

# **PETITION: New York Times, Washington Post: Provide Sustained Coverage of US-Backed Civilian Deaths in Yemen**

By [FAIR](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa, USA](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation, US NATO](#)

[War Agenda](#)

Image: CBS News (Face the Nation, [6/21/15](#)) was one of the few US media outlets to interview survivors of US-backed airstrikes in Yemen.

## **[PETITION:](#)**

The New York Times and Washington Post should expand their coverage of civilian deaths in Yemen caused by a US-backed military campaign.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On March 25, 2015, a Saudi-led coalition began an airstrike campaign in Yemen to defeat the Houthi rebels who have effectively overthrown the government backed by Saudi Arabia and the US. The Obama administration is openly providing “logistical and intelligence support” to the offensive (AFP, [3/26/15](#)).

The Yemeni civil war has claimed the lives of over 1,500 civilians (CNN, [7/8/15](#)). The coalition declared the entire city of Saada a military target, which Human Rights Watch labeled a war crime (AP, [6/30/15](#)). Amnesty International’s deputy director for the Middle East has said that the Saudi-led, US-supported coalition is “turning a blind eye to civilian deaths and suffering caused by its military intervention” (Common Dreams, [3/31/15](#)).

The US public must not do the same. Yet the coverage of civilian deaths in Yemen by major US media outlets, like the New York Times and the Washington Post, has been cursory and superficial. The Intercept’s Glenn Greenwald ([7/6/15](#)) foretold the coverage of an airstrike by the US-backed coalition that killed at least 45 civilians in Fayoush, Yemen (LA Times, [7/6/15](#)):

None of the victims will be profiled in American media; it’ll be very surprising if any of their names are even mentioned. No major American television outlet will interview their grieving families. Americans will never learn about their extinguished life aspirations, or the children turned into orphans, or the parents who will now bury their infants.

Coverage in the Times and Post bore out Greenwald’s predictions: The Times website ran a Reuters wire story ([7/7/15](#)) and the Post online had an AP piece ([7/6/15](#)), neither of which included any details about the victims. Neither paper appeared to cover the airstrike in their

print editions.

**ACTION:**

Join FAIR and the group [Just Foreign Policy](#) in urging these media outlets to provide serious coverage of the civilian bloodshed resulting from an offensive the US government is supporting:

**[Sign the petition.](#)**

**CONTACT:**

Or write to the **New York Times** and **Washington Post** directly:

Margaret Sullivan  
New York Times Public Editor  
[public@nytimes.com](mailto:public@nytimes.com)

Alison Coglianese  
Washington Post Reader Representative  
[readers@washpost.com](mailto:readers@washpost.com)

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