

Letters to the Editor



Policy on Yemen

Sir, Your leader "Yemen's Forgotten War" (Sep 22) highlights the extent to which global powers have fuelled the conflict in Yemen. With its recent change of leadership, there is a new opportunity for the UK to work with our allies and review the policy of selling arms into a conflict that has no foreseeable satisfactory conclusion, which is encouraging the growth of extremist groups, and which is rightly attracting widespread condemnation through continued serious breaches of international humanitarian law. There is also an urgent need for pressure to lift obstructions to food imports — banking arrangements are again under threat.

The UK, as co-chair of Friends of Yemen, is well placed to bring both sides back to the negotiating table, and to build on its recent announcement of support for an EU independent mission to Yemen.

The tragedy unfolding is far larger than Professor Nigel Biggar's legalistic point about the targeting of our bombs (letter, Sep 20). Yemen has teetered on the brink of famine for over a year, a third of its people have been displaced, a fifth of children are acutely malnourished and its economy lies in tatters. Do British jobs and the profits of war really trump human misery on this scale?

A resetting of the moral compass is long overdue.

JAMES FIREBRACE
Yemen Safe Passage Initiative
FRANCES GUY
Former British ambassador to Yemen