

UN agency to close probe into Yemen war after pressure from Saudis and allies

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Geneva, October 8 (RHC)-- The United Nations Human Rights Council has voted to shut down a war crimes probe into the U.S.-backed Saudi war in Yemen. A number of European countries wanted the probe to continue for another two years, but Saudi Arabia lobbied heavily against the resolution.

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies said the vote marked “a blatant attempt by Saudi Arabia and its allies to ensure blanket impunity for themselves after having been linked to war crimes and other grave

violations of international law in the country.”

Human Rights Watch’s John Fisher had urged the council to back the war crimes probe. He told reporters: “Failing to renew the mandate when it is still urgently needed would be a stain on the credibility of the council and a slap in the face to victims. Rather than bowing to pressure by any party to the conflict seeking to evade scrutiny for its own abuses, HRC members should stand with the people of Yemen by renewing the experts’ mandate at this critical time.”

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