, has welcomed the latest statements by the Houthis reaffirming their acceptance of a UN Security Council resolution aimed at ending the country's months-long conflict, the Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today.

"This is an important step," Stéphane Dujarric told reporters at the regular press briefing at UN Headquarters, as resolution 2216, other Security Council resolutions, the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and the Outcomes of the National Dialogue have been at the core of the UN-led peace process.

In the resolution, adopted by a vote of 14 in favour to none against, with Russia abstaining, the Council demands that the Houthis withdraw from all areas seized during the latest conflict, relinquish arms seized from military and security institutions, cease all actions falling exclusively within the authority of the legitimate Yemeni Government and fully implement previous Council resolutions.

The text also calls on all Yemeni parties, in particular the Houthis, to abide by the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism, the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue conference, and the relevant Security Council resolutions and to resume and accelerate inclusive UN-brokered negotiations, including on issues relating to governance, "to continue the political transition in order to reach a consensus solution."

These pillars will remain the basis for peace talks, which the Special Envoy has been working towards, added Mr. Dujarric, noting that Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed believes that the Government of Yemen, the Houthis and their allies should accept the invitation to join peace talks on this basis.

The Houthis also reiterated their commitment to the seven Muscat Principles that they had previously conveyed.

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**Baroness Anelay welcomes conclusions of UN Human Rights Council [Extract]**

2 October 2015

Over the past year, Yemen has descended into a serious security and humanitarian crisis. A political solution remains the best way to end the conflict, avoid a humanitarian catastrophe, and bring long-term stability to the country. The resolution calls upon all parties to respect their obligations under international law and ensure access for humanitarian aid. It calls on the UN to provide technical assistance to the Government of Yemen, assist the national independent commission of inquiry, and report back to the next session of the Human Rights Council.

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**Minister for the Middle East calls for political solution to Yemen conflict**

1 October 2015

Chairing a meeting at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) today, Tobias Ellwood said that all parties must get behind the UN political process to achieve lasting peace.

Speaking after the meeting, attended by representatives from Yemen, Bahrain, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE, the US, the EU, GCC Secretariat, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen and OCHA, Mr Ellwood said:

“Yemen is at risk of suffering a prolonged conflict and descending into famine.

A political solution is the best way to achieve peace and stability. The international community fully supports UN efforts to bring all parties involved in this conflict together to negotiate a lasting ceasefire. All parties in the conflict must engage constructively and in good faith, and refrain from any action that would undermine attempts for a resolution through dialogue.”

Discussions at the meeting focused on the dire humanitarian situation, with the UK continuing to call for all sides to facilitate access for humanitarian aid and commercial goods, including through all of Yemen’s ports, and the need to protect civilians from fighting. To date, the UK has committed £75 million for life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable in Yemen. Attendees also discussed the importance of establishing a secure environment as part of Yemen’s stabilisation and recovery.

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## **Urgent action needed to prevent famine in Yemen, warns Justine Greening**

27 September 2015

The lack of international action on the crisis in Yemen shows worrying parallels with the delayed response to the famine in Somalia that killed more than a quarter of a million people, Justine Greening warned today.

The International Development Secretary set out a package of urgent support from the UK including £20 million in new life saving aid. And she highlighted the scale of the growing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which the UN has warned is now on the brink of famine, urging the international community to act before it is too late.

Ms. Greening also announced that the UK would co-host an international meeting on the crisis in New York tomorrow (28 September) to agree a rapid and concerted response to the crisis from the international community.

Justine Greening said:

“The world cannot close its eyes to the threat of famine in Yemen. We need urgent action now to prevent thousands of needless deaths. Ultimately, only a ceasefire and a durable political process can resolve this crisis. But in the short term there are practical steps that can and will save lives.

We need imports of fuel, food and other vital supplies to flow into Yemen in much larger quantities. Aid agencies must get better access within Yemen so they can save lives. And other countries must follow our lead and step up with urgently needed new funding.

The famine in Somalia in 2011 showed us the human cost of the international community standing back and not acting until the worst had happened. Meanwhile, the Syrian refugee crisis highlights the impact of leaving a humanitarian disaster under-funded. We need to learn those lessons in Yemen. It is not too late to prevent a worsening disaster, but time is rapidly running out.”

Ongoing fighting in Yemen is disrupting the delivery of essential fuel and food to those most in need, putting millions of lives at risk. Four out of every five Yemenis – more than 80 per cent of the population – are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance and nearly 1.5 million people have been displaced by fighting. The UN has warned that across the country six million people face critical food shortages and that 96,000 children are now starving in Hodeidah alone.

The £20 million in funding committed by the International Development Secretary today takes the total committed by the UK in response to the crisis to £75 million. Only Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the US have pledged more.



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The new funding will go to key partner agencies including the World Food Programme, UNICEF and NGOs operating on the ground via UN OCHA's (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund.

The support will provide the most vulnerable people, including those forced to flee their homes, with life-saving food, water and sanitation, nutrition and healthcare. This will include:

- targeting food insecure families across 19 governorates in Yemen with emergency food assistance:
- treating children with severe acute malnutrition in their communities and in health facilities – for example by providing therapeutic food and drugs;
- providing internally displaced persons with access to safe water supplies and critical hygiene items, including trucking clean water to areas of need and distributing hygiene kits;
- screening children for potentially fatal childhood infections such as malaria, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections and treating them through mobile health clinics; and
- providing antenatal, delivery and postpartum care to pregnant and lactating women.

The UK's international meeting on Yemen

Justine Greening will co-host a humanitarian event on Yemen on 28 September as part of the UN General Assembly in New York. The other hosts will be Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator at UN OCHA and Hesham Youssef, Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs at the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The event will aim to raise the profile of the Yemen crisis, agree on key response priorities, and galvanise additional funding. Key response priorities are:

- to restore commercial shipping to pre-conflict levels, with access to all of Yemen's ports for vital food, fuel and medical supplies;
- to encourage all parties to the conflict to facilitate humanitarian access for humanitarian agencies and to take all necessary steps to prevent civilian casualties and avoid damage to critical civilian infrastructure - including airports, sea ports, fuel distribution sites and key roads, all of which are essential for aid deliveries; and
- to ensure the international community steps up its response and supports the UN's central role in managing and co-ordinating the international humanitarian response.

United Nations Security Council

**Security Council Demands End to Yemen Violence, Adopting Resolution 2216 (2015), with Russian Federation Abstaining**

14 April 2015

Imposing sanctions on individuals it said were undermining the stability of Yemen, the Security Council today demanded that all parties in the embattled country, in particular the Houthis, immediately and unconditionally end violence and refrain from further unilateral actions that threatened the political transition.

Adopting resolution 2216 (2015) by 14 affirmative votes to none against, with one abstention (Russian Federation), the Council also demanded that the Houthis, withdraw from all areas seized during the latest conflict, relinquish arms seized from military and security institutions, cease all actions falling exclusively within the authority of the legitimate Government of Yemen and fully implement previous Council resolutions.

Acting under chapter VII of Charter, the body also called upon the Houthis to refrain from any provocations or threats to neighbouring States, release the Minister for Defence, all political prisoners and individuals under house arrest or arbitrarily detained, and end the recruitment of children.

Imposing sanctions, including a general assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo, on Abdulmalik al-Houthi, who it called the Houthi leader, and Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, son of the president who stepped down in 2011, the resolution called upon all Yemeni parties to abide by the Gulf Cooperation Council and other initiatives and to resume the United Nations-brokered political transition.

Reaffirming the need for all parties to ensure the safety of civilians, the Council called on parties to facilitate the evacuation by concerned States and international organizations of their civilians and personnel from Yemen. The resolution requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution within 10 days.

Explaining his delegation's decision to abstain, the representative of the Russian Federation said the text failed to take into account proposals his country had made, refused to call on all sides to halt fire and lacked clarity on a humanitarian pause. There were inappropriate references to sanctions, he added, stating that resolution must not result in an escalation of the crisis.

The representative of Jordan, Council President for April, said, however, that the adoption of the resolution under Chapter VII was a clear and firm signal to the Houthis and all those supporting them to comply with their obligations. Stressing the regional ramifications of the escalating conflict, she stated that the Council was prepared to consider any additional measures required.

The Council had for months demanded that the parties in Yemen proceed with the agreed upon political transition, the representative of the United States recalled. In response, however, the Houthis had intensified their

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military actions, threatening the country's and region's security. For that reason, she strongly supported the resolution, which provided a general asset freeze and travel ban on spoilers.

Also welcoming the adoption, the representative of Yemen described it as a tangible demonstration of the seriousness of the international community's support for his people's effort to restore peace, rule of law and democracy. He said that while the Yemeni Government and other parties were finalizing a comprehensive peace framework, opposition forces had mounted a coup d'état, threatening the social fabric and cohesion of the Yemeni people. He applauded the response of the Gulf Cooperation Council to the crisis as consistent with the imperative of preserving Yemen's Constitution and rebuffing Iran's designs.

While also voting in favour of the text, the representative of Venezuela expressed concern at what he called the lack of inclusion and transparency in the deliberations, maintaining that the views of non-permanent members were side-lined.

Also speaking today were the representatives of the United Kingdom, Spain, China, Malaysia, Chile, Lithuania, France, New Zealand, Chad, Nigeria and Angola.

The meeting began at 10:05 a.m. and ended at 11 a.m.

### Statements

MARK LYALL GRANT (United Kingdom), supporting Saudi-led military action at the request of Yemeni President Hadi, said that, ultimately, an inclusive political process would have to be reached. A political solution was also the best way to fight extremism and promote humanitarian relief. The resolution just adopted was aimed at ensuring that everyone engaged in the United Nations-negotiated process in good faith. It was right to increase political pressure against individuals who did not do so, he added. The security and stability of Yemen was in the interest of the world; the United Kingdom would use all tools in its disposal towards that end.

VITALY CHURKIN (Russian Federation) said his delegation had abstained because the resolution was not fully in line with what was required by the crisis in Yemen. The text failed to take into account proposals his country had made and to call on all sides to halt fire, did not provide for due reflection on consequences and lacked clarity on a humanitarian pause. There were also inappropriate references to sanctions, he added, stating that the resolution must not result in an escalation of the crisis. He stressed that there was no alternative to a political solution and action by the Council must be engendered from already-existing documents.

SAMANTHA POWER (United States) said the Council had for months demanded that the parties in Yemen proceed with the agreed-upon political transition. In response, however, the Houthis had intensified military action, threatening the country's and the region's security. The United States strongly supported the resolution, which provided a general asset freeze and travel ban on spoilers. The resolution also recognized the costs of the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian crisis. A consensus

agreement of all political parties was the only way forward; the United Nations must continue its efforts in that light.

ROMÁN OYARZUN MARCHESI (Spain) said that the Council, through the resolution, had made its resolve clear to all parties. He underscored the need for an inclusive dialogue based on political consensus towards resolving the crisis, leading to a democratic transition led by the Yemeni people themselves. Such dialogue, he stressed, could be successful only if the armed conflict ended. While expressing strong support for the resolution, he underscored the need for the Council to ensure greater transparency and inclusiveness in its consultations.

LIU JIEYI (China) said the resolution reiterated the international community's support for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen and its commitment to ensure that differences were resolved in a peaceful manner through dialogue. It was extremely important to restore stability in Yemen and the wider region, he added, stressing that there was no military solution. All parties must work towards achieving a prompt ceasefire and restoring stability and order through an inclusive political transition led by the Yemeni people. China hoped all parties would abide by all relevant resolutions, including those on humanitarian issues and on the evacuation and protection of diplomatic personnel and installations.

SITI HAJJAR ADNIN (Malaysia) said that the Council had been compelled to adopt another resolution on Yemen because of the deteriorating situation. She emphasized that the political transition hinged on the political will of the parties themselves. Strongly condemning spoilers of the peace process, she said their pursuit of narrow political interests had betrayed the hopes and aspirations of the Yemeni people. The blatant attack by the Houthis on the presidential palace was unacceptable and the Council had the duty and responsibility to press all parties to return to the negotiating table. Malaysia was deeply concerned at the worsening humanitarian situation and the difficulties in providing relief assistance to the most vulnerable. All parties to the conflict must protect civilians from the violence.

CRISTIÁN BARROS MELET (Chile) said that, despite different interpretations of the situation in Yemen, there was firm agreement on the disastrous effects the violence had on civilians. Expressing satisfaction at the final text that emerged from consultations on the resolution, he stressed that the humanitarian situation would not improve without a ceasefire and an inclusive political settlement. He regretted the fact that the resolution did not include references to the deadly violence committed against children and to attacks on hospitals and schools, saying they were dimensions the Council could not overlook. He called on Council members to make the negotiating process more transparent, in the effort of making resolutions more effective.

RAFAEL DARÍO RAMÍREZ CARREÑO (Venezuela) said he voted in favour of the text because the Council had the primary role vis-à-vis the crisis in Yemen. There was no alternative to a political solution; all parties must support efforts towards that end and diligently observe international

human rights and humanitarian law and facilitate assistance to those in need. As the only ones who benefited from the current conflict were terrorist and extremist groups, it was essential to return to dialogue. He expressed concern at the lack of inclusion and transparency in Council deliberations, stating that non-permanent members were put on the sidelines. He urged an end to such practices.

RAIMONDA MURMOKAITĖ (Lithuania) said all parties should re-launch the transition process in Yemen, incorporating the outcomes of national dialogue conference. “The humanitarian situation is dire,” she added, pointing out that 16 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance. A solution could be found and violence was not the answer. The arms embargo against the spoilers of peace, including Houthi leaders, would send a strong signal that the use of violence in defiance of Council resolutions would not be tolerated. The Council must now ensure that sanctions were fully implemented by all. The United Nations role remained vital in a return to stability, if that was still possible.

FRANÇOIS DELATTRE (France) noting that his country was a co-sponsor of today’s resolution, said that the text dealt with the root causes of tensions in Yemen, which were political. Condemning the Houthi militia, he called on it to act in line with Council resolutions, as well as other negotiations being held under the United Nations aegis. The Houthis were jeopardizing the country’s stability. “We have tirelessly indicated to spoilers the Council’s determination to bring pressure to bear upon them,” he stated. That message must now be put into practice, he maintained, adding that sanctions in this case were a means to realizing a political goal. He supported dialogue to establish a national unity Government, calling on the United Nations to help re-start inter-Yemeni dialogue, and he called for compliance with international humanitarian law, as well as unimpeded access to those in need. In addition, he supported ongoing efforts to bolster Yemen’s legitimate presidency; firmness as regards spoilers; resumption of the political transition through an inclusive agreement; and combating terrorists. He called on the Yemeni parties, regional players and influential countries to cooperate along those lines.

JIM MCLAY (New Zealand) said it was important that the Council send a clear signal on the urgent need to end hostilities in Yemen and return to the political process agreed previously by the Council. In that light, he welcomed the fact that the resolution imposed measures for non-compliance. “This time the parties must listen”, he stated. He also supported the call for resumed political dialogue, which, he noted, was in the best interests of all parties. Expressing deep concern about the humanitarian situation, he called for parties involved in military operations to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law. Absent a political solution, the humanitarian situation would continue to deteriorate, he warned. All parties should facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance.

MAHAMAT ZENE CHERIF (Chad) said the situation in Yemen was extremely worrisome on the security and humanitarian fronts. He had voted for the resolution as it addressed the conflict’s root causes. He was

hoping to see the international community pool its efforts with those of the Gulf Cooperation Council to prevent Yemen's total collapse. He endorsed the Gulf Council's efforts to re-establish peace in Yemen, underscoring the need for robust international mobilization to stop the conflict's escalation and to promote United Nations-led negotiations in line resolution 2201 (2015). The Security Council must send strong and firm message to all parties, notably the Houthis, to immediately stop the violence and comply with the transition process, he stated, adding that it was unacceptable for an armed militia to use violence to jeopardize the constitutional order. All parties were obliged to comply with international humanitarian law and to not target civilian infrastructure.

KAYODE LARO (Nigeria) urged all parties in Yemen to abide by the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and other relevant road maps to ensure that all communities could live in peace and harmony. He expressed hope that the resolution just adopted would make an important contribution in that direction.

JULIO HELDER DE MOURA LUCAS (Angola) said the resolution had been necessitated by the Houthis' actions, which jeopardized what seemed to be a promising political transition in Yemen. Praising Jordan and the Gulf Cooperation Council for their contributions to drafting the resolution, he expressed growing concern at the number and scale of attacks by terrorists. All parties needed to resume negotiations at the earliest to reach a political solution, he stressed.

DINA KAWAR (Jordan) said the irresponsible practices of the Houthis and those who supported them had led the Council to name those who threatened peace and stability in Yemen and impose sanctions. The adoption of the resolution under Chapter VII of Charter was a clear and firm signal to them; a return to peace and stability in Yemen required unconditional implementation of the measures. Pointing to the regional ramifications of the escalating conflict, she stressed that the Council was prepared to consider any additional action that was required. She urged all parties to attend the peace conference scheduled to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Noting that the resolution called for the evacuation of nationals from other countries and international organizations, she added that a humanitarian pause should be put in place when at an appropriate time and in consultation with the Yemeni Government.

KHALED HUSSEIN MOHAMED ALYEMANY (Yemen) said the resolution was a tangible demonstration of the seriousness of the international community in supporting the Yemeni people's effort to restore peace, rule of law and democracy. He recalled the Council's "historic" visit to Yemen in January during which it underscored its commitment to the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and other agreed frameworks. While the Yemeni Government and other parties were finalizing a comprehensive peace framework, however, opposition forces mounted what he called a coup d'état against the Constitution that had continued through manipulation by Iran, threatening the social fabric and cohesion of the Yemeni people. The "putschists" attempted to undermine and even attack the President, who was forced to seek refuge in a neighbouring country to preserve the unity of the country. The response of the Gulf

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countries was in consonance with the imperative of preserving the constitution and rebuffing Iran's designs. Yemen, he stressed, would remain ever grateful to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. Yemenis had risen in unified defence, given the urgency of mitigating the suffering of the people.

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### 3. Parliamentary questions

#### **Yemen: Humanitarian Aid** **15 Oct 2015 | 11278**

##### **Asked by Hilary Benn**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment she has made of (a) the level of humanitarian need and (b) access for the provision of humanitarian support in Yemen.

##### **Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development**

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is now one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. According to the UN, 21 million Yemenis - more than 80% of the population - are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of those, over 6 million people are facing severe food shortages, with households struggling to meet their daily needs. In particular, 1.8 million children require access to life-saving nutrition services. In Hodeidah city alone, UNICEF have warned that 96,000 severely malnourished children are at risk of dying.

The UK is one of the largest donors to the crisis in Yemen and has announced £75 million to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, focused on the most urgent life-saving needs. UK aid is providing vital medical supplies, water, food and emergency shelter, as well as supporting UN work to co-ordinate the international humanitarian response.

The conflict has resulted in restrictions on imports of commercial and humanitarian supplies to Yemen and intense fighting on the ground, which has severely constrained access and limited the operational capacity of humanitarian partners across the country. The UK continues to call on all parties to the conflict to facilitate unimpeded and immediate humanitarian access to all people in need in Yemen, and to lift any restrictions on commercial and humanitarian shipping, including of fuel for civilian use.

#### **Arms Trade: Yemen** **15 October 2015 | 11263**

##### **Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps he is taking to ensure that arms exports from the UN to Yemen are not being used in breach of export control policy and provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty.

##### **Answering member: Anna Soubry | Department for Business, Innovation and Skills**

The Government takes its export responsibilities very seriously and aims to operate one of the most robust export control regimes in the world. We rigorously examine every application on a case-by-case basis against all of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria,



which includes; ensuing exports are consistent with the UK's obligations under the United Nations arms trade treaty.

We undertake appropriate checks using both open and other sources when considering licence applications. To ensure a comprehensive and consistent approach, this will involve Desk and Post in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and relevant experts from other Departments.

**Yemen: Humanitarian Aid  
14 Oct 2015 | 10566**

**Asked by: Harry Harpham**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if the Government will make representations to all parties in the conflict in Yemen to ensure humanitarian access.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We have made clear to all parties to the conflict that they must take all reasonable steps to facilitate access for humanitarian aid, and have emphasised the importance of non-politicisation of aid, as well as the need to facilitate access for commercial goods. The UK is also supporting the UN in working with the Saudi-led military coalition and Government of Yemen to make the system for verifying shipping more efficient, which should further ease access for aid. The Foreign Secretary met President Hadi on 28 September and spoke to Saudi Foreign Minister Al Jubeir on 29 September in the margins of the UN General Assembly, and underlined the importance the UK attaches to finding a political solution to the current crisis as soon as possible. The Foreign Secretary also reinforced the necessity of full compliance with international humanitarian law and of facilitating access humanitarian and commercial shipping to the Saudi Foreign Minister. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening) co-chaired an international meeting on the Yemen humanitarian crisis on 28 September in the margins of the UN General Assembly. This was attended by representatives of the military coalition governments and by the government of Yemen. In this meeting, she reiterated that it was critical for all parties to the conflict to facilitate immediate humanitarian access into and within Yemen, and lift any restrictions on commercial and humanitarian shipping. To tackle the humanitarian crisis, the UK has so far announced £75 million – through UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs - to support Yemenis affected by the crisis, including those forced to flee their homes, with emergency shelter, healthcare, water and food assistance, as well as supporting UN work to co-ordinate the humanitarian response.

**Yemen: Humanitarian Aid**  
**14 Oct 2015 | 10565**

**Asked by: Harry Harpham**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that humanitarian aid can reach families in the North of Yemen despite the blockade of port Hodeida.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We remain very concerned about access for commercial and humanitarian shipping in Yemen. The UK has made clear to all parties that access for commercial goods and humanitarian aid, including via Hodeidah port, must be improved, and emphasised the importance of the non-politicisation of aid. The UK is also supporting the UN in working with the Saudi Arabian-led coalition and Government of Yemen to make the system for verifying shipping more efficient. The UK has so far announced £75 million in humanitarian aid – delivered through UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs - to support Yemenis affected by the crisis.

**Yemen: Armed Conflict**  
**4 Oct 2015 | 10564**

**Asked by: Harry Harpham**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure that parties to the conflict in Yemen exercise maximum restraint and adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports of alleged violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) in Yemen by all sides to the conflict and take these very seriously. We have raised our concerns with the Saudi Arabian authorities and have received repeated assurances of IHL compliance and we continue to engage with them on those assurances. We have also raised our concerns with the Houthis on the importance of compliance with international human rights law.

**Yemen: Saudi Arabia**  
**13 Oct 2015 | HL2417**

**Asked by: Lord Hylton | Party: Crossbench**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Saudi Arabia about their air attacks on towns and cities in Yemen and the consequent civilian casualties.

**Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The British Government is in regular contact with the Saudi authorities about the situation in Yemen through our Embassy in Riyadh and our

Yemen Office based in Jeddah. The UK has been consistently clear with all sides to the conflict over the importance of compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law during this conflict. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), spoke to Saudi Foreign Minister Al Jubeir on 29 September in the margins of the UN General Assembly, and underlined the importance the UK attaches to finding a political solution to the current crisis as soon as possible. He also reinforced the necessity of full compliance with international humanitarian law.

### **Yemen: Refugees 12 Oct 2015 | 10365**

#### **Asked by: Jim Cunningham | Party: Labour Party**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what material support and assistance her Department is providing to refugees fleeing conflict in Yemen; and if she will make a statement.

#### **Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development**

According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), most refugees from the conflict in Yemen have fled to Djibouti and Somalia.

In order to improve the living conditions of migrants and refugees from Yemen in Djibouti, the UK is supporting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) with in kind assistance consisting of shelter kits, water containers, family kitchen sets, blankets, hygiene kits and solar lanterns.

For refugees from Yemen in Somalia, the UK is also providing water, sanitation and hygiene supplies; child friendly spaces and support to reunify separated families in reception centres; and assistance for onward travel. As part of our contributions to the United Nations Common Humanitarian Fund and the support of the Danish Refugee Council, the UK is also providing a package of food, health and shelter assistance to refugees.

The latest UN estimates show more than 21 million people are now in need of assistance. Millions of Yemenis are going without food, fuel, water and medicine.

We are the 4th largest donor, providing a commitment of £75m to date to the humanitarian crisis to help at least half a million Yemenis caught in this conflict. This is providing vital medical supplies, water, food and emergency shelter.

**Arms Trade: Middle East**  
**12 Oct 2015 | 10357**

**Asked by: Jim Cunningham**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many arms export licences of what value and type have been issued for exports to (a) Saudi Arabia and (b) Yemen in each of the last five years.

**Answering member: Anna Soubry | Department for Business, Innovation and Skills**

The Government publishes (on a quarterly and annual basis) comprehensive information about export licences granted and refused on gov.uk.

A summary of the licences granted for export of military goods and technology to Saudi Arabia and Yemen for each of the last five full calendar years detailed below. Please note Open Individual Export Licences (OIELs) are generally not limited by quantity or value and therefore we are unable to give a figure for the value of the goods that might be exported.

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>					
Number of SIEL 105 Licences		101	125	128	129
Value (£)	£341,007,088	£1,735,418,108	£111,721,756	£1,608,104,771	£80,749,168
Number of OIEL 5 Licences		20	18	20	19

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Yemen</b>					
Number of SIEL 4 Licences		2	0	2	6
Value (£)	£160,245	£863,218	£0	£841,426	£1,044,253
Number of OIEL 0 Licences		0	0	1	0

**Yemen: Armed Conflict**  
**12 Oct 2015 | 10355**

**Asked by: Cunningham, Mr Jim | Party: Labour Party**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has received from his Saudi counterparts on the conflict in Yemen; and if he will make a statement.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The UK Government is in regular contact with the Saudi authorities about the situation in Yemen through our Embassy in Riyadh and our Yemen Office based in Jeddah. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) spoke to Saudi Foreign Minister Al Jubeir on 29 September in the margins of the UN General Assembly, and underlined the importance the UK attaches to finding a political solution to the current crisis as soon as possible. He also reinforced the necessity of full compliance with international humanitarian law and of facilitating access for humanitarian and commercial shipping.

To tackle the humanitarian crisis, the UK has so far announced £75 million – through UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs - to support Yemenis affected by the crisis, including those forced to flee their homes, with emergency shelter, healthcare, water and food assistance, as well as supporting UN work to co-ordinate the humanitarian response.

**Yemen: Saudi Arabia**  
**30 Sep 2015 | HL2254**

**Asked by: Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are supporting any peace initiatives between Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

**Answering member: Baroness Evans of Bowes Park | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

A sustainable and inclusive political solution is the best way to bring long-term stability to Yemen and avoid a humanitarian catastrophe. The UK actively and fully supports the UN's efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire and a mechanism for the withdrawal of forces, release of political prisoners and the resumption of an inclusive political process in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2216. We urge all sides to work together and engage in good faith in the UN process. We regularly discuss the conflict in Yemen with Saudi Arabian and Yemeni interlocutors; the Special Envoy to Yemen, Sir Alan Duncan, visited Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates from 16 – 21 September to demonstrate the UK's continued support for a political solution to the crisis in Yemen.

**Yemen: Saudi Arabia  
30 Sep 2015 | HL2253**

**Asked by: Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the BBC Newsnight report of 10 September that presented evidence of attacks on civilians in Yemen by the Royal Saudi Air Force.

**Answering member: Baroness Evans of Bowes Park | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports of alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Yemen by all sides to the conflict and take these very seriously. The British Government has always been clear that any action, including military, must be in accordance with IHL. We have raised our concerns with the Saudi Arabian government and have received repeated assurances of IHL compliance and continue to engage with them on those assurances. We have also raised our concerns with the Houthis on the importance of compliance with IHL and international human rights law. A political solution is the best way to bring long term stability to Yemen and avoid a humanitarian catastrophe. The UK fully and actively supports the UN's efforts to achieve an end to the conflict.

**Yemen: Saudi Arabia  
30 Sep 2015 | HL2252**

**Asked by: Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of attacks by the Royal Saudi Air Force on the world heritage sites in Yemen; and whether the United Kingdom supplied any of the arms used in those attacks.

**Answering member: Baroness Evans of Bowes Park | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Both Saudi Arabia and Yemen are parties to the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict, and to the 1972 World Heritage Convention. The UK is supplying a range of precision-guided weapons and munitions to assist the Royal Saudi Air Force under pre-existing arrangements. We are aware of reports of alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Yemen by all sides to the conflict and take these very seriously. We have raised our concerns, including protection of cultural property, with the Saudi Arabian government and have received repeated assurances of IHL compliance and continue to engage with them on those assurances. A political solution is the best way to achieve long-term stability in Yemen, and we remain fully and actively supportive of the UN's efforts to bring an end to the conflict.

**Yemen: Saudi Arabia  
30 Sep 2015 | HL2251**

**Asked by: Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any assessment of the intervention by Saudi Arabia in Yemen, and whether they are aware of any war crimes committed in relation to that intervention.

**Answering member: Baroness Evans of Bowes Park | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The UK is supportive of the Saudi Arabian-led Coalition military intervention, which came at the request of President Hadi, to deter aggression by the Houthis and forces loyal to the former president Saleh, and allow for the return of the legitimate Yemeni government. We are aware of reports of alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Yemen by all sides to the conflict and take these very seriously. We have raised our concerns with the Saudi Arabian government and have received repeated assurances of IHL compliance and continue to engage with them on those assurances. We have also raised our concerns with the Houthis on the importance of compliance with IHL and international human rights law. A political solution is the best way to bring long term stability to Yemen and avoid a humanitarian catastrophe. The UK fully and actively supports the UN's efforts to achieve an end to the conflict.

**Yemen: Humanitarian Aid  
24 Sep 2015 | HL2255**

**Asked by: Lord Ahmed | Party: Non-affiliated**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the state of the latest humanitarian truce in Yemen, in the light of the airstrikes by the Arab states coalition led by Saudi Arabia.

**Answering member: Baroness Verma | Department for International Development**

The UK fully supports the UN Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed's efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire in Yemen to ensure life-saving assistance can reach all populations in need.

During the humanitarian pause in Yemen from 12 to 17 May 2015, according to the UN, humanitarian partners were able to deliver: a month's worth of food to more than 400,000 people; access to safe water for 1.2 million people; emergency shelter and medical supplies for more than 400,000 patients; and nutritional supplies to treat almost 35,000 malnourished children.

**Yemen: Peace Negotiations**  
**21 Sep 2015 | 10371**

**Asked by: Stephen Phillips**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent steps his Department has taken to assist in the brokering of peace in Yemen.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

A political solution is the best way to achieve long-term stability in Yemen, and we remain fully and actively supportive of the UN's efforts to bring an end to the conflict and resumption of an inclusive political process. The humanitarian situation remains dire, with eighty per cent of the population in need of assistance. The Department for International Development has allocated £55 million, through UN agencies and humanitarian Non-Governmental Organisations, to support Yemenis affected by the crisis.

**Yemen: Cultural Heritage**  
**21 Sep 2015 | 10334**

**Asked by: Stephen Phillips**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ensure the safety of antiquities and historic sites in Yemen.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Both the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen are parties to the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict and to the 1972 World Heritage Convention. We have raised our concerns regarding protection of cultural property with the Saudi Arabian government and have received assurances. A political solution is the best way to achieve long-term stability in Yemen, and we remain fully and actively supportive of the UN's efforts to bring an end to the conflict.

**Yemen: Humanitarian Aid**  
**18 Sep 2015 | HL2016**

**Asked by: Lord Luce**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the humanitarian needs of the people of Yemen; and what humanitarian assistance is being provided to them.

**Answering member: Baroness Verma | Department for International Development**

According to the UN, 21 million people - more than 80% of the population - are in need of humanitarian assistance in Yemen. Of those, over 6 million people are facing severe food shortages, with households struggling to meet their daily needs. In particular, 1.8 million children are most at risk and require access to life-saving nutrition services. In



Hodeidah city alone, UNICEF have warned that 96,000 severely malnourished children are at risk of dying.

The UK is one of the largest donors to the crisis in Yemen and has announced £55 million to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, focused on the most urgent life-saving needs. UK aid will provide emergency shelter, healthcare, water, food and nutrition assistance for at least half a million Yemenis, as well as supporting UN work to co-ordinate the international humanitarian response.

**Yemen: Armed Conflict**  
**18 Sep 2015 | HL2015**

**Asked by: Lord Luce | Party: Crossbench**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current assessment of the conflict in Yemen.

**Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Government of Yemen and Saudi-led Coalition have made military gains in recent weeks against the Houthis and forces loyal to former president Saleh. We hope this will help build a base for the future return of the legitimate Yemeni government. A political solution is the best way to achieve long-term stability in Yemen, and we remain fully supportive of the UN's efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire and resumption of an inclusive political process. The humanitarian situation remains dire, with eighty per cent of the population in need of assistance. The Department for International Development has allocated £55 million, through UN agencies and humanitarian non-governmental organisations, to support Yemenis affected by the crisis. We remain extremely concerned by reports of alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and continue to raise the importance of compliance with all parties to the conflict. The risk of terrorist groups, such as al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Yemen, exploiting the instability is also a major concern. We continue to work with regional and international partners to tackle the threat.

**Yemen: Politics and Government**  
**18 Sep 2015 | 9962**

**Asked by: Stephen Gethins**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Yemen; and if he will make a statement.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Government of Yemen and the Saudi Arabian-led Coalition have made military gains in recent weeks against the Houthis and forces loyal to former President Saleh. We hope this will help build a base for the future return of the legitimate Yemeni Government. A political solution is the best way to achieve long-term stability in Yemen, and we remain fully and actively supportive of the UN's efforts to bring an end to the

conflict and resumption of an inclusive political process. The humanitarian situation remains dire, with 80 per cent of the population in need of assistance. The Department for International Development has allocated £55 million, through UN agencies and humanitarian Non-Governmental Organisations, to support Yemenis affected by the crisis. The risk of terrorist groups, such as al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIL-Yemen, exploiting the instability is also a major concern. We continue to work with regional and international partners to tackle the threat.

**Yemen: Humanitarian Aid**  
**16 Sep 2015 | 9701**

**Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what action the Government is taking to secure free and fair access for humanitarian aid to Yemen via Port Hodeidah.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The UK has lobbied the Saudi Arabian -led Coalition and the Yemeni Government on the importance of non-politicisation of aid, as well as the need to improve access for commercial goods and humanitarian aid, including via Hodeidah Port. The UK is supporting the UN, working with the Coalition and Yemeni Government, to make the system for verifying shipping more efficient. It is critical that Hodeidah and the other Red Sea ports be accessible for commercial and humanitarian ships. If ports do not reopen the risk of famine in Yemen will increase further. Food and medicines are needed in the north, as is fuel to transport goods, power hospitals, pump water and provide for ordinary Yemeni's energy needs.

**Yemen: Food**  
**16 Sep 2015 | 9699**

**Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment her Department has made of the likelihood and scale of food shortages in Yemen as a result of conflict in that country.

**Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development**

Food security for the people of Yemen is a growing concern. According to the UN, of the 12.9 million Yemenis classified as food insecure, 6 million are facing severe food shortages. In Hodeidah city alone, UNICEF has warned that 96,000 severely malnourished children are at risk of dying. The ongoing conflict has affected imports of essential fuel, food and medical supplies into Yemen. In addition, ongoing fighting is preventing the distribution of food to those who most need it.

The UK is one of the largest donors to the crisis in Yemen and has announced £55 million to help at least half a million Yemenis caught in this conflict. This is providing vital medical supplies, water, food and emergency shelter.

**Yemen: Politics and Government**  
**15 Sep 2015 | 9561**

**Asked by: Stephen Gethins**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment her Department has made of the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

**Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development**

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is now one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. According to the UN, 21 million Yemenis - more than 80% of the population - are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of those, over 6 million people are facing severe food shortages, with households struggling to meet their daily needs. In particular, 1.8 million children require access to life-saving nutrition services. In Hodeidah city alone, UNICEF has warned that 96,000 severely malnourished children are at risk of dying.

According to the UN, the total population of Aden is in need of humanitarian assistance, with one of the highest numbers of populations displaced as a result of the conflict. The people of Aden have been affected by reduced access to basic services, including healthcare, food, and clean drinking water in recent months due to the impact of ongoing conflict and food insecurity and malnutrition.

The UK is one of the largest donors to the crisis and has so far announced £55 million to help vulnerable people across Yemen. This is providing vital medical supplies, water, food and emergency shelter.

**Yemen: Politics and Government**  
**15 Sep 2015 | 9419**

**Asked by: Stephen Gethins**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment her Department has made of the humanitarian situation in Aden.

**Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development**

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is now one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. According to the UN, 21 million Yemenis - more than 80% of the population - are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of those, over 6 million people are facing severe food shortages, with households struggling to meet their daily needs. In particular, 1.8 million children require access to life-saving nutrition services. In Hodeidah city alone, UNICEF has warned that 96,000 severely malnourished children are at risk of dying.

According to the UN, the total population of Aden is in need of humanitarian assistance, with one of the highest numbers of populations displaced as a result of the conflict. The people of Aden have been affected by reduced access to basic services, including healthcare, food, and clean drinking water in recent months due to the impact of ongoing conflict and food insecurity and malnutrition.

The UK is one of the largest donors to the crisis and has so far announced £55 million to help vulnerable people across Yemen. This is providing vital medical supplies, water, food and emergency shelter.

**Saudi Arabia: Guided Weapons**  
**27 Jul 2015 | 7888**

**Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many precision guided missiles have been exported from the UK to Saudi Arabia since the start of the recent conflict in Yemen.

**Answering member: Michael Fallon | Ministry of Defence**

I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and another state.

**Armed Conflict: Yemen**  
**27 Jul 2015 | 7824**

**Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what information his Department holds on whether any British-licenced weaponry has been used by Saudi Arabia to bomb Saada province in Yemen.

**Answering member: Michael Fallon | Ministry of Defence**

The use of equipment and weapons supplied to the Saudis is an operational matter for the Saudi military authorities. The Saudis have assured us that British-supplied munitions will be used in compliance with international humanitarian law and we continue to engage with them on these assurances.

**Armed Conflict: Yemen**  
**27 Jul 2015 | 7820**

**Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, on which dates and in what locations British precision-guided missiles, licensed for export, have been used in the current conflict in Yemen.

**Answering member: Michael Fallon | Ministry of Defence**

The use of equipment and weapons supplied to the Saudis is an operational matter for the Saudi military authorities. The Saudis have assured us that British-supplied munitions will be used in compliance with international humanitarian law and we continue to engage with them on these assurances.

**Yemen: Humanitarian Aid**  
**23 Jul 2015 | 7891**

**Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to ensure that donors' funds provided to UN and other non-governmental humanitarian agencies for use in Yemen will be delivered impartially to civilians in that country based on established humanitarian principles without political interference.

**Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development**

All agencies supported by the UK are humanitarian organisations which have robust systems in place, to ensure that UK aid follows humanitarian principles and reaches those in need.

**Yemen: Armed Conflict**  
**23 Jul 2015 | 7890**

**Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what information her Department holds on how many people have been displaced by the coalition bombing of Saada province in Yemen.

**Answering member: Mr Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development**

We do not hold information on how many people have been displaced by coalition bombing of Sa'ada province. As of the 6 July, the UN estimates that there are just over 23,000 people displaced in Sa'ada Governorate and nearly 1.3 million people have been displaced within Yemen overall since the crisis began in March.

**Yemen: Armed Conflict**  
**23 Jul 2015 | 7889**

**Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what support the Government is providing to the Saudi Arabian coalition operations in Yemen; and in what circumstances that support would be withdrawn.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are not participating directly in Saudi Arabian led military operations in Yemen, but we are providing technical support, precision-guided weapons and exchanging information with the Saudi Arabian armed forces through pre-existing arrangements. In addition to the personnel who continue to provide support for equipment supplied, we have a small number of liaison personnel in Saudi Arabia and coalition air and maritime headquarters. This includes personnel in the Maritime Coalition Coordination Centre in the region supporting the delivery of humanitarian aid into Yemen.

**Yemen: Armed Conflict**  
**23 Jul 2015 | 7887**

**Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect of the conflict in Yemen with Al-Qaeda on (a) global security and (b) security in the Arabian Peninsula; and if he will make a statement.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We remain extremely concerned about the situation in Yemen and the risk that terrorists groups may exploit the ongoing instability. The recent death of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's leader and Al Qaeda Core's Deputy, Nasir al Wuhayshi, was a severe blow to Al Qaeda but it has not reduced the threat it poses. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula continues to threaten the UK and Western interests in Yemen, and poses a global security risk. We are committed to supporting the Yemeni government in establishing a stable and secure Yemen and we continue to work with regional and international partners to tackle the threat posed by AQAP.

**Yemen: Armed Conflict**  
**23 Jul 2015 | 7823**

**Asked by: Andrew Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment she has made of the economic effects of the conflict in Yemen; and what steps she is taking to help people affected by that conflict.

**Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecast that Yemen's economy will contract by 2.2% in 2015 and that Yemen's debt has risen to over 50% of GDP. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), average wheat flour prices in July are 34% higher than their pre-crisis levels, whilst diesel prices are up 427% over the same period.

DFID has allocated £55 million to support humanitarian response in Yemen which will provide emergency shelter, healthcare, water and food assistance, as well as supporting UN work to co-ordinate the humanitarian response.

## 4. Debates

### Britain in the World [Extracts]

HC Deb 1 June 2015, Vol 596 cc312-425

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150601/debtext/150601-0001.htm#1506013000003>

[...]

**Keith Vaz (Leicester East) (Lab):** Since the House last sat, the situation in Yemen has deteriorated to a terrible extent, with thousands of people being killed and there are still some British citizens who are trapped there. I know that the Foreign Secretary is focused on this issue, but will he tell the House what further help we can give to President Hadi, who is the legitimately elected President of Yemen?

**Mr Hammond:** The long-term sustainable solution in Yemen has to be an inclusive Government that represent all the elements in that country. The Houthi may be the subject of the Gulf Co-operation Council coalition's attacks at the moment, but they are not the enemy: they are part of the community in Yemen and they have to be brought inside. Our focus at the moment is on trying to secure the agreed UN conference that we had hoped would take place last week but which has not yet happened. We shall continue to use our diplomatic efforts to ensure that it happens as soon as possible.

[...]

**Keith Vaz:** I congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on having the biggest majority in the whole of Leicestershire—just—[Hon. Members: "Who's second?"] Modesty forbids me from saying who is second. The right hon. Gentleman was a very distinguished envoy from the Prime Minister to Yemen. Will he continue in that very important role for the next five years, and what does he see as the solution to the problem in Yemen? [Interruption.]

**Sir Alan Duncan:** The advice that I have just received is that if I say yes the appointment is confirmed, but that would be jumping the gun. I am grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for pointing out what I am doing in Yemen, and whatever happens I shall continue to take a lifelong interest in that country.

I hope that in the next five years we will be able to assist economic prosperity and national unity, have a more comfortable relationship with the EU and retain and build on having an authoritative role for the UK in the middle east and beyond.

[...]

## 5. Early Day Motions

### **Al-Qaeda in Yemen**

**EDM 156 (Session 2015-16)**

**18 June 2015**

**Keith Vaz**

That this House is deeply concerned at the reported rise of extremist terrorist groups, many associated with Al-Qaeda, in the Arabian Peninsula; notes that this branch of Al-Qaeda is regarded as one of the most dangerous organisations in the world, with a history of directing terrorist acts in the US and Europe; understands that these groups in Yemen are taking advantage of the ongoing conflict to seize territory in the south, including military bases and harbours; further notes that the Houthi rebel group is alleged to have launched Scud missiles into Saudi Arabia; and calls on the Government to consult international and regional partners regarding possible steps to tackle the rise of terrorist organisations in Yemen.

### **Conflict in Yemen**

**EDM 79 (Session 2015-16)**

**4 June 2015**

**Keith Vaz**

That this House is dismayed by the ongoing conflict in Yemen, where the Houthi rebel group continues to fight forces loyal to the legitimate government and President Hadi; notes that a coalition of Gulf states, led by Saudi Arabia, continues to launch air strikes against the rebels; further notes that over 1,000 people have died in the conflict since the beginning of 2015, including over 100 children; supports international efforts to forge a negotiated political solution, and to allow aid agencies to provide vital humanitarian aid into the country; and calls on the Government to take all possible action to support the international efforts to stabilise Yemen and bring all parties to the negotiating table.

### **Civil war in Yemen**

**EDM 913 (Session 2014-15)**

**24 March 2015**

**Keith Vaz**

That this House is dismayed by recent developments in Yemen, which has descended into chaos and civil war; is appalled by the recent series of bombings against mosques in Sanaa, for which the group Islamic State have claimed responsibility; deplores attempts by groups loyal to former autocrat Ali Adullah Saleh, and associated with the Houthi rebel group, to bomb President Hadi's residence in Aden; notes that British and US Special Forces have both been evacuated from the country, following the evacuations of numerous Western and regional embassies in recent weeks; further notes the assertion by the UN Special Envoy, Jamal Benomar, that the conflict risks descending into a Iraq-Libya-Syria combination; calls on the Government to take any and all possible



measures to halt the descent into violence; and calls for all parties to immediately cease hostilities and return to negotiations.

**Yemen and the killing of journalist Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani**

**EDM 903 (session 2014-15)**

**20 March 2015**

**Jeremy Corbyn**

That this House condemns the killing of journalist Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani in Yemen and calls for the relevant authorities to conduct a prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into this and other targeted assassinations; is deeply concerned at the deteriorating situation in Yemen, which has witnessed restrictions and freedom of assembly and press freedom, as well as attacks on peaceful protests and targeting of civilians by all sides to the conflict; notes that the situation is being exploited by al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula, who has benefited from the unrest and polarisation in Yemen and stepped up its activities targeting Huthis; and calls on the Government and the international community to live up to commitments made at the 2014 Friends of Yemen conference, and press for respect for human rights and a political settlement that will halt the deteriorating situation.

**Houthi consolidation of power in Yemen**

**EDM 790 (Session 2014-15)**

**11 February 2015**

**Keith Vaz**

That this House is deeply concerned by recent developments in Yemen, where the Houthi faction has announced that it will dissolve Parliament and establish an interim government; notes that the Houthi rebel group stormed the Presidential Palace and toppled the Yemeni government on 21 January 2015; is alarmed by the protests and clashes between rival factions across the country; urges all parties to return to talks; and calls on the Government to do all it can to prevent an escalation of violence and civil war, in this important and beautiful country.

**Newly-instated Yemeni government**

**EDM (Session 2014-15)**

**17 November 2014**

**Keith Vaz**

That this House supports the newly-instated government in Yemen and urges an end to the increasing levels of violence; applauds Prime Minister Khaled Bahhah's calls for all factions to stop fighting and comply with the political agreement made on 2 November 2014; is concerned that dozens of people continue to be killed in sectarian violence; notes some of these armed groups are associated with al-Qaeda; further notes the US is considering evacuating its embassy in the wake of this violence; and calls on the Government to take all possible measures to support the Yemeni government and prevent Yemen from descending into wider sectarian conflict.

**Escalation of violence in Yemen**

**EDM 408 (Session 2014-15)**

**28 October 2015**

**Keith Vaz**

That this House deplores the recent escalation of violence in Yemen, where 250 people have died in clashes over the last few days; acknowledges warnings from Yemen's ambassador to the UK, Abdullah al-Radhi, that the country is at risk of civil war; notes that local al-Qaeda groups have declared support for ISIL, whom the UK is currently targeting in Iraq; further notes Yemen's dangerous growth of Jihadist movements; and hopes that the international community will continue to remain focused on Yemen's growing aid and development needs.

**Humanitarian situation in Yemen**

**EDM 157 (Session 2014-15)**

**23 June 2015**

**Keith Vaz**

That this House acknowledges the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen; understands that 11.9 million people live below the poverty line, that 60 per cent of children are suffering from chronic malnourishment and that a quarter of a million children are facing death as a result of this; notes that poverty, drought and internal armed conflict are contributing to the country's difficulties in shifting towards stable democracy; welcomes the UK's continuous support for the offering of food, shelter and clean water to help reduce the severity of the crisis; and calls on the Government to do as much as it can to ensure that as many Yemeni people as possible can have a better quality of life and to help the country shift to stable democracy.

## 6. Further reading

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015)

14 April 2015

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