Elizabeth and Patrick, around the world in service to our country. Mark has completed two combat deployments encompassing more than 22 months in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, as a rifle platoon leader during the Afghanistan surge and as regimental battle captain overseeing the rest of the Regional Command South. He also completed a peacekeeping deployment to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, where he commanded a rifle company supporting the Multinational Force and Observers maintaining the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel. Mark planned and completed multiple missions supporting Atlantic Resolve in Central and Eastern Europe as well. Although Mark is a native of New York and he had never been to Kansas prior to his working in my office, he immediately got familiar with issues that Kansans face each day and made it a priority to spend time in Kansas and to see firsthand our way of life.

I value my service to our military installations and equities in Kansas. I was grateful to learn of his impressions at each stop along the way. Like many in the military who visit our State, Mark returned to Washington, DC, with a renewed appreciation for the quality of life that Kansans ensure that their servicemembers have in our State. We take care of our families. I appreciate Mark’s noticing that, and it is so true.

Over the past year, I have continually been impressed by Mark’s leadership. At every opportunity, he has proven himself to be an important and fully integrated member of our office, our team, and has carried that with equal weight and responsibility with my personal staff. His seamless communications and his skill in tackling issues big and small have been a great benefit to me. Mark has exceeded all of my expectations and has demonstrated a commitment to excellence that has been nothing short of outstanding.

I believe that he will be leaving our office at the end of the month, I know he will serve the Army well next year in the budget liaison office. Like many of our citizen children—to its consulate in Saudi Arabia. My interest cooperation. It is a view perhaps best articulated by the President’s own unhinged pre-Thanksgiving statement in which he sold weapons to the Saudis was more important than America’s enduring commitment to human rights, democratic values, and international norms, or the President and Secretary Pompeo’s continued incremental intent that we will still don’t know whether the Crown Prince is directly responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. Desperate to justify this myopic view, Trump officials whimper that Saudi Arabia’s military operations in Yemen are the only means to “root out” Iranian influence and defend the status quo of U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition.

To put it another way, these morally blinded individuals believe that to advance America’s interests in the region, there is no other option than dependence on Riyadh and no other way than business as usual. So the United States should just stay the course, resign to accept, with a so-called “vital” partner, a government that lures a Washington Post columnist—an American resident with U.S. citizen children—to its consulate in a third country with the express intent of eliminating his dissenting views from national debate in the most gruesome way possible.

I, for one, reject Secretary Pompeo’s false choice. We can be tough on Iran, or you are for Saudi Arabia. Well, my answer to that is, I am for America’s security interests. I am for American values. And I am for partnerships and alliances deeply rooted in both.

I can’t imagine that any one of my colleagues on either side of the aisle would put me in the pro-Iran camp. I take a backseat to no one in the Senate in taking the lead to end Iran’s pathway to a nuclear weapon and to end the nefarious promotion of terrorism across the world.

To be clear, the vote on S.J. Res. 54 is not about the totality of the U.S.-Saudi relationship; it is a vote about whether U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition’s actions in Yemen are in our national interests.

We do indeed have important security interests with the Saudis. Both of our nations benefit from cooperation in countering the threat of terrorism. Yet we cannot sweep under the rug the callous disregard for human life and the flagrant violations of international norms the Saudis have shown. That is why, as ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I continue to look for the opportunity to continue to examine components of the U.S.-Saudi relationship and determine whether that relationship requires a course correction.

Beyond Saudi Arabia, I do not want any of our security partners to interpret our relationship as a blank check. Unfortunately, whether due to the President’s possibly unconstitutional financial entanglements or his family’s cozy relationship with the Crown Prince, this administration is putting the Saudi Government on a pedestal that stands above America’s values. They continue to extend a brazen their actions, rather than meaningfully seeking to influence Riyadh or undermine our broader strategic interests with the Saudis. Both of our nations benefit from cooperation in countering the threat of terrorism. Yet we cannot sweep under the rug the callous disregard for human life and the flagrant violations of international norms the Saudis have shown. That is why, as ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I continue to look for the opportunity to continue to examine components of the U.S.-Saudi relationship and determine whether that relationship requires a course correction.

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Saudi Arabia relationship in the context of America’s long-term interests in the region. Let’s start with taking stock of actions taken by Saudi Arabia over the last 2 years—the 2 years that, according to Secretary Pompeo, the Trump administration has been “rebuiding” the relationship. And let’s take a look at the “salons of Washington” because here are waverers about human rights.

In June of 2017, a quartet of Arab countries announced a full blockade of a fellow Gulf Cooperation Council member—Qatar—likely Qatar included—on security challenges, including transgressions that, while seriously concerning, are not unique to Qatar or even to some members of the Saudi-led bloc, such as financial support for terror.

This blockade tosses out decades of investment by Republicans and Democratic U.S. administrations to partner with the entire Gulf Cooperation Council—Qatar included—on security challenges, including transgressions that, while seriously concerning, are not unique to Qatar or even to some members of the Saudi-led bloc, such as financial support for terror.

Put another way, the Saudi-Qatar dispute has translated into a lot more work for our military professionals and diplomats ranging from past year as the gulf Arabs have fought amongst each other and have interrupted critical priorities like defeating ISIS and countering Iranian aggression. It has also complicated the coordination with our Arab partners; U.S. foreign policy priorities, like stabilizing Libya and Syria, and, potentially, deeply undermined U.S. objectives, like stability in the Horn of Africa.

Who is the winner of this rift that has been constructed by our Saudi-led partners? Iran.

Mr. President, in turning to Yemen, the Saudis and their partners have continued their brutal air campaign in Yemen, often indiscriminately. Tens of thousands of innocent Yemenis have died, and millions more are on the brink of starvation. Meanwhile, Iran’s influence has increased within the country, and al-Qaida has taken advantage of the chaos to expand its reach and control of Yemeni territory. The winners of this fruitless war? Iran and al-Qaida.

Then, in November 2017, Mr. President, the Prime Minister of Lebanon traveled to Saudi Arabia for what he reported was to be a friendly visit with the Saudi Crown Prince.

Instead, the Crown Prince detained Prime Minister Saad Hariri and, on TV, forced him to resign from his position. Let that sink in for a moment. A winner of this foolish plunder? Iran.

Mr. President, that very same month of November 2017, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman directed the detention of hundreds of Saudi princes and other royal family members in Riyadh. While this effort was spun as a crackdown on corruption, it was clearly a crackdown on the Crown Prince’s political competitors. Reports from this dark period in the gilded prison of the Ritz indicate that Saudi Government-directed forces tortured detainees and coerced them into transferring money to the government or giving up real estate and shares in companies. Now, I don’t know how they obtained those resources, and I am, in no way, diminishing the importance of addressing and combating exploitation, but in the Kingdom, this opaque process—outside any semblance of the rule of law and driven purely by the will of the Crown Prince—is not actually a sustainable approach to promoting transparency and accountability. In fact, it should and did send chills down the spines of investors and American companies that seek to expand commercial and economic ties in the Kingdom. A strong respect for the rule of law is an essential condition for doing business.

So when Trump points to the value of business ties with Saudi Arabia as a reason for not imposing consequences for Khashoggi’s murder, let’s remember that in the hands of the Crown Prince, anyone can be shaken down, locked up, or tortured at a five-star hotel in Muhamad bin Salman’s Saudi Arabia. Let’s also continue asking who exactly is benefiting from potential business ties.

Mr. President, Secretary Pompeo mentioned in his op-ed last week that the Crown Prince has “moved the country in a reformist direction, from allowing women to drive and attend sporting events, to curbing the religious police and calling for a return to moderate Islam.”

What the Secretary did not mention, however, are the deeply disturbing reports that, at the same time MBS was granting Saudi women the right to drive, he also arrested female activists who were themselves calling for the rights of women, including their right to drive. Now we are hearing reports that these women are being tortured and sexually harassed, bound to iron beds, electrocuted, and beaten.

Is this the kind of reform that Secretary Pompeo believes the United States should endorse?

As for Australia and their relationship with Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom will rush into Russian arms. Mr. President, let’s take stock of Saudi Arabia’s contributions to regional stability. It seems a fitting time to ask if an approach that involves bullying another U.S. regional partner, holding the Prime Minister of Lebanon hostage, torturing female activists, business executives, and other princes, and carrying out a military campaign in Yemen that will result in the death of millions more civilians by year’s end is an approach that is in line with U.S. values or priorities.

Has Iran been weakened by these actions? Is the focus still on al-Qaida and defeating ISIS? I don’t think so. Mr. President, the President has made it clear that no U.S. foreign policy objective, especially human rights, is as important to him as securing tens of billions of imaginary dollars to create million fantasy jobs through weapons sales to the Saudis.

Congress has long and well established the overtaking of the sale of weapons as part of U.S. foreign policy. We have learned throughout our history that selling weapons is a complex matter and that without close attention to the human rights practices of foreign buyers, the United States can easily find itself in the situation that we are now in with Saudi Arabia.

Mr. President, let’s take stock of the United States’ multi-billion dollar commitment to the Saudis and their partners have continued their brutal air campaign in Yemen, where they have interrupted critical priorities like stabilizing Libya and Syria, and, potentially, deeply undermined U.S. objectives, like stability in the Horn of Africa.

The United States must hold its ally Saudi Arabia to a higher standard. The U.S. cannot ignore the way Saudi Arabia features anti-Semitic hate speech year after year in the educational material it gives its children.

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earlier this year or by the announcements by several U.S. partners of talks to purchase the Russian S-400 system, despite the prospect of congressional sanctions under the CAATSA law?

Given not just the war in Yemen but also the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, the blockage of Qatar, I believe we need to take steps to recalibrate the future of the U.S.-Saudi relationship.

That is why I am disappointed that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee did not take up the Saudi Arabia Accountability and Yemen Act of 2018, which is legislation that I am leading, along with Senators Young, Reed, Graham, Shaheen, Collins, and others, to continue to work on this legislation next year. It does not seek to tear down the entire Saudi-U.S. relationship. Instead, it is carefully calibrated to force a rebalancing in priorities.

The United States should no longer be selling weapons to the Kingdom that will be used to kill women and children in Yemen. We should, however, continue to support Saudi Arabia’s legitimate defensive needs, like intercepting Houthi missiles coming from Yemen.

The United States should no longer refuse Saudi coalition aircraft for operations in Yemen, which is clearly correlated with a rise in civilian casualties.

The United States must now take a stand against all stakeholders in this conflict that are blocking humanitarian access, preventing forward movement under the U.N. peace process, or receiving weapons from Iran.

Our bill also ensures that Congress right-sizes its oversight over this relationship. The Trump administration must follow the letter of the Global Magnitsky Act, and it must take a firm stand in support of human rights when it comes to Saudi Arabia.

This is not cawteringaw or the media piling on. This is Congress doing what the American people elected us to do—ensure that the U.S. Government conduct itself in a manner that protects the United States and the American people. We are not doing our job if foreign governments believe they can murder journalists and dissidents with impunity and disregard international norms without damaging their relationships with the United States.

Saudi Arabia has joined a sinister clique, along with North Korea, Russia, and Iran, in its assassination of Jamal Khashoggi. A few more weapons purchases cannot buy our silence, and they should not buy our silence. If the President will not act, Congress must.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me congratulate Senator Menendez for his leadership role in addressing this crisis in Saudi Arabia.

In a few minutes, we are going to begin voting on a historical piece of legislation, because I think, as conservatives have understood and as progressives have understood, for too many years, Congress has abdicated its historical and constitutional responsibility to be the body that determines whether or not this country is at war. What we have seen for a long time now under Democratic Presidents and under Republican Presidents and under Democratic Congresses and Republican Congresses is an abdication of that responsibility.

Today, we begin the process of taking that back.

The war in Yemen is unauthorized. There has never been a vote in Congress to allow our men and women to participate in that war. Therefore, that war in Yemen is unconstitutional, and it has to end. That is the vote that we will be having this afternoon.

Second of all, I think all Members are aware of the unbelievable humanitarian crisis that now exists in Yemen. It is the worst humanitarian crisis on Earth. Unless we use the power of this country not to help more bombs being dropped to kill people in that country but to use our power to bring the warring parties together, that situation will become worse. The United Nations and others are telling us that Yemen is on the brink of the worst famine that we have seen in a very long time and that millions of people may die.

Third, it is time for the U.S. Congress to tell the despotic Government of Saudi Arabia that we do not intend to follow its lead in its military adventurism. Its intervention in the civil war in Yemen is the cause of the humanitarian disaster, as 10,000 people are developing serious illnesses—cholera and other illnesses—because the water infrastructure in Yemen has been destroyed by Saudi attacks.

Right now we have the opportunity to go forward in a strong bipartisan way.

I want to thank all of the Members of the Senate who gave us 60 votes yesterday who gave us 60 votes yesterday and who gave us 96 votes on what I thought was a sensible Germanness point of order.

Now we have a number of amendments in front of us. Two of them, authored by Senator Cornyn, will essentially undermine everything we are trying to accomplish. I very much hope that we defeat those amendments and that we tell the world we want the United States out of Yemen.

I would express a positive note. As some may know, right now in Sweden, there are peace negotiations going on, and, as I understand it, just yesterday, a major breakthrough took place that allows for an exchange of some 15,000 prisoners of war. So some progress is being made in bringing the warring factions together, and there is evidence that the pressure from the international community and the United States Senate, making it clear that we will not continue to participate in that war, is helping the peace process.

Let us go forward today and defeat the amendments that are trying to undermine this important resolution and tell the world that the United States will not continue to be part of the worst humanitarian disaster on the face of the Earth, that we want peace in that region, that we want humanitarian aid in that region, and that we do not want any more bombs or destruction.

Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CORNER, Mr. President, I have eight votes, two of which I think we may be able to take. I hope that those who wish to have votes may talk just a little bit so that we can speed up the process.

The first vote will be 15 minutes; the remainder of the votes will be 10 minutes. We will begin that process with Young No. 4080. I think there is agreement for him to speak for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote in relation to Young Amendment No. 4080.

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I just want to thank the chairman and his staff for working constructively with me on this amendment. I want to thank the Senator from Vermont and other Senators who have tried to do all they can to make sure that we hold Saudi leadership accountable over the course of this and maintain our norms of acceptable behavior, making sure that our military forces are respecting international humanitarian laws, that we assist our security partners, and that we stabilize the country of Yemen so that ISIS, al-Qaeda, and Iran—the largest state sponsor of terror—cannot further entrench in the country and perpetuate their nefarious activity.

I wouldn’t be at this point but for a lot of leadership, both the Senate. I just thank all of those involved. I appreciate the consideration of my colleagues in voting for this amendment.

I yield back.

Mr. SANDERS. I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent; the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 41, as follows:

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Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment Nos. 4097 and 4098 be made pending and reported by number.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

The amendment (No. 4080) was agreed to.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4900

(Purpose: To require a report assessing risks posed by coalescing support operations)

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the risks posed to United States citizens and the civilian population of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the risk of regional humanitarian crises if the United States were to cease support operations with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen.)

SEC. 2. REPORT ON RISKS POSED BY CEASING SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORT OPERATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the increased risk of terrorist attacks in the United States if the Government of Saudi Arabia were to cease Yemen-related intelligence sharing with the United States.)

At the end, add the following:

The amendments were agreed to en bloc.

The amendment (No. 4096), as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4098), as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4099), as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendments Nos. 4097 and 4098 be made pending and reported by number.

AMENDMENT NO. 4090

(Purpose: To require a report assessing risks posed by coalescing support operations with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen)

SEC. 2. REPORT ON RISKS POSED BY CEASING SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORT OPERATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the risks posed to United States citizens and the civilian population of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the risk of regional humanitarian crises if the United States were to cease support operations with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen.)

At the end, add the following:

The amendment (No. 4096), as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4098), as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4099), as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendments Nos. 4097 and 4098 be made pending and reported by number.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The Senator from Arkansas [Mr. COTTON] proposes en bloc amendments numbered 4097 and 4098.

The amendment are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4097

(Purpose: To clarify that the requirement to remove United States Armed Forces does not apply to forces engaged in operations to support efforts to disrupt Houthi attacks against United States or international vessels or terrorist attacks against civilian targets.)

On page 4, line 16, insert after “associated forces,” the following: “or in the provision of materials and advice intended to reduce civilian casualties or further enable adherence to the Law of Armed Conflict.”

On page 4, line 16, insert after “associated forces,” the following: “or to support efforts to disrupt Houthi attacks against locations outside of Yemen, such as ballistic missile attacks, unmanned aerial vehicle attacks, maritime attacks against United States or international vessels, or terrorist attacks against civilian targets.”

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I understand there will be 2 minutes of debate on amendment No. 4097.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. COTTON. On amendment No. 4097, I will not ask for a recorded vote. I understand opposition is enough to defeat it. I want to simply say, though, that the geopolitical realities here are, if we withdraw our support for the coalition in Yemen, the fight is not going to stop. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are not going to allow Iran to supply a rebel insurgency with missiles and UAVs and boats that can reach their citizens.

I suggest we should try to do everything we can to minimize civilian casualties. That is why this amendment simply says: The United States can provide information and material that would minimize civilian casualty and that would help those nations adhere to the law of armed conflict.

I regret that this amendment will not pass, but I think it will be a wise move and an important step in the provision of materials and advice intended to reduce civilian casualties or further enable adherence to the Law of Armed Conflict.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. I understand it will be on a voice vote. This exemption, just like the amendment that will follow, is so broad as to render the underlying resolution impotent.

Let’s be clear. The existing conflict the United States is supporting is the primary cause of the humanitarian catastrophe that exists today. Eighty-five thousand kids under the age of 5 have died of starvation and disease. This is the world’s worst cholera epidemic in the history of the globe. If we were to adopt this amendment, it could potentially allow Iran and its continued unlimited assistance for the Saudi coalition to continue to exacerbate that nightmare.

I urge my colleagues, on a voice vote, to oppose this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there no further debate?

The question occurs on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 4097) is not agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4098

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the Cotton amendment, No. 4098.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, my last amendment was about the law of armed conflict and citizens of foreign nations. This amendment is about our citizens and our troops.

The Houthi rebels have fired more than 100 missiles into the Arabian Peninsula, into the Red Sea, and into the Gulf of Aden. They have used armed, unmanned aerial vehicles and boats to attack in international waters. They have supported terrorist attacks. All of these things can range coastguardsmen, sailors, airmen, soldiers, marines, and hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens we have in the region.

My amendment will simply say that U.S. forces can engage in force protection of our own troops and our own citizens in the region. I hope we can agree that our Armed Forces should be able to take action in self-defense of themselves and our citizens in the region.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, once again, I urge rejection of this amendment. If passed, it would, again, render the underlying resolution a moot point.

I would make two additional arguments against it: First, the entire rationale that the Saudis used for the military campaign in Yemen is to prevent Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia. If so this was an exemption, then the States could fully participate. Second, existing law already allows the U.S. Commander in Chief to protect U.S. troops against an attack or an imminent attack, and nothing in the resolution would take away the Commander in Chief’s power to protect U.S. troops either here in the United States or abroad.

For those reasons, I would strongly oppose—that we object to this amendment which, if passed, would essentially gut the underlying resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 4098.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 54, as follows:

(Roll Call Vote No. 265 Leg.)

YEAS—45

Alexander
Barrasso
BlUMENTHAL
Burr
Capito
Cassidy
Collins
Cory Booker
Correa
Cotton
Cowan
Durbin
Hagel
Heitkamp
Hirono
Johnson
Kaine
Johnson
Kusters
Kyl
Kennedy
Johnson
Isakson
Hyde-Smith
Heller
Gardner
Flake
Fischer
Graham
Portman
Grassley
Risch
Crapo
Rounds
Cox
Rogers
Hawley
Schumer
Carper
Shelby
Casey
Shaheen
Caucus
Shelby
C有名的
Sasse
Rounds
Roberts
Risch
McConnell
NUMS—54

Baldwin
Bennet
Birmingham
Brown
Brownlee
Broun
Brown
Becerra
Becky
Hunt
Andrews
Sullivan
Johannson
Sasse
Young
Barrasso
Flake
Merkley
McCaskill
McCaskill
Lee
Klobuchar
King
Heitkamp
Heinrich
Hassan
Lankford
Judd
Hannan
McConnell
Casey
Collins
Van Hollen
Donnelly
Duckworth
Durbin
Feinstein
Whitehouse
Gillibrand
Harrington
Harrington
Harrington
Harrington
Young

The amendment was rejected.

The joint resolution, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the vote on passage.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS, Mr. President, we are actually at a historic moment here in the U.S. Senate. It is one of the rare instances where all of the Senators who in a very bipartisan way have come together to say that the United States will no longer participate in the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen, which has caused the worst humanitarian crisis on Earth, with 85,000 children already starving today.

Today, we tell the despotic regime in Saudi Arabia that we will not be part of their military adventurism. Today, maybe in the most profound way, 45 years ago, the War Powers Act was passed—45 years ago. Today, for the first time, we are going to go forward utilizing that legislation and tell the President of the United States—and
amended, was passed, as follows:

Graham Heller Tillis
Enzi
Cruz
Crapo
Cotton
Cornyn
Cassidy
Capito
Burr
Boozman
Blunt
Barrasso
Gillibrand
Feinstein
Duckworth
Carper
Cardin
Brown
Bennet
Baldwin

Whereas, since March 2015, members of the United States Armed Forces have been introduced into hostilities between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthi, including providing to the Saudi-led coalition aerial targeting assistance, intelligence sharing, and mid-flight refueling; Whereas the United States has established a Joint Contingency Plan Cell within the United States Armed Forces to assist in aerial targeting and help to coordinate military and intelligence activities; Whereas, in December 2017, Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis stated, “We have gone in to be very—to be helpful where we can in the continued fight you do target analysis and how you make certain you hit the right thing.”; Whereas the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthi constitutes, within the meaning of section 4(a) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1543(a)), either hostilities or a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances into which United States Armed Forces have been introduced; Whereas section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1545(c)) states that “at any time that United States Armed Forces are engaged in hostilities outside the territory of the United States, its possessions and territories with respect to the conflict between the United States Armed Forces and with respect to the conflict between the United States Armed Forces and with respect to the conflict between the United States Armed Forces and with respect to the conflict between the United States Armed Forces and with respect to the conflict between the United States Armed Forces and the regular or irregular military forces of any foreign country or government when such forces are engaged or there exists an imminent threat that such forces will become engaged, in hostilities,” and activities that the United States is conducting in support of the Saudi-led coalition, including aerial refueling and targeting assistance, fall within this definition; Whereas section 1013, the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a) provides that any joint resolution or bill to require the removal of United States Armed Forces engaged in hostilities without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization shall be considered in accordance with the expedited procedures of section 601(b) of the International Security and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–329; 90 Stat. 765); and Whereas no specific statutory authorization for the use of United States Armed Forces with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthi in Yemen has been enacted, and no provision of law explicitly authorizes the provision of targeting assistance or of midair refueling services to warplanes of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates that are engaged in such conflict: Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That:

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS.
Pursuant to section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a) and in accordance with the provisions of section 601(b) of the International Security and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–329; 90 Stat. 765), Congress hereby directs the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen, except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at, or emanating from, the Republic of Yemen and for a period not later than the date that is 30 days after the date of the adoption of this joint resolution (unless the President requests and Congress authorizes a later date), and unless and until a declaration of war or specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces has been enacted. For purposes of this resolution, this section’s definition includes in-flight refueling of non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

SEC. 2. RULES OF CONSENT REGARDING CONTINUED MILITARY OPERATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL.
Nothing in this joint resolution shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON RISKS POSED BY CEASING SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORT OPERATIONS.
Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the risks posed to United States citizens and the civilian population of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the risk of regional instability or catastrophic humanitarian crises if the United States were to cease support operations with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthi in Yemen.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON INCREASED RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS UNITED STATES FORCES ABROAD, ALLIES, AND THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES IF SAUDI ARABIA CEASES YEMEN-RELATED INTELLIGENCE SHARING WITH THE UNITED STATES.
Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the increased risk of attacks on United States Armed Forces abroad, allies, and to the continental United States if the Government of Saudi Arabia were to cease Yemen-related intelligence sharing with the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

SUPPORTING A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION IN YEMEN AND CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI
Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S.J. Res. 69.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk reads as follows: A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 69) supporting a diplomatic solution in Yemen and condemning the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Reserving the right to object, I do not intend to object. I just want to say that on this resolution, there is a central reason why I am not going to object.

I don’t agree with some of the language that speaks about the economic interests we have with Saudi Arabia. I think their behavior is more than concerning, but what the distinguished
The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 69) was passed as follows:

The PENDING OFFICER. The House amendment with an amendment. The clerk will report.

Amendment No. 4109 to Amendment No. 4108

Whereas the ongoing civil war in Yemen has exacerbated that country's humanitarian crisis, in which nearly 12.000,000 people are suffering from "severe hunger," according to the United Nations' World Food Programme;

Whereas there is no military solution to the conflict;

Whereas the United States-Saudi Arabia relationship is important to United States national and economic interests;

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has, in recent years, engaged in human rights abuses, including torture, use of human shields, and interference with, and diversion of, humanitarian aid shipments; and

Whereas messageId statements by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding the murder of Jamal Khashoggi have undermined trust and confidence in the longstanding friendship between the United States and the Kingdom, and the murder of Jamal Khashoggi;

Whereas such erratic actions place unnecessary strain on the United States-Saudi Arabia relationship, which is an essential element of regional stability; Now, therefore,

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Senate—

(1) believes Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi;

(2) acknowledges the United States Government has sanctioned 17 Saudi individuals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (Subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2356 note) for their roles in the murder;

(3) calls for the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to release Raif Badawi, Samar Badawi, and the Saudi women's rights activists who were arrested as political prisoners in 2018;

(4) encourages the Government of Saudi Arabia to redouble its efforts to enact economic and social reforms;

(6) calls on the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to respect the rights of its citizens to exercise their increasingly erratic foreign policy;

(7) warns that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's increasing purchases of military equipment from, and cooperation with, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, challenges the strength and integrity of the long-standing military-to-military relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and may introduce significant national security and economic risks to both parties;

(8) demands that all parties seek an immediate cease-fire and negotiated political solution to the Yemen conflict and increased humanitarian assistance to the victims of the conflict;

(9) condemns the Government of Iran's provision of advanced lethal weapons to Houthi rebels, which have perpetuated the conflict and have been used indiscriminately against civilian targets in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Bab al Mandeb waterway;

(10) condemns Houthi rebels for egregious human rights abuses, including torture, use of human shields, and interference with, and diversion of, humanitarian aid shipments; and

(11) demands that the Saudi-led coalition and all parties to the Yemen conflict seek to minimize civilian casualties at all times;

(12) supports the peace negotiations currently being managed by United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and encourages the United States Government to provide all possible support to these diplomatic efforts;

(13) declares that there is no statutory authorization for United States involvement in hostilities in the Yemen civil war; and

(14) supports the end of air-to-air refueling of Saudi-led coalition aircraft operating in Yemen.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to thank our ranking member and my friend, Senator MENENDEZ, for his tremendous cooperation for many years but especially over this last week, and Senator KAINE for coming in and supporting it.

I want to reiterate what the ranking member just said. The Senate has now unanimously said that Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman is responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. That is a strong statement. I think it speaks to the values we hold dear, as the rest of this resolution does.

I am glad the Senate is speaking with one voice, unanimously, toward this end. I thank the leader for accommodating—making this happen. I thank the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, before the chairman on Foreign Relations Committee leaves, I want to thank him for his extraordinary effort. This is a bit of a thicket here with different points of view, but as a result of what the chairman has just offered, it is a clear, unambiguous message about how we feel about what happened to this journalist.

I want to thank him. Mr. CORKER. I thank the Senator. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

The motion to concur was agreed to. The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 69) was ordered to the Desk. 