

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 308

Reps. Hammoud, Manoogian, Hoadley, Bolden and Kuppa offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the United States government to publicly
2 and formally call for a solution to Yemen's current crisis, condemn
3 the fighting and war crimes, and recognize the suffering of the
4 Yemeni people and their need for humanitarian aid.

5 Whereas, Rooted in political issues dating years back,
6 factions in the Republic of Yemen have been in conflict since early
7 2015. In 2017, Yemen was declared the world's largest humanitarian
8 disaster by the United Nations (UN) and has been likened to the
9 crises in Iraq, Syria, and South Sudan; and

10 Whereas, The Yemeni conflict has devastated the lives of many,
11 with more than 24 million people - some 80 percent of the
12 population - in need of humanitarian assistance. In addition, the



1 number of people in acute need increased by 27 percent in 2019, and
2 two-thirds of all districts in the country are already pre-famine.
3 Furthermore, there have been over 10,000 civilian casualties,
4 numerous human rights violations, and several war crimes.
5 Moreover, masses of people have been forced to relocate within the
6 country or leave altogether as refugees; and

7 Whereas, As COVID-19 spreads rapidly, Yemen now faces an
8 additional crisis. The spread of COVID-19, along with other
9 existing health issues in the country, are exacerbated by the lack
10 of adequate sanitation and clean water. According to UNICEF, only
11 half of health facilities are functioning, and many facilities lack
12 basic equipment and supplies to treat the coronavirus. In June
13 2020, Yemen's total cases of COVID-19 almost tripled, with 835 new
14 cases being reported; and

15 Whereas, The crisis has been compounded by the naval and air
16 blockade on Yemen, imposed by the Saudi-led coalition, that has
17 severely restricted the flow of food, fuel, and medicine to
18 civilians. While the blockade was broken for the first time in
19 three years in February of 2020 to allow critically ill patients to
20 travel, the conflict is still escalating; and

21 Whereas, Humanitarian agencies are struggling to support
22 Yemeni citizens while implementing social distancing guidelines.
23 The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) reported that 75 percent of the UN's
24 major humanitarian programs will have to reduce services or close
25 completely in the coming months and only 40 percent of the funding
26 needed to sustain services in 2020 has been received;and

27 Whereas, World leaders, like the United States, have a moral
28 imperative to work toward an end to the Yemeni conflict and help
29 the country's people beleaguered by the crisis. The United States

1 has the influence to broker a ceasefire and peace negotiations. It
2 has the resources to ensure people in Yemen receive the aid that
3 they so desperately need; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
5 United States government to publicly and formally call for a
6 solution to Yemen's current crisis, condemn the fighting and war
7 crimes, and recognize the suffering of the Yemeni people and their
8 need for humanitarian aid; and be it further

9 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
10 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of
11 State, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
12 the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the
13 Michigan congressional delegation.