



YEMEN TIMES



• May 8th through 14th, 1994

Volume IV, Issue No. 19 •



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As Yemen Seems Headed for Civil War, already Casualties Are High:

12000 Killed/Injured

There are at least 12,000 persons killed or wounded in the fighting between forces loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and those loyal to the YSP leadership headed by Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh. The total damage to property and other loss is estimated at over US\$ 1.3 billion.

Unless either side can achieve a decisive military victory - notwithstanding the visible upper hand of the northern forces - the situation could quickly bog down to a stalemate and a protracted war that could quickly degenerate into a civil war. Already, civilians are acting nastily around petrol stations, bakeries, and even on the streets. However, the situation is still under control. Even then, it is not advisable to go out, unless it is utterly necessary.

Of course, there is no electricity. There is no petrol, there is no telephone service. Above all, there is a tremendous restlessness among the people are expecting the worst. People are leaving the cities, especially the capital city, in large numbers. You can see large numbers of citizens eager to get a ride to wherever their village is in the countryside. The price of transportation has increased manifold due to the emergency situation, lack of petrol, and simple greed. But it is not the price of transportation, but of almost everything that has shot up.



1. It Began in Dhamar:

The beginning was in Dhamar. A three-man Yemen Times team (Abdulaziz Al-Saqaf, Abdullah Faris, and Al-Izzy Asselwi) was there. They were eye-witnesses to how the whole thing started. At around 8:05 on Wednesday, there were three shots. Looks like they came from a canon. Then there was a short lull - maybe two minutes. Then hell broke loose. The Central Security brigade and the Republican Guards brigade - both northern - started shelling the Ba-Suhaib (southern) camp with all the fire-power they got. It was a good fifteen minutes before the Ba-Suhaib camp started returning the fire. For over 30 hours, there was intensive exchange of fire, before the Ba-Suhaib camp finally crumbled.

2. Situation in Sanaa:

On the same evening, fire spread to other flashpoints. Southern planes shelled Sanaa city, although damage was minimal. The airport was hit, as well as other locations in the city, including the area of the Presidential Palace. Although the damage was limited, the terror such air raids caused among the citizens cannot be exaggerated. That is why many Sanaa residents rushed to leave the city. There were several other incidents, all of them limited.

Meanwhile, northern forces quickly demolished the Central Committee's premises in Sanaa. In the process, the tanks and artillery managed to hit the neighboring Italian embassy.

The small contingency of personal guards of Ali Salim Al-Beedh, on Marib road, surrendered quickly. A number of southern militia forces were routed easily. The security police has also rounded up sympathizers with the YSP, and given the emergency law decreed by President Saleh, there was little to stop them taking away anybody they suspected.

3. Situation in Aden:

Aden airport and refinery were both hit by northern air-raids. The southern forces quickly demolished the Central Security brigade stationed in Aden. They also annihilated any sympathizers with the PGC or Islah. Meanwhile, at 1:00 o'clock on Friday May 6th, the Jules Vernes, a French ship arrived from Djibouti to evacuate some 600 - mostly oil industry employees - Europeans from Aden got evacuated, even under heavy shelling. The tragedy that befell Aden city was not as great as it was in 1986, but it is still a major catastrophe. Northern forces are still in heavy fighting in their "cleansing" efforts, but the end is in sight.

4. Other Flashpoints:

a. Mukairas Overcome: One Southern brigade, well positioned at the Mukairas Pass, was able to pin down four Northern brigades that have been pushing through Al-Baidha. The Southern forces were overcome at a high price. The four Northern brigades were finally able to link up with the Amaliqah force in Abyan. That enabled the combined Northern forces to mount a thrust towards Aden from the east and north.

b. The Amaliqah: Over 14,000 strong, the

serious threat to Aden. Over the last few days, it has been bombarded by Southern air and sea forces. The Amaliqah are some 50 kilometers to the east of Aden city.

c. Al-Arqoub: A one-on-one fight between two brigades in Arqoub, Khowlan, continues to rage. As the tribes came on the side of the Southern brigade, it was almost able to annihilate the Northern brigade. But lack of supplies, reinforcements, and the general defeat of Southern forces at many other regions did not

allow them to stand-up their ground. They finally surrendered.

d. Hamza-Abboud Struggle: In Ibb and leading to Qatabah, two forces - Hamza (Northern) and Abboud (Southern) - have been at loggerheads. The war results will not be affected by this showdown.

c. Khalid Ibn Al-Waleed and Al-Anad: The Taiz-based Khalid Ibn Al-Waleed has marched south to stare down on Al-Anad force. The idea is to pin it down and let this giant Southern force impede the Northern advance.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Another Chance for Ali Abdullah Saleh

No one will deny that the inability of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to rise up and create a modern state based on a new vision is partly responsible for the recent fighting and troubles of Yemen.

Today, this man has another chance to rise up to become a real statesman and build a new Yemen. It looks like President Saleh has achieved a military victory. He now needs to achieve two more victories.

At the immediate level, he has to achieve a moral victory by showing magnanimity and tolerance towards the leaders and members of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and their supporters - whether urban or tribal. The president badly needs to re-assure a large number of people who continue to sympathize with the YSP and hold on to the ideals of the YSP in state-building.

In the long term, Ali Abdullah Saleh has to start to build a modern state based on technical know-how, institutions and law and order. The president has to stop the corruption and inefficiency with which his rule has been associated.

The Republic of Yemen cannot attain any meaningful level of prosperity and status if the system is based on crooks and inefficient officials. No country can rise if it cannot make use of all its citizens by enabling those who can accomplish something to do so.

There is also the realistic attitude that the president needs to take in our relations with our neighbors, notably the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Yemen has hurt Saudi Arabia in the position it took in the Gulf War, and the Saudis have paid back by helping Saleh's adversaries in the internal struggle for power. Now, there is a chance to candidly and openly speak to the Saudis about letting by-gones be by-gones and start a new chapter in bilateral cooperation.

Will the president listen to common sense and start to rebuild a new nation? Or will the next few weeks witness a witch-hunt on a vendetta-driven campaign that will blind the system and create long-term problems?

The loss to Yemen in one week of fighting is enormous. The number of people killed and/or injured, and the infrastructural destroyed are heavy to any society, let alone a poor one like ours.

We need a fresh and strong start, one based on vision and courage.

The Publisher

Our Apologies

The Yemen Times would like to apologize to its readers that this issue is only an eight-page edition. This is due to the conditions of war that prevail in the country.

This issue was produced under strenuous conditions. We take this opportunity to express gratitude to Nabors and the French Embassy for their assistance in producing us with diesel and petrol, respectively, to enable us finish our work.

Emergency Law in Yemen

The President of the Republic has issued a decree announcing a state of emergency in the country. The law, which was approved by parliament, stipulates a curfew between 21:00 at night and 5:00 in the morning.

The law also forbids the carrying of arms in all Yemeni cities, even those licensed by the authorities; it forbids gatherings, demonstrations or other forms of protests; and the law finally puts limitations on personal freedoms.

The emergency state is in effect for one month, running until June 5th.

President Saleh Receives American Envoy

President Ali Abdullah Saleh received last week the American Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East, Mr. Robert Pelletreau. The American official arrived in Sanaa the very day open warfare between the PGC and YSP armies erupted in Dhamar.

The US State Department has issued a statement expressing support for unity and democratization in Yemen.

President Saleh Turns Down Offers to Stop the Fighting

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has turned down an offer by the Arab League to stop the fighting and return to negotiations.

An official spokesman pointed out that "the President and PGC leadership had gone out of their way to reach out to the other side. We have even by-passed our right as dictated by the election results in order to accommodate the YSP demands." The negotiations have gone as far as they could.

The attitude of the PGC leadership is that there is no more room for negotiations until the issue is settled militarily once and for all.

YSP Officials Dismissed

Parliament met on Thursday, May 5th and took several decisions. These included dismissing the YSP members in the executive branch of authority. Top on the list are Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh and Salim Saleh Mohammed - both members of the Presidential Council, and the YSP ministers in the government. Another decision by the Presidential Council called for the trial of Haitham Qassim Taher, Minister of Defence until then, as a criminal of war. In addition, a new order has dismissed the governor of Aden, Saleh Munassar Al-Siyali.

Ministry of Education Arranges Summer Programs

A source at the Ministry of Education announced that the Ministry has arranged for the teachers various training programs during the summer. "The idea is to raise the quality of our teachers."

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Reorganized families and migrant families

In all forms of families, reorganization can occur through the marriage, remarriage or cohabitation of persons who had children by former partners.

There are several forms of remarriage or cohabitation. One spouse or both spouses may have children who may or may not live with them. The spouses may or may not have children together. In this way, children can have several half-sisters and half-brothers, half-grandparents and other non-biological relatives.

Owing to the prevailing rates of marriage, remarriage and cohabitation, the reorganized family is for some observers the most important new family group in many societies. Since the late 1970s, the world has seen the resurgence of international migration. Among the traditional countries of immigration, the United States admitted more than 3 million permanent immigrants between 1985 and 1989. In Europe, the 12 member States of the European Community are estimated to be hosting over 13 million foreigners, nearly 60% of whom originated outside the Community. Millions of foreigners, mainly from southern and south-eastern Asia, are working in the oil-producing States of the Persian Gulf.

On the whole, as many as 70 million people are working (legally or illegally) in countries other than their own. In addition, thousands of families have been forced out of their countries by wars or persecution. As a result, migrant families are more and more common. Such families have to shoulder the burden of cultural change, difficult processes of adjustment, and rapidly transformed interpersonal relations within the family. But the migrant family is also a powerful example of the family as a source of identity; as a place of intimacy and emotional nourishment; and as a provider of support in times of crisis. The migrant family is a testimony to the importance of the family in today's world.

International Year of the Family 1994. The International Day of Families, 15 May

The International Day of Families will be observed for the first time on 15 May 1994, during the International Year of the Family (IYF).

Proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 47/237 of 20 September 1993, this annual observance will build on the momentum to strengthen families which has been generated by the International Year. For 1994, the Day's theme "Building the Smallest Democracy at the Heart of Society".

Families - the fundamental building blocks of any society - face unprecedented and varied challenges: urbanization, drug abuse, poverty, unemployment and political unrest, as well as changing economic and social conditions. Yet the family is the individual's primary source of emotional and material support. It serves as the foundation for child development and, as such, holds the key to the solution of many of society's problems. The family therefore deserves priority attention.

Why an International Day?

International days devoted to major social issues are, first and foremost, promotional and awareness-raising ventures. Likewise, the International Day of Families is intended to promote awareness of family-related issues and to encourage appropriate action. It can become a powerful mobilizing factor on behalf of families in all countries and reflects the concern of the international community for the well-being of families around the world.

By organizing observances of the Day, Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can promote a better understanding of the functions and problems of families in the modern world. The Day also provides an opportunity to increase knowledge of the economic, social and demographic processes affecting families and to focus attention on the rights and responsibilities of all family members.

THE YEMENI FAMILY & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Fertility Levels and Trends

- At current levels, Yemeni women will have an average of 7.7 children during their reproductive years. This fertility rate is one of their highest in the world.
- A rural woman may expect to have an average of 8.2 children, two and a half children more than a woman residing in an urban area. Women without any formal education have a fertility rate of 8.1, or 2.4 children more than women who have attended primary school and 4.6 children more than women with higher than primary schooling.
- A comparison of the total fertility rate and the total wanted fertility rate indicates the potential demographic impact of avoidance of unwanted births. If all unwanted births could be prevented, a Yemeni woman would have an average of 6 births in her lifetime, or 1.7 less than at current fertility rates (7.7 births per woman).
- Births to teens and to women age 35 and over have been shown to have higher than average risks of both maternal and child mortality and morbidity. Almost half of Yemeni women age 25-49 have had their first birth before age 20. More than 1 in 8 women age 15-19 have already given birth or are pregnant with their first child. Moreover, one-fifth of women age 19 have already had two children.
- The majority of Yemeni women are at risk of another pregnancy within 6 to 9 months following a birth unless they have begun to use family planning. 18-23% of currently married women in their prime reproductive years (age 15-39) reported being pregnant at the time of the survey.

Marriage

- Over the 30 years preceding the survey, there has been some decline in early marriage. One in 2 women age 20-24 marry after age 18, i.e., more than two years later than the national average. While the median age at marriage for women 25-29 years is 16.2 years, it is six months lower for women age 40-49.
- While there are only minor differences in age at marriage by region and residence, educational advances for women tend to push the age at marriage upward. Among women 25-49 who have no schooling, the median age at marriage is less than 16 years, while the median is almost 23 years for women with more than primary education.
- About 6% of currently married women live in a polygamous marriage (i.e., more than one wife).
- Consanguineous marriage is quite common in Yemen. Among ever-married women under 50 years of age, more than one-third reported that they have a blood relationship with their husbands.

Fertility Preferences

- Overall, half of currently married women in Yemen want to have more children. Only one in three want to cease childbearing.
- Overall, half of currently married women in Yemen want to have more children. Only one in three want to cease childbearing.
- While the proportion of women desiring more children decreases steadily with the increase in the number of living children, about one-fourth of women with six living children or in the age group 40-44, and one-sixth of women with seven or more children still want to have more children.
- Almost half of women in urban areas do not want any more children, compared to one-third of rural women.

- The average ideal family size in Yemen is 5.4 children. However, the younger a woman is, the smaller her ideal family. Young women (15-24) desire 4.7 children, one child fewer than women 35-39, and two children fewer than women 45-49. Women with primary or higher education desire, on average, around 4 children, while illiterate women desire 5.6 children.
 - The husband's ideal family size, as perceived by the wife, is 6.4 children, i.e., one child more than the wife's ideal family size.
 - The majority of Yemeni women show no gender preference based on the size of their family. Among Yemeni families with balanced gender composition or with no children, only a small proportion of respondents express a preference that the next birth be a son.
- ### Contraceptive Knowledge
- Knowledge of fertility regulation is not wide-spread in Yemen. Only 60 per cent of currently married women know a method of family planning.
 - The most widely known method is the pill, which is known by more than half of the women. One-third of the women know about the IUD and injection and one-fourth have heard of female sterilization.
 - Differences by place of residence and region, and level of education are quite substantial. Younger women, educated women, and women living in urban areas and the southern and eastern governorates are more likely to have knowledge of contraceptive methods than other women.
 - The level of contraceptive use is very low in Yemen but those who use a method start at a fairly early stage in the family building process. About one-fifth of all ever-married women have used a family planning method at some time. Almost one-fourth of ever-users began using contraceptives to regulate their fertility when they had only one child.
 - Only 6% of currently married women use a modern contraceptive method. The prevalence rate is 10% for all methods including prolonged breast-feeding, and 7% excluding prolonged breast-feeding.
 - Contraceptive use varies substantially according to socio-economic background of women. Among currently married women, current use is 17% in the southern and eastern governorates, 28% among urban women and 39% among women with post primary education. In contrast, 8% of less of women living in northern and western governorates, rural areas, and among those who are illiterate are using a family planning method.

Provision of Family Planning Services

- The public sector, including facilities operated by the Ministry of Public Health and by private voluntary organizations, is a major provider of family planning in Yemen. Six of 10 users of modern methods obtained their methods from a public sector source. In the private sector, pharmacies are the major source of contraceptive methods; they provide modern methods obtained their methods from a public sector source. In private sector, pharmacies are the major source of contraceptive methods; they provide modern methods to one-fourth of those who want to regulate their fertility.
- Contraceptive services are not readily accessible in rural areas. For current users, the deaden time to reach a service source is 16 minutes in urban areas whereas it is over one hour in rural areas. Forty percent of contraceptive users in rural areas have to spend more than two hours to reach a service provider.

Nuclear families and cohabitation

Modern Western families tend to create the nuclear family, where two generations - parents and children - live together. Even if the children move out, the empty nest is still considered a nuclear family. Statistics show that the nuclear family is more common in countries where people's life expectancy is high. Nuclear families are well suited for urbanized societies, since they can easily move and do not need large dwellings. While the nuclear family offers several advantages, the limited number of family members makes it vulnerable to internal and external pressures.

Cohabitation emerged in the 1970s from a more general change in social values - new attitudes not only towards marriage, but towards divorce, children born outside marriage, and abortion.

In Europe, for example, cohabitation without marriage has increased - at least before children are born.

Surveys suggest that cohabitation is chosen for a variety of reasons. Among the single, trial marriage or opposition to marriage is mentioned, as is refusal to make a long-term commitment. Among those previously married, cohabitation also occurs when a waiting period is needed to remarry, or when one of the partners does not wish a new legal commitment after a previous unhappy marriage.

Young adults up to age 25 represent the population group with the largest percentage of cohabiting women. The highest prevalence is found in Scandinavia: By the 1980s, 28% of the women in the age group 20-24 in Norway, 37% in Denmark and 44% in Sweden were cohabiting. But in all countries for which data are available, substantial increases have also taken place among the older age groups.

Cohabitation can be a prelude to marriage. For instance in the United States, most newly-weds had previously lived together.

As more couples are cohabiting, births outside marriage are increasing. They represented a high number, reaching up to 25% in some countries.

Extended Families and Kinship and Tribal Families

In many parts of the world, the family is the combination of several family molecules, which together form an extended family. An extended family need not be big: It is, for instance, small in the case of a grandparent and a grandchild living together. But usually the extended family refers to numerous people either living together or having frequent, intimate interaction.

A common form of extended family is the three-generation family, where grandparents, parents and children live together. Cultures that value respect and care for the elderly see the three-generation family as the most desirable for of the family. Such a family often exists where the division of land and other property would diminish the economic possibilities of all family members. Thus, the three-generation form is more prevalent in rural areas.

The growing shortage of housing in cities has created a sort of forced extended family, as many young couples have no choice but to live with their parents. In such cases, the tendency is to view a household as containing two nuclear families, which break up when separate dwellings become possible.

Extended families used to be prevalent in the countryside, and nuclear families in the cities. But a reversal seems to be taking place in many part of the world. The countryside is becoming increasingly nuclear, as the productive limits of subdivided land reduce the capacity of large families to support themselves. And in cities increasingly consist of extended family units, drawn together as a survival strategy in the face of deteriorating economics and lack of individual opportunity. Kinship families consist of even larger units. In addition to three generations, other relatives (such as uncles, aunts and cousins) may belong to the same household.

In some Western countries, instead of marrying, people may choose to live in a mutual-support community, where several nuclear families and single persons live together. There are also households of couples or small groups of women who care for the children of one or more of them. On an even broader scale, tribal families are usually built on a social rather than a biological basis. Responsibility for the care of children may be taken up by several people. The biological mother's sisters may be called mothers, and the father's brothers may be responsible for serving as father to the children. All cousins are often called sisters and brothers. This type of family rarely neglects children, because there is an abundance of parents.

Old City of Sa'dah: A Living Musium

By: Mohamed Abdulhamid,
Managing Editor,
Yemen Times.

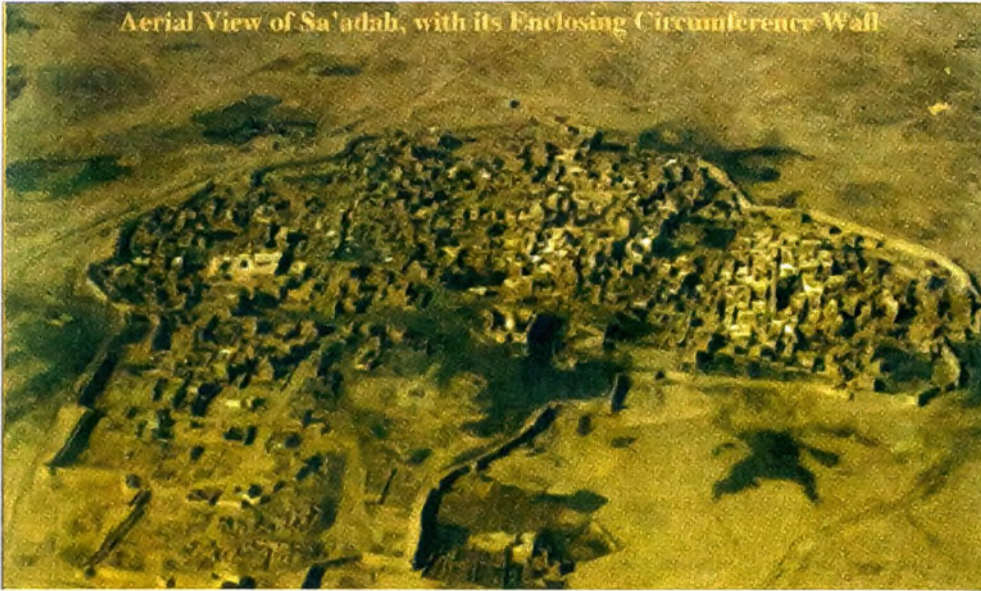
Sa'dah, 242 kilometers north of Sanaa, is one of the oldest cities of the northern part of Yemen. Throughout its history, the city attained a special significance given its strategic location on the famous South-North trade route that linked the southern part of Arabia with the north. Sa'dah, which is today famous for its magnificent circumference wall (*Soor Sa'dah*), was a trade center and a city of a long and rich culture and industry. It is also a center of religious learning and theology, especially of Zeidi Islam.

Sa'dah city was mentioned in the ancient manuscripts which date back to the 3rd century BC. According to professor Yusuf Mohamed Abdulla of Sanaa University, most Islamic source agree that Imam Yahya Sharafuddin who ruled Yemen starting from the year 940 Hejira Calendar (13th century A.C.) was the re-builder of the city - as it stands in its present form.

The city of Sa'dah flourished and grew bigger and richer since Imam Sharafuddin who fought long against the tribes which used to attack the town from time to time to loot and ransack the city. This explains the construction a huge and high circumference wall around the city.

The wall is six meters high from the inside and eight meters from outer side. Its thickness ranges from four to five meters. It takes a winding a meandering shape to force expose attackers and invaders of the city.

There are five gates - Bab



Najran, Bab Ja'aran, Bab Al-Salam, Bab Al-Mansoura and the main gate: Bab Al-Yemen. Nine towers dotted along the circumference wall serve as watch-points in all directions. The towers have watching openings which are also used by arrow shooters - and by

gun snipers much later - to defend the city. The very old technique of clay and mud, mixed and fermented with organic material, is the material used for construction through-out the city. The wall's strength and durability through centuries is

worth praise, although with a keen upkeep and maintenance, which unfortunately seems to be missing, this heritage could be prolonged.

Many other sites and things deserve visiting in Sa'dah such as its beautiful mountains and archaeological site such as Jabal Tamalus which is a fortified stronghold of the Himyaritic kings. It stands as a witness of a once great civilization.

A few kilometers north of Sa'dah lies Jabal Um-Laila which was also a Hamyaritic castle and exhibits extensive Himyaritic scripts representing one of the important sources of information on this ancient civilization of Yemen. At the eastern edge of Sa'dah, there are archeological excavations which resemble pyramids. These are tombs of the great kings which sought to preserve their bodies for the next life.

The manuscripts on the graves tell a lot about the life of Sa'dah kings. There are also numerous drawings of ibexes on these old temple walls to the extent that many researchers think the ibex was worshipped by Yemenis at one time.

Al-Jabal Al-Makhrouq (the pierced mountain) in Sa'dah is also an important archaeological site. It is actually a tunnel running through the mountain to the other side. Through the tunnel, there are hundreds of steps leading to the peak of the mountain from where you can see the whole old city of Sa'dah and surrounding area. Down at the mountain-foot, the ancient Yemenis built water reservoirs and swimming pools and wrote long notes about their lives and kings using the Musnad script.

The Islamic period has also left its print on the architecture of Sa'dah. Again, it is unique and rich, and it is best exemplified in the Sinnara tower of the Samma castle which is only two hundred years old. Its lofty design, decorated with beautiful Arabisque and paintings, is a magnificent masterpiece. Taei and Sheiban mosques in Sa'dah are also exemplary pieces of Islamic arts. Another unique speciality of old Sa'dah is its iron ore. Iron was mined in this area for more the one thousand. Ore melting furnaces and metal shaping industries are an important part of the history of Sa'dah. Famous Sa'dah swords and daggers and other metal products like bowls and cooking utensils have been exported to Turkey, India, and East Africa.

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The Clark Lessons: Number 2: CREATIVE PARKING: Learning from Yemeni Experience

By: Mike Clark

Throughout most of the modern world, parking your automobile is a dull experience or at the most a long walk and somewhat inconvenient. Its too regimented, with white lines, parking, no parking signs, and in worst cases those dreaded parking meters demanding the small change you never seem to have.

However, my experience in Yemen has once again inspired me. The Yemeni driver has proven to me that through courage, daring, and a great deal of imagination, parking your car in Yemen can be a unique and enlightening experience. I have labeled this "Creative Parking."

There are numerous reasons requiring you to park your car, thus there are many different categories to be listed under this title. Let us start with one of the more pleasant aspects first. You see a friend and wish to stop, park and chat with him (Friendship).

First one must understand that available parking spots in Yemen are at a premium. So under most circumstances, you will be required to stop in your lane of traffic to enable you to communicate with your friend. Problem? Nonsense!

Although the right lane is safer for you than the left lane, the density of traffic as well as how soon you spot your buddy will be the deciding factors. Do you have time to change lanes or must you stop now? Is he in the middle of the street or on the sidewalk? Considering the speed and flow of traffic, most of these decisions must be made quickly and require the driver to develop a quick eye and level of sharpness. Of course those drivers behind you will also be required to be extremely alert, or there is a good chance they will rear end your car, causing an accident. This form of parking should not be abused. Therefore I suggest you use this technique for short terms. Try to limit your visit to three to four minutes. Traffic piles up fast and draws attention, especially that of the traffic police, usually a short distance away, eager to jot down your plate number.

Another frequently used form of parking is the necessity of shopping. Let us explore this area. First question: Is the establishment you wish to patronize on your side of the street? If it is, no problem, but if it is across the street you are once again put in a position to test your driving skills. In Yemen you never park across the street without the protection of your automobile, it is much too dangerous, you will feel naked and frustrated dodging traffic on foot. Additionally it is too time consuming. So the only logical alternative is to cross to the other side. If there is no divider in the middle of the street, there are three simple steps: 1 - Horn, 2 - Lights, 3 - Cross. But in cases involving a divided street, this leaves

you no choice. You must cross at the first available opening, prior to the store, proceed to the far right hand lane (your left) and park directly in front. If you find yourself confronted with on coming traffic in what is now "your lane", don't panic, simply flash your headlights warning the intrusive driver to your front, he will move out of your way (in most cases). Now you have reached your destination. Unfortunately there is a good chance you may be facing another problem, and it is decision time again!

There are no empty parking spaces. Under such circumstances, you only have one option, you must double, or under extreme cases, even triple park. The major choice here is which car I am intending to block in, new or old. If your car is new, block a new car. If your car is old, you still block a new car (rule of thumb). This usually will prevent the new car driver, 'blockee', from attempting to squeeze out from his blocked position, and damaging your car. Another question you might ask is: How long do I intend to be in this establishment? Short term shopping, (i.e. carton of milk, pack of cigarettes, etc.) should not pose a big problem. But you really should expedite, which will require you to butt your way to the front of the line, and squeeze in front of others at the cash register. In most cases, the person you rudely cut in front of is the 'blockee', and your problem is solved.

Now to totally cover all aspects of double parking let me give you one last example. You are in heavy traffic, it is lunch time, you are hungry, there are no parking spots! So you block in another car and enter the restaurant. Realizing that this will be a long term block, some may worry, causing indigestion and an unpleasant lunch. The worry is needless, simple common sense will help you relax and savor your meal. Just be alert for the sound of the blockee's horn. If it is a long continuous series of blasts, don't worry, enjoy your lunch, the driver has to be in his car to sound his horn. But be wary of a few short blasts followed by silence! This guy is out of his car and most likely looking for you.

I had contemplated discussing residential parking, blocking your neighbor in, closing off the street and so on. But due to available space I have decided to include these subjects in my next article: Lesson # 3, titled, "Residential Courtesy." Finally let me say that, understandably, at first glance these rare techniques are confusing and worrisome. But I assure you after a little exposure and practice your skills will improve, enabling you to blend-in with the other drivers and you will soon begin to feel more relaxed and comfortable. Overall this will truly enhance the pleasure and joy of your Yemen driving experience.

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Les pages françaises

LE TEMPS DU
YEMEN

The French Pages

YEMEN

Le pays à feu et à sang

L'attaque aérienne sudiste sur Sanaa jeudi matin à l'aube a marqué le début de la guerre. Depuis, le Yémen est coupé du monde, les aéroports fermés, les lignes téléphoniques internationales coupées. L'état d'urgence a été décrété.

Sh. Sanaa. Jeudi 5 mai. Des explosions retentissent suivies de tirs de batteries anti-aériennes. La guerre a commencé. L'aviation sudiste vient de bombarder la capitale en riposte à l'offensive nordiste sur le sud. Les objectifs étaient le palais du Président sur le sittin, au sud de la capitale, et le siège de la télévision, au nord de la ville. La défense anti-aérienne de Sanaa a réussi à abattre l'un des avions, qui est venu s'écraser près de la route de Taëz.

Quelques heures plus tard, alors que les habitants étaient suspendus à leur radio qui diffusait des chants patriotiques et appelait la population à la mobilisation, le Président Saleh a décrété l'état d'urgence pour une durée de trente jours afin de "mater les éléments séparatistes au sein de la direction du Parti socialiste yéménite". L'état d'urgence signifie la suspension de la Constitution et des lois. La liberté d'expression, la liberté de la presse... ne sont donc plus assurées.

Le siège du PSY détruit

La situation est restée très confuse toute la journée de jeudi à Sanaa, les militaires investissant les locaux du PSY dans la capitale et détruisant le siège du parti à coups de canons. L'ambassade d'Italie située à côté a été endommagée. Une chasse à l'homme visant des cadres socialistes encore présents dans la ville a commencé. Un imposant dispositif de sécurité a été mis en place dans les rues désertées par les habitants. Les magasins ouverts quelques heures ont été pris d'assaut par la population. Certains quittaient la capitale avec leurs familles dans des voitures bourrées de bagages cherchant manifestement à rejoindre leurs villages. Les quelques taxis qui continuaient à circuler refusaient de prendre des passagers. Depuis la veille au soir, la capitale était plongée dans le noir, les lignes à haute tension acheminant le courant ayant été détruites à certains endroits. Samedi le courant avait été en partie rétabli mais les communications téléphoniques interurbaines restaient difficiles alors que les lignes internationales étaient coupées.

Depuis jeudi, la capitale yéménite est coupée du

monde, l'aéroport, qui a également été bombardé, a été fermé. Un avion de la Royal Jordanian, qui devait partir à l'aube n'a pas pu décoller. Il est finalement parti en fin d'après-midi avec à bord une partie des diplomates jordaniens, quelques minutes seulement après la reprise des bombardements de l'aviation sudiste. L'aviation sudiste a également tenté jeudi matin de bombarder les aéroports des villes de Taëz et Hodéidah mais sans atteindre ses objectifs. La compagnie aérienne Yemenia a préféré envoyer tous ses avions en Erythrée.

Al-Bid limogé par le parlement

Jeudi, le parlement et le Conseil présidentiel ont limogé le vice-Président Ali Salem Al-Bid et le ministre de la Défense Haïtham Taher Qassem. Le Conseil présidentiel a décidé de juger le ministre de la Défense pour "crimes commis dans l'accomplissement de ses fonctions".

Le Conseil présidentiel a aussi déchu de leurs fonctions le ministre du Pétrole et des Ressources minières Saleh Abou Bakr Ben Hussainoun et le gouverneur d'Aden Saleh Al-Sayeli. Le parlement, réuni en l'absence des députés sudistes, a imputé à Ali Al-Bid la responsabilité des combats et décrété que "toute activité ou décision que prendrait Ali Salem Al-Bid ou ses partisans sont désormais considérées comme illégitimes et n'engageant pas la République yéménite". Le parlement a également exhorté "toutes les forces armées" du pays à "se regrouper autour de la direction légitime et d'obéir à ses directives". En réponse à cette décision, le vice-Président a affirmé vendredi tirer sa légitimité du peuple yéménite. Retraqué depuis le 19 août à Aden, Ali Salem Al-Bid aurait quitté la ville pour l'Hadramaout, sa région d'origine. La situation était en effet très critique vendredi à Aden, dont l'aéroport a été en partie détruit par les troupes nordistes stationnées dans la ville. La vie est rythmée par les sirènes signalant l'approche de chasseurs MIG nordistes. L'armée nordiste compte 87 avions de combat environ, alors que les sudistes ont 94 appareils. Vendredi, l'invasion d'Aden par les nordistes semblait imminente. En

riposte, les sudistes ont poursuivi leurs attaques aériennes sur Sanaa. Selon les nordistes, les forces sudistes auraient tiré six missiles SCUD sur la capitale vendredi. Trois de ces missiles auraient explosé dans des zones montagneuses et un autre près de l'aéroport.

Le PSY a accepté vendredi un cessez-le feu lancé par les Etats-Unis, la France, l'Egypte, l'Algérie et l'Arabie saoudite. L'Egypte proposait l'envoi au Yémen de troupes arabes d'interposition et une réunion de la Ligue arabe devait se réunir samedi au Caire. Mais les dirigeants nordistes ont rejeté quelques heures plus tard toute réconciliation. Le CPG, dans un communiqué, a déclaré que "ce qui se déroule actuellement n'est pas une guerre civile, un conflit entre deux autorités ou entre le sud et le nord, mais une rébellion et une tentative flagrante de putsch militaire".

En fait, les nordistes ont commencé à attaquer mercredi soir la brigade sudiste stationnée à Dhamar dans le camp de Ba'Sahib. En quelques heures la brigade sudiste de Dhamar a été anéantie. Au même moment les troupes du nord rassemblées dans les régions de Yarim et de Taëz ont commencé leur mouvement vers le sud.

Depuis le carnage d'Amran (voir ci-dessous) les 27 et 28 avril, nordistes et sudistes se préparaient ouvertement à la guerre. La tension militaire était telle qu'à tout instant un incident pouvait dégénérer. Lundi dernier, un Mig 21 des forces sudistes a été abattu par la deuxième brigade blindée nordiste, stationnée dans le gouvernorat de Lahej. Les deux armées, qui n'ont jamais été fusionnées depuis l'unification en 1990, comptent environ 30 000 hommes chacune, sans compter "les armées tribales" venues apporter leur soutien. Les deux Ali avaient lancé chacun leur ultime campagne diplomatique arabe pour expliquer leurs positions. Ali Abdallah Saleh avait dépêché samedi 30 avril le ministre de la Planification Abdul Karim Al-Iryani auprès du roi Fahd d'Arabie saoudite. De son côté, Ali Salem Al-Bid avait téléphoné au souverain saoudien, au président égyptien Hosni Mubarak et au numéro un libyen Mouammar Kadhafi. Il avait envoyé également la semaine dernière Abdel Aziz Ad-Dali au Liban et en Jordanie.

Une tension latente s'était développée à Sanaa les jours précédents la guerre civile. Une voiture piégée avait explosé jeudi 28 avril, sans faire de victimes devant la résidence à Sanaa du président du Parlement, Cheikh Abdallah Al-Ahmar. Le même jour, le premier vice-Premier ministre, Hassan Makki, a été blessé et trois de ses gardes du corps tués dans un attentat à Sanaa.

Chute de la monnaie yéménite

Surtout, la population devait faire face à une très grave pénurie d'essence, l'armée étant obligée de fermer elle-même les stations vides. Le rial continuait sa descente aux enfers. Mercredi dernier, il s'échangeait au taux de 80 rials pour un dollar avant que les autorités décident de fermer les boutiques de change.

Avec la guerre, le destin du Yémen a basculé. L'expérience démocratique n'aura duré que quatre ans à peine. Les nordistes semblent avoir l'avantage et pouvoir contrôler la majeure partie du pays mais ils sont tellement haïs dans le sud que la réconciliation nationale sera difficile.

Jérôme BERNARD

Evacuation des Occidentaux d'Aden

Les Européens d'Aden, mais également des Américains et des Canadiens, en tout 570 personnes, ont été évacués vendredi dans la journée à bord du navire français Jules Verne en provenance de Djibouti. Les pays européens ont décidé d'évacuer leurs ressortissants en raison de la dégradation des conditions de sécurité dans la région d'Aden. Les forces nordistes convergeaient en effet vers la ville du sud, rendant la situation critique.

Nervosité des sudistes

Le Jules Verne, navire de soutien logistique, était escorté par deux bâtiments de la marine française de l'Océan Indien, la frégate Commandant Bory et le navire garde-côtes La Rieuse. Un autre bâtiment de la marine française mouillant à Djibouti a également appareillé pour le Golfe d'Aden.

L'opération de débarquement a commencé par le débarquement dans le port

d'Aden d'une trentaine de soldats français des commandos de marine, à bord de cinq canots pneumatiques. Une péniche de débarquement a ensuite été autorisée à accoster, avec un peu de retard, en raison de la nervosité de certains combattants sudistes, qui ont braqué leurs armes et des canons sur le bâtiment français. Ce navire, un EDIC (engin de débarquement d'infanterie et de chars) a ensuite acheminé les personnes évacuées vers le Jules Verne, qui mouillait au large. Le navire français est resté au large d'Aden, hors des eaux territoriales yéménites, où il devait attendre l'arrivée samedi du bâtiment de commandement Var, un autre navire français.

A Sanaa, l'évacuation des Européens n'était pas encore à l'ordre du jour. Cependant un Transall allemand est stationné sur l'aéroport de la capitale en prévision d'une évacuation. La Russie a annoncé pour sa part la prochaine évacuation de ses ressortissants.

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Tout a commencé à Amran

Tout a commencé véritablement, le mercredi 27 avril, à Amran, une petite ville à 50 km au nord de Sanaa. Quelques coups de pistolet ont claqué, on ne sait trop de quel côté, et le carnage a commencé dans le camp mixte où cohabitaient depuis l'unification en 1990 la Première brigade blindée nordiste et la Troisième brigade blindée sudiste (1200 hommes chacune environ). Les incidents ont éclaté au moment même où se trouvaient à Amran les

membres du comité militaire chargé de désamorcer les frictions entre les sudistes et les nordistes. Les attachés défense américain et français l'ont échappé belle.

Les affrontements, qui se sont poursuivis le jeudi 28 avril, ont tourné à l'avantage des nordistes. Le camp sudiste, séparé de 200 mètres du camp nordiste a été pratiquement détruit. Avec l'aide des tribus Bakil, adversaires des tribus Hached venues soutenir les nordistes, une partie des troupes sudistes ont pu se retirer dans les montagnes.

Selon un bilan officiel nordiste, les combats d'Amran ont fait 79 tués et 119 blessés. De sources indépendantes, on parle de plus de 100 tués. Depuis le début de la crise politique en août dernier, les affrontements d'Amran ont été les plus meurtriers entre les militaires nordistes et sudistes. Les dégâts matériels ont été estimés à plus de 500 millions de dollars. 159 habitations ont été endommagées dans la localité d'Amran et quelque 85 chars ont été détruits.

The New World Disorder

By : Saad Salah Khalis
Cultural Editor

Was it territorial conquest or was it "ethnic cleansing"? Was it merely a personal ambition of certain leaders or deeply rooted national rivalry? Whatever it was, it resulted in the destruction of a very beautiful country.

"The Destruction of Yugoslavia" is a book written by Branka Magas, the Croatian journalist, published by Verso Publishing House of London and New York, 1993, in 366 pages.

After the death of Marshal Joseph Broz Tito in 1980, Yugoslavia witnessed what might be recorded as the worst civil (or is it national) conflict since World War II.

Branka Magas believes that this country is facing the greatest holocaust since the age of the Nazis. In many ways, she is absolutely right.

In her book, the main guilty party, or rather person, is Slobodan Milosevic, the Serb leader who took over after Tito's death, becoming the undisputed leader of Serbia. He went on to achieve his and his patriots' goal of "Greater Serbia". The first victim was Kosovo, whose non-Serbian inhabitants were not to be allowed citizenship in the future "Greater Serbia". Internal balance therein had to be changed in favor of Serbians under the eyes of the whole world, as the old Yugoslav constitution which had stated that Yugoslavia is a federation of equal nations became history.

An over-view of Yugoslavia is given by the author, where we are reminded that it "was" a nation of six independent republics and two autonomous provinces. Those last unfortunately lie within the Republic of Serbia, Kosovo being one of them.

This province occupies, according to Branka Magas, 4% of the area of Yugoslavia, inhabited by 8% of its population. The unique feature of Kosovo is that most of its inhabitants are Albanians, consequently Muslims, whose number is almost equal to that of Albanians itself.

An important note of the author is that the tragedy of Yugoslavia is "not so much about what happened in the distant past. Rather it is about that fanning of the state-sponsored nationalism." To that end, Milosevic Serbs (not all Serbs) started to treat all other non-Serbs, especially the Muslims, as enemies who "must be cleansed and eradicated".

Branka Magas openly blames the West, saying

that Milosevic had counted on the West to aid him, and the West lived up to his expectations by "failing to distinguish between the victim and the assailant", eventually becoming a participant in the crime. The UN was also blamed as its arms embargo was totally in the advantage of Serbia over Croatia, and held far more catastrophic effects on Bosnia Herzegovina.

The author believes that the aim of the Serbs in Bosnia was the total destruction of the "Bosnian people and their culture". She also discusses the immoral position of Western countries and leaders, watching Bosnian-Serb leader Radovan Karadzic shelling cities and towns, creating concentration camps, raping Muslim women "and even infants". All those events were recognized and defined by Western leaders who shyly denounced them and the policy of "ethnic cleansing" carried out by the Serbs. Some talked about trying Serb leaders for war crimes.

Magas makes it clear that the Milosevic regime will not be easily appeased, just like the Nazis. She believes that he can survive by creating more and more sources of war and conflict. She says that "Just as Kosovo became a dress rehearsal for the rape of Bosnia, a ravished Bosnia is most likely to become a dress rehearsal for even bloodier ethnic cleansing in Kosovo".

She concluded that a "never again" holocaust has happened again under the eyes of the whole world and the leaders of super powers and the new world order (or rather disorder). The book is actually a convention of articles published by the author over a 10-year period, the age of the Yugoslav agony.

It is not only Yugoslavia that faces the punishment of that new order. All other "second" and "third" world countries are likely victims. Many countries are being prosecuted for their positions during the late two-power world, as the magnificence of the slogans of "Made in the West" freedom and liberation is gradually fading, leaving the stage to the other truth - the ugly side of the story, that they were meant only to certain nations and people while all others may go to hell.

Considering the size of its population, Kosovians demanded that their province's status changed into a republic. The reaction of Serbs was even to deny them any autonomous rights at all, suspending all government bodies therein and dissolving the parliament in total violation to the federal constitution. Albanian were sacked from all positions of importance and responsibility and were duly replaced by Serbs.

WORLD BANK DRAWS UP RESETTLEMENT PLANS

The World Bank says projects it is funding will drive two million people out of their homes over the next seven years, but it is pursuing new strategies to help those displaced.

A study released last month acknowledges that 35% more people are being forced out by Bank-financed dam, transportation and other major projects than governments previously estimated. Some governments expect that a few hundreds people would be displaced, while, in the end, new living areas had to be found for thousands, said Bank vice president Ismail Serageldin.

The report, based on a worldwide inspection of Bank-backed projects, also notes progress in getting countries, to help displaced people. Dams, flood-control systems, canals, roads, open-pit mines, industrial parks, wildlife sanctuaries, urban renewal efforts and other projects all can lead to mass displacements.

Environmental and human rights groups have long been complaining about Bank and government failures to alleviate the social impact of big projects. After years of controversy and struggle with increasing resettlement needs, the Bank is finally coming to grips with the problem, said Serageldin in an interview about report.

"Involuntary resettlement is an inevitable result of development," he said, but it can be minimized and "nobody should be thrown away."

New steps by the Bank include a willingness to increase the financing of big projects to include resettlement, new loans to relieve the impact of existing of projects and involvement of people affected in project planning, said Michael Cernea, author of the report.

The world's largest lender also hopes to inspire more humane efforts for non-bank projects which it says cause even greater human displacement through the world roughly ten million people a year, according to the report released recently.

The study said the two million people needing resettlement will be affected by 146 active Bank projects, but it is said they account for only 3 per cent of the Bank's 1,900 active projects.

Every projects approved by the Bank, which is owned by 177 member governments, must

now include a detailed resettlement plan if people will lose their homes, Serageldin said, who is in charge of making Bank projects environmentally and socially viable.

The Bank first adopted a resettlement policy in 1980, but Serageldin acknowledged that it has not always been effective - partly because governments, not the Bank, have ultimate authority over projects.

"We'd like to see our standards adopted more widely, by projects affecting the other 97 per cent of people who are involuntarily resettled," he said. An unacceptable response would be to abandon projects that will help far more people than they displace, Serageldin said.

"You can only produce so much energy by burning sticks and cow dung," he said, pointing to the growing energy demands of the Third World. Among countries cited by the Bank for enlightened resettlement policies in China, where the Xiaolangdi dam will create a \$500 million annual benefit in irrigation, Flood-control and power generation, aiding 103 million people. Yet, about a fourth of the dam's \$2 billion cost will go to resettle 181,000 people whose homes will be lost.

Brazil, the Philippines and Turkey are cited as countries that have adopted Bank guidelines for projects not necessarily funded by the Bank.


The report says most large-scale, Third World resettlement associated with Bank projects occurs in South and East Asia, followed by Africa, with Latin America having the fewest number of people involuntarily displaced.

"We and our borrowers haven't been perfect," said Bank president Lewis Preston, in a statement released with the resettlement report, "but we are committed to safeguarding the rights and livelihoods of those being displaced and the track records shows continuous improvement. We cannot and will not be complacent where people's fundamental well-being is concerned."

The report is the result of inspections of bank projects by 100 teams of anthropologists and sociologists.

Bank funding has been withdrawn from some projects, including two in India, because they did not adhere to resettlement standards, Serageldin said.

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A Close Encounter with Hell!

By: Al-Izzy Asselwi,
Yemen Times.

It was a close encounter with hell. For about half an hour on Wednesday evening, I thought it was the end of the world.

I was one of a three-man Yemen Times team driving up from Aden after a short stop in Taiz. We also stopped in Yarim for a short time.

It was a few minutes to eight in the evening when Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf pulled aside near a restaurant in Dhamar and said, "We will have dinner here."

The other two members of the team, who were chewing qat immediately told him we did not need to eat. Besides, Dhamar is

probably the wrong place to eat at the this time, and Sanaa was only 100 kilometers away. He insisted, and we had to accept.

Dr. Saqqaf went to a restaurant, I went to a bookstore, and Abdullah Faris went in search of a toilet.

At exactly 8:07, there were three shots in the air. It sounded like the heavy shots of a canon.

There was a short interval.

Then hell broke loose as the heavy firing started to fill the skies. We saw the source of the firing. The shelling was coming from two sources: the Central Security brigade and the Republican Guards brigade, both stationed at either side of the highway to the north of the city.

We scrambled to the car,



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Featuring
Next Week

and were ready to go. The guy who went to the toilet did not show up. Dr. Saqqaf insisted to wait for him. Those few minutes were long long hours. Finally, he showed up, and we speeded up north. For the first few kilometers, our driver, Dr. Saqqaf,

followed the strategy of staying behind a large truck which was headed north. He explained that if any of the shelling of the Republican Guards and Central Security missed, we have the truck as protection.

A few minutes later, the strategy changed. All of a sudden, he by-passed the truck and all other cars on the road. He explained, "By now the Ba-Suhaib camp may have pinned down the source of the fire, and may want to return-fire. We may be caught in the middle. The best thing to do now is to rush out of this hell."

Looking behind us, we saw the sky lighting up with the fire being released by machines of death. The heavy bombing and shelling roared so loud we needed to close our ears.

Although the Ford car was making the better of 160 kilometers an hour, Dr. Saqqaf was complaining against the lack of speed. We had to restrain him nicely to relax. My friend said after a while that

"having been spared the danger of death in the shoot-out, we now risk the danger of death in a car accident."

The point was well taken by our driver who slowed down and sighed deeply.

I shall never forget that experience. That was a close encounter with hell! I don't want to be a journalist to cover war zones. That is not for me!

Foreigners Evacuate Sanaa

Most foreigners are packing up and leaving the capital city in anticipation of the worst. The Dutch, Japanese, French, Americans, British, Canadians, and many other nationalities have left the country. Many others are gearing up to go.

The spectre of civil war continues to haunt the country, although many observers believe the fighting will remain basically limited to the institutional armed forces and will not spill over to the civilian population. Nevertheless, some involvement of the tribes is already visible.

Some of the foreigners did not want to go. They were forced by regulations from their countries.

The exodus of the foreigners represents an ominous development for the country. It also represents a heavy loss to the country's economy.

Djibouti and other regional capitals have received the foreigners. Aden and Hodeidah have been the embarkation points, although special flights into Sanaa also collected the foreigners.

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