

The War in Yemen

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Warsaw, Poland on 1 to 3 December 2016:

Notes with concern:

- the 10,000 fatalities since Jan 2015 in Yemen, with 200,000 people seeking refuge in EU countries, and Saudi-led coalition air strikes accounting for 60% of fatalities;
- the further escalation and internationalisation of the war during November & October 2016 and the escalating threat in November of a wider regional war;
- the bombing of a funeral procession on 8/10/2016 with a guided bomb dropped by the Saudi-led Coalition, killing 140 people and injuring 525;
- the USA entering the war directly on 13/10/2016 with a US Navy destroyer attacking three Houthi radar sites;
- the UNICEF Report, released 07/10/2016, giving totals of 3.2m IDPs, (1.4m children), 370,000 children suffering malnutrition, and the 13th October UN OCHA report showing 1410 suspected & confirmed cases of cholera;
- the failure of seven separate peace efforts, the latest being the 48 hour ceasefire declared by Saudi Arabia commencing 19/11/2016, which broke down on the 21st;
- Iranian aspirations for naval bases in Yemen, announced by its CGS on 27/11/2016.

Deplores:

- the use of cluster munitions by the Saudi-led forces and indiscriminate bombing, reported by ICRC, and 'utter disregard for human life' (MSF);
- the announcement of a further \$1.15 billion in weapons sales to Saudi Arabia by the US in Aug 2016, without effective restrictions on their use in Yemen.

Believes that:

- the characterisation of the conflict as a sectarian Shia-Sunni civil war, is incorrect, and both obscures the regional and global nature of the conflict and weakens international pressure towards peace.

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**Calls for:**

- the UN to broker a negotiated peace, involving all key regional powers;
- an EU investigation into war crimes potentially committed by all sides and on EU Member States to call for a UN embargo on arms sales to Saudi Arabia;
- under UN GA Resolution 60/251, suspension of Saudi Arabia from the UN Human Rights Council.

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