



DEBATE PACK

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Conflict in Yemen

Main Chamber

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Backbench Business Committee

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Drummond & Alison Thewliss**

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Contents

1.	Summary	2
2.	Press Articles	4
3.	PQs	6
4.	Other Parliamentary material	16
4.1	Oral Statements	16
4.2	Urgent questions	16
4.3	Debates	16
4.4	Early Day Motions	17
5.	Gov.uk	18
6.	Further reading	20
6.1	Humanitarian organisations	20
6.2	Committee reports	20
6.3	House of Commons Library	21

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1. Summary

Motion to be debated:

That this House notes the worsening humanitarian crisis in Yemen; and calls upon the Government to take a lead in passing a resolution at the UN Security Council that would give effect to an immediate ceasefire in Yemen.

Since March 2015 a coalition led by Saudi Arabia has intervened on the side of the Yemeni Government against Iranian-backed Houthi rebel forces. In the last few months the Saudis and their allies have managed to push back the Houthis from Aden. However there has been little sign of a decisive shift in the military balance that might presage a coalition victory. Some analysts see the war in Yemen as a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. A debate held on 12 January 2017 focused on the sale and use of arms from the UK to Saudi Arabia. This motion is focused on the humanitarian situation and efforts to pass a resolution at the UN Security Council.

The conflict in Yemen is causing massive suffering to Yemenis. Estimates of deaths range from 7,600 to 10,000.¹ More than 42,000 people have been injured and 3 million displaced, out of a total population of 27 million.²

Over the last couple of months, anxieties about famine in Yemen have grown markedly. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres [said](#) in February “Yemen is facing the largest food insecurity emergency in the world, with an estimated 7.3 million people needing help now.” Shortly after, Stephen O’Brien, the UN Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator [visited](#) Yemen. O’Brien subsequently [told](#) the UN Security Council “Yemen is largest humanitarian crisis in the world and the Yemeni people now face the spectre of famine.”

In February the UN launched an international [appeal](#) for \$2.1bn needed to support 12 million people in Yemen in 2017. However only 6% has been received and O’Brien has [called](#) on international donors not to wait until the scheduled ministerial-level pledging meeting on 25 April in Geneva to donate funds. Humanitarian agencies have continued to express concern about access to some parts of the country. There are ongoing concerns about the port of Hodeida’s ability to continue to act as the route through which most emergency aid is delivered.

There has been no progress towards a ceasefire, let alone a political settlement, in the last few months. The ‘[Yemen Quartet](#)’ – the US, UK, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates – met most recently in London on 13 March. UN Security Council Resolution [2216](#) (2015) called on all

¹ An official with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in [mid-January](#) the civilian death toll had reached 10,000, based on information gathered by health facilities. The UN [OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin](#) for 18 March 2017 gives a figure of 7,684 killed, based on figures from the WHO.

² UN [OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin](#) for Yemen, 18 March 2017

parties to refrain from further unilateral actions that could undermine the political transition and called on the Houthis to immediately and unconditionally end the violence. Resolution [2266](#) (February 2016) called for the full implementation of the political transition. [Attempts](#) by the UK Government to adopt a new Resolution on Yemen have so far failed to materialise ([Saudi Arabia](#) has opposed the text of the UK draft). The Foreign Office [said](#) in January that discussions at the UN Security Council on a draft Resolution are ongoing. The Security Council next discusses [Yemen](#) on 29 March 2017 and the UK holds the Presidency this month (March).

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of recent press and media articles relevant to this debate.

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Asharq Al Awsat English

Bahrain Condemns Systematic Human Rights Violations by Houthis in Yemen

23 March 2017

The Independent

Yemen war: More than half of British people unaware of ongoing conflict seeing UK weapons deployed by Saudis

Lizzie Dearden

17 March 2017

BBC News Online

Yemen conflict: How bad is the humanitarian crisis?

16 March 2017

The Guardian

Yemen at 'point of no return' as conflict leaves almost 7 million close to famine

16 March 2017

Les Rooanarine, Patrick Wintour, Saeed Kamali Dehghan and Ahmad Alghobary

The Independent

Yemen is a complicated and unwinnable war. Donald Trump should stay out of it

10 March 2017

Patrick Cockburn

The Independent

Saudi Arabia delaying aid to Yemen is 'killing children', warns Save the Children

1 March 2017

Samuel Osborne

Middle East Eye

Houthi rebels recruit children to fight in Yemen's war: Amnesty

28 February 2017

Diana Alghoul

The Guardian

UK minister ignored official warning over Saudi weapons exports, court hears

7 February 2017

Alice Ross and Rob Evans

Telegraph Online

UN experts say Yemen opponents may have committed war crimes

31 January 2016

The Independent

Yemen civil war: 10,000 civilians killed and 40,000 injured in conflict, UN reveals

17 January 2017

Ahmed al-Haj

Financial Times

Saudis said to be using British-made cluster bombs in Yemen

18 December 2016

Kate Allen and George Parker

3. PQs

Yemen: Armed Conflict

23 Mar 2017 | 68160

Asked by: Patrick Grady

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions his Department has had with its Yemeni and other international counterparts on the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Yemen is one of the most serious humanitarian crises in the world. I regularly discuss the humanitarian situation in Yemen with a wide range of interlocutors including the UN, international partners, Government of Yemen and humanitarian organisations. I most recently discussed Yemen humanitarian issues with UN Special Envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed on March 13 and with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kuwait on March 16.

Yemen: Imports

23 Mar 2017 | 68156

Asked by: Patrick Grady

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that humanitarian and commercial supplies are not prevented from entering Yemen.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since 2015 the Department for International Development has supported the following UN agencies who are helping to facilitate humanitarian and commercial access:

- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, who broker humanitarian access for the international response (£1.8 million).
- The UN Humanitarian Air Service to provide an air bridge into Yemen for UN and NGO humanitarian staff (£1 million).
- The UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism to speed up the clearance process for ships and improve commercial confidence (£1.4 million)

Yemen: Military Intervention

23 Mar 2017 | 68141

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answers of 13 January 2017 to Question 58527 and of 1 March 2017 to Question 64848, if he will make an independent assessment of each of the eight airstrikes which were investigated by

the Saudi-led coalition's Joint Incident Assessment Team on whether international humanitarian law violations have occurred.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) monitors and analyses incidents of alleged International Humanitarian Law violations, such as the eight incidents referred to, using all available information. Details of the MOD's analysis of these allegations are necessarily confidential. It is for the Saudi-led Coalition to investigate such incidents, as they have done through the Joint Incidents Assessment Team.

Yemen: Humanitarian Aid

22 Mar 2017 | HL6091

Asked by: Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement by Save the Children on 1 March that shipments of aid for Yemen are being delayed, denying people access to medical aid and other essential support; and what assessment they have made of the impact of those delays on the Yemeni people.

Answering member: Lord Bates | Department for International Development

The UK is extremely concerned to hear of reports from Save the Children that they have experienced delays to delivery of shipments into Hodeidah port, significantly impacting delivery of aid to vulnerable Yemenis.

The UK continues to lobby all parties to the conflict to facilitate commercial and humanitarian access. We are supporting the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism, which facilitates the flow of commercial items into Yemen through effectively verifying and where necessary inspecting ships, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN Humanitarian Air Service to improve access for humanitarian agencies.

Yemen: Famine

22 Mar 2017 | HL6090

Asked by: Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation on 15 March that Yemen will face a famine later this year unless immediate action is taken, that 2.2 million children are malnourished, and that children under the age of five are dying from preventable causes.

Answering member: Lord Bates | Department for International Development

The statement by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and others highlights the need to respond urgently to the food security crisis and prevent loss of life. In February, the Secretary of State issued a call to the international community to step up their response to the risk of famine in Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria and Yemen. The UK has led by example, providing lifesaving nutrition support to 889,000 women and children and food or food vouchers to 462,000 people in 2016/17 so far. We are planning a significant contribution to Yemen in 2017/18.

Yemen: Overseas Aid
22 Mar 2017 | HL6052

Asked by: Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what aid the UK has provided to Yemen in each of the last five years.

Answering member: Lord Bates | Department for International Development

DFID Yemen's bilateral funding for Yemen over the last five years is as follows:

2016/17: £112 million
2015/16: £89.6 million
2014/15: £65.9 million
2013/14: £84.1 million
2012/13: £59.1 million

Yemen: Imports
21 Mar 2017 | 68315

Asked by: Ian Murray

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that humanitarian and commercial supplies are not prevented from entering Yemen.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Conflict is making humanitarian and commercial access into and within Yemen extremely difficult. We continue to urge all parties to the conflict to take all reasonable steps to allow and facilitate rapid and safe humanitarian access.

In addition, since 2015 the Department For International Development has supported the following UN agencies who are helping to facilitate humanitarian and commercial access:

- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), who broker humanitarian access for the international response (£1.8 million).

- The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to provide an air bridge into Yemen for UN and Non-Government Organisation humanitarian staff (£1 million).
- The UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) to speed up the clearance process for ships and improve commercial confidence (£1.4 million).

Yemen: Ports

14 Mar 2017 | 67115

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism in Yemen.

Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department for International Development

The UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) in Yemen is successfully verifying, and where necessary inspecting, ships in line with UNSCR 2216 (2015). UNVIM's average processing time is several hours lower than its target, and DFID has received positive feedback from commercial importers about UNVIM staff's accessibility, professionalism and responsiveness.

Yemen: Military Intervention

07 Mar 2017 | 65575

Asked by: Martyn Day

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the Government's arms export policy to Saudi Arabia on the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Government takes its arms export licensing responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. All export licence applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking account of all relevant factors at the time of the application.

The conflict is making the delivery of commercial and humanitarian supplies into Yemen, and their onward distribution, extremely difficult. We continue to urge all parties to the conflict to take all reasonable steps to allow the delivery and distribution of aid, and to facilitate rapid and safe humanitarian access. We also call upon all sides to do

everything possible to prevent civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure.

Yemen: Ports

03 Mar 2017 | 65801

Asked by: Nick Smith

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 8 February 2017 to Question 62668, what assessment her Department has made of port capacity in Yemen; and what options her Department has taken forward to improve port infrastructure for aid delivery.

Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department for International Development

The conflict has destroyed or damaged critical infrastructure (for example, the largest cranes in the port of Hodeidah) and the current phase of military activity along the Red Sea is already further limiting the flow of life-saving commodities through Hodeidah port. Over 80% of food assistance in the last 6 months of 2016 entered the country through Hodeidah and neighbouring Salif ports. If Hodeidah port ceases to function, this would accelerate the onset of famine.

We continue to discuss options to improve port infrastructure in Hodeidah with Gulf countries, the US and the UN. However, recent events have made the successful delivery of mobile cranes for Hodeidah unlikely in the short-term.

Yemen: Military Intervention

01 Mar 2017 | 64848

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 13 January 2017 to Question 58527, what assessment he has made of the validity of the findings of the Saudi-led Coalition's Joint Incident Assessment Team's Investigations of eight airstrikes, published on 4 August 2016.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK welcomes the release, on 4 August 2016, by Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) of the outcome of eight investigations into incidents of alleged breaches of international humanitarian law in Yemen. It is important that credible allegations of violations of international humanitarian law are investigated and the Saudi-led Coalition has committed to doing this. We regularly press, including at senior levels, the need for the Saudi-led Coalition to conduct thorough and conclusive investigations into reports of alleged violations of international humanitarian law.

Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps**28 Feb 2017 | 64415****Asked by: Bob Blackman**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if his Department will take steps to work with UK allies to expel the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its proxies from Syria, Iraq and Yemen and to impose sanctions on that organisation.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Government remains deeply concerned about Iranian activity in the region, particularly its support for armed militias in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. We continue to encourage Iran to play a transparent and constructive role in regional affairs and, as the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) made clear in her speech to the Gulf Cooperation Council in Manama on 7 December, we remain committed to working with our allies to push back against Iran's aggressive regional actions. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is currently sanctioned in its entirety under the EU's nuclear listings. In addition, specific individuals within the IRGC are sanctioned in the EU for broader reasons including counter terrorism and human rights.

Yemen: Military Intervention**28 Feb 2017 | 64346****Asked by: Julie Elliott**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has received on the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I receive a wide range of representations on the humanitarian situation in Yemen, including from non-governmental organisations and other government departments. Yemen is one of the most serious humanitarian crises in the world. The UK is the fourth largest donor to the conflict in Yemen and I regularly raise humanitarian issues with the Coalition. Most recently, The Foreign Secretary discussed the humanitarian situation at the Quint meeting, between US, UK, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Oman and the UN, in Bonn on 16 February.

Yemen: Famine

22 Feb 2017 | 908741

Asked by: Wendy Morton

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

Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department for International Development

Yemen is on the brink of famine. According to the UN, more than 10 million people require immediate humanitarian aid to survive, including half a million children under 5 who are severely malnourished.

The UN has launched the largest ever humanitarian appeal for Yemen, requesting \$2.1 billion to provide life-saving assistance to 12 million people in 2017.

In 2015 and 2016, the UK helped over 1 million Yemenis with food, medical assistance and clean water. We are encouraging others in the international community to step up their response in Yemen.

Yemen: Military Intervention

22 Feb 2017 | 64277

Asked by: Julie Elliott

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether UK-supplied aircraft have been used by Saudi Arabia to drop munitions in Yemen.

Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Ministry of Defence

UK-built and licensed Typhoon and Tornado aircraft from the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) have been deployed on combat missions in the Yemen campaign.

Yemen: Military Intervention

22 Feb 2017 | 62165

Asked by: Margaret Ferrier

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many allegations of humanitarian law violations by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen his Department is tracking; and if he will place in the Library the reports relating to each such allegation.

Answering member: Sir Michael Fallon | Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is tracking 257 allegations of breaches of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by the Saudi-led Coalition in Yemen. Details of the MOD's analysis of these allegations are necessarily confidential.

Yemen: Military Intervention

06 Feb 2017 | HL4998

Asked by: Lord Touhig

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the Secretary of State for Defence on 19 December 2016 (HC Deb, cols 1215–1216), when they first became aware of the use of UK-made cluster bombs by Saudi Arabia in Yemen; and following assurances they have received from the government of Saudi Arabia that the use of such bombs has now stopped, what monitoring will take place.

Answering member: Earl Howe | Ministry of Defence

Amnesty International wrote to the Prime Minister on 23 May 2016, and to the Ministry of Defence on 3 June 2016, on the alleged use of UK-produced BL-755 cluster munitions by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. That allegation was confirmed by the Coalition in their statement on 19 December 2016.

We welcome the Saudi commitment to cease use of UK-manufactured BL-755 cluster munitions and have offered to assist with the destruction of any remaining stocks of the weapon.

Yemen

30 January 2017 | Vol 620 cc652-4

Asked by: Hannah Bardell

What recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Yemen.

Asked by: Peter Grant (Glenrothes) (SNP)

What recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Yemen.

Answered by: Harriett Baldwin | Defence

The security situation in Yemen has been concerning since 2014, when Houthi forces and those loyal to former President Saleh took over the capital Sana'a and forced out the legitimate Government of President Hadi.

Hannah Bardell

As the suffering in Yemen unfolds, the world watches in horror. Nearly 2.2 million people are internally displaced, half of them women and girls. Evidence from Amnesty International shows that partially exploded, UK-manufactured BL755 cluster bombs are lying unexploded, injuring and maiming many people. Despite the Foreign Office Minister denying their existence, the UK Government's own investigations back up media reports that such cluster bombs have been deployed in the war in Yemen, so when will this heartless Tory Government wake up, do a proper investigation, take on Saudi Arabia and stop the sale and deployment of these bombs?

Harriett Baldwin

I think the hon. Lady must have missed the statement that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State gave on this issue in December. I can confirm that the humanitarian situation is extremely serious. As a result, the UK is the fourth largest donor to Yemen and is committing more than £100 million this year.

Peter Grant

The single biggest contributor to the humanitarian disaster in Yemen is the Royal Saudi air force, which has systematically destroyed almost the entire infrastructure of the country, leaving 7 million people in danger of starvation because food cannot be got to them. How much worse does the humanitarian crisis have to get before the United Kingdom stops selling £2 billion-worth of weapons per year to a Government who are accused of 250 different war crimes in Yemen?

Harriett Baldwin

The UK position is of course that a political solution is the best way forward to bring long-term stability to Yemen and end the conflict there. The hon. Gentleman will be aware that the coalition in Yemen is supported by United Nations resolution 2216. He will also be aware that there are regular incursions into Saudi territory, and I am sure he will recognise the legitimate self-defence of the Saudi-led coalition under United Nations resolution 2216.

Daniel Zeichner (Cambridge) (Lab)

There was widespread concern at the Secretary of State's disclosure in December that UK-made cluster bombs had been used by Saudi Arabia in Yemen. The Saudi Government have since said that they will not continue their use, but there is no way of enforcing that commitment. Will the Minister tell us whether the Secretary of State has personally urged the Saudi Government to sign the cluster munitions convention, which implements a complete ban on this most destructive of weapons?

Harriett Baldwin

Yes, I can confirm that the Government regularly urge Saudi Arabia to sign the cluster munitions convention. I can also confirm that, in his statement in December, the Secretary of State welcomed the announcement that UK munitions would no longer be used.

Margaret Ferrier (Rutherglen and Hamilton West) (SNP)

We know that the UK sold 500 BL755 cluster munitions to Saudi Arabia, but the Ministry is keen to give the impression that only one of them has been dropped in Yemen. Will the Secretary of State commit to demanding a full current inventory, including serial numbers, of the remaining munitions stockpiled in Saudi Arabia, as well as records for those no longer in the Saudi's possession?

Harriett Baldwin

I draw the hon. Lady's attention to my previous answer about how we welcomed the Saudi Government's commitment. We do not routinely

hold records of other nations' use, storage or location of UK-manufactured equipment, particularly items that were supplied decades ago under previous Governments.

Fabian Hamilton (Leeds North East) (Lab)

As the Minister knows, there are serious allegations that both sides in the conflict in Yemen have broken international humanitarian law. Those claims are particularly worrying to us in this country because we now know that United Kingdom-supplied cluster munitions have been used in Yemen. What action are the Government taking to push for a full, independent, United Nations-led investigation into the alleged violations of international law in Yemen?

Harriett Baldwin

We do not oppose calls for an international independent investigation into these incidents but, first and foremost, we want the coalition to investigate allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law attributed to those groups and for the investigations to be thorough and conclusive.

4. Other Parliamentary material

4.1 Oral Statements

Statement on the conflict in Yemen

19 Dec 2016 | 618 cc1214-1226

4.2 Urgent questions

Yemen

Urgent question on the situation in Yemen, from a humanitarian perspective and on diplomatic efforts to end the conflict.

26 Jan 2017 | 620 cc442-454

Yemen

Urgent question on the United Kingdom's policy on the conflict in Yemen.

12 Dec 2016 | 618 cc515-525

Humanitarian Law (Yemen)

Urgent question on Government assessments of breaches of international humanitarian law in Yemen.

05 September 2016 | 614 cc24-37

Yemen: Cluster Munitions

Urgent question on reports of new evidence that UK-manufactured cluster bombs may have killed and injured civilians, including children, in the conflict in Yemen.

24 May 2016 | 611 cc400-410

4.3 Debates

Iran's Influence in the Middle East

22 March 2017 | 623 cc335-60WH

Yemen

12 January 2017 | 619 cc489-547

Yemen

26 October 2016 | 616 cc337-393

Yemen

18 October 2016 | 615 cc772-784

Human Rights and Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia

08 June 2016 | 611 cc113-139WH

4.4 Early Day Motions

UN announcement on Yemen

EDM 872 (session 2016-17)

19 January 2017

Keith Vaz

That this House is dismayed by the announcement by the UN on 16 January 2017 that 10,000 people have died as a result of the conflict in Yemen; supports diplomatic efforts to secure a ceasefire and a long-term peaceful solution to the crisis; notes the meeting between UN Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed and President Hadi of Yemen on 16 January 2017 to discuss the Special Envoy's peace roadmap; further notes the severity of the growing humanitarian crisis, with 21 million people, four-fifths of the population, in need of humanitarian assistance; and urges the Government to make every effort to raise the need for a ceasefire at the next meeting of the UN Security Council on 25 January 2017.

Humanitarian crisis in Yemen

EDM 784 (session 2016-17)

07 Dec 2016

Douglas Chapman

That this House expresses its concern that the humanitarian crisis in Yemen is worsening; notes the Oxfam report which states that Yemen is a few months away from running out of food, which builds on the UN report stating that around half the population are food insecure; is alarmed that the ports so vital in maintaining the supply of food and medicines are subject to shipping restrictions and that the fuel required for the distribution of necessities is in desperately short supply; and calls on the UK Government to work with the international community to alleviate the human suffering in Yemen.

Ceasefire announcement in Yemen by Secretary Kerry

EDM 688 (session 2016-17)

16 Nov 2016

Keith Vaz

That this House supports the announcement by US Secretary of State John Kerry that the Saudi-led coalition and Houthi group in Yemen have agreed to a ceasefire which begins on 17 November 2016 believes a ceasefire to be vitally important in securing a permanent cessation of hostilities and diplomatic negotiations based on the roadmap presented by UN Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed; notes that more than 10,000 people have been killed and over 3 million displaced since the conflict began 20 months ago; and calls on the Government to urge all parties to sign up to the agreement, follow the terms of the ceasefire and return to the negotiating table.

5. Gov.uk

Statement from Priti Patel on UN Yemen appeal

Department for International Development
8 February 2017

The United Nations has today (8th February) launched an appeal for US\$2.1 billion to provide life-saving assistance to 12 million people in Yemen in 2017.

International Development Secretary Priti Patel said:

“Today, the UN has launched its new humanitarian plan for Yemen, setting out the steps it will take to save lives in 2017 and the funding it requires to be able to do that.

Last year, UK aid ensured life-saving food, medical supplies, clean water and emergency shelter reached more than one million Yemenis in desperate need across the country and we will once again be supporting this new appeal.

At the UN General Assembly last September, the UK Government secured more than \$100 million [approximately £80 million] in new funding for Yemen and a commitment from UN agencies to strengthen their response to the crisis. As the UN launches its new appeal today, we will continue to push donors and partners alike to step up their efforts and to keep pace with the UK response.

It is imperative that all parties to the conflict ensure lifesaving assistance can get through and aid agencies get the unfettered access they require. At the same time, the international community must provide the UN with the funding it is calling for along with the political pressure to ensure aid reaches those who need it.”

Minister for the Middle East comment after meeting of Quad on Yemen

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
19 December 2016

Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood said:

“My meeting with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, UN and the US was a clear example of the UK’s active diplomacy in trying to find a political settlement to the Yemeni conflict.

“I call on all parties to work closely with the UN Special Envoy to bring about a peaceful resolution.

“This must start with the parties committing to engage with the UN on resuming a Cessation of Hostilities, including active participation in the De-escalation and Coordination Committee to ensure that ceasefire is effective and durable.

“I also urge all parties to work to improve humanitarian and commercial access to Yemen to help alleviate humanitarian suffering.

“It was clear from today’s meeting that in Yemen there is a real desire to achieve peace. The UK will continue to play a central role in supporting that aim.”

Notes to editors:

A communiqué released after the meeting in Riyadh on Sunday 18 December 2016 is available here:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/12/265752.htm>

Joint statement on Yemen

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

16 October 2016

The Foreign Ministers of the U.K., U.S., the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates met in London on October 16 with UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. The Ministers expressed strong support for the efforts of the UN Special Envoy and his plan to present as soon as possible both parties with a roadmap that provides a clear vision of the security and political steps required to bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The Ministers agreed on the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis and end the fighting.

The Ministers called on all the Yemeni parties to work determinedly with the UN Special Envoy in accordance with the GCC initiative, the National Dialogue Outcomes, and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. All parties must demonstrate flexibility and a willingness to compromise. Unilateral steps, including those actions in Sanaa to form political institutions, are incompatible with a peaceful resolution, and will not be granted legitimacy. The Ministers expressed concern about the economic situation including the independence of the Central Bank, and called on all parties to respect and preserve the integrity of government and financial institutions.

6. Further reading

6.1 Humanitarian organisations

[Yemen Annual Report 2016/2017](#), Amnesty international

[Yemen 2017 Report](#), Human Rights Watch

[UNICEF Yemen Annual Report 2015](#)

[UNICEF: Latest on Yemen](#)

[Yemen Humanitarian Bulletin](#), *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, 18 March 2017

[Humanitarian needs overview: Yemen 2017](#), *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, November 2016

[Yemen Situation Report no. 26](#), *World Food Programme*, 21 February 2017

[Yemen Crisis Appeal](#), Save the Children

6.2 Committee reports

International Development Committee, Evidence given by Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, former Secretary of State for International Development: [Crisis in Yemen](#), HC 696, 1 February 2017

[Government Response to the First Joint Report from the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee and International Development Committee, Session 2016–17, on the use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen](#), 14 Nov 2016

[Government Response to the Fourth Report from the Foreign Affairs Committee, Session 2016–17, on the use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen](#), 14 Nov 2016

[Statement from Rt Hon Dr Julian Lewis MP, Chairman of the Defence Committee](#)

[The use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen](#), Fourth Report of Session 2016–17, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 688, 15 September 2016

[The use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen](#), First Joint Report of the Business, Innovation and Skills and International Development Committees of Session 2016–17, HC 679, 15 September 2016

[Crisis in Yemen: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2015–16](#), Second Special Report of Session 2016–17, International Development Committee, HC 557, 14 July 2016

[Crisis in Yemen](#), Fourth Report of Session 2015–16, International Development Committee, HC 532, 4 may 2016

6.3 House of Commons Library

[Yemen](#), Commons Debate Pack 2017-0007, 9 January 2017

[Yemen at War](#), Commons Briefing Paper 2017-7184, 20 December 2016

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