

US Saudi Attempt to Block Humanitarian Aid to Yemen

By Stephen Lendman

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The Blockade continues preventing enough vital humanitarian aid from reaching millions of needy Yemenis. Amounts permitted in are woefully inadequate.

Iran's cargo ship "Rescue" is en route with food, water, medical supplies and other humanitarian aid. Washington wants it blocked.

US-Saudia Arabia wants it diverted to Djibouti where they control UN aid for Yemen. An Iranian Defense Ministry statement warned of dire consequences if attempts are made to block its efforts, saying:

"The US and Saudi Arabia will be responsible for the consequences of any provocative moves."

"The US is an accomplice to the war criminals by supporting genocide in Yemen. and the Iranian people's food and drug aid is a humanitarian move to soothe the oppressed Yemeni people's pains."

Aid diverted to Djibouti may prevent its "deliver(y) to the oppressed Yemeni people, and if the international organizations, especially the UN, really want to help the oppressed Yemeni people, they should adopt the necessary measures to prevent the (US-orchestrated) Saudi regime's savage attacks and fully stop them."

On Tuesday, Deputy Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Brig. General Massoud Jazzayeri warned: "Attacking the Iranian Red Crescent aid ship will spark war in the region."

"And this fire may not be put out or brought under control. The US and Saudi Arabia should know that Iran's self-restraint is limited."

In April, the Iranian Red Crescent Aid Society blasted Saudi Arabia for blocking Tehran's humanitarian aid efforts.

Its deputy managing director for international and humanitarian affairs, Shahabeddin Mohammadi Araqi, said "(t)he IRCS humanitarian aid consignments are ready to be dispatched to Yemen, but unfortunately Saudi Arabia prevents their delivery to Yemen."

On Thursday, Fars News reported the Iranian destroyer Alborz accompanying Iran's humanitarian cargo ship to Yemen "locked its missile systems on an invading vessel in the Gulf of Aden after a high-speed boat left Yemen's coasts and rushed to attack it."

"(T)he vessel changed course and returned to the coast after the Iranian destroyer warned it would target the vessel in seconds."

According to Iranian destroyer captain Commodore Hassan Maqsoudlou: "If the terrorists ignored our warning, they would be killed with the first bullets of Alborz."

He stressed Iranian naval forces are prepared to defend the Islamic Republic's interests – including preventing anyone from provocatively inspecting its ships.

What follows remains to be seen. Iran intends supplying Yemenis with desperately needed humanitarian aid. US/Saudi attempts to block it could lead to regional war.

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