

The killing of Ali Saleh by his former Houthi allies represents a dangerous new turn in this conflict – Emily Thornberry MP

Emily

Thornberry MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,

commenting on today's reports from Yemen, said:

"The killing of Ali Saleh by his former Houthi allies represents a dangerous new turn in this conflict. An already multi-sided regional conflict now faces even greater violence between Saleh loyalists and Houthi militias, which will only plunge the millions of malnourished, embattled civilians in rebel-held areas into ever more desperate danger.

"Now, more than ever before, we need an urgent UN-led effort to halt the violence on all sides, allow Yemen's civilians to receive the humanitarian relief they need, and work towards a political solution to the conflict. We renew our calls on the UK government to play their part in that effort by bringing forward the draft ceasefire resolution for which the UN Security Council has now been waiting for more than a year.

"Even before today, hundreds of thousands of Yemeni children in rebel-held areas were already facing death from famine, disease and the Saudi air strikes and blockade. On top of all that, the creation of a new front of the civil war within their own cities and towns is another unconscionable cruelty, and the whole world needs to act now to stop their suffering before it is too late."