

# As Outrage Grows Over Civilian Casualties in Ukraine, Media Ignores Suffering of Yemeni People

Some Victims Are More Worthy Than Others in Our Orwellian Media Landscape

By [Andi Olluri](#)

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*The U.S. media have been dominated by images of Ukrainians suffering under the Russian invasion.*

*New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote characteristically that Joe Biden had [“masterly and humbly helped organize a global coalition”](#) of Good and Democracy—and [“restored faith in true patriotism.”](#)<sup>[1]</sup>*

In order for the chosen ones to succeed in their democratic mission, Thomas L. Friedman further intoned, the official Obstructor has to be contained, put in an “isolation cell. The same for the larger Russian public.”<sup>[2]</sup>

Russia, together with “China [...] as well as Iran, Venezuela, Cuba”, is conducting “a rollback” of our arduous attempts at peace and democracy, says Francis Fukuyama.<sup>[3]</sup>

And so the free press goes on, virtually without exception.

The method is to denounce the crimes of official government enemies, while staying silent about the crimes of the U.S. government or its allies.

As an example, the media have failed to report on large-scale [war crimes committed by the Ukrainian Army in Eastern Ukraine](#). The plight of Yemenis subjected to years of international terror by some of the most powerful nations on Earth has also been ignored.



Mass graves in Luhansk where neo-Nazi militias attached to the Ukrainian army killed and buried civilians. But you won't read about this in *The New York Times* or even alternative media sources except RT. [Source: [covertactionmagazine.com](http://covertactionmagazine.com)]



Home turned to rubble by Saudi bombers in Sana'a. [Source: [wsws.org](http://wsws.org)]

The people of Yemen have now been given “a death sentence” since “the scale of the

current gaps” of humanitarian funding “are unprecedented,” as UN official Martin Griffiths noted.<sup>[4]</sup>

The same day Russia invaded Ukraine, the UN warned for the first time that thirteen million Yemenis now face “the threat of starvation.” The World Health Organization (WHO) further warned of 20 million Yemenis running the risk of being infected with malaria.<sup>[5]</sup>

Naturally, this is more or less a completely manufactured situation largely due to the years of blockade, bombing and aggression by the Saudi coalition, including the Western states.

Since war broke out in 2015, the U.S.-Saudi coalition has claimed to be defending the legitimate government of Yemen in the face of a rebellion by the Houthi minority group backed by Iran. The Houthis, however, have had legitimate grievances against the corrupt U.S.-Saudi imposed government and have sought to restore the traditional power of the Zaydeh clan, which promotes a divergent brand of Islam from the Iranian mullahs.<sup>[6]</sup>

A UN report noted that the blockade alone prevented 350,000 tons of food from entering Yemen during the first few months of 2021 alone.<sup>[7]</sup>

Furthermore, the blockade prevented oil, worth \$12 billion, from being imported during the same year; the country is practically “entirely dependent” on imports of essential goods such as food, since only 1-3% of its land is arable.<sup>[8]</sup>

Yemen’s Aviation department warned that “more than a million patients are at risk of death as a result of the lack of many medicines,” depleted due to the blockade and war.

It is in other words, as the Norwegian Refugee Council reported, “like a hostage situation.”<sup>[9]</sup> The Coalition seems to have intentionally disproportionately bombed key import ports, such as Hodeidah. A report from the summer of 2021 by the Human Rights Office in Hodeidah, documented that:

economic facilities that were [...bombed by the Coalition...] amounted to more than 4,255 facilities included [...] nine sea ports, 97 power plants, 41 communications networks, 637 water tanks, 211 government facilities, 749 roads and bridges, 90 factories, 57 fuel trucks, 2,226 commercial facilities, 78 chicken and livestock farms, 972 means of transportation, 392 fishing boats, 213 food stores, 53 gas stations, 49 markets and 125 food trucks.<sup>[10]</sup>

Thus, no one can be seriously surprised over the grizzly facts mentioned above.

In this discussion, one has to be clear about what the situation really is. In March 2015, an internal coup against a despised dictator took place; a dictator who had cheated in the 2012 election and who has illegitimately held the power nominally since. What followed was an attack and invasion of Yemen by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) together with virtually the entire West.

IN a standard scholarly study, Asher Orkaby writes: “At its core, the current Yemen conflict [...] is nothing more than ‘a centuries-old method of regime change.’”<sup>[11]</sup> It is superfluous to



point the reader to another current situation this reminds one of.

By the most elementary standards of logic, the West would be condemning these atrocities, imposing the harshest of reprisals on the Coalition, sending billions of dollars to its adversaries and so on.

There would be enormous reports about the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, and the free press would have produced a massively indignant commentary about the “mass humanitarian suffering, and with manifold war crimes,” as *Foreign Affairs* put it regarding [Russia’s provoked invasion of Ukraine](#).<sup>[12]</sup>

Fact: We have been supporting the terror directly, throughout, and not even the most bitter condemnations by the UN have succeeded in stopping our “masterly and humbly” executed “democratic” experiments in the region—namely, to quote the UN, “providing arms and military support” and thereby “perpetuating” the slaughter.<sup>[13]</sup>

During the last couple of months alone, the U.S. has provided Saudi Arabia with more than \$1 billion in missiles and service of their attack helicopters—all to keep the bombardments running at its impressive current rate, killing at least 20,000 civilians, according to an expert UN panel.<sup>[14]</sup>

Furthermore, the U.S. has participated in Saudi Arabia’s occupation of Yemen. Internal documents from the U.S. Air Force concede that a few hundred special forces are in Yemen to train Arabian pilots, meaning “yet another U.S. form of complicity in a brutal war” of aggression “that has gone on for far too long,” as William Hartung pointed out three years ago.<sup>[15]</sup>

And the intentions are perfectly clear: We want the war to continue. [The U.S. covets the strategic island of Socotra off Yemen which it will stop at nothing to secure](#). The U.S. also needs to continue to access cheap oil from the Saudis, so will continue to support their criminal adventures. Tim Lenderking, U.S. special envoy for Yemen, complained recently in a leaked diplomatic document about Saudi Arabia wanting to end the war due to their tactical failures. Luckily, Lenderking was able to convince them of “the necessity of not leaving Yemen completely.”<sup>[16]</sup>

But the U.S. is not alone in this. The internal British documentary record notes that London has a military presence in the southern and eastern parts of Yemen. “They are a fully-fledged force. We can’t say they are minor,” as one local commentator put it.<sup>[17]</sup>



Amnesty International activists stage a protest against UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia. [Source: [English.alaraby.co.uk](https://www.english.alaraby.co.uk)]

More significant, perhaps, are the arms export to Saudi Arabia and the UAE worth \$27 billion. The press was informed in September of last year that France was risking being brought to court for having funded Saudi Arabia with 70 attack jets used to bomb Yemenis—and much of its other weapons exports are unknown.<sup>[18]</sup>

Between 2018 and 2020, Germany sold 4.7 billion Euros worth of military equipment to Egypt, Algeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). From 2012-2017, Saudi Arabia bought \$3 billion worth of weapons from Germany.

Nevertheless, Yemen's Prime Minister, Abdel-Aziz bin Habtoor, revealed in an interview late last year what was already obvious, namely that the

British presence is concentrated [...] in favor of Saudi interests in extending the oil pipeline project [...The UAE is...] a very cheap tool used by the Americans and the British [...] The UAE wants to secure the interests of a geographical type, and Saudi Arabia wants to secure its strategic projects with a long-term economic dimension. The conflict that is taking place by the new colonists in the south [UAE] is about their own interests.<sup>[19]</sup>

These statements are crucial, since it was reported the very same day that the invasion of Ukraine happened (February 24), that UAE-backed forces “started to build” infrastructure in Yemen, in order to “separate southern Yemen from its north, and declare a loyal state in southern Yemen by supporting and adopting separatist factions”—as bin Habtoor had already indicated.<sup>[20]</sup>



Source: [middleeastmonitor.com](http://middleeastmonitor.com)

Again: The UAE has been a key perpetrator of aggression since day one. How, then, has the free world and the free press responded? They have responded with the typical response, namely, with continued support and silence.

No talk of a “rollback” of human rights when the “wrong” people are the perpetrators. In fact, not long prior to the declaration, France announced yet another weapons contract with the UAE of 80 Rafale attack jets worth \$19 billion, a “historic” deal.<sup>[21]</sup>

In other words, we have a case of international violence, aggression, occupation, and terror—and with the full support of the West.

How, then, is it that the International Criminal Court has not produced a condemnatory report about all of this?

After all, the evidence for such is simply overwhelming. Well, again, there are details one could turn to on that, though do not expect to find it discussed in *The New York Times*.

Despite international “lawyers urging the International Criminal Court,” nothing is happening.<sup>[22]</sup> And the reason is simple as to why this international aggression is not being investigated, as we will learn from a long and detailed study from Mtwana—a leading human rights organization in the Middle East.

They note that “likely vetoes by United Nations Security Council members such as France, the UK and the U.S. pose political obstacles to doing so”—one of the funny features of the democratic “global coalition.”<sup>[23]</sup>

All of this leads to an obvious conclusion—almost to the point at which it becomes too obvious to enunciate. The conclusion we draw from this is that our sudden commitment to human rights and suffering, in the case of Ukraine, is not much more than shameless cynicism, since we for years have supported international terror and aggression of the most

awesome proportions.

Ukraine and Yemen are in a sense a rare controlled study history has set up. The primary differences? In one case, the “right” people are carrying out the atrocities; in the other, the “wrong” people are doing so.

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*Andi Olluri lives in western Sweden. He just turned 20 and is studying dietetics. Andi has been an activist since he was a young teenager. He can be reached at [andi\\_ronaldo@hotmail.se](mailto:andi_ronaldo@hotmail.se).*

## Notes

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