

Stop the WAR in Yemen

19. June 2018 – United Nations – Geneva

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)

Human rights in Yemen

Time: 14:00 – 15:00 Room XXIV



Dear board directors, members and guests of the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence,

Let me start by expressing my warm and cordial thanks for allowing me to speak here today about the dramatic situation in Yemen, from the point of view of the STOP the WAR in Yemen peace initiative.

My name is Mathias Tretschog, I am the founder and spokesman of Stop the WAR in Yemen initiative. It was founded in February 2017 in Berlin and has set itself the task and goal of informing parliamentarians, parties and people in Germany about the war which Saudi Arabia and its war coalition has been leading against Yemen since 26 March 2015. We want to bring information about that war which is illegal under international law to the general public.



Unfortunately, the German media reports only insufficiently or incorrectly about the war in Yemen and the daily crimes against the humanity carried out by the Saudi war coalition in Yemen. Many reports on Yemen that can be found in the international press are not mentioned in the leading German mainstream media.

When reports on incidents in Yemen are reported in the German mainstream media, it is generally not reported on the actual background and causes of the war. It is not reported on their main aggressors such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Sudan, Jordan, Morocco and Senegal and their bombardments and crimes in Yemen.

There are also no reports on the Yemeni ex-president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi living in Saudi Arabia – whose term expired in February 2014. Hadi dissolved his government in January 2015, and, according to investigative media reports, to this day, is fighting the Houthi rebels with the help of senior Al Qaeda officials and loyal Yemeni ex-government soldiers.

The military, logistical and informal support of the Saudi war coalition by numerous NATO countries and their arms deals for many billions of dollars, especially by the US, France, Great Britain and, of course, Germany, is also scarcely mentioned by politicians or the media in Germany.

What we see is a one-sided finger-pointing towards the Houthi rebels, and especially towards Iran, who is constantly accused of arms shipments to the Houthi rebels.

Allow me to mention a few key figures on the daily war crimes committed by the Saudi war coalition against the Yemeni civilian population and let me illustrate the particular complicity of the Western community of states.

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The following key figures are based on the publications of the NGO “Legal Rights of Development”:

Number of bombing raids on the Houthi areas by months in 2018

- January 853
- February 1,189
- March 1,347
- April 910
- May 769

Bombings January to May 5,068

Bombings Ø day 33

January to May: civilian casualties - total 1,168

- civilians killed - men, women and children 517
- injured civilians - men, women and children 651

destroyed vital civil infrastructure

- roads/bridges 189
- water stations 149
- farms 497
- medical facilities 25
- schools 39

In addition to the daily bombing raids by the Saudi war coalition, the Yemenis suffer under the occupation forces of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. According to international media reports, Yemeni women were raped by Sudanese soldiers. Due to crippling land, air and sea blockades, relief supplies, food and medicines that could slightly alleviate the humanitarian needs of the civilian population rarely reach Hodeida Port. With the Battle of Hodeida, where the Saudi war coalition has been trying to block even the last access to international relief supplies since 12 June, Saudi Arabia is risking the biggest genocide of humanity in Yemen!

More than 22 million Yemenis rely on humanitarian relief supplies, 8.4 million Yemenis are on the brink of dying from starvation, every 10 minutes a Yemeni child is dying of hunger and easily preventable diseases.

From these key figures, the world community can recognize that the Saudi war coalition is not primarily fighting a military opponent, but is pushing for the destruction of the Yemeni people on a daily basis.

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This genocide of the Yemeni people would not be possible without the massive rearmament of Saudi Arabia and the countries that belong to the Saudi war coalition. The UN veto powers USA, UK and France, as well as Germany, supply the members of the Saudi war coalition with state-of-the-art weapons systems and violate the UN Charter by doing so.

Thus, the leading Western nations violate not only their own national laws but also the Defining Common Rules Governing Control of Exports of Military Technology and Equipment, according to the “UN/EU - Council Common Position 2008/944” as of December 2008.

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Therefore, the Stop the WAR in Yemen initiative asks the following questions:

- Why is the international community supporting Rabbuh Mansur Hadi as President of Yemen, whose official term ended in February 2014, who himself dissolved the Yemeni government in February 2015 and to this day wages a war in Yemen together with al-Qaeda officials who are on Terror Lists by the US Treasury Department?
- Why is the United Nations not imposing an arms embargo on all countries and parties involved in the war in Yemen - including Saudi Arabia and countries of the Saudi war coalition?
- Why do the United Nations not condemn those states that provide logistics, consultancy, services and arms exports and thus facilitating the illegal war in Saudi Arabia against Yemen especially the US, France, the UK and Germany?
- Why is the United Nations refusing to initiate investigations on the Saudi Crown Prince and Defense Minister Bin Salman for his ongoing crimes against humanity and genocide in Yemen?
- Why is the United Nations refusing to initiate investigations on the US, France, Britain and Germany for aiding and abetting crimes against humanity and genocide in Yemen?
- Why is the United Nations not calling for an immediate ceasefire from all war parties?

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Thank you so much for your attention!

Disclosures: Stop the WAR in Yemen – Press www.krieg-im-jemen.de/presse

