

## Assassination attempt of opposition leader

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Feb. 6 – An assassination attempt against Islah Party leader, Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmer, failed on Saturday night according to his media office.

The attack happened at around 9pm as Al-Ahmer was on his way back from the preparatory committee meeting of the National Dialogue Committee. Al-Ahmer's bodyguards noticed a car with government plates and two people inside following them in the streets, according to a statement made on Sunday by Al-Ahmer's media office.

After Al-Ahmer arrived home he sent three of his bodyguards to check the street. The bodyguards were attacked near his house by 30 armed men traveling in government cars, who opened fire on Al-Ahmer's men.

Al-Ahmer's secretary, Fauzi Al-Jaradi, told the Yemen Times that no one was killed in the attack, but Al-Ahmer's car was riddled with bullets.

"The bodyguards managed to hide in some buildings in the area," said Al-Jaradi. "The ruling party said that they were attacked by our men to mislead the people."

Central Security came to the scene of the attack and informed the Interior Minister, according to Al-Jaradi. "We are still waiting for the results of the investigation."

Al-Ahmer is the county's leading critic of the ruling GPC and one of the opposition Islah Party leaders, Yemen's largest opposition party. He has publicly doubted the credibility of Saleh's latest offers to the parliament last Wednesday. Saleh said last week that neither he or his sons will run for the presidency in 2013.

"The president is passing on the country to his son. He forgot to tell the military that he has handed the rule of the military to him already, which is against the constitution," said Al-Ahmer in the Al-Sahwa newspaper last month.

On Saturday, the Defense Ministry website was cited as saying that a group of Al-Ahmer's armed men had attacked the house of Sana'a governor and Khawln tribal Sheikh, No'man

Dowaid. They said that one person was killed and three injured. Four vehicles full of armed men reportedly took part in the attack. The governor's security personnel held two of the four cars and confirmed to the Interior Ministry that they belong to Al-Ahmar.

Last week, Dowaid accused Al-Ahmer at a pro-government rally on Thursday of earning his money from "plundering public property." Dowaid's Khawlan tribe apologized to Al-Ahmer on his behalf in the traditional tribal way, by offering jambiyas and gifts to the Islah Party leader.

On Thursday, during pro-government demonstrations, leaflets were distributed detailing Al-Ahmer's properties. They compared his lifestyle to that of the lavish former Tunisian first lady, Leila Trabelsi. Some pro-government websites, such as Al-Biea Press, published that Al-Ahmer had escaped from Sana'a after ordering his guards to attack Dowaid. They also reported that his political immunity would be taken away by the parliament.

Senan Al-Ajji, a parliamentarian from the ruling party, confirmed to the Yemen Times that it's all rumors and nothing is true. "We have no information of what they published and we never discussed what they say we did," said Al-Ajji.

## University protestors released

By Malak Shaher



Around thousands of Yemeni protesters (above) attend a rally demanding to oust their President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sanaa last Thursday.

During the same day a similar number of pro-regime protesters marched throughout Sanaa to back President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

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# University protestors released

By: **Malak Shaher**

SANA'A, Feb. 6 – Security forces arrested four demonstrators in front of the gates at Sana'a University on Friday afternoon. The demonstrators were released on the same day after they pledged not to participate in demonstrations, carry arms, promote chaos, attack or plunder shops, or disturb public tranquility.

The four demonstrators were the remains of the 20,000 protesters, gathered on Thursday, calling for President Saleh to step down. After the demonstrators left the stage at 1 pm on Thursday, nearly 50 students from Sana'a University stayed on into the night, according to Redhwan Maso'd, head of the Student's Union. The next day, only eight remained, and four stayed until the afternoon.

Maso'd told the Yemen Times that the protesters formed a public movement calling itself the 3rd February Movement. According to Maso'd, the security apparatus called him regarding their investigation of the demonstrators. Maso'd told them that they do not represent any movement but themselves.

"In the beginning we were asked to leave the place but we refused," said Hasem Al-Abbara, 24, one of the four arrested. "The security forces raised their batons hinting that they may use them, so we went with them." Despite the fact that he and his friends thought they would be beaten by the security forces, Al-Abbara said that they were treated differently at the police station.

"They came with batons in their hands and we were led to the police station," said Al-Abbara. "However, we were totally respected in the station and we were even served food."

In the station, Al-Abbara said that the soldiers allowed them to use a cell phone. He said that they called the HOOD organization for Defending Human Right to help get them out of the station. According to Musa Al-Numairi, a lawyer at HOOD, some 20 people, including journalists, university professors and human rights activists, gathered on Friday in front of the 14 October police station, where the four demonstrators were being held. The group organized a sit-in demanding the release of those arrested.

Al-Numairi said that half an hour after they organized the sit-in, the four were released and there were no verbal or physical clashes with the soldiers or anyone from the station. Much to their surprise they were told to ask for whatever they wanted and that their requests would be fulfilled.

The four young people are members of a new movement calling itself the 3rd February Movement. The movement is public and open to all Yemenis. Al-Abbara is a student in his second year at the Faculty of Commerce at Sana'a University. According to Al-Abbara, the three arrested with him included: a graduate university student, Iscandar Shamsan, a soldier from Aden, Raidan Al-Aqil, and Makeen Al-Aqili, 19, from Ibb, who dropped out from school to work and

support his family.

Al-Abbara said the head of the police station, Yahya Al-Akwa', would not initially release the soldier, Raidan Al-Aqil. However, the other three refused to leave without him as they were all arrested together and Al-Aqil had been protesting unarmed.

Al-Akwa' alleged that Al-Aqil was supporting the Southern Movement and had been calling for succession from the north since 2007. They further alleged that Al-Aqil had been urging the students to rebel against Saleh's regime, according to Maso'd.

However, Al-Abbara and Maso'd claim that Al-Aqil was unarmed and was just "expressing his feelings and demanding for a better life." Al-Aqil said that he hadn't been paid for nine months and that's why he was participating in the protest.

"I will continue protesting and will participate in the demonstration as I am a Yemeni and want a better life," said Al-Aqil. "I will participate in the coming demonstration on Thursday."

Last Thursday's demonstrations were held by the opposition Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) calling on President Saleh to step down. Recent protests in Yemen have been inspired by uprisings in Tunisian and Egypt, but have so far remained peaceful.

A pro government demonstration occurred simultaneously on Thursday in Tahrir Square, Sana'a. About 20,000 protesters, many waving placards with

the image of President Saleh, also attended this peaceful demonstration.

The concerns of Sana'a University students

Since the beginning of the demonstrations in Yemen, the concerns of Sana'a University students have been rising, as the yard at Sana'a University has been used for the anti-government demonstrations in Sana'a.

Despite the fact that many protesters are students themselves, many fear that the university will not be a safe place for examinations. The first semester examinations for 12 colleges are starting this Saturday.

Last Thursday, students from the Faculty of Languages had their examinations delayed until the following week, as many feared clashes would occur between protesters and the security forces near the university campus.

"We went at 2 pm to for our exam, but the university gate was closed and we were told to return home as the examination was delayed," said Reem Hasan, 19, a first year student at the Faculty of Languages at Sana'a University. Hasan said that she was scared as she saw a military vehicle in front of the university gate recently.

Students of Sana'a University, especially female students, are concerned that the university is being used as a stage for demonstrations instead of study. Other students believe, however, that the university will be the gates to freedom.

## In Brief

### SANA'A

#### Training for female candidates running for parliamentary elections

A three-day training course on the legal procedures for female candidates in the parliamentary elections began in Sana'a on Saturday. The training course, organized by the Women's National Committee in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) aims to train 20 female candidates from different governorates on the international principles of free and fair elections, the relevant international conventions and Yemeni legislation and regulations, as well as election nomination procedures.

### AL-MAHARA

#### Narcotic pills seized in Yemen

Yemeni forces arrested two men with 840 narcotic pills in the eastern Yemeni governorate of Al-Mahara, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday. In a press release posted on its website, the Ministry said that the arrested men are being investigated over a drugs matter.

In 2010, seven court rulings regarding drug matters were issued and 11 Yemenis and three Saudis were convicted. The sentences included the death penalty and 25 years imprisonment. Nearly 38.5 tons of hashish have been seized between 2006 and 2010, according to an official security report. Over the same period, over 17.7 million narcotic pills have been seized. The smuggling of drugs through the territory of Yemen to Saudi Arabia has escalated during the past four years, and at the beginning of 2010 had reached an unprecedented level. About 26 tons of hashish and 1,411 narcotic pills were seized in 2009, involving 20 cases with 35 defendants including four foreigners. Yemen is ranked first in the Arab world for the quantity of drugs seized during 2008 and 2009.

### SA'ADA

#### Workshop on the protection of children in armed conflicts

A special workshop to help protect children from trafficking and armed conflicts was organized on Friday in Sa'ada governorate. The workshop was supported by the European Union, in which 25 local officials in Sa'ada discussed working papers on the importance of protecting children from the risk of smuggling and armed conflicts as well as the consequent social and psychological problems faced by children in the future. At the opening of the workshop, Sa'ada governor, Taha Hajer, pointed out the importance of organizing such activities to alleviate the negative psychological effects of conflict on children. He stressed the need for a concerted official and popular effort to improve the education, health and attention towards children, and expressed the readiness of the local authority of Sa'ada to offer services to "this important sector of society."

### INTERNATIONAL

#### US urges Yemeni security and demonstrators to avoid violence

The US on Saturday called on Yemeni opposition parties to avoid provocative actions and to respond to the initiative of President Saleh to solve differences through dialogue. In addition, the US called on all political forces to continue the national dialogue in order to reach an agreement serving the Yemeni people. A statement issued by the US Embassy in Sana'a said "We closely followed demonstrations in Yemen on February 2 and 3. Yemen's security organizations made significant efforts to exercise restraint with Yemeni demonstrators, although there were reports of a few isolated outbreaks of violence outside of Sana'a. We continue to urge Yemeni security organizations and demonstrators to refrain from violence and for the government to respect its citizens' right to peaceful assembly and expression."

#### Yemen takes part in IMO's meeting in London

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) on Thursday launched its plan for 2011 to reinforce international actions in combating maritime piracy. This came during the IMO's meeting, attended by Yemen's ambassador to Britain, Abdullah Al-Radhi, held in the UK capital, London. At the meeting, the United Nations' Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon commended the plan, pointing out that the UN Security Council gave considerable attention to the subject of piracy threats and had formed a working group to fight piracy in coordination with the IMO. The IMO's Secretary-General, Efthimios Mitropoulos, noted the international efforts to combat piracy, referring to the ongoing preparations for opening a regional center in Sana'a for the exchange of information on piracy.

## Review: President Saleh's emergency speech

Faced with the prospect of mass anti-government protests in Yemen, President Saleh called an emergency meeting of the parliament and the Shura Council.

Saleh delivered a speech to the parliament on Wednesday in which he set out a series of promised political reforms concerning his future plans as president, the upcoming parliamentary elections and planned changes to the Yemeni constitution.

Saleh's speech followed a string of economic concessions designed to pacify growing demands including: raising the salaries of the military and lowest paid civil servants, cutting the national income tax, waiving university tuition fees and extending Yemen's social welfare assistance.

Despite Saleh's statement, Yemen's opposition coalition, the JMP, went ahead with the planned day of protests which took place in major towns and cities across Yemen including Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb, Aden, Mukalla and Hajja. Here are some extracts from Saleh's speech

#### Concessions

"Regardless of the circumstances, I will make concessions one after the other for the sake of this nation. The interests of the homeland are above our interests as individuals, parties, groups, and commissions. It is a shame for us to destroy what we built. This is the parliament, let us hold dialogue to reach a common stand."

#### Dialogue

"Why destroy what we have accomplished during the last fifty years? Let's preserve it, talk and reach an understanding about the country," said the president. "I emphasize the call for dialogue and the resumption of dialogue. I will present some of the points so that we can work to heal this rift and restore cohesion, understanding and national reconciliation."

#### Egypt and Tunisia

"The public is led by certain powers to an unknown fate, similar to what is happening in Egypt and has happened in Tunisia. In the end, this will lead to chaos."

#### Yemen's political system

"Our political system is based on partisan political pluralism, freedom of the press, respect for human rights, and the constitution guarantees for the right of peaceful expression without hurting others."

#### Friends of Yemen

"Since the London conference was held in 2006, the government has not received any money from any of the donors, with the exception of Saudi Arabia which started delivering grants."

"I call for the Friends of Yemen at the upcoming Riyadh conference to establish a

fund to finance projects in Yemen in order to limit unemployment among the youth and stop extremism."

#### Key proposals from the speech:

- Neither President Saleh nor any of his sons will run for election at the next presidential elections in 2013.
- "There will be no extension of the presidential term and no dynastic succession, contrary to the reports that say otherwise. Hereditary rule in Yemen is unthinkable in my electoral program."
- A freeze on all changes to the constitution proposed by the GPC, which included reducing presidential terms from seven to five years, and abolishing the two-term limit, which would have allowed Saleh to run for re-election in 2013.
- April's parliamentary elections will be delayed to allow more time for electoral reform.
- A call for the opposition to freeze all planned demonstrations.
- "I call once again on the Islah Party and the JMP to freeze marches and sit-ins."
- Resumption of the duties of the quartet (electoral) committee which mediates between the General People's Congress and the opposition parties, to work on the schedule for parliamentary elections.
- "I call on the Quartet to resume its work, including both the GPC and JMP. I am very certain that the opposition will respond to this initiative which meets their demands."
- Re-open the electoral register so that people who have reached the legal age since the last count can register to vote.
- Regional governors will now be directly elected rather than indirectly elected by local councils.

## Education policy priorities discussed

By: **Ali Saeed**

SANA'A, Feb. 4 – Yemen's Ministry of Education teamed up with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Wednesday to discuss new ways of helping Yemen achieve its goal of "education for all by 2015."

Directors of education from across Yemen came to Sana'a to meet with officers from USAID and share ideas about how to best implement a basic and secondary education development strategy for 2011-2015.

A key priority is to increase enrollment rates amongst children aged 6 to 14 by ensuring there are schools in close proximity to where they live, said Hamoud Naji, general director of the planning sector at the Ministry. Other important concerns include ensuring equal access to education for those living in remote rural areas of Yemen, as well as catering for students with special needs.

Naji also wishes to increase girl's enrollment by educating parents on the importance of education, and by offering incentives such as food that encourage families to send their daughters to school.

The director told the Yemen Times that while the ministry is busy working on education development programs, they still lack "adequate funding on the ground." He added that ministry person-

nel were also in "urgent need of training."

The role of USAID, who organized Wednesday's workshop, is to build the capacity of Yemen's Education Ministry, and make it more responsive to the citizen's needs, said Abdul Karim Al-Aug, deputy chief of the Responsive Governance Program (RPG).

The four-year program with a budget

of USD 43 million started in June 2010, and aims to promote stability and reduce the chance of conflict in the country, according to Al-Aug.

This is one of four USAID RGP workshops organized in the past week. The others have included programs on decentralization, water policy, and agriculture.



The ministry of education said that one of its policy priorities is to build schools in locations closest to where population centred.

## Yemen's journalists demand good governance

By: **Nadia Al-Sakkaf**

SANA'A, Feb. 6 – Journalists from across Yemen joined forces on Sunday to work out how best to promote good governance in their country in a roundtable workshop organized by the World Bank, USAID Responsive Governance Program and the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate.

Most of the journalists present – from both state and private media outlets – expressed pessimism about the role Yemen's media can play in fighting corruption and promoting good governance.

Abdullah Al-Agri of Sana'a Radio explained that "if someone tries to talk about more sensitive topics, their livelihood is threatened and they may lose their job, so they continue with their own form of self-censorship."

Others were more positive in their outlook. Rajeh Badi, editor of Al-Sahwa, a newspaper affiliated with the Islah party, recommended ways to promote the media's role in good governance such as a separation of the legislative and judicial authorities, and the provision of complete independence to Yemen's judicial system.

A key player in improving Yemen's good governance is the USAID Responsive Governance Program (RGP), which works with government institutions to make them more open and receptive to enquires from the media and citizens.

"It is our goal to facilitate your discussions so that you make certain goals and priorities as to what you think the media can do to make this happen. We are

here to support you in those efforts," said Barry Reed, Chief of Party of the USAID Responsive Governance Program.

But there is also work being done to try and make the Yemeni media itself more responsive. The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate is currently working with USAID and the World Bank to make the media in Yemen more effective in responding to citizen's needs and in communicating with the government.

#### The need for 'branching out'

Yemeni journalists need to branch out and embrace audio media, an often ignored, though very effective way of reaching large numbers, according to Adnan Al-Sinwi, deputy editor of the daily Al-Siyasia newspaper of SABA News agency.

"Branching out" also needs to happen across sectors and not only demographics, according to Nabeel Al-Sofi, editor of NewsYemen, an independent news website.

"Our struggle has been mostly with the security apparatuses to prove that we can push the envelope. But what we need is to address issues in health, agriculture, education, etc. And we need the World Bank to bring us together with the officials that make decisions in these issues," said Al-Sofi.

There were also calls for more 'citizen's journalism' as a means to improving good governance. "Citizen's journalism allows society to contribute and have a say in the decisions drawing their future," said Amel Al-Ariqi, media officer of Oxfam-BG.

## 4U

If you wish to know more about the civil society coalition against corruption send an email to Arun Arya at [aarya@worldbank.org](mailto:aarya@worldbank.org).



## US concerns over proposed release of journalist Shaye'

By: Shatha Al-Harazy

SANA'A, Feb. 6 – US President Barack Obama expressed his 'concern' over the proposed release of Yemeni journalist Abdullah Shaye' in a telephone call with President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Wednesday Feb 2.

Obama, in a phone call with Saleh praising his recent political reforms, also discussed his 'concern' about the journalist who is close to leading Al-Qaeda member Anwar Al-Awlaki, according to a statement from The White House. Awlaki, an American born radical cleric is wanted by the FBI for acts of terrorism against the US.

Last Tuesday the Yemeni President Saleh issued a decree of pardon to Shaye', who was found guilty of being the 'media man' for Al-Qaeda. Shaye was sentenced five years in jail last month after being charged for "participating in an armed gang, having links with Al-Qaeda and for taking photographs of Yemen security bases

and foreign embassies to be targeted by the terrorist organisation."

Khaled Al-Anesi lawyer and activist told the Yemen Times that there were suspicions from the beginning that the US wanted him jailed and it was an American demand to arrest him. "This American interference insures that Yemen's dealing with terrorism is run by the US," said the lawyer.

The pardon, granted just two weeks after the verdict, was part of a package of concessions made by president Saleh in the last two weeks to win the people back and attempt to stop public demonstrations. Journalists from the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate and the '6th of Ramadan,' a group set up to defend Shaye', were calling on people to participate in public demonstrations in solidarity with the detained man.

"If they wanted to release him they would have released him immediately straight after the pardon was announced. This is a sign that they don't

want to set him free," said Al-Anesi.

Activist Hamoud Hazza'a from the Committee to Protect Journalists Freedoms (CTPJF) said that if Shaye' is not released soon then it will confirm that "the Yemeni government has no power in the country and they are only a follower of the US."

"We only want to make sure they release him, although the way he was arrested was wrong, the trial was wrong and the way he is being pardoned is also wrong," said Hazza'a.

The fact that the president can cancel a judge's verdict shows the judicial system in Yemen is not independent and that the president controls everything, according to Hazza'a.

"The US and the NGO's supported by the US are taking a negative stand against Shaye' as he exposed what happened in Al-Ma'jala," said Hazza'a, referring to the bombings of an Al-Qaeda training camp which killed 55 people including 14 alleged members of the terrorist organization in December 2009.



Diplomatic cables, released last year, revealed the US and not the Yemen government, as claimed at the time, carried out the attacks. Shaye' has so far spent six months in the political prison.

"This is an internal issue and we don't care what Obama or anyone else has to say. This is a gift from the President and we should respect our internal affairs," Sinan Al-Ajji, a member of the ruling party and the constitution committee, told the Yemen Times in a phone interview.

## Students organize further protests online

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Feb. 6— A group of young Yemenis are using Facebook, a social networking site, to call for further demonstrations next Thursday against President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the ruling GPC.

The protest is planned as a continuation of demonstrations organized by the coalition of opposition parties, the JMP, over the last two weeks calling for political reforms as well as an end to government corruption and poverty. So far nearly 300 people have signed up to the Facebook group.

"The students and youth don't trust political parties so instead they use Facebook to organize their protests.

I think their demonstrations will draw media attention," said Adnan Al-Rajehi, an unemployed graduate of Sana'a university media college.



Facebook page in support of the president (left) and facebook page demanding change (right)

Al-Rajehi believes that youth and student's initiatives are the successful route to change since students have "more

enthusiasm about change" than political parties and organizations.

"This idea is similar to what was done

in Egypt, where young people started the movement by using Facebook. The youth will make it in Yemen," said Ab-

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dul-razzaq Al-Azazi, another student at Sana'a University.

Al-Azazi called on students wanting to participate to bring blankets, pillows and study books and to hold their ground until Friday.

"People say Yemeni protests last only to the afternoon due to qat but we will disappoint them," Al-Azazi said.

Ahmed Saif Hashed, a renowned independent parliamentarian, told the Yemen Times that Yemen's youth is the only hope for change.

"I attribute the success of recent protests in Yemen to students and young people who are ready to face a repressive regime and go to prison in order to make their demands," Hashed said. "They are

even ready to die for freedom."

Hashed warned that any crackdown on protesters will lead to further demonstrations.

"A crackdown will create a positive reaction and make protesters arrange themselves in more effective way," he said.

The planned protests have stirred interest, at least among young people and students, many of whom have joined and commented on the facebook group.

Moath Obaid, a political science student, said in a comment on the group's facebook page that he "doesn't care about who will rule the country. He just wants the economic situation in Yemen to be better."

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# Yemeni reflections on elections and the country's future

By: Ola Al-Shami

Protests in Tunisia and Egypt have highlighted the role of ordinary people in making decisions concerning their future. The uprisings have shown that people have power when they take their demands to the streets. The Yemen Times explored the opinions of different people on the current situation in Yemen, what they expect from upcoming elections and the future.

**Abdul Hadi Al-Azazi, 37, geography masters student at Sana'a University:**

"Yemen lives between a past that it cannot shake off, a very late present, and a future that disappears into the horizon." He added that all political dialogs work to adjust modernism to fit the structures of the past, to adjust democracy to fit a totalitarian system.

"The long dialog period between the state and the opposition parties prove that both sides are in a crisis represented by not recognizing poverty. Thus, to get rid of this crisis they must believe in the strength of law rather than the strength of power, the movement from authority to government, achieving true citizenship, separating the three authorities, and converting the police into a civil institution," said Al-Azazi.

He believes that the coming years are promising, especially with the current events in Tunisia and Egypt. They reminded him of the French protests in 1968 led by youth, which resulted in a general strike of 11 million workers. Al-Azazi thinks the future belongs to young people: "The youth will get the power and leadership, and they will break the barriers of fear forever."

Al-Azazi believes that the winds of change are coming and that totalitarian governments will not be able to defeat the public. "We wish for a real change where our leader treats us like citizens not servants. We want him to fulfill all the promises of his social contract."

He added that the change must improve the human rights of the public such as the right to life, to education, to work and to be healthy. And he refused any change from the military ruling system that doesn't improve civil life and head towards modernity.



**Afra'a Ojail, 20, secretary**

"I do not understand politics, but the current situation is fine. People have to work hard and focus on their studies in order to be promoted in life and in work."

She expects that in ten years time the number of young people chewing qat will increase and there will be a new President. Ojail hopes that more job opportunities will be available for young people and that the elected politicians fulfill their promises to the people.

**Monir Al-Zaghrori, 39, officer in the Ministry of Health and Population:**

"Yemen is a democratic country. If the opposition chooses not to participate in elections it is their right to do so, because the elections are for all the nation and in the end the ballot box is the judge."

Al-Zaghrori believes that Yemen can be better when rid of corruption and both the opposition and government

combine to address it. "Yemen has many resources that could be invested to reduce poverty and create many job opportunities." Al-Zaghrori said that the government must face corruption and work to end it.



**Mohammad Thabit Mohammad, 19, qat seller:**

"I do not understand politics and I don't care about the elections, however, I want the president to help me pay for my wedding."

Thabit said that if current conditions continue in Yemen, it will get worse for him and he will never get married.



**Mirzah Ghanim, 48, cafeteria worker, Sana'a:**

"The elections are a big trick because the level of education is weak in Ye-

men and most of the people are illiterate. Anyone can sell them words. The evidence is that Ali Abdullah Saleh has ruled for 33 years."

**Takiah Al-Khatari, 39, land seller**

"Yemenis have to be satisfied with the current situation because we do not have a better choice. At least the current president leaves everyone to his affairs and does not attack people's beliefs or sects."

Al-Khatari believes that change cannot be made by words, but happens when the people are well educated and when they know exactly what they want. She doesn't think there will be much change in ten years and expects that half of Yemenis will be growing qat and the other half chewing it.

Al-Khatari hopes that more women will gain seats in parliament because they are the ones who will work on fulfilling and empowering the position of women in society. She adds that previous women in power in the ministries had promoted a good role model for girls – to be well educated and to wish for high career positions.



**Abdulwahab Naji, a Yemeni oil company employee:**

"Either the government must be rational and the opposition work on the real demands of the public, or this govern-

ment must leave and let the opposition take the reins. Then a real power will appear amongst the public to lead the country towards change."

According to Naji the current ruling system will leave and a truly national representative power will take its place. He believes it will improve and change the country into a real democracy.



**Dr. Mohammad Al-Kamali, 44, surgeon:**

Al-Kamali criticized the absence of transparency in the dialog between the two sides. "The elections are not the problem. Both the government and the opposition must find solutions for the problems into which the community is sinking, such as poverty and unemployment." He believes that the solution is that politicians must forget about the personal gains from being in power and to recognize that changes are going to take place. "They will be forgotten if they do not take an active role by meeting the public's demands and needs."

However, Al-Kamali expects that Yemen will be better in ten years, either with the present government or without it. In light of the regional and international changes, the future will be better whether the government likes it or not, or it will face pressures from inside the country or from the outside.

Al-Kamali said: "The experience of a ruling military has proved a failure in the Arab world during the past 30 years, and the time has come for countries to be led by qualified civilians."

**Mohammad Al-Ba'dani, 32, mass communications college graduate, Sana'a University:**

"The solution is in a real and truthful dialog between the two sides – the opposition and the government." He added that the president has yet to fulfill and achieve his previous election promises.

He believes that for a better future the opposition parties need to put pressure on the ruling GPC to make political reforms and to work hard to create real development. He added that if both the opposition and the government did not enhance development in the country, they should hand over power.



**Mohammad Hameed Al-Qubati, researcher and English teacher:**

"The ruling party has taken too many personal benefits from the country's resources and destroyed the economy and education. It's created a large group of people who depend on the state, which protects corruption." He added that the split amongst the opposition parties is increasing all the time.

Al-Qubati also believes that the current changes in other countries – the success of the Jasmine Revolution in Tunisia and the uprising in Egypt – are indications that the public's power must be respected.

Al-Qubati is unsure about the future. He thinks the policy of spreading poverty and ignorance, which the ruling party follows in running the country, plus the lack of agreement among the opposition parties, make it difficult to see a positive future for Yemen.

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Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
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OUR  
OPINIONAnger day  
management

The hype about Yemen's protests on Thursday was much greater than the actual event. It was called Anger Day, and many politically indifferent citizens of Sana'a stockpiled food and water, and prevented their children from going to school in anticipation of violent riots.

Yemenis in general are peaceful people. Considering that almost everyone is armed and yet not many incidents generally take place, one could say that Yemenis know a thing or two about arms control.

I am saying this because considering that there is no real rule of law and no respect for the state's security institutions, we are still functioning relatively well as a civilized community.

The one incident in recent history where actual anger took place in the streets was in July 2005, when hundreds of people marched in the streets of Sana'a vandalizing public and private property. The protests were against the price hikes triggered by an almost 300 percent increase in fuel prices.

Although the protesters at the time were far fewer compared to the protests we have had recently, especially those on Thursday where tens of thousands of Yemenis demonstrated, in 2005 it was much scarier.

I remember looking out from the Yemen Times roof and seeing angry men with sticks in their hands bashing everything they came across. There was a sense of giddy frenzy that gave them energy and strength to actually climb up traffic lights or break the iron barriers separating the two way traffic on Hadda Street.

Eventually 13 men were reported killed and more than 50 injured.

At that time, the state sent its tanks into the streets and we saw a scene similar to that in Cairo today, albeit on a much smaller scale in numbers and intensity.

However, the day termed as Anger Day last week was actually very peaceful and respectful in general. In fact, the whole protest did not last more than three hours and well before noon people had started packing up and leaving.

What is most impressive, in my opinion, is the management of both protests. For once, credit must go to the state for taking measures to ensure the protest did not get out of hand. Having security men spread across the streets, although strange, was actually comforting. It was good to know that if anyone, whether for or against President Saleh, wanted to get violent, he would be stopped.

I also heard that security had launched an intensive campaign to collect used and old car tires from car mechanic shops. I hate the smell of burning rubber. I am grateful that security took this precaution to make sure no one got the opportunity to burn some old tires in protest.

The two protesting parties, the pro- and anti- Saleh groups, conducted themselves well. They stayed well apart and made sure clashes or acts of violence did not take place.

I am still not convinced that either of the demonstrations were 100 percent genuine. But in all cases I am proud at the anger management of Anger Day.

**Nadia Al-Sakkaf**

## A day in the life of a Yemeni revolutionary

By: Isobel Coleman  
Council of Foreign Relations

“The second Jasmine Revolution will take place in Yemen,” Tawakul Karman announces confidently. “In fact, it has already started.” Tawakul, an activist and young mother of three, has been leading student protests at Sana'a University for the past week. Hundreds of demonstrators gather at the university gates each morning, holding placards of Che Guevara and chanting slogans like “Where is our loaf of bread?” and “No studies, no teaching until the president is out.” The president, of course, is Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen's longest serving president who has been in power since 1978. Police have kept the demonstrations contained, roughing up protesters and detaining numerous people. Tawakul, however, is determined. “We won't stop,” she insists, “until the corrupt government is gone.”

After demonstrating all morning, Tawakul rushes to the Ministry of Interior to try to win release of four detained students. She leaves empty-handed, returning home to check on her children and change in between events. As I arrive at her house, her influential father, a former minister known for his honesty within a notoriously corrupt government, is just leaving. “He came to try to convince me to tone things down. The government is putting pressure on him to pressure me. But I won't stop,” she says simply.

Tawakul exudes a breathless sense of optimism, sometimes bordering on cockeyed. “The authorities won't arrest me since they know it will only spark more protests,” she says. She is also convinced that Yemen is on the verge of peaceful change. “Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution has motivated the youth in Yemen because we can feel hope. We can see the possibility of change at minimal cost.” She claims that thousands of students have been joining her at the protests every day, although the crowds seem smaller to me. She compares today's movement to Yemen's 1962 revolution which overthrew the monarchy. All of the

same conditions hold true still: endemic poverty and disease, a lack of education, corruption. “The country is a failing state. We protestors are trying to rescue it. The current situation is so bleak, but Tunisia reassures people of their own power.”

A member of the main Islamist opposition party Islah, Tawakul used to wear a full face-covering veil, but dropped that when it began to get in the way of her activism. She now wears just the headscarf. Today she wears a plain black abaya with beaded cuffs and a pink, flowered scarf. Other days she dresses head-to-toe in bright pink. When I question her about what type of government she imagines the student demonstrations could deliver, she answers without hesitation: democracy. “After Saleh, civil society and human rights must be given priority. Although I belong to an Islamic party, no way am I for a religious government. I am for a secular system, where the rights of all are protected.” Members of Sana'a's secular elite, however, remain suspicious of Islah's intentions, fearing that it would seize any opportunity to impose an Islamic theocracy on the country.

In 2010, Tawakul was nominated for a US State Department Woman of Courage Award, but didn't win. “I didn't deserve to win. There were other women on the list who had done more courageous things than I. Not until I help bring down this government do I deserve any recognition.” During Hillary Clinton's recent visit to Yemen, Tawakul had her photo taken with the Secretary of State and posted it online. “People now chide me that I'm the Ahmed Chalabi of Yemen - an American puppet,” she jokes, seeming to take some pleasure in being the center of a political conspiracy theory. Unlike other Arab activists, who were harshly critical of the United States' lackluster response to the protests in Tunisia, she lauds President Obama for his support. “He clearly sided with the dignity and unity of Tunisians. We will show him that Yemenis are even more determined, and more civilized.”

As I am leaving, a more somber Tawakul walks me to the door. “I know they will shut down my organization if I continue. Then they will arrest me. They will also probably kill me in prison. But I won't stop. I am determined.”

## Will he stay or will he go?

By: Brian O'Neill

Always judged guilty blog

Obviously, the biggest question in Yemen right now is: will the protests work? Will Ali Abdullah Saleh, who so recently seemed to be ensuring the permanent continuation of his regime, go the way of Tunisia? These are heady times in Yemen, and I don't think it is wise in such a fluid situation to make predictions. So, a couple of thoughts.

1. Saleh has shown himself in the past to be a master of manipulating discontent in order to deflect blame. But I think this time he is reacting in a pretty clumsy and transparent matter. The arrest of Tawakul Karman, and her release, seemed pretty ham-handed. Greg calls it a kidnapping, which shows again why he is the best. Saleh was playing by ancient rules, hoping an arrest could force negotiations. He

seemed to not understand the way she could easily turn into a martyr rather than a bargaining chip.

2. Saleh has intoned several times that “Yemen is not Tunisia”, probably a way of saying that Yemenis are more peaceful and won't overturn a leader outside of the ballot box, a strange take on history. In doing this, he is trying to appeal to a sense of justice. This is clever, but also a little blind - Tunisia is an inspiration, not a cautionary example (it could be the latter, depending on how things turn out, but revolutionary times are heady ones, and changing the present is more important than a potential messy future).
  3. But then again, Yemen is not Tunisia. Yemen doesn't have the same middle class or educational system of Tunisia (relatively speaking). These are key ingredients in a successful revolution, or at least one that won't be followed by blood and the domination of a strongman.
  4. Greg also pointed this out, in mentioning that Saleh has increased the pay for civil servants. “Although one has to ask: if the important thing in Yemen is - as so many including myself believe - jobs, then how will raising the salaries of those with jobs satisfy those with no jobs?” It won't, but I humbly don't think that is the point. It isn't about appeasing the protestors. As much as we like to believe that a concerted wave of protests can alone topple the government, it doesn't work that way. The single key ingredient is the loyalty of the security forces. These salary raises are a way of trying to buy that loyalty - indeed, he is raising the pay of the forces around \$23 a month - not insignificant.
- This will bring up the big question, assuming the protests continue (a big, but reasonable assumption): how much loyalty will this buy? Money is important, but there will come a time when Saleh might ask his men to really open fire on kids in the street. The world has turned on whether or not soldiers can do this - one commander who refuses is enough to change everything. And that is the most unpredictable factor in the world. There are a million models and even more hypotheses about how this can go, but in the end Saleh's survival will come down to the conscience of people whose names we might never learn.

## COMMON SENSE

The dark side of  
Obama's legacy  
coming to light

America, the land of the free and the brave, has for all extents and purposes lost any semblance of genuine international citizenship as a champion of human rights and freedom. In a world of rapid communications and so many diverse avenues of electronic social contact, telling dictators of the likes of Hosni Mubarak simply to restore internet and telephone lines without any firewalls or censorship, is no more than a wipe of the hands of not doing something - an assurance to all naive observers that Barack Obama has done all that was in his power to ensure that US puppets in the region show some degree of civilized behavior when dealing with their subjects.

There is no question in anyone with some cerebral matter in their head that the hundreds of thousands of Egyptians who have been repressed and stepped on beyond any human capability to withstand for the last third of the century, as is the case for the people in most of the Arab States, are exercising their legitimate right to find relief from this ugly blanket of totalitarian authoritarian rule that hovers above the skies of the Middle East, especially in the Arab World. This is healthy and recognized worldwide as a clear sign of a society's cultural and social maturity and in keeping with the gradual anticipated course of human development as laid out in the Millennium Development Goals and commensurate with the broad range of progress that most spheres of human knowledge and in the establishment of just social cohesive systems the world is currently experiencing. For sure, the people, who decided to follow through with their more fortunate Tunisian brothers, had no illusions about the awesome danger they will be subjected to from a regime that has unabashedly carried out what it believes is the right to absolute autocratic governance over the course of people's lives that defies any rational explanation in the context of progressive concepts that underlie the application of the social contract of modern government as understood by most civilized people claiming any degree of political and social awareness. For a week, the thousands of brave Egyptians have raised their voices high that they really deserve better than to continue to live under one of the most corrupt socio-political-social and authoritarian regime that Egypt has ever known since the days of the Pharaohs. Even the rule of the “Slave” Sultans or “Mamelukes” who prevailed in Egypt during the early centuries of the last Millennium was far more humane than the Mubarak regime (and that of the other similar regimes in the region). With the regime relying on the latest of scientific and technological advances of repression and political slavery, the Mubarak regime insisted that its mandates allowed its cronies to use any means necessary to ensure that their will - and only their will - is the rule of law to be submitted to by all the people of Egypt and to be recognized by the world at large. For the world at large, one cannot help but realize that the will of the indigenous people of this region is not to have any resonance in Western ears. This sad turn of events in the Middle East, just when most people among the Arab masses are beginning to feel that the rip-off they have had to submit to for over half a century of “revolutionary” regimes, clearly underlies the strong feeling among the people in the Arab “street” that this rip-off actually existed and is allowed what appears to be perpetual sustainability, thanks to the blessings of the democratic West and the unfailing support of the United States and her pet puppy in the region, Israel.

Under the guise of preventing “religious extremism” and any semblance of Islamic political agendas, as mostly falsely perceived and propagated by the International Zionist Establishment and its agents, who operate amidst the political configurations of most Western countries, for whatever political returns that come with such unfaltering support for the Zionist agenda, the West continues to emphasize, subtly by words and unabashedly by deed, that there is no room for political and civil freedom for the overwhelming majority of the people of the Middle East. Surely, there is a clear taint of hypocrisy in political orientation by the self declared champions of human rights and political justice, the West claims to be. For Israel, the recent repression in Cairo and in many other Egyptian cities, which was undoubtedly engineered by Washington, to ensure the longevity of rule through a gauntlet course, manned by some of the most mischievous elements in Egyptian society, was a God-sent gift delivered by the now most indiscernible American leader, the White House has ever taken in. For all his faults - as many as they were - one must admit that George Bush the Younger, was much more predictable than his successor, notwithstanding the former having quite a few disagreeable traits. Of course, political freedom and democracy in the Arab World is the most feared environment for Israel to have to live in, because the execution of the political will of most of the Arab constituencies is tantamount to the eminence of the end of Israeli free will in the region. The holiday that Israel has enjoyed since its creation and especially with the creation of the repressive military/autocratic regimes that stand at the helms in most of the Arab States by the West, is bound to end, since the “moderate” regimes of Hosni Mubarak and his counterparts in the rest of the Arab World will not be able to secure the longevity of the greatest human injustice of modern statecraft, personified by the establishment and upholding of the most notorious violator of human rights, in the midst of the region that brought and propagated peace, civility, human rights and social justice under different social and spiritual clouds throughout the world. No one is suggesting that the Arab armies will march on Jerusalem, once Hosni Mubarak and his fellow dictators are removed. However, it is about time the Israelis start to seek avenues for better coexistence with its neighbors, with a lesser reliance on the direct or indirect support of regimes like the Mubarak regimes, and with more obvious recognition for mutual respect and adherence to more humane principles in dealing with the people it has dislocated and robbed of all sense of being human beings, while applying the most inhumane principles of subjugation and illegitimate territorial occupation.

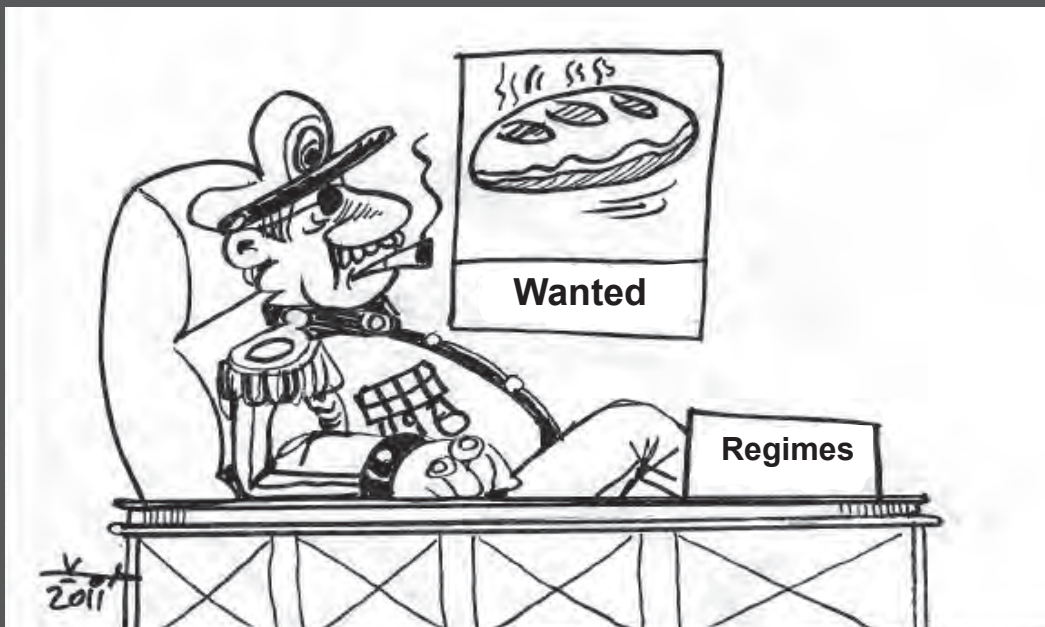
Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. His blog may be read at: <http://com-senfromyem.blogspot.com>



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid



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# Israeli or Palestinian? Umm Al-Faham residents are divided

## Straddling the Israel-West Bank border, the town has conflicting loyalties

**By: Arie O'Sullivan  
& David E. Miller  
The Media Line**

The narrow streets of Umm Al-Faham, one of the largest Arab towns in Israel, are steep as they wind up the hillside of the town that sits in a topographical bowl overlooking the biblical Plain of Jezreel.

The 50,000 residents of this town of cinderblock houses and large golden-domed mosques are on the literal edge of the Western democratic state of Israel. An hour's drive from Tel Aviv, rubbing shoulders with what may be the future Palestinian state in the West Bank on the other side of the nearby fence.

"We love our Palestinian brothers, but we are citizens of this state," Bader Husari, a retired contractor tells The Media Line as he sits outside a cafe overlooking the main street. "We're not livestock that can be traded. We are human beings, worthy of rights."

Like most of the 1.5 million Arabs living in Israel, Husari is torn between identities. They hold Israeli citizenship, but regard themselves Palestinian in nationality. They are comfortable living in the "Jewish state," where their roots are deep and they enjoy social benefits, even if they regard themselves as second-class citizens.

But for some of the 5.7 million Jewish Israelis, they represent a threat to the vision of a true Jewish state and need to be excised out.

A growing number of Israeli lead-

ers have been espousing redrawing the boundaries of the state that would cut out towns like Umm Al-Faham from Israel and make them part of a future Palestine. The proposal, pushed mainly by Foreign Minister Avigdor Leiberman, is mainly motivated by a desire to ensure a large Jewish majority, but it would require stripping the Arabs of their Israeli citizenship.

Liberal Israelis have decried the plan as racist, but the leak of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiation details have shown that even centrist leaders like Tzipi Livni, Israel's former foreign minister and today head of the largest political party in Israel, also discussed the idea with Palestinian leaders.

National aspirations notwithstanding, most people in Umm Al-Faham and others lying intimately close to the West Bank, reject the idea. Not because they don't identify themselves as Palestinians, but because they wouldn't want to forfeit the economic benefits like pensions, child allowances and healthcare they are entitled to living in Israel.

Umm Al-Faham is the economic, social and religious center of the area known as the "triangle" of Arab towns around the Wadi Ara valley. Ironically, it was part of the West Bank until the Jordanians traded it to Israel in the 1949 armistice agreement and the village elders signed an oath of allegiance to the State of Israel. Its recent history has been characterized more by angry protests in solidarity with the Palestinians. When the second intifada broke out in 2000, confrontations between protestors and police at the town's entrance left three dead and over 100 injured. It is the hotbed of the Israel's Islamic Movement, led by radical firebrand Sheikh Raed Salah.

“We are under attack from the Is-

raeli establishment," says Hamed Aghbariyah, editor in chief of *Swat Al-Haq Wal-Hurriyah*, or "voice of truth and freedom," the mouthpiece of the Islamic Movement. "There's great fear all over the world from the return of Islam into people's lives."

Aghbariyah, his beard trimmed and his clothes tailored, speaks fluent Hebrew, but prefers to be interviewed in Arabic. Adorning the wall is a faded photo of wheelchair-bound Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the Palestinian Hamas leader assassinated by Israel in 2004. Aghbariyah says he isn't at all concerned about being cut out of Israel and annexed to a Palestinian state.

"A Palestinian state ...will never be," Aghbariyah tells The Media Line. "This country is not wide enough to accommodate two states for two peoples, so annexation will never happen."

And yet, Umm Al-Faham is an Arab town in Israel. The people identify with being Palestinian and the idea of losing their citizenship makes some of them a little nervous

"Israel cannot give up Umm Al-Faham. Umm Al-Faham's people built the state and all the buildings in Tel Aviv. We enjoy a great life in the State of Israel. What could we ever do in the Palestinian Authority?" asks Muhammad Mahmeed, as he paused during a card game at a small kiosk.

Qasem Aarda, 62, is adamant that he definitely doesn't want to be subject to the Palestinian Authority (PA), the entity formed by the Oslo accords to govern Palestinians in the West bank and Gaza Strip.

"I'm four years away from retirement, but I receive social security. Over there [in the PA] there's no social security and no anything," Aarda says. "Life here is better, since the state came into existence...It will take



decades before the Palestinian Authority becomes a state. Who knows if we'll live that long."

Khalil Aggharia is a member of the younger, more defiant and nationalistic generation of Israeli Arabs. An owner of a local hummus restaurant, he defines himself "a Palestinian living under Israeli occupation." For him, the main issue for Umm Al-Faham residents is not political alliance but land ownership.

"If they give us all of our land, they can annex us not only to the West Bank but to Jordan, as far as I'm concerned."

Jewish residents of the area, too, are not strong supporters of the idea. Hanan Erez, head of the neighboring Megiddo regional council, says it would be a mistake to sever the Wadi Ara region from Israel since it has served as the main highway from the coast to the Galilee since ancient

times.

"I think it's just talk by some people aimed at trying to show that they can solve demographic problems," Erez told The Media Line. "I'm not surprised that people of Umm Al-Faham want to remain Israeli citizens. This is their identity and they understand the benefits of being part of a pluralistic democratic state over being inside a Palestinian one."

High up on the hillside, occupying the three top floors of a nondescript building, is the Umm Al-Faham Art Gallery. Run by artist Said Abu Shakra, the gallery opened 15 years ago to bring more culture to the town of mostly farmers and construction workers.

"It's been a revolution here," Abu Shakra says, adding it is the only art museum in any Arab town in Israel. "We have turned Umm Al-Faham into the cultural center for all Israeli Ar-

abs, and Palestinian artists too.”

The gallery has drawn international acclaim and over 40,000 visitors last year, about half of them Israeli Jews. But Abu Shakra's main goal is to boost art in the Arab sector, a difficult challenge when most people are mainly concerned with feeding and clothing their families. Asked about national aspirations, Abu Shakra sighs, collects his thoughts and says:

"The folks in Umm Al-Faham have nationalist aspirations to see the Palestinian nation within the boundaries of an independent and free state. Those are our national aspirations, but ask us if we want to remain in Israel or not, 95% will prefer to remain."

"Israelis here need to see me as a bridge. I'm not a danger to anyone. My existence here is to live with dignity. If there is democracy here, then I use it to express myself without endangering anyone," Abu Shakra says.

## International Competitive Bidding Announcement

The Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology- Yemen International Telecommunications Company Limited (YITC) announces the following International Bid:

Bid No.	Project Name
Bid No. (YITC/2011) for the Management and Operating of Yemen International Telecommunication Company Limited (TeleYemen).	Management and Operating of TeleYemen Project

The project is Self-Financed by Yemen International Telecommunications Company Limited (TeleYemen).

Interested Bidders shall submit their written applications to purchase the Bid documents against a non-refundable amount of (\$200) during official working hours to the following addressee:

Yemen International Telecommunications Company Limited (TeleYemen)

Headquarter

Purchasing and Contracting Department

26 of September St.

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

www.teleyemen.com.ye

Deadline for purchasing Bid documents will be 21/5/2011

Bids shall be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes (the "envelope" name, project name, the Bid number, and the bidder name should be clearly marked on each envelope) as follows:

### First Envelope:

Shall contain the technical offer. It shall contain all documents and requirements specified in the Bid documents including the following:

- 1- A bank Guarantee either issued or confirmed by a local bank in the same draft included in the Bid document at a lump sum of (\$100,000) or limited Guaranteed 35 Dollars valid for (150) days from the opening date of the Bid, or a certified check for the same amount.
- 2- Copy of a valid registration or classification certificate.
- 3- Copy of the General Sales Tax Certificate + a valid Tax ID.
- 4- Copies of valid Social Security ID and the Zakat ID.

Foreign Companies are exempted from submitting the above mentioned documents and certificates (2-4). They are only required to provide official documents issued by their countries of origin.

### Second Envelope:

Shall contain a full financial proposal pursuant to the terms and conditions in the Bid document.

### Technical Bids Opening:

The technical envelope will only be opened in a public session attended by bidders or their representatives for recording basic data in full secrecy. Financial offers will be maintained unopened.

### Financial Bids Opening:

Financial Bids submitted by bidders whose technical offers meet the basic terms and conditions and get a successful technical score, will be opened at the opening of Financial Bids. The time and venue for the session will be clearly stated in the invitation.

### Deadline for Submission:

The deadline for Bid submission (Technical and Financial) and opening of technical Bids will be on Saturday 24th March, 2011 at 01:00 a.m. Received Bids after this date will be declined and will be returned as is.

Technical Proposals will be opened at the following address:

Yemen International Telecommunications Company Limited (TeleYemen)

Headquarter

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26 of September St.

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Interested Bidders can review the Bid documents before purchasing during official working hours within the sitting period of the Bid documents for a period of (40) day from the first date of announcement.

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وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات

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تعلن وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات، لشركة اليمنية للاتصالات العامة (تيلييمن) عن إلقاء المناقصة العامة الدولية التالية:

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- 3- صورة من شهادة ضريبة المبيعات - البطاقة الضريبية صادرة للمنشأة.
- 4- صورة من البطاقة الضريبية - البطاقة الضريبية صادرة للمنشأة.

استثنى الشركات الأجنبية من تقديم الوثائق والشهادات المشار إليها (2-4) ويتبقى تقديم الوثائق المطلوبة لهذه المناقصة من البلدان التي تنتمي إليها تلك الشركات.

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- آخر يوم دفع المصارف المصارف المالية والمصارف وقطع المصارف الفنية هو الصادة المالية على صياغتها من يوم السبت الموافق 26 مارس/2011 م، وأن تكون الصادة التي تراد بها دفع المبلغ وبمستأجلها مضمناً التسمية إلى اسمها.
- سيتم فتح المظاريف المالية مع الجهة المختصة بالنظر في الطلبات.

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يمكن للراغبين في المشاركة في هذه المناقصة الإطلاع على وثائق المناقصة قبل شرائها خلال الوقت الدوام للفترة الممنوحة لهذا الغرض والتي تبلغ لمدة (40) يوم من تاريخ نشر أول إعلان.

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# Interview with Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organization

Interview by Dr. Hamoud Al-Najjar

## How do you view the steps taken by Yemen in the context of its bid to join the World Trade Organization?

An accession process is a complex and challenging process, but with potentially huge rewards for trade growth and development. I must start by congratulating Yemen on having taken its accession to its quasi-final stage. Yemen will accede to the WTO under the Doha Declaration of November 2001 that has eased membership conditions for the world's poorest countries.

To become a WTO member, the acceding government must adapt its trade principles and policies to the WTO rules. Yemen has made substantial progress in satisfying the multilateral track of the process, although a number of issues remain to be settled through the legislative package that will now be examined by Yemen's parliament. Passing this legislative package would essentially put Yemen at the WTO's door.

In addition, accession also requires talks between the prospective new member and individual WTO members on market access. They are bilateral because different countries have different trading interests. These talks cover tariff rates and specific market access commitments, and other policies in goods and services. To date, Yemen has concluded bilateral market access negotiations with nine WTO Members that include Australia, Canada, China, the EU, El Salvador, Honduras, Japan, Korea, and the US. Bilateral negotiations are ongoing with Ukraine. Therefore, it is fair to say that Yemen has made tremendous progress on this front, almost sealing the bilateral portion of its accession deal too.

Once the final package is ready, it is presented to the WTO membership for its adoption. As things stand today, it could be a matter of weeks for Yemen to get there. I would say that all WTO members are cognizant of the need to

help Yemen join the Organization as soon as possible, given its status as a least-developed country. I am looking forward to soon being able to say "mabrouk" to my Yemeni friends.

## In the near future, what should Yemen do to complete the accession requirements?

It must close its bilateral negotiations with Ukraine, and have its Parliament approve the final legislative package that would satisfy the "multilateral track" of Yemen's accession negotiation. These are WTO essential moves to put Yemen closer to the WTO.

## Is it possible to close all pending issues related to Yemen's accession to the WTO in early 2011?

I believe it is doable. But this is, by and large, now in the hands of Yemen's very own Parliament.

## Yemen faces a number of challenges. Can Yemen benefit from its membership to the WTO to face these challenges, especially in its capacity as an LDC?

Yemen is acceding to the WTO under the "lighter" conditions that are typically extended to least-developed countries (LDCs). This has and will continue to facilitate its accession process until its very final stage. Once Yemen joins the WTO, I believe that Yemen will benefit tremendously, including from the soon to be concluded Doha Round of trade negotiations. Yemen, as an LDC, will not be required to make any further market access or subsidy concessions in the Doha Round, but would benefit from all the new market access opportunities in its export markets that would emanate from the Round. Yemen's entry to the WTO would also send an important signal to the international community on Yemen forming part of that community, and being an open environment for international investment and trade.

## What are the most important decisions or resolutions that are expected to be taken in the Doha Round.

The Doha Round is the most complex set of international commercial negotiations ever conducted. There are, roughly 20 topics under negotiation among 153 members. These issues include trade in agriculture, in manufactured goods, in services as well as a wide range of rules-based issues including reduction of fishery subsidies, trade and environment, trade and development issues and rules to smooth the transport of goods across borders. For the LDCs the Doha Round would mean being able to export their goods duty and quota free to rich countries and to many emerging countries. It would also mean fairer trading conditions for their cotton exports, which for many African countries represents a huge source of income. It is very difficult to say which of these issues, or the many sub-issues each contains, is the most important because every country has a different perspective. But perhaps the most important gain we would achieve from a Doha deal is an injection of stimulus into the global economy and strengthening of the global trading system against protectionist pressures.

As things stand today, it could be a matter of weeks for Yemen to get there.

## What are the sensitive topics at present in the Doha round?

To some extent all the topics are sensitive, but clearly some are more sensitive than others. I would say that agriculture and industrial goods trade are probably the most sensitive issues on the table. They have been debated the most intensively and have drawn the greatest attention of ministers, senior officials and

ambassadors. Agriculture is important for virtually all WTO members either as an offensive issue or a defensive issue. In many developing countries agriculture represents more than 50 percent of economic output and employment and many developing country governments believe that trade distorting subsidies in agriculture are deeply injurious to developing country farmers. Many developing country farmers can compete with farmers anywhere, but they cannot compete against rich country treasuries. Industrial goods trade is another sensitive topic because some developed countries would like to see big emerging countries open their markets further to manufactured exports in sectors like chemicals, machinery, electronics or medical products. Opening up trade in services is another hugely important issue for many WTO members, given that services represent a growing part of their economies. It is also important to note the growing south-south dimension of the Round, and the potential of tearing down barriers to trade among developing countries.

## In order to close the gap between the members, can there be remedies to these problems in the near future?

I believe so. Governments have shown renewed commitment and energy to the Doha negotiations in recent weeks. The strong signals of political support that came last month from G-20 leaders in Seoul and APEC leaders in Yokohama were very welcome. They indicated very strongly their desire to conclude the negotiations in 2011. The negotiations have now resumed in Geneva around a program of work which would allow a conclusion of the Round in 2011. It is now time to "walk the talk" and reach compromises to that end. This is an ambitious agenda and it will be difficult for sure. But it is doable, provided there is the necessary political energy.

## In case negotiations fail. What do you think the consequences will be for global trade?

The WTO will not collapse. We would still have a strong system of international trade rules agreed over more than 60 years. We would still have our highly respected dispute settlement and trade policy monitoring systems. But it would be a huge missed opportunity to inject greater openness, equity and modernization to our trading system. I believe failure to conclude the Doha Round would be a huge missed opportunity in terms of the hundreds of billions of dollars in income gains we could inject into the struggling global economy. And it would be a blow to

multilateralism. It would not bode well for other areas such as environment or macroeconomic issues where there is a huge need for international co-operation

## Do you believe that the Doha round will result in enhancing confidence in the international trading system?

There is not a doubt in my mind that it would.

## When do expect the Doha Round come to a conclusion?

This is a very difficult question and the answer to it lies firmly in the hands of our members. They have all said they want this Round to be concluded in 2011.

## There is concern among some of the developing countries arising from a lack of compliance by developed country to obligations made at previous rounds of negotiations... do you believe that those concerns are justified and can this issue be resolved.

I do not believe failure to implement existing obligations is a systemic problem for the WTO. In fact the compliance rate with WTO dispute settlement rulings is over 95 percent. There have only been a handful of instances in which WTO members have not yet implemented dispute settlement panel rulings.

## Some members of the WTO exercise big pressure in bilateral negotiations on countries seeking accession to WTO through tough demands. What role can your Excellency play to assist in such cases?

It is true that I sometimes hear complaints about so-called "excessive demands" being placed on acceding countries. In the case of least-developed countries we have very clear guidelines about the type of commitments that these countries should undertake. They must be commensurate with their levels of development and their ability to comply with these commitments. My sense is that WTO members have complied with these guidelines by and large. More generally, accessions are successful when the acceding countries see them as an opportunity to reform their domestic systems towards openness, stability and predictability. When internal reforms and WTO accessions



Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organization

can be synergized. As to the roles that the WTO Director General can play, it can offer its good offices and try to help bring about a solution when requested.

## With respect to trade and the environment, it is widely believed that liberalising trade can lead to the deterioration of the environment, what can the WTO and your Excellency do to help protect the environment.

The WTO provides flexibility for environmental protection. In fact, sustainable development is enshrined in the WTO's founding charter. WTO governments can take measures to protect the health and safety of humans, plants and animal, or the environment more generally, provided such actions are non-discriminatory and are truly designed to protect citizens rather than to protect companies.

Remember too that trade enables countries to specialize and to use resources more efficiently. If every country produced everything it consumes the world would waste many more resources than is the case today. True, transporting goods does leave a carbon footprint, but 90 percent of world trade moves by ship, which is the least polluting mode of transport. The world needs stronger rules to protect the environment and those rules are being crafted by governments through the United Nations. We support these efforts and our members will adapt to any new environmental agreement that emerges from this process, including on climate change. After all, our members are the same.

## Several international organizations have warned of the possibility of a "currency war" between the United States and China over exchange rates, what ramifications will that have on global trade?

I do not like to talk about wars in this context. The impact of exchange rate fluctuations is a topic for intensive debate among economists. I agree very much with what IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn has said that using currencies as a policy weapon can entail very negative consequences. After all it is the IMF which is charged with addressing currency issues. Our experience at the WTO is that problems of this nature are best dealt with multilaterally because exchange rates are linked with many other elements of policy making. Efforts aimed at organizing multilateral discussions on this issue should be encouraged. In fact President Sarkozy has already indicated his intention to place this issue at the heart of the upcoming G20. A currency depreciation can be seen as a monetary easing if the approach is to pump more money into the economy. This can have its advantages, but there are disadvantages as well. Today's global economy is driven to large extent by global supply chains and global production. A great many products manufactured today are built with inputs from other countries. Depreciation of the domestic currency raises the cost of those inputs and this can put domestic producers at a competitive disadvantage as well. In sum, to address currency issues, better co-operation than competition.

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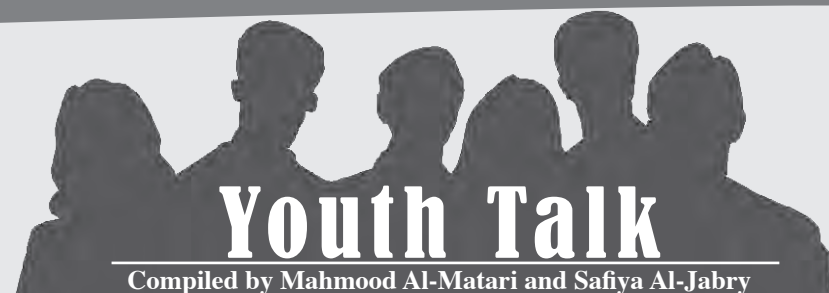
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Compiled by Mahmood Al-Matari and Safiya Al-Jabry

In this new section we talk to young people about their concerns, hopes and dreams. Every week we hit the streets and share what young people have to say right here.

**This week's question:**

## If you were given the chance to change anything in Yemen what would it be?

### Siham Abu Luhom

I would take care of Yemen's army. I would raise their salaries so that they make enough money to lead a normal and healthy life because the army are the most important people in the country who are martyring and giving their lives to protect Yemen.

### Nezar Shamsan, graduate in Library and Information

I would create a special law against tribalism. At times, I feel like tribalism in Yemen is much stronger than the law. It hurts me to see people breaking the law and getting away with it just because they are from higher and well known families or tribes. These people should face the law just like anyone else does.

### Ula'a Yahya Alshami, Business student

First thing I would do is organize traffic and the transportation system in Yemen. A lot of problems will be solved like stress and anger.

### Maryam Shamsan

I would change the cultural norms of Yemeni people; change their attitude and behavior so they are more respectful in their interactions with each other.

### Fahd Azzan

I would change the people who occupy high positions of authority in Yemen like the president's relatives and others involved in corruption. After that I would have new, clear and honest elections to choose who replaces them.

### Asha Yussuf

I would educate people to grow other types of crops instead of filling their fields with qat. In fact I would ban qat in Yemen altogether.

### Salim Abdulhakim, Engineering Student

I would create opportunities for the young generation to help them in expressing the talents that they have. Young people do not have any responsibility given to them, if they were

exposed to that, a lot would change.

### Osaid Al Marwani

I would change the schooling system, allowing students to be more creative and be able to think outside of books.

### Moon, Management student

I would change the government and punish the people who cause corruption then replace them by the right person in the right position.

### Yahya Mosra, Engineering student

I would change the educational system. I will do my best to improve the economy and to support sports in Yemen.

### Mohammed Gamel, Law student

I would change the judicial system because if we change that then the whole situation in Yemen would change and corruption would disappear.

**Next Week's Question:**

## What effect do you think the unrest in Tunisia and Egypt will have upon Yemen?

Follow this section for a new question every week and feel free to reply with your answers or feedback by sending an e-mail to [ytyouth@gmail.com](mailto:ytyouth@gmail.com)

This is your chance to share your humorous stories, poems or opinions with other young readers!

# Following the path of truce

By: Naseh Shaker  
[naseh\\_shaker@yahoo.com](mailto:naseh_shaker@yahoo.com)

I've visited Sa'ada many times after the last truce between the government and Houthis, but the rationales for my visiting this time were much more clear.

As a citizen from Sa'ada, I entered the town in search of what had changed my emotions. Perhaps it was hidden behind chants, demonstrations, marches, arrests, cutting Sa'ada's main roads, the obsession with security and fears of the REPUBLIC SYSTEM. The truce could never suffice to put all that violence and disorder aside. At least that was what we thought.

I had already visited many places in Sa'ada linked to the rising of the "Houthis" in the north. When I visited these places, I cautiously expected some kind of disruption, whether by security forces or someone else.

This time I entered the scene with a similar expectation, but what happened was completely different. The experience of inspecting my house in Sa'ada was greater than all my fears and all the concerns of the authorities or the opposition parties combined.

In a single year, hope had started to spread in Sa'ada and Harf Sufian in Amran governorate. Many hands were involved in hard work. The old city of Sa'ada was being reconstructed, as were sidewalks and street lights. Areas were being cleared of mines. There was a collective determination at work, headed by Taha Hajar, the governor.

The truce was not the only reason for this success. Replacing the bad or traitorous leaders with sincere

leaders has had its impact in Sa'ada.

The war will be kicked out, insha'Allah, and everyone will be surprised that the truce will continue. This teaches us an important lesson, a lesson



A little girl from Qadheh district of Soqatra Island enters early into the traditional beauty care world of Yemen. The sidr or ghasl mixture as it is known traditionally in Yemen (scientific name: Zizyphus Spina Christi or Christ's Thorn) this girl put on her face is used traditionally for a soft skin. It also cleans the complexion and removes signs of exhaustion.

Photo by UNDP/Eman Al-Awami

for all Yemenis, and Sa'adis especially. That this feeling of peace, this pursuit of a continuing truce, living in peace, is the only way to really save us.

The truce continues and the government released hundreds of Houthis from prisons in December. It is time to understand that the people have subscribed to the concept of peace.

All sides must continue to pursue the path of truce.



### FIELD OPERATOR Position # 0186/15-13/9925 CPF - Massila (B14) For Yemeni Nationals Only

#### Basic Function:

The basic function of the Field Operator is to perform the required tasks to accomplish the day-to-day operations of the field facilities.

#### Job Duties:

- The Field Operator is responsible to carry out the tasks required for the day-to-day operations of the field. This is accomplished by the Field Operator via:
  - monitoring and recording the operating parameters of well site and hydro cyclone equipment by physical inspection.
  - gathering water cut samples and performing basic analysis.
  - piggipg pipelines.
  - monitoring chemical injection rates to ensure rates comply with requirements.
  - identifying anomalies in the routine operation of the equipment and informing the Field Lead Operator.
  - carrying out the direction of the Foreman in order to react effectively to severe operational anomalies or operational crisis's.
- The Field Operator shares responsibility for the safety and security of the operations staff. This is accomplished by the Field Operator through specific duties, which include:
  - is required to report any unsafe acts and conditions (vehicle, driving or workplace).
  - performing inspections of work areas on a daily basis and reporting any unsafe conditions to Lead Operator or Foreman.
  - often with the assistance of more senior staff, ensuring the appropriate mechanical or electrical isolations prior to any maintenance activity.
  - ensuring that he is knowledgeable and compliant with CNPY "Safe Driving Practice".
- The Field Operator shares responsibility (with all other staff) for implementing and supporting the Responsible Care program and its initiatives. This is accomplished by the Field Operator via:
  - knowing and understanding the responsible care Ethics.
  - following the Responsible Care standards as it applies to his role as Field Operator.
- The Field Operator shares responsibility (with all other staff) for the environmental conditions of both the land leases and the equipment within the field. This is accomplished by the Field Operator via:
  - reacting effectively to environmental incidents (i.e. spills) upon instruction from Field Foreman or Lead Operator.
  - is responsible for general housekeeping dues in work areas.

#### Minimum Requirements:

- High school diploma (preferred).
- Fully Job Qualified (FJQ) as a Field Operator; Fully Job Experienced (FJE) as an Operator.
- Adequate skills in writing, communicating and work procedures for the field with minimal supervision.
- Adequate knowledge of English both written and oral.
- Previous experience as an Operator in an applicable Oil Field Facility preferred.

- ◆ To Apply for this Job please apply to: [recruiting\\_yemensana@nexeninc.com](mailto:recruiting_yemensana@nexeninc.com)
- ◆ Applications should be submitted NO later than Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Faxed applications will not be considered.
- ◆ Make sure that you mention the job title you are applying for in the email subject.
- ◆ Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



### POWER PLANT OPERATOR (CPP) Position # 05-019 CPF - Massila (B51) For Yemeni Nationals Only

#### Basic Function:

The basic function of the Power Plant (CPP) Operator is to perform the required tasks to accomplish the day-to-day operations of the Central Power Plant (CPP). The Central Power Plant (CPP) includes all equipment within the Warbilla building (PPW1), both SOLAR generators (PPW2), all equipment within the Ruson buildings (PPW3 & PPW4), and all equipment within the sewage treatment plant.

#### Job Duties:

- The CPP Operator is responsible to carry out the tasks required for the day-to-day operations of the Central Power Plant (CPP). This is accomplished by the CPP Operator via:
  - monitoring and recording the operating parameters of CPP equipment by physical inspection and "walk a rounds".
  - identifying anomalies in the routine operation of the CPP equipment and informing the CPP Control Room.
  - under the instruction of more senior staff, performing adjustments and fine tuning of CPP equipment to ensure optimum performance.
- The CPP Operator shares responsibility for the safety and security of the CPP operations staff. This is accomplished by the CPP Operator through specific duties, which include:
  - performing inspections of work areas on a daily basis and reporting any unsafe conditions to CPP Foreman.
  - ensuring that he is knowledgeable and compliant with CNPY "Safe Driving Practice".
- The CPP Operator shares responsibility (with all other CPP staff) for implementing and supporting the Responsible Care program and its initiatives. This is accomplished by the CPP Operator via:
  - Knowing and understanding the responsible care Ethics.
  - following the Responsible Care standards as it applies to his role as CPP Operator.
- The CPP Operator shares responsibility with other staff for implementing and supporting Process Safety Management (PSM) initiatives within the power plant. This is accomplished by:
  - Understanding the concept of PSM and how it is unique from our other safety initiatives.
  - Supports PSM philosophies.
- The CPP Operator shares responsibility (with all other CPP staff) for the environmental conditions of both the land leases and the equipment within the CPP. This is accomplished by the CPP Operator via:
  - reacting effectively to environmental incidents (i.e. spills) upon instruction from CPP Foreman or Lead Operator.
  - ensuring that work area is tidy and housekeeping is maintained
- The CPP Operator is responsible for the following administrative duties:
  - documenting daily operating conditions in Log Records and Reports.

#### Minimum Requirements:

- High school diploma (preferred).
- Adequate skills in writing, communicating work procedures for the plant with minimal supervision.
- Adequate knowledge of English both written and oral.
- Skills, and experience in the operations of a large electrical generation facility. (Preferred).

- ◆ To Apply for this Job please apply to: [recruiting\\_yemensana@nexeninc.com](mailto:recruiting_yemensana@nexeninc.com)
- ◆ Applications should be submitted NO later than Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Faxed applications will not be considered.
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1800	0930	Sanaa Mukalla / Sharjah / Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 600.1
1230	1000	Sanaa Sayoun / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 182.3
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1450	1300	Sanaa Ataq / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 190.1
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1745	1515	Sanaa Mukalla / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 152.3
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2220	2030	Sanaa Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 120.1
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0900	0730	Sanaa Hodeidah / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 170.1
0950	0800	Sanaa Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 110.1
1130	1000	Sanaa Taiz / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 160.1
1300	1030	Sanaa Sayoun / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 182.3
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2100	1400	Sanaa Aden / Jeddah / Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 820.1
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1425	0910	Aden / Mukalla / Socotra / Mukalla / Aden	CRJ 700	FO 250.1
1200	0930	Sanaa Sayoun / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 182.3
1555	1400	Sanaa Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 106.7
1800	1630	Sanaa Hodeidah / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 172.3
1930	1700	Sanaa Mukalla / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 154.5
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2020	1830	Sanaa Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 108.9
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1420	0930	Sanaa Aden / Sayoun / Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 186.7
1130	1000	Sanaa Hodeidah / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 866.7
2140	1400	Sanaa Aden / Dammam / Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 832.3
1530	1400	Sanaa Taiz / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 166.7
1730	1600	Sanaa Hodeidah / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 172.3
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Arr.	Dep.	Route	Model	Flight
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1410	1100	Sanaa Gaidah / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 196.7
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2130	1900	Sanaa Mukalla / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 154.5
2150	2000	Sanaa Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 118.9
Arr.	Dep.	Route	Model	Flight
1120	0600	Sanaa Mukalla / Socotra / Mukalla / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 150.1
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