

GIVEN CALL FOR WAR, PAKISTAN'S PARLIAMENT CHOSE PEACE. WILL US CONGRESS IGNORE CALL FOR PEACE, CHOOSE WAR?

As Congress here in the US creeps ever closer to amassing a veto-proof margin for war with Iran by keeping sanctions in place even after a final P5+1 agreement would end them, it comes as especially refreshing that Pakistan's Parliament has expressed clear sentiment against committing troops to a foreign exercise in folly.

Especially remarkable is that this blunt refusal in the face of the Saudi request for Pakistani troops in Yemen comes only 13 months after the Saudis were found to have been the source of a critical \$1.5 billion infusion of support when Pakistan's economy was teetering.

Tim Craig gives us the essentials of Parliament's move:

Pakistan's parliament voted unanimously Friday to remain neutral in the conflict in Yemen, a major blow to Saudi Arabia as it seeks to build support for its offensive against the surging Houthi rebels there.

The parliament's decision came after five days of debate in which lawmakers expressed major concern that Pakistan's 550,000-man army could become entangled in an unwinnable conflict.

On Monday, Pakistan's defense minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, said Saudi Arabia had requested that Pakistan send troops, warships and fighter jets to help it

battle the Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen. But several Pakistani political leaders were strongly opposed to the request, saying the crisis in Yemen didn't pose an immediate threat to Saudi Arabia.

The next paragraphs provide sharp contrast between the US Congress and Pakistan's Parliament:

Instead, the resolution approved by Pakistan's parliament warned that the Yemen crisis "could plunge the region into turmoil" if a negotiated peace and settlement was not reached soon.

"This bombing needs to be stopped because, as long as this is happening, the peace process can't be launched," Mohsin Khan Leghari, a Pakistani senator, said on the floor of parliament Friday.

A unanimous resolution against involvement in a foreign conflict that points out that Pakistan's involvement "could plunge the region into turmoil". Just wow. The US has sown turmoil on so many fronts throughout the Muslim world recently and yet Congress not only doesn't see their own role in that turmoil but instead are doing their best to overcome the one opportunity we have there of establishing a peace process. I can't think of a more damning indictment of Congress now than to put this move by Pakistan's Parliament alongside Congress' attempt to derail the Iran nuclear agreement. Given a call for war, Pakistan's Parliament chose peace. Given a call for peace, the US Congress may still choose war.

For more details on the various forces at play in Yemen, this piece by Sophia Dingli at Juan Cole's blog lays things out clearly.

The full text of the resolution can be found [here](#).