



March 2023 Lesson Plan: Yemen

Things to prepare BEFORE the meeting:

- Send an email reminder a week before AND the day before the meeting with the location & time
- Make a Powerpoint or Google Slides presentation with this information to easily share it
- Familiarize yourself with the information to answer any questions your members may have

Objective: Introduce students to the atrocities and human rights crises in Yemen and the United States' involvement in it, as well as how they can take action. We also have some toolkits for larger action campaigns you can do with your chapter!

LESSON PLAN

I. Beginning of meeting

- A. It's helpful to have music playing and welcome people as they come into the room.
- B. Have a sign-in sheet ([example](#)), and ask interested students to join us nationally as an action committee member ([sign-up form](#)).
- C. Welcome people as they come in, and use this time to get ready by rearranging the chairs in the room and/or logging into the computer, etc.

II. Introductions

Introduce yourself and any other chapter leaders (name, position and favorite movie/song/book/other icebreaker).

III. Introduction to Topic With Activity: Kahoot

- A. Present a [Kahoot quiz](#) with the following questions about the history of atrocities in Yemen and the current US response to them. At the end, ask the attendees if any of the facts surprised them or stood out to them and why.
- B. Goal: The purpose of this activity is mainly to give them some insight on Yemen's current situation through a quiz. It serves as a reminder of the various ways in which the people of Yemen are affected by war, human rights abuses, and the resulting humanitarian crisis..

Kahoot:

1. The conflict in Yemen began around what series of protests?
 - a. **Arab Spring**
 - b. Occupy Movement
 - c. Color Revolution
 - d. Great Eastern Crisis
2. The Yemen Civil War is fought between the Yemeni government and what major rebel group?
 - a. Hadis
 - b. Khashoggis
 - c. **Houthis**



- d. Baghdadis
- 3. When did Saudi Arabia get involved in the conflict?
 - a. 2011
 - b. 2012
 - c. **2015**
 - d. 2018
- 4. About how many people are estimated to have died in the crisis so far?
 - a. 56,000
 - b. 140,000
 - c. 210,000
 - d. **370,000**
- 5. True or False. Is the United States involved in supporting the Saudi-led coalition's involvement in Yemen?
 - a. **True**
 - b. False
- 6. Which US Senator first introduced the Yemen War Powers Resolution in February 2018?
 - a. Ted Cruz
 - b. **Bernie Sanders**
 - c. Kevin McCarthy
 - d. Nancy Pelosi
- 7. What would the War Powers Resolution do when invoked?
 - a. Increase defense spending for future wars
 - b. Resolve treaties of war
 - c. **Limit the President's power to declare war without congressional consent**
 - d. Declare war on neighboring countries
- 8. Which world event increased support for the Yemen War Powers Resolution in 2018?
 - a. **Jamal Khashoggi's assassination**
 - b. Jair Bolsonaro elected as Brazil's president
 - c. The crash of Lion Air Flight 610
 - d. The UN Sustainable Development Goals report
- 9. What is the current status of conflict in Yemen?
 - a. The beginning stages of peace talks
 - b. Ceasefire between the Yemeni Government and the Houthis
 - c. **Relative stability despite an expired ceasefire**
 - d. Escalating violence
- 10. True or False. Has the United States passed the Yemen War Powers Resolution as of now?
 - a. True
 - b. **False**

Feel free to use these questions or add your own!

IV. Background on the Crisis in Yemen

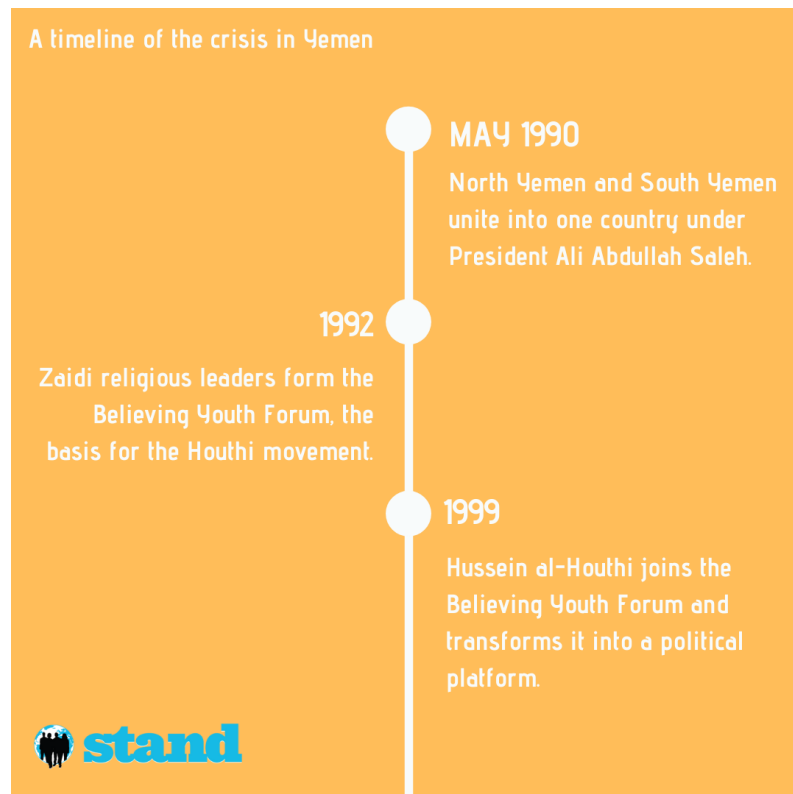
- The Yemeni Civil War is an ongoing conflict between the Houthi rebels and the Yemeni government, with involvement from Saudi Arabia and a Saudi-led coalition of neighboring countries.. Due to rampant starvation, sickness, and violent military airstrikes, Yemen is



reportedly experiencing one of the biggest ongoing humanitarian crises in the world. Global humanitarian and human rights legislation continues to be violated

- According to estimates, 20.7 million are in need of humanitarian aid, 16.2 million are at risk of famine, 4.6 million are internally displaced, 2 million children under 5 are suffering from acute malnutrition, and there have been 377 thousand deaths from war
- Due to a lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitary facilities, and medical care, cases of illnesses including cholera, starvation, and malnutrition have risen. Throughout this conflict, Saudi Arabia has placed an air and maritime embargo on Yemen for almost seven years, which has impeded the entry of essential economic and humanitarian supplies and worsened the crisis.
- The Saudi-led campaign has devastated Yemeni civilians and is, in large part, fueled by American-made weapons and defense contractors. Many countries, including The United States, have provided military assistance and arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition..

A timeline of the crisis in Yemen (Down Below):



A timeline of the crisis in Yemen

JUNE 2004

The Houthis launch a full insurgency against the Yemeni government. Hundreds of people died in this conflict.

JUNE 2005

The Houthi general surrenders, and the two sides reach an agreement.

AUGUST 2009

The army starts an offensive against Houthi rebels, displacing tens of thousands of people in the process.



A timeline of the crisis in Yemen

NOVEMBER 2011

President Saleh is forced out of office after months of protests.

FEBRUARY 2012

Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, Saleh's former Vice President, becomes the President of Yemen.

SEPTEMBER 2014

The Houthis sign a deal with the Hadi regime that would give them more say in the government about a month after beginning armed protests.



A timeline of the crisis in Yemen

JANUARY 2015

Houthi rebels seize the presidential palace, forcing President Hadi and his government to resign. Hadi flees to Aden.

MARCH 2015

Civil war fully breaks out as Houthis head to Aden, and a Saudi-led coalition of Gulf states backed by the United States intervenes to support the Hadi regime with airstrikes and a naval blockade.

SEPTEMBER 2015

Hadi rescinds his resignation and the fighting continued.



A timeline of the crisis in Yemen

AUGUST 2016

Saudis bomb the vital port of al-Hudaydah, severely damaging a main source of Yemen's food and humanitarian aid shipments and increasing the chances of mass starvation in an already impoverished Yemen.

JUNE 2018

The Vos Theia, a vessel chartered by the World Food Programme to deliver aid, is attacked off the coast of Al-Hudaydah. Shortly after, the Battle of Al-Hudaydah begins.

JULY 2019

The United Arab Emirates officially withdraws support for the war and removes its ground troops in Yemen.



A timeline of the crisis in Yemen

SEPTEMBER 2019

Saudi Arabia and Iran hold indirect peace talks following the US's refusal to retaliate against Iran's attack on a Saudi oil facility.

OCTOBER 2019

Iran publicly admits to helping the Houthis for the first time.

NOVEMBER 2019

Government and separatists sign a power-sharing agreement to end conflict in southern Yemen.

A timeline of the crisis in Yemen

FEBRUARY 2020

The US sends thousands of soldiers to Saudi Arabia. They help maintain and launch F-15s.

MARCH 2020

USAID decreases aid to Yemen as the pandemic begins. The United States still claimed to help northern Yemen.

SPRING 2020

Yemen is battling the coronavirus during the civil war. Many cases are believed to be underreported.

A timeline of the crisis in Yemen

FEBRUARY 2021

The U.S announces that it will stop supporting Saudi Arabia's offensive operations in Yemen but does not make meaningful changes.

APRIL 2022

Houthis and the Saudi-backed Yemeni government reach a truce.

AUGUST 2022

The truce was renewed and set to expire on October 2 2022. However, there were reports that violence continued despite a ceasefire.



A timeline of the crisis in Yemen

OCTOBER 2022

The truce expired on October 2, marking uncertainty and heightened risk of war across Yemen. The UN had given efforts to sign parties onto a new deal.

DECEMBER 2022

In December, Bernie Sanders introduced a War Powers Resolution on the floor that aimed to block US support on the Yemeni conflict. In the same month, Bernie Sanders pulled the War Powers Resolution out due to opposition from the White House.

JANUARY 2023

Saudi Arabia and the Houthis resumed informal negotiations following the end of the ceasefire. This is an important step towards lasting peace.





V. Video

This video is ten minutes long, but provides a good background on the crisis in Yemen. Feel free to play a shorter portion of it to adapt to different meeting time lengths.

https://youtu.be/wjyqtPmk_4

VI. War Powers Resolution

A. Background

- The War Powers Resolution ([H.J.Res.87](#)) was introduced in June 2022 by Bernie Sanders and a bipartisan group of 50 congressional members. The aim of the resolution was to invoke congress' constitutional war powers to end U.S. involvement in the ongoing war in Yemen.

What are War Powers?

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the U.S. Constitution, Congress is granted the power to “declare war,” “raise and support armies,” “provide and maintain a navy,” and “to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.” The President is designated as the Commander in Chief of the United States army and navy. Thus, the Constitution has divided war powers between both the legislative and the executive branch.

If the resolution were to pass, provisions include:

- Ending the sharing of U.S. intelligence to Saudi Arabia, a practice which enables Saudi-led military and coalition strikes
- Ending any ongoing or future support for offensive Saudi coalition strikes, which include any upkeep, maintenance or other support to coalition members who engage in bombings in Yemen
- Prohibiting any U.S. personnel from being assigned to command, coordinate, or participate in the movement and oversight of Saudi-led coalition forces without the express authorization of Congress.

The resolution intended to follow through on President Joe Biden's pledge to end U.S. involvement in the war in Yemen.

B. Where is the Resolution now?

- Unfortunately, Bernie Sanders pulled the resolution from being voted on in December 2022. Getting the vote through the Senate would have been close, and getting it through the house would likely have been increasingly difficult following the Democrat's loss of control after the November 2022 elections.
- However, the principal reason the bill was pulled was because the White House emphasized that the administration is “strongly opposed” to the resolution and Biden's aides would recommend a veto if it made it to the President's desk. White House Press Secretary, Katine Jean-Pierre, commented that they were wary of upsetting the delicate diplomatic process in Yemen. However, this comment was criticized by the former Special-Envoy to Yemen, Jamal Benomar, who stated that “There's been no diplomatic progress whatsoever... there's been no political process, no negotiations, or even a prospect of them. So an all-out war can resume at any time.”



C. Why is this Resolution important?

Because the war in Yemen is the worst humanitarian disaster of this century and the U.S. is complicit in ongoing war crimes, it is essential that the U.S. cease all involvement in this war and instead move towards supporting long-term solutions for peace and humanitarian relief.

VII. Actions

Now that you and your chapter have some general background information on the crisis in Yemen and the Yemen War Powers Resolution, here are some actions you can take! Some of them are short and can be done in the span of one meeting, while others require a bit more planning but could be a good long-term campaign.

A. Arrange a meeting with your Representatives and Senators to talk about the Yemen War Powers Resolution.

- a. This action requires a bit of effort and planning, but is a great way for you and your chapter to get involved in the local political process.
- b. If you plan on hosting a lobby meeting, reach out to info@standnow.org for assistance!
- c. Figure out who the foreign policy staff members for your Representatives and Senators are, email them, and set up a zoom meeting with interested chapter members.
- d. Put together your own talking points to say, or use [ours](#)!

B. Write an op-ed (opinion piece) to publish in your local newspaper educating people about Yemen and encouraging them to take action.

- a. This one also takes some planning, but if your members are interested in writing, a writing campaign in support of Yemen can be great.
- b. Use our [writing guide](#) for tips, and reach out to STAND for help editing if you'd like.
- c. We recommend reaching out to your school newspaper and any local/city/state ones that take op-ed submissions
- d. Each member can write their own, or you can all collaborate and each write a paragraph

C. Sign some petitions.

- a. This is a quick and easy way to take action.
- b. It should only take a couple minutes, a great activity for a short meeting.
- c. Here are some petition options to use:
 - i. Tell Congress to pass the Yemen War Powers Resolution:
https://act.demandprogress.org/letter/pass-yemen-wpr/?t=1&ak_proof=1&akid=30076%2F2235036%2F4ZkBH
 - ii. Stop US weapon sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE:
<https://www.codepink.org/stoparmingsaudi>

VIII. Conclusion



1. Conclude the meeting with a thank you, and ask about future meeting dates. Ask students about feedback about the meeting and some things they liked or didn't like to make adjustments in the future and make everybody feel engaged.
2. Make sure to mention the resources that were given and other topics that were discussed.
3. Follow up after the meeting to let people know about things you will be doing in the future and invite people to get more involved. Consider including a form for people to provide any other feedback or information about how they would like to participate.
4. Are you on our slack page for chapter leaders? Reach out to gharris@standnow.org, our Outreach co-lead, to be added!
5. Please send any pictures you took of activities or other parts of the meeting to info@standnow.org to be featured in our chapter newsletter or on our social media!

Extra Resources

- Yemen Conflict Tracker: [War in Yemen | Global Conflict Tracker](#)
- Yemen War Powers Resolution:
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-joint-resolution/87/text>
- Human Rights Watch on US war crimes in Yemen:
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/21/us-war-crimes-yemen-stop-looking-other-way>
- Biden on the Yemen War Powers Resolution:
<https://theintercept.com/2023/01/01/biden-yemen-war-diplomacy/>
- UN Announcement of Truce: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115392>
- Resumed Peace Talks:
<https://apnews.com/article/politics-yemen-government-saudi-arabia-houthis-2b3a40079aaf6ce6bac9817d86d8c52a>