



Cornell University
Student Assembly

S.A.
Resolution

Originally Presented on:	4/15/2021
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

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#41

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Disengaging Cornell from the War in Yemen

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7 ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for an end to Cornell’s relationship with Saudi Arabia and arms
8 manufacturers involved in war crimes in the War in Yemen.

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10 **Sponsored by: Joseph Mullen ’24, Laila Abd Elmagid ’21, Mardiya Shardow ’23**

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12 **Whereas**, Cornell University’s Johnson School of Business has a [partnership](#) with the Saudi KSA
13 Global Business School in Jeddah,

14 **Whereas**, the KSA Global Business School has frequently [highlighted](#) its relationship with Cornell
15 and used it for publicity,

16 **Whereas**, Cornell’s Hotel School partners with the Tahseen hospitality leadership training program
17 run by the Marriott International in Saudi Arabia,

18 **Whereas**, two Cornell professors [received](#) \$25 million grants from Saudi Arabia in 2008 for the
19 Global Research Partnership of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST),

20 **Whereas**, the grants were awarded to create a KAUST-Cornell center at KAUST, to further bolster
21 KAUST’s [goal](#) of “innovation in areas of science and technology important to the Kingdom of
22 Saudi Arabia”,

23 **Whereas**, both the KSA Global Business School and KAUST both have [ties](#) to the Saudi
24 government and the Saudi Ministry of Defense,

25 **Whereas**, Saudi Arabia [intervened](#) in the Yemeni Civil War in 2015 in an attempt to return dictator
26 Abdrabbuh Mansur-Hadi to power and defeat the Houthi rebels,

27 **Whereas**, Saudi Arabia formed a [coalition](#) composed of Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan, the United
28 Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, with support from the United States and United Kingdom,
29 to restore Hadi to power,

30 **Whereas**, America was complicit in the war crimes by supporting the Saudis and [providing](#)
31 intelligence and logistical support to the coalition under the Obama and Trump administrations,

32 **Whereas**, Saudi Arabia has been [committing](#) human rights abuses and war crimes against the
33 Yemeni people since 2015,

34 **Whereas**, Saudi Arabia has [launched](#) 22,879 airstrikes since 2015, a number increasing each day,

35 **Whereas**, Saudi Arabia has [bombed](#) school buses full of children,

36 **Whereas**, Saudi Arabia has [bombed](#) hospitals,



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³⁷ **Whereas**, Saudi Arabia has destroyed Yemeni [cultural](#)
³⁸ sites,

³⁹ **Whereas**, the Yemen Data Project has [reported](#) that
40 almost a third of all airstrikes carried out by the Saudi-led coalition hit civilian sites such as homes,
41 hospitals, schools, weddings, farms, food stores and water wells,

42 **Whereas**, 17,500 Yemeni [civilians](#) have been killed during the war,

43 **Whereas**, 10 million Yemeni civilians are at risk of [famine](#) due to the Saudi blockade,

44 **Whereas**, a [child](#) under the age of 5 dies every ten minutes in Yemen due to the war,

45 **Whereas**, 12 million Yemeni children are desperately in [need](#) of humanitarian aid,

46 **Whereas**, the war has exacerbated the coronavirus pandemic in Yemen,

47 **Whereas**, a cholera epidemic has [spread](#) in Yemen, infecting 1.5 million people,

48 **Whereas**, UNICEF has [declared](#) Yemen “the world’s largest humanitarian crisis”,

49 **Whereas**, President Biden has officially [ended](#) American support for the war in Yemen,

50 **Whereas**, the United States is [seeking](#) to end the war as official policy,

51 **Whereas**, Cornell Professors and faculty [outlined](#) concerns with Cornell’s relationship with Saudi
52 Arabia in a 2018 letter to President Pollack,

53 **Whereas**, professors asked that President Pollack, “discontinue Cornell’s institutional and financial
54 collaboration with the KSA”,

55 **Whereas**, signatories noted the various other human rights abuses Saudi Arabia has committed,
56 such as the assassination of Jamaal Khashoggi,

57 **Whereas**, Cornell has not disclosed entirely grants and donations coming from Saudi Arabia,

58 **Whereas**, Cornell’s Mario Eunadi Center hosted a speaker [event](#) with a Saudi prince, Prince Turki
59 Al-Faisal, in 2009, who touted the “CU-Saudi bond”,

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61 **Whereas**, Cornell’s Engineering department maintains corporate [partnerships](#) with major arms
62 manufacturers such as Northrop Grumman, BAE, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin,

63 **Whereas**, Cornell Engineering continues to [allow](#) and invite these arms manufacturers to recruit
64 students from the University,

65 **Whereas**, Cornell’s Board of Trustees in 2016 [approved](#) a standard for divestment from companies
66 or nations that are committing acts that are “morally reprehensible,”



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Whereas, Cornell has ties to Saudi Arabia and arms companies that are committing morally reprehensible actions such as war crimes in Yemen,

70 **Whereas**, the guidelines call for Cornell to ensure that all international engagements are committed
71 to “free and open inquiry and expression” and “justice and human rights”,

72 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly formally calls upon Cornell University to
73 implement the following:

- 74 1. Cornell University will cut all ties to the KSA Global Business School in Jeddah, end the
75 KAUST Cornell Entrepreneurship Program and the Hotel School-Tahseen partnership, and
76 withdraw from the KAUST-Cornell Center for Energy and Sustainability,
- 77 2. Cornell University will end ties between the Engineering Department and arms
78 manufacturers involved in the war on Yemen, and prevent them from recruiting on campus,
- 79 3. Cornell University will publicly disclose all gifts and donations from the Kingdom of
80 Saudi Arabia, and repurpose them to humanitarian organizations working to aid the people
81 of Yemen,
- 82 4. Cornell University will prevent Saudi royals and officials from delivering lectures or speaker
83 events while the war lasts,
- 84 5. Cornell University will re-evaluate all current international collaborations and vet them
85 carefully using the ethical guidelines on international engagement, as laid out by the previous
86 resolution, Resolution 39, on PKU,
- 87 6. Where concerns arise within a given collaboration, Cornell University will amend its terms
88 with the institution in question, suspend the program, or terminate the relationship
89 altogether,
- 90 7. Cornell University will allow input from all branches of shared governance when ethical
91 concerns arise regarding an international collaboration and take such concerns seriously,
- 92 8. Cornell University will commit to ending partnership with arms manufacturers and the
93 military industrial complex in the future.

94 **Respectfully submitted,**

95 Laila Abd Elmagid '21

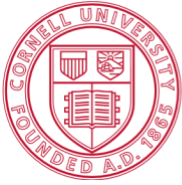
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97 *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*

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99 Mardiya Shardow '23
100 *Dyson School of Business Representative, Student Assembly Committee*

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102 Joseph Mullen '24
103 *Chair, Cornell Progressives Anti-War Committee*

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105 Cornell Progressives

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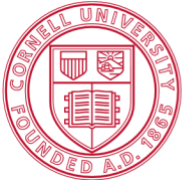
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Cornell Arab Student Association

Eric Cheyfitz

Ernest I. White Professor of American Studies and Humane

- 111 *Letters*
112
113 Darlene Evans
114 *Knight Institute Writing Outreach Director*
115
116 Aziz Rana
117 *Richard and Lois Cole Professor of Law*
118
119 Richard Bensel
120 *Gary S. Davis Professor of Government*
121
122 Joseph Margulies
123 *Professor, Law and Government*
124
125 Alexander Livingston
126 *Department of Government Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies*
127
128 Rayna Kalas
129 *Associate Professor, Literatures in English*
130
131 Eli Friedman
132 *Associate Professor, Chair of International & Comparative Labor*
133
134 Matthew Evangelista
135 *President White Professor of History and Political Science*
136
137 Derek Chang,
138 *Associate Professor, History and Asian American Studies*
139
140
141 Kenneth Roberts
142 *Richard J. Schwartz Professor*
143
144 Cynthia Grant Bowman
145 *Dorothea S. Clarke Professor of Law*
146
147 Russell Rickford
148 *Associate Professor of History*
149
150 Mostafa Minawi
151 *Associate Professor, Director of the Ottoman & Turkish Studies Initiative*



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Julia Chang
Assistant Professor, Romance Studies

- 156 Seema Golestaneh
157 *Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Studies*
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159 Paul Sawyer
160 *Professor Emeritus & Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow*
161
162 Richard W. Miller
163 *Philosophy Professor Emeritus*
164
165 Claudia Verhoeven
166 *Associate Professor, History*
167
168 David Bateman
169 *Associate Professor, Government*
170
171 Sandra Babcock
172 *Clinical Professor of Law*
173
174 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-2, 4/15/2021)*