

U.N.: Another 10 Million Yemenis at Risk of Starving to Death by Year's End

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The Saudi coalition blockade of Yemen continues to starve the civilian population of essential food and fuel. The U.N. warns that an additional 10 million Yemenis could be brought to the brink of famine beyond the eight and a half million already there:

The United Nations aid chief urged the Saudi-led military coalition that controls Yemen's ports to expedite imports of vital food and fuel supplies, warning that a further 10 million Yemenis could face starvation by year-end.

After three years of conflict in which the Yemeni government, backed by Riyadh's coalition, has fought against Iran-aligned Houthi fighters, Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis with some 8.4 million people severely short of food and at risk of starvation.

"I am particularly concerned about the recent decline of commercial food imports through the Red Sea ports," Mark Lowcock, UN emergency relief coordinator, said in a statement read out to a Geneva briefing on Friday.

There are approximately 28 million people in Yemen, and if things stay as they are almost two-thirds of that population will soon be at risk of starving to death. The Saudi coalition bears the largest share of responsibility for Yemen's humanitarian catastrophe. They are the ones impeding the delivery of commercial goods and aid, and they have it within their power to alleviate the worst effects of the crisis if they would lift the blockade. If the coalition presses ahead with an assault on Hodeidah, the crisis is certain to worsen and those additional 10 million people will be driven into famine that much sooner.

The coalition governments are also the ones engaged in a deliberate and systematic campaign of attacking the country's food production and distribution. Just the other day, coalition planes bombed a group of mango farmers with horrific results:

US-Saudi massacre in Yemen!

At least 6 Yemeni civilians were killed, 3 seriously injured, some still missing,

Today when US-Saudi war criminals' jets bombed a mango farm in Meya area Bait Faki, Hodeida west of Yemen

All victims were picking mango fruits
It's the season now pic.twitter.com/e6ecHU8ZFs

— Nasser Arrabyee (@narrabyee) [May 23, 2018](#)

These are deliberate coalition attacks on civilians made possible by our government's support, and they happen on a regular basis. The claim that U.S. assistance to the coalition reduces civilian casualties is false, and it is obvious after more than three years of the bombing campaign that the only thing U.S. support has done is make it that much easier for the Saudi coalition to slaughter Yemeni civilians with impunity. That assistance must end, and the U.S. must demand the lifting of the blockade. If the administration does not do these things, it will be responsible for the continued enabling of the killing of countless Yemenis through bombing and starvation.

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