

**April 8, 2018**

*for immediate release*

**Contact: Chicago Area Peace Action, (847) 475-3692 or [www.chipeaceaction.org](http://www.chipeaceaction.org)**

**End the U.S.-Saudi War in Yemen:**

*A Discussion with Yemeni Activist and Scholar Shireen Al-Adeimi*

Yemeni civilians are dying by the thousands in a Saudi-led attack enabled by American weapons and logistical support. Here is your chance to find out the history of the Yemeni conflict, the extent of the humanitarian crisis there, and what you can do to bring the bloodshed to an end. Yemeni activist and Harvard scholar Shireen Al-Adeimi offers a first-hand account of the situation on the ground in Yemen, describes the role and motivations of the various players in this brutal proxy war, and charts a path to peace and recovery via diplomacy. Her fact-filled presentation will be followed by a Q&A.

**When:** April 20, 2018, 7-9 p.m.

**Where:** Loyola University, Cudahy Science Hall, Room 202.

**How much:** The event is free of charge, but donations will be accepted and the proceeds given to Doctors Without Borders, which has seen several of its hospitals bombed by U.S.-supported Saudi forces.

**Who:** Shireen Al-Adeimi, born in Yemen, raised in Canada and educated in the United State, is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University. She has published numerous articles about the crisis in her homeland and has emerged as one of the foremost voices for peace and reconciliation in that war-torn country.

**Co-sponsoring organizations:**

- Chicago Area Peace Action
- Action Corps
- Jewish Voice for Peace-Chicago
- Just Foreign Policy
- Lake Street Church, Peace & Justice Committee
- Peregrine Forum (Madison, Wis.)
- Veterans for Peace Chicago
- Voices for Creative Nonviolence
- WeClaim Democracy

**Background:** Beginning in 2015, Saudi Arabia, assisted by other autocratic Gulf states as well as the United States and Britain, has been conducting a military campaign in Yemen, aimed at ousting the Houthi faction and installing a more pliable government in the neighboring country. The Saudi strategy of starving and terrorizing the Yemeni people into submission involves indiscriminate bombing of civilian targets, including hospitals, schools and water treatment plants, as well as the blockading of Yemeni ports.

These war crimes – committed largely with weapons purchased from the U.S. – have resulted in a humanitarian crisis of the first magnitude. In addition to the many thousands of direct casualties in this one-sided war, hunger and illness are rife in Yemen, due to the

inability to import food and the destruction of vital infrastructure. The United Nations has declared that Yemen constitutes “the world’s biggest hunger crisis.” An estimated 130 Yemeni children are dying every day of malnutrition and disease.

Since the Saudi-led intervention began, the U.S. has been providing intelligence and logistical aid, without which the campaign could not long continue. This military support, never authorized by Congress, includes participation in naval blockades, mid-air refueling of coalition aircraft, targeting assistance and more. Additionally, the U.S. continues to sell billions of dollars of advanced weapons to coalition states, which will be used to wreak further havoc on the long-suffering Yemeni population.

In March, the Senate voted down a measure (sponsored by Bernie Sanders, among others) that would have invoked the War Powers Act to end U.S. collaboration with the Saudis in waging war against Yemen. While the resolution did not pass, 44 senators supported it, in defiance of the formidable Saudi lobby, Trump administration officials and the military-industrial complex. The Senate vote has helped bring the Yemen war – which has not received extensive coverage from the mainstream media – into public awareness and forced legislators to take a stand either for or against peace and constitutional governance.

The killing continues in Yemen, and the effort to halt the U.S.-Saudi war, directed largely against defenseless civilians, continues to gain momentum. Now is the time to take action and to work for peace in the Middle East. The first step is to learn how our tax dollars are being used, without the consent of Congress, to inflict destruction and misery on an impoverished and war-wracked country. By spreading the word, organizing and putting pressure on our elected representatives, we can bring this shameful and illegal war to an end and move toward a peaceful resolution of the Yemeni conflict.

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