

Conference in Berlin—Crimes of The Forgotten War in Yemen

by Stefan Tolksdorf

Feb. 27—Under the above headline, an initiative of Yemeni citizens in Germany organized a conference on Saturday, February 25 in Berlin, to expose and to put an end to what is clearly an ongoing genocide against the people of Yemen. Two representatives of the international Schiller Institute, Elke Fimmen and Stefan Tolksdorf, were invited to participate. The following is a condensed report on the conference proceedings.

After the Yemeni national anthem and a beautiful recitation from the Quran, Mr. Abdullahif Elwashali stated in his introduction that Yemen is suffering from a full blockade by a Saudi-led coalition; the country's food supply is inadequate; schools and hospitals are being bombarded by modern fighter jets with precision targeting systems; and the country's vital ports are affected as well. The civilian population is suffering while the world remains silent, which is why the war is called "the forgotten war." This conference was intended to change that, and remind both the participants and the world of the victims of that war.

Dr. Werner Daum, a retired former German diplomat, was the first speaker. He has lived in Yemen for six years and is very familiar with the Yemeni people. "No people has touched me like the people of Yemen; their openness, their pride in their country without any arrogance, their securely resting in themselves." He stated that the

Nuremberg Trials dealt with the question of wars of aggression. Ever since 1945, an unjustified war of aggression is a war crime, punishable by death. This is true today in Yemen. This war is unjustified; those responsible in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates are war criminals. He also pointed out that while the killing of people is already a terrible tragedy, the destruction of Yemen's cultural heritage is even worse, because it is irreplaceable.

Dr. Daum stressed that there is not a shred of proof for the false narrative that the war in Yemen is a conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Any Iranian involvement is pure invention, a lie. "Yet, when the truth is no longer reported, this is because the freedom of the press is no longer guaranteed; not because some dictatorial



Feb. 25, 2017 coverage in Al-Thawra News in Sana'a, Yemen, of the Berlin conference on "The Forgotten War Crimes in Yemen."



Destroyed water utility in Abbs, Hajjah, Yemen.

regime is suppressing it, but because there exists a climate in this world in which only one truth is allowed to exist.” He explicitly attacked Francis Fukuyama’s fraudulent claim of the “end of history,” and expressed his hope that this conference would help to unveil the truth about the terrible crimes being committed in Yemen today.

For the next keynote section, Elke Fimmen and Stefan Tolksdorf were invited to read a message to the conference by the President of the International Schiller Institute, Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and to present the Schiller Institute’s optimistic outlook and solution, and the fight the institute is leading internationally for a new paradigm, especially in the U.S.A. Besides confirming the absolute horror taking place in Yemen, Mrs. Fimmen briefed the audience on the political fight around the release of the 28 pages and the JASTA bill in the U.S.A. She outlined the beautiful perspective of developing Yemen as a Silk Road bridge between Asia and Africa, and presented the resolution that had been adopted at last June’s Schiller Institute conference in Berlin, inspired by Fouad Al-Ghafari’s work in Yemen, and complemented it with a short slide show, prepared by Ulf Sandmark and Hussein Askary.

The conference organizers then presented some of the video evidence which they have gathered and produced as a “Crimes of the

Forgotten War” DVD. After seeing the horrifying and heartbreaking images of death and destruction, Mr. El-washali stressed that these crimes must be stopped immediately.

Hussain Sharaf then spoke on the subject of hope, poetically introducing the story of a young Yemeni girl, Amal, who loved airplanes and dreamed of flying and getting to know people all over the world. While on the street, looking at the airplanes which she heard coming, her house is hit by a bomb. Her father dies immedi-



Credits: WHO, 2016

WHO, 2016

Child being treated for colera in Yemen.

ately—her mother and her younger brother were to die in a hospital without electricity soon after that. She lost all the light of her life and the great future that lay ahead of her. Though she was full of love, her body, her family, her soul and her dignity were injured. Amal means “hope,” and hope is still alive and wants to be saved. All the children of Yemen are Amal.

Dr. Taha Al-Washalli, PhD Research Fellow in Water Supply Engineering at the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, spoke about the impact of the war on the water sector. Fourteen and one-half million of the 27.8 million inhabitants of the “poorest, most populous, and youngest nation on the Arabian Peninsula” currently lack access to water and sanitation, 8.2 million acutely. Fourteen million eight hundred thousand lack health services. Seven million people urgently need food. Two million two hundred thousand people have fled or lost their homes, and are internally displaced. Unemployment is at 52% (up from 37% before the war). Eighty-five percent of the population lives below the poverty line (up from 54% before the war).

According to UN figures, as of November 2016 at least 10,000 people have been killed, 60% by airstrikes; 75 are killed or injured every day. Almost thirteen thousand people have been hit by a cholera outbreak as a result of the collapse of water services. Quoting recent research by Martha Mandy, UK, Dr. Al-Washali said that “data from several sources strongly suggests that the Saudi Yemen Campaign contains a program for the destruction of rural livelihoods. Only 2.8% of Yemen’s land is cultivated. To hit this small amount of agricultural land, you have to target it.”

There were “357 bombings targeting farms, food stores, food trucks, etc.,” Dr. Al-Washali continued. Already before the war, 90% of the wheat and 100% of the rice had to be imported. Under the ongoing blockade, people are being hit with massive price increases, while salaries have been massively cut since September 2015. He concluded that the damage inflicted on Yemen is wide, extended, long-term and hard to recover from. All of the major cities are affected.

The next speaker, Engeline Kramer, a specialist in intercultural communication and conflict resolution, stressed the hospitality, kindness and warmth of the



Cofounder of Mona Relief, Dr. R.S. Karim, addressing the Berlin conference on Yemen.

Yemeni people. She then asked “what is actually left in Yemen to destroy?” War criminals like George W. Bush, Jr., and Tony Blair must be brought to The Hague and face trial. The U.S.A., Great Britain and Germany could end the economic boycott immediately. Peace in Yemen must be supported, she demanded, quoting a saying: “Many small people who in many small places do many small things can alter the face of the world.”

Dr. R.S. Karim, co-founder of Mona Relief-Yemen Organization for Humanitarian Relief and Development, spoke next. Mona is one of the few charity organizations on the ground in Yemen. “Yemen is a scarred country, an open wound, a shadow of its own former self,” he said. “Saudi officials have closed Yemen to the world. They have locked the country. This is genocide.” With 90% of food imported before the war, how do you feed 90% of the population with the remaining 10% of food? Every time a child dies from starvation it has been killed by someone.

He spoke to the horrified audience about women delivering stillborn babies who have died from hunger. He spoke of fathers contemplating suicide in despair be-



A girl pushing two children and water containers in a wheelbarrow in Yemen.

cause they cannot protect their families. “This misery stains the soul.”

“Yemen is a humanitarian black hole. The country’s dignity has been taken away.” But above all, “Yemenis smell the stench of betrayal.” Dr. Karim concluded: “When a military power deliberately targets children, there is only one thing you can do: Fight. Every father will fight. Every mother will become a tigress. Let’s not allow Yemen to become another forgotten crisis. The war in Yemen is not the forgotten war of the decade, it is the shame of our generation!”

Lastly, Hassna, a young student, spoke about war crimes and the suffering of women and children, with many pictures echoing all the horrors that had been presented to the participants. After a concluding statement in Arabic, another recitation from the Quran and the playing of the Yemeni national anthem closed the conference.

The silence about the atrocities being committed in Yemen that was brought up many times during this conference was only underlined by the utterly shameful fact that apart from *EIR*, there were no representatives of the press or other media present, even though the conference took place in the very building of a prominent left-leaning newspaper.

Yet, the conference was a powerful success, not only in demonstrating and justly condemning the horror being brought down upon the people and the country of Yemen. The will to resist this injustice was palpable. Importantly, the larger problem of the British Empire

was presented, as was the beautiful perspective for Yemen in a New Paradigm of “Win-Win” cooperation.

Links Provided by Ulf Sandmark

Here are the two most important links that document the genocide against Yemen:

Yemen’s Legal Center for Rights and Development: <http://lcrdye.org/Eng/Default.aspx>

International Yemen activists on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StopTheWarOnYemen/>

Among media you have: Al Masdar news in English: <https://mobile.almasdarnews.com/article/>

[category/yemen/](https://mobile.almasdarnews.com/article/category/yemen/)

Further Links

1. <http://english.aawsat.com/2017/02/article/55366693/unicef-63000-yemeni-children-died-2016-malnutrition>
2. https://www.unicef.org/media/media_93868.html
3. <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc11859.doc.htm>
4. <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/2016/12/yemen-running-out-of-food>
5. <http://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-emergency-relief-coordinator-11>
6. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2016-08-14/closure-yemens-main-airport-puts-millions-people-risk>
7. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/ministry-of-defence-saudi-arabia-coalition-forces-yemen-clstuter-bombs-humanitarian-law-violations-a7549581.html>
8. <https://sputniknews.com/amp/politics/201505021021620895/>
9. <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174185>
10. <http://sanaacenter.org/publications/item/68-yemen-at-the-un.html>
11. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160223IPR15513/stop-shelling-civilians-in-yemen-urge-meps>
12. <https://www.aiib.org/en/projects/approved/2016/oman-railway-system.html>