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## Tragic bombing in Yemen was result of our interventionist foreign policy

Why do politicians continue to send our servicemen into foreign flashpoints?

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The apparent terrorist attack on a U.S. Navy destroyer that killed 17 Americans in Yemen on Thursday is another bloody reminder that an interventionist foreign policy inevitably results in the deaths of innocent Americans, the Libertarian Party says.

“These U.S. servicemen were murdered in part because their own government sent them to a dangerous, unstable region where hundreds of U.S. soldiers have been slaughtered before,” charged Steve Dasbach, national director of the Libertarian Party.

“Bill Clinton says he is ‘horrified’ by this attack. But what’s truly horrifying are the politicians who keep putting U.S. servicemen and women in harm’s way — knowing that more will almost certainly be killed in the future.”

At least 17 U.S. servicemen were killed and three dozen injured after a small boat pulled alongside the USS Cole and set off an explosion as the destroyer was docked in Yemen on Thursday. U.S. officials say they believe the attack was “terrorism,” most likely in retaliation for the American role in the Middle East conflict.

“We mourn the loss of these U.S. servicemen, and condemn the terrorists who bombed the USS Cole,” Dasbach said. “But the only reason the terrorists had the opportunity to strike is because our government put those servicemen there in the first place.”

And similar bombings are almost guaranteed to occur again in the future, Dasbach said, because U.S. policies invite terrorist attacks.

“The U.S. government’s willingness to take both sides in the Middle East dispute has put billions of dollars of lethal weapons in the hands of Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, and Iran,” he said. “No wonder both sides have reason to dislike the United States — we’ve armed and aided both sides’ enemies.”

Unfortunately, a Libertarian policy of non-intervention doesn’t appeal to Democratic and Republican politicians, who appear to see foreign crises as opportunities to demonstrate their courage by risking the lives of others, said Dasbach.

Case in point: Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who said on Thursday, “This is no time for the United States to retreat from its responsibilities in the region. We are operating in a world filled with a variety of threats. But that doesn’t mean that we can crawl into an ostrich-like mode. We are eagles.”

In fact, said Dasbach, “In the Middle East, the United States is neither an ostrich nor an eagle — thanks to the U.S. government’s reckless interventionism, we’re a sitting duck.”

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