

Letters to the Editor



Crisis in Yemen

Sir, Your leader "Skin on Skeletons" (Oct 27) rightly draws much-needed attention to the gravely worsening humanitarian disaster in Yemen. The terrible suffering could be eased immediately by a permanent cessation of hostilities, a reversal of newly imposed banking arrangements which threaten the ability of commercial traders to keep operating, and the repair of essential infrastructure to allow quicker transit of food through congested ports.

By creating such deep chaos and economic collapse, the conflict is leading to the breakdown of an already fragile society and with it long-term resentments against the West and the growth of Islamic extremism. It is not too late to reach out to tribal leaders and others of political influence to rebuild a functioning state. The UK and US, and indeed France, could yet stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia and work with the Saudi government to reach out to all factions in Yemen, and move on from working exclusively with a government in exile that increasingly lacks credibility. The election of Saudi Arabia to the UN Human Rights Council would indeed send the wrong signal.

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