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# The House Finally Acts on Yemen

*The Senate should quickly follow suit and end United States complicity in the humanitarian horrors there.*

By The Editorial Board

**Congress has long ignored its constitutional war-making responsibilities, evading difficult questions about military engagement and effectively giving presidents a blank check to decide when and how the military should be involved in hostilities.**

That the House finally took up that duty on Wednesday and voted to end military support for Saudi Arabia in the catastrophic civil war in Yemen is a measure of growing bipartisan disgust with the Saudi regime and revulsion at the horrors of that war.

The Republican-led Senate enacted similar legislation in December, but the measure was blocked in the House, before it passed from Republican to Democratic hands last month.

The Senate needs to approve the measure again, confirming its vote in December, to deliver a stunning rebuke to a president unyielding in his defense of Saudi Arabia, even after Saudi operatives murdered the Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul in October.

Despite a cease-fire agreed to in December around the port of Hudaydah, a lifeline for humanitarian aid and site of one of the fiercest battles, Yemeni civilians continue to be killed in the fighting and millions more face a devastating famine.

**Congress passed the War Powers Resolution over President Richard Nixon's veto in 1973 because of the way presidential authority had been used to extend the Vietnam War. The measure passed by the House on Wednesday invokes that act because many lawmakers say President Trump exceeded his authority by deploying American forces and weapons into the Yemen conflict without a formal declaration of war.** As of the end of 2018, nearly 100 American military personnel were believed to be advising or assisting the coalition war effort, although fewer than 35 are based in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Trump has threatened to veto the bill if it is passed by the Senate, arguing that the support provided to the Saudis has been limited and the congressional resolution would

**undermine the president's constitutional powers. An override would be difficult, but congressional action could still pressure the administration to pull back support for the Saudi campaign and bring hope to long-suffering Yemenis that their agony could soon end.**

**The civil war has metastasized since 2015, when Saudi Arabia and its Sunni Arab allies in the Persian Gulf intervened against Houthi rebels, Shiites backed by Iran.**

**As the fighting, and Saudi bombing, intensified, thousands of children have starved to death, thousands more civilians have been killed in the fighting, 14 million are on the brink of famine and more than a million suffer from cholera.**