The Saudi blockade is killing civilians. Saudi Arabia is starving Yemen. The blockade has caused a major fuel crisis that is further increasing food costs and hindering distribution, caused hospitals to close due to lack of electricity, and impeded access to clean water.

The U.S. is enabling the Saudi blockade. In April 2021, the Department of Defense confirmed that the U.S. continues to provide maintenance for the Saudi air force, which enforces the blockade. The U.S. is further complicit in the blockade by providing weapons and diplomatic cover for the Saudis, while refusing to provide transparency to Congress and the American public about what other support the U.S. may provide the Saudi war effort.

Congress can end the blockade and all U.S. participation in the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. Congress must pressure the Biden administration to use its vast leverage over the Saudis to prompt them to end the blockade. Congress should pass a War Powers Resolution to end all U.S. participation in the war in Yemen and cut all support for the Saudi-led coalition.

Gov. David Beasley, UN World Food Programme director and former Republican governor of South Carolina, has said the blockade must be decoupled from political negotiations and lifted immediately as a “humanitarian act.” “Otherwise,” he said, “millions more will spiral into crisis.”

More than 100 members of the Senate and House — including House Foreign Affairs Chairman Gregory Meeks — have called for the blockade to be lifted immediately and unilaterally by the Saudis without preconditions.